

September 30, 2012

Dear parents and children,

We are now in the last few days of September and we have all settled into the school routine again.

The junior infants in Ms. Gleeson's and in Ms. Coyle's are now fully part of the school community and it feels like they have always been here. They are enjoying learning their new sounds and seem to be having great fun on the yard.

The sixth class, Ms. O' Mahoney's and Ms. Taylor's are commencing their last year in primary school. They are working hard and are stepping up to their new responsibilities.

This edition of our newsletter has reminders about existing school rules and policies. Please take the time to read all the articles.

We would like to welcome our new teachers Ms. Taylor and Ms. Calnan. We hope they enjoy teaching in our school. Welcome back to Ms. O' Mahoney, Ms. Moore, Ms. Callaghan and Ms. Farrell.

This year we are undertaking a new programme. It is the yellow flag programme which promotes integration and the celebration of diversity in our school community.

The staff of Balrothery NS is looking forward to the year ahead.

Mrs. Murphy

Reminders

School starts at 9.20am. The children are under supervision from 9.20 to 3pm.

All lateness and absences need to be explained. A quick note in your child's journal will suffice.

Healthy eating policy.

The policy is available on the website.

Please remember that chocolate is not allowed hence cereal bars with chocolate are not allowed.

Crisps and any crisp like snack are not allowed.

Water is the best drink for your child.

Chewing gum is banned and should not be brought into school.

Remember to pack an extra piece of fruit for fruit break.

Homework

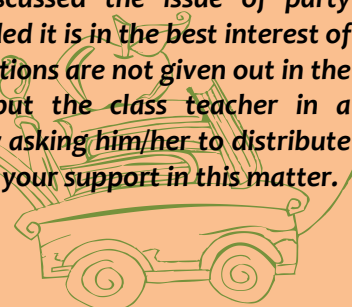
Children are given homework Monday to Thursday. It is important that you check their homework and sign their journal or homework sheet. This is our link with you and is a valuable means of communication between the parent and the teacher. All school letters are placed in the journal or homework folder.

Please encourage your child to read at home.

If for some reason the homework has not been completed please write a note in the journal to explain why.

Party Invitations

We as a staff have discussed the issue of party invitations and have decided it is in the best interest of all the children that invitations are not given out in the school. Please do not put the class teacher in a compromising position by asking him/her to distribute invitations. Thank you for your support in this matter.



Walk to school on Wednesdays

We will continue to promote this each Wednesday. We would love to see more children walking to school. It is a great way of waking up the mind and it reduces traffic congestion at the school. This year we are working towards our fifth green flag. Its theme is climate change. We want to create awareness around the concept of our carbon footprint. You will invited to 'Walk on a Wednesday' and to 'Foot on Friday'.

Please note that this year there will not be any staff members walking with the children.

Green flag

We are setting up our new committee at the moment. Our theme this year is 'Climate Change'. We have completed year one of our two year cycle so we are now heading for our fifth green flag. The children will look at how far their food has travelled and we hope that the children will realize that food less travelled is better for the environment. We will examine our carbon footprint and work on ways to reduce it.

Date for your diary:

First Holy Communion:

There is an introduction meeting next Tuesday, 2nd of October, at 8 pm in the church.

Race Night in aid of the Cricket Club.

The North County Cricket Club is having a race night on the 18th of October in the Balrothery Inn at 8.30pm. Please support, as the cricket club is a valuable resource in our community.

Cross Country: Balheary Park

Dates for this year

Tuesday the 23rd of October@10.30

Tuesday 27th of October@ 10.30

Tuesday 23rd of April @ 10.30

The final is in Morton stadium on Tuesday the 21st of May.

Mr. Callaghan will continue to coach the cross country team. Mrs. Murphy will support him. There is an opportunity for your child, only from 3rd class to sixth class, to run two mornings a week at 9 am. The days are Tuesday and Thursday. The training will only last for ten minutes but is a nice way to start the day. Please remember if it is raining the training will not happen. Some children do not enjoy the races but they are most welcome to come and run on these mornings.

We would like to wish Mr. Callaghan the best of luck in the Dublin City Marathon. He has been training very hard and we know he will do well. No pressure!

If you would like to support his charity 'Make a Wish' Foundation please follow this link.

www.mycharity.ie/event/eoin_callaghans_dublin_marathon2012

School uniform

The children look great in their school uniform. Please remind your child that they must wear the school tracksuit only and that other tracksuit tops are not allowed.

School Gates

Please park a safe distance from the school when dropping and collecting your child. It would be great if we had a one way system. E.g. when you are coming to collect or drop your child come into the village from the Balbriggan end. When leaving exit the village in the direction of Dave's Gala. This is only a suggestion.

It may allow traffic to flow more easily especially on a wet day and we have had more than our fair share of those!

