



# St Oliver Plunkett's NS Newsletter



## October



### Welcome to October's Newsletter

#### Deireadh Fómhair

We are just coming towards the end of our first half-term here in Balrothery NS and what a busy time it has been. Everyone is now well settled into the school routine and our new Junior Infants are really enjoying their time in 'Big School'. The children have all worked very hard over the last couple of months and we are all ready to have a break and recharge our batteries over the mid-term break.

It was great to see all the wonderful costumes on show today and we would like to say a big thank you to the Parent's Committee for organising today's Spooktacular Stroll and for providing each and every child with a lovely bag of 'Trick or Treating' goodies.



We all hope that you have a lovely break next week and we are looking forward to seeing you all back in the school on Monday November 7<sup>th</sup>. Please remember that the school will close for a half day on Monday, November 14<sup>th</sup> to facilitate staff training for the New Primary Language Curriculum. No doubt another exciting half-term is in store for us all as we build towards Christmas 2022!

Thanks for all your continued support,

Mr Callaghan and all the staff in Balrothery NS

### Parents' Association

The Parents' Committee continue to play a vital role in all areas of school life and in particular in raising funds for a variety of school projects. We are delighted to announce that we have a new Executive Committee this year. A huge thank you to the outgoing Committee members who worked tirelessly in difficult circumstances over the last number of years and a big welcome to our new Committee members. Camilla Murphy will take over as Chairperson of the Committee, Elaine Fottrell will take over the roll of Secretary and Linda Walsh and Sinead Keegan will take over the roles of Treasurer.

### Board of Management

The BOM met in October. Child protection and antibullying were discussed. The Induction Policy and the Acceptable Use Policy were ratified. The new school roof replacement is complete and the tenders have been returned for the new school building. We will keep you informed of any further developments.

### Our School News

The children in 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> class took part in a workshop organised by SARI (Sport Against Racism Ireland). They learned about racism and discrimination in a fun and sporting environment. The children really enjoyed the day. Thanks to Ms O'Neill for organising.



The boys' and girls' soccer league began this week. We are taking part in a local league this year with all the other schools in the area. Unfortunately, both teams lost their matches to St. Mologa's but there were some great performances all round. Training will continue after the mid-term break on Wednesdays from 3-3.45pm for all children in 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> class who are interested in playing.

The students in 2<sup>nd</sup> class took part in their Enrolment Ceremony for Communion this month. We had a lovely evening in the church. The First Confession Ceremony will take place in the church on Thursday, February 23<sup>rd</sup> 2022 at 6.30pm. The big date for your diary in the Communion Day itself which will take place on Saturday April 29<sup>th</sup> 2023.

The 6<sup>th</sup> class students also began their preparation for Confirmation. They had the Ceremony of Commitment in the church earlier this month. The Ceremony of Light will take place on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> of January at 7.30pm and the Confirmation itself will take place on Thursday, May 18<sup>th</sup> 2023.

Children from 5<sup>th</sup> class worked with Tommy to make 'Fairy Doors'. They used bits of old pallets to make their Fairy Doors and Tommy will put these up around the school garden.



Children from 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> class have signed up to the National Children's Choir and they will have their first rehearsal with other schools next month.

Ms Maguire's 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> class performed a wonderful play called 'Wizards and Potions' for all the parents in the class on Thursday, October 27<sup>th</sup>. It was a fantastic show and it was great to have all the Mammies and Daddies back in the school again.

Buddy reading is back up and running in the school. This is a wonderful initiative whereby children from the older classes read to the children in the junior end of the school. It is great to see the younger children enjoying the story time and the older children gain a lot of confidence from this project.

Children from 5<sup>th</sup> class took part in a 'An Taisce' Mapping workshop. This was a very interesting and worthwhile exercise during which the children looked at Google Maps and OSI maps and located the roads they use to walk to school.

We celebrated National Tree Day here in the school on October 6<sup>th</sup>. Each class went on a tree trail and the children in 5<sup>th</sup> class planted a holly tree, a tree native to Ireland.



Mr Fahey's 6<sup>th</sup> class visited Dáil Éireann to see the Houses of the Oireachtas on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> October. Alan Farrell TD arranged a guided tour and met some of the future politicians from Balrothery NS. The class then went to the National History Museum before the all important trip to McDonald's on the way home!

Mr Grant's class had their first Tech We Can workshop with Kevina from KPMG. The workshop was entitled 'Tech for the future' and the children learned all about how technology is a part of our lives and will continue to be so in the future. The class are already looking forward to their next workshop.

The Student's Council was established this term and they will have an important role to play throughout the year. Children took part in elections and were voted to the council by their classmates. We are looking forward to working with the Student Council throughout the year.

The local community Garda came into the school to talk to the children from 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> class about Halloween safety and how it is important to keep ourselves safe while enjoying all of the celebrations at this time of the year.



Assemblies are held every fortnight in 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.**