



February 1, 2016

Dear parents and children,

This month has been busy so far.

We had a very successful Grandparents' Day on Friday the 5<sup>th</sup> of February. As part of Catholic Schools Week we had the pleasure of lots of Grandparents attending a prayer service held by Fr Chris Derwin. The Choir sang for the ceremony and then entertained everyone with a medley of lively songs. Tea, coffee and goodies were had and a big thanks to you for your generous contributions with this. Grandparents visited the classes and had great stories of times gone past, about 1916 and about life in general.

Again I would encourage all children to be on time for school. Come early and avoid the traffic.

It is important to remember to drive with extreme care when dropping and collecting children. Please do not turn your car near the school gate. This applies even when it is raining.

Voluntary Contributions still accepted and always welcome! Capitation Grant from Department literally covers the running of the school building not resources for the children. So all contributions big or small really help.

School is closed Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> and Friday the 19<sup>th</sup> of February for mid-term.

Happy half-term!

Mrs Murphy.

#### Dates for your Diary:

Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> of February 7.30pm Internet Safety Talk for parents. All welcome. Please RSVP to [office@balrotheryns.com](mailto:office@balrotheryns.com) so that we know how many chairs to set up. Thank you.

Friday the 26<sup>th</sup> of February: School closed for Election.

Wednesday the 16<sup>th</sup> of March : School closes at 12 for infants and 12.30 for all others for the Easter Holidays. Easter Egg hunt with parents' committee happens that day as does our céili mór.

Monday 4<sup>th</sup> of April : School reopens for Summer Term.

6<sup>th</sup> class are taking part in the Junior Entrepreneur Programme this year. Each group had to prepare a Dragon's Den type presentation with their idea. Each group came up with amazing ways to make money and the chosen one was Balrothery Baking. This will be a book full of local recipes gathered by 6<sup>th</sup> class and it will be produced into a book.



Read on and see what has been happening this month.

#### Sport

##### Cross country:

The children raced on Thursday the 11<sup>th</sup> of February. They ran very well with a number of children coming in 2<sup>nd</sup> place. Each child ran a great race! It is wonderful that every time we go to Cross Country we can fill a large bus.

##### GAA:

Training has commenced for boys and girls after school. Thank you to Ms Taylor, Ms O Mahony, Ms Hannon and Mr Hall for their help.

##### Tennis:

Tennis coaching will commence for tennis squad on Fridays for 6 weeks.

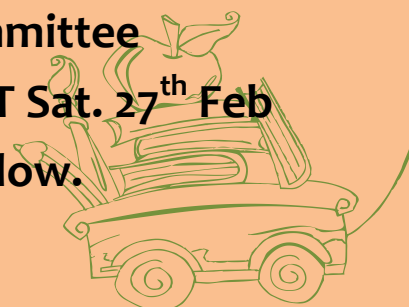
##### Cricket

Ms McGovern has organised coaching for the boys on a Monday during school time.

#### Parents' Committee

MOVIE NIGHT Sat. 27<sup>th</sup> Feb

Details to follow.



### Peace Proms 2016

Another great night of entertainment. Well done to the choir and Mrs Callaghan and Ms Farrell for getting the choir ready to perform at the Peace Proms. It was a wonderful night.



### Green Flag

The Green Flag committee is working away on the theme of Global Citizenship this year. Ms O Mahony and the committee are monitoring our gardens and waiting for our bulbs to bloom.

### Credit Union Quiz team 2016

8 children took part in the annual credit union quiz in ALSAA. They did very well in both the junior and senior section. The questions were very difficult and the senior team came in a very respectable 5<sup>th</sup> place overall. Well done to you all.



### Visit from Coosan NS , Athlone

As you know 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> class took part in the Young Scientist exhibition in the RDS with their project on how sugar affects us. Coosan NS from Athlone did their project on diabetes. As a follow on from the RDS Coosan NS came to Balrothery and both classes talked about their projects. They also had lots of cake, biscuits and sandwiches! This really tested how sugar affects the body especially when they played benchball against each other in the afternoon. It was great fun and a lovely experience.



Upcoming events: The Easter raffle. 1 ticket 50 cent 5 tickets €2 Prizes: Easter Eggs (small and large) and some spot prizes.

### Literacy:

**Oral Language:** We have learned lots of vocabulary about the weather. The younger children wrote reports and some children gave the weather report over the intercom.

**Persuasive writing:** This is proving interesting as children are writing letters to parents asking for TVs for their bedrooms giving lots of good ideas to win their parents over. Some interesting advertisements to promote Ireland have been produced.

**Numeracy:** Keep up the good work on problem solving.

**SPHE :** On Monday the 22<sup>nd</sup> of February 1<sup>st</sup> class up to 6<sup>th</sup> class will get a workshop on Internet safety . We continue to do our Stay Safe lessons. Remember it is important to sign these worksheets. Garda Dave and Garda Kate continue to visit 5<sup>th</sup> class to talk about bullying.

