



St Oliver Plunkett's NS Newsletter



September



Welcome to September's Newsletter

Mean Fómhair

Dear parents and children,

We have all settled into the school routine again. The junior infants are enjoying the yard and it has helped them to settle into big school! Welcome to all of the new children that joined us this year. Your support is always appreciated and most so when you support your child's learning. Please continue to take the time to listen to your child read, sign their reading log, sign their homework journal and check over the homework. Homework is an opportunity to engage with your child and you get to see first-hand if all is going well.

An extra date for your diary:

School will be closed on Monday the 18th of October for staff training in the New Primary Language Curriculum and for training and support with our work in promoting Oral Irish.

The Department of Education recommend that pupils do not go on holidays during term time. We carry out our standardised tests in May each year. Pupils on holiday will not be tested. Teachers cannot facilitate extra work for holiday time.

We are very excited about our new website and I hope you take the time to look at it. You can google either St Oliver Plunkett's NS or Balrothery NS and it will pop up.

Our admissions process for 2022-2023 will commence on the 4th of October. Application forms will be available on the website that day. Please let others know this is happening and that we are open for applications for junior infants and for school places up through the school.

Elections have been carried out to choose members of the Yellow Flag/student council committee and the Amber Flag Committee. The Amber Flag is a new programme we are looking at this year that focuses on Wellbeing and promotes positive mental health. This gives the children opportunities to develop their leadership skills.

Our focus area is Oral Irish and we are busy promoting the language in all classes. Our aim is to get the children to appreciate the language and use it as much as they can. Each class has certain phrases that they are using. We will build on this over the next few years. Our school improvement plan and school self-evaluation are available on our school website.

We have two student teachers in the school at the moment, one in Mr Callaghan's and another in Ms O' Mahony's class. They are most welcome.

Board of Management: Welcome to Taragh O' Connor as our new mother representative on the Board of Management.

A board meeting was held on the 20th of September. The Board was updated on the teachers and their class allocation for this year. The Annual Admission notice, Annual BOM report, School self – evaluation and improvement plan and the attendance strategy were ratified by the Board. There will be additional teaching hours given to the school to commence after October 11th which is to support children who were affected by school closure or covid directly. The news on the building project is unfortunately we are at a stalemate as we are waiting on the department to approve the tender. The roof replacement project is also on hold as we are waiting on the department to approve that tender. The Board is actively pursuing the department of Education to get a final answer. There are 319 pupils attending this school. **We are open for school places so if you hear of anyone who is interested please advise them to contact the office.**

Covid: Thank you all for your support that you are giving with our school protocols. I e-mailed and sent a notice with a link to the latest HSE advice in particular in relation to contact tracing which will now not happen in schools. Please check the HSE for information on the symptoms of covid. It still remains that if your child is sick we will contact you and ask that they go home. We ask that you keep your child at home if they are sick as sickness spreads very quickly here in school.

Child Protection:

Our Child Safeguarding Statement is displayed in the school porch. Mrs Murphy is the DLP and Mrs Callaghan is the DDLP. Staff have completed the online e-learning course on child protection. The child safeguarding statement and checklist has been reviewed and a notification of this has been sent to Archbishop's house.

We are looking forward to a great year.

Mrs Murphy

Parents' Association

Parents' Association: A big thank you to the parents' association for all their hard work. They will donate €3700 this year on your behalf. The money will be used to purchase some more IT equipment for the senior classes. We as a staff are working towards the integration of technology in the classroom to enhance teaching and learning so some extra devices will be useful. They also have commenced their work for this coming year with the first fundraiser being the Christmas Cards. We are always looking for new members and all are welcome to join even if you can only give a small amount of time. It is a great way to meet other parents and friendships have been formed between parents on the committee that will last a life time. They are planning a sponsored Halloween Costume walk on the 22nd of October, more details to follow. Thank you.



Children using the new devices.



You are invited to the parents' association AGM on Monday the 11th of October at 7.30pm by Zoom. A link will be sent out on that day. All are welcome the more the merrier!

Congratulations to Ms O Mahony and her 4th class from last year on receiving the Green Flag yet again for the school. The committee worked hard on creating awareness around the importance of looking after our environment and they even managed to eat some of their home grown produce. Well done. The theme is now travel so we will be promoting walking, cycling and scootering this year. So if you can avoid using the car. We took part in National bike week.



Thank you to Kevin Tolan and the Balrothery Community Group for donating extra bike racks to us. Let's use them !



The RSA have high visibility rucksack covers check on online as they are free.

<https://www.rsaorders.ie/orders-online/>

We had three winners in the Bling your Bike competition. Well done to them and well done to all those that took part.



The Yellow Flag/Student Council have organised a workshop for 5th and 6th class on Show Racism the Red Card for Tuesday the 5th of October. We are working hard on being an inclusive school and the committee will continue to have focus times/workshops for us. The children in Ms Bermingham's 3rd class made traditional paper flowers by watching Kathleen Murphy's workshop online.



Ukulele lessons have resumed for some of the older classes. We are continuing to build on the children's ability to play an instrument and they certainly enjoy it.



Communion and confirmation

Congratulations! At long last the Communion and Confirmation took place on the 17th and 18th of September. A big thank you to Fr John, Fr Dónal, Fr Tony and Anne in the parish office for making it all happen for the children.



Assemblies are held once a month at school.

This month the children below received recognition for their good work, their kindness to others and their good behaviour. Well done to you all.



Thank you for taking the time to read our newsletter.

