



St Oliver Plunkett's NS, Balrothery

Newsletter January 2017

Dear Parents/Guardians

We are back and looking forward to Spring. The weather has been very good and the children are enjoying their playtimes.

As the weather improves remember that we try to walk/cycle as much as possible. There will be organised 'walk to school mornings' this term.

This term and next term the children will learn lessons from the Stay Safe Programme. This programme tells them how to keep safe, they learn about good and bad feelings and how to have good friendships. Worksheets will be sent home to be signed. It is important to have a chat about the worksheet as this affirms what has been taught in school.

Next week is Catholic Schools Week. The theme is 'learning with Pope Francis to Care for Our Common Home. (The earth). Grandparents' Day is on the 1st of February. This year children will write a poem/letter to any family member.

Healthy Eating Policy:

This is on our website . Please make yourself familiar with this. There are some children bringing chocolate/caramel/marshmallow cereal bars. We are working towards keeping the children fit and healthy. Please support us in this. Water can be taken any time during the day, juices can only be taken with food. Water is great to promote concentration and good health.

Preparation for communion and confirmation is ongoing. The 6th class will have their ceremony of light and promise this week and the communion classes are invited to attend mass this Sunday at 10.45am.

We are looking forward to an active term.

Thank you for your continued support of the school.

Mrs Murphy

Dates for your Diary
15th and 16th of February : Parent/teacher meetings.

Please note school will close at 2.45 on the 15th and 16th of February.

Half-term is the 23rd and 24th of February.

There is an added school closure due to New Language Curriculum Training on the 27th of April.

Parents' Committee:

The parents' committee are running a coin collection at the moment to raise money for sports equipment, outdoor games and gardening equipment. Any loose change is most greatly received and the children can put the coins into the bottles provided.

Movie afternoon takes place this Sunday at 4 pm. Tickets for sale in the mornings and by 6th class children after big lunch. €5 . It's a great way for the children to spend a few hours and a break for yourself!



Peace Proms:

The school choir under the direction of Mrs Callaghan and Ms Farrell will take part in the Peace Proms on the 5th of February. The choir sounds great.

The choir will sing for the Communion on the 6th of May(please remember this date) and for the confirmation on the 24th of May.



Our target areas:

Oral Language: We are learning new vocabulary about the weather. Next month we will move onto the topic of food.

Writing: The children are learning how to write stories.(genre: narrative)

Cursive handwriting: The infants have begun to learn how to write using cursive writing . Well done.

Reading fluency: We are asking the children to practice a piece of reading so as to improve fluency. Listening to your child read,even a short piece can help them a lot.

Gaeilge: Lots of new sentences and phrases.

Maths: The language of maths and problem solving. We are concentrating on learning tables also.

SPHE: We are promoting good mental health (mindfulness),good physical health (running and encouraging lots of movement and games at yard time), healthy eating, encouraging water only. The Stay Safe programme is being covered . Ms Markham's class will start a ' Friends for Life Programme ' shortly and Mr Callaghan's will start a programme called ' Weaving Well Being, Tools of Resilience'. All other classes cover the SPHE programme in different ways.

Ms O Mahony's Class learned about the Water Cycle. They put some water and food colouring in a sandwich bag, stuck it to the classroom window and soon the water evaporated, then returned to water again showing how rain is made.

