



October 2014 (Available on website, read it in colour)

Dear parents and children,

The term is in full swing with lots of hard work going on. It's great to see homework diaries and reading logs signed. It shows that you support your child's learning at home. Thank you.

Please remember how important it is for your child to be on time for school. It's a good habit to develop as we all are aware in 'real life!' how important it is.

Absences: You are required to send in a note to explain absences otherwise the absence is logged as unexplained. Thank you

The children are a credit to you with their lovely healthy lunches. Thank you for your co-operation in this respect. It is wonderful to see the children eating lovely sandwiches and fresh fruit. Reminder that chocolate products are not allowed. Keep up the good work.

We plan to have a remembrance ceremony in school in November. We will remember all the people who have died in our families. The children will be given leaves to decorate and they will be invited to write the name of a family member on the leaf. These leaves will be displayed in the school and presented during the ceremony. We will especially remember Tadhg O Connor RIP. He is still very much in our thoughts.

Half-term is from the 27th to the 31st of October inclusive.

I wish you all a safe and happy half term.

Mrs M Murphy

Parents' Committee AGM:

School Hall, Tuesday the 14th of Oct at 8 pm. All welcome and please support. If you are or are not interested in being a member of the committee it would be great to see a good turn out on Tuesday night.

Whole school evaluation:

This is due to take place during the week starting the 17th of November. Inspectors from the Department of Education will spend four days with us. It is 13 years since the last one so we are well over due!



Literacy and Numeracy

- We are focussing on Oral Language and writing genres.
This month the topic is 'clothes'. Try and encourage your child to use a variety of adjectives when talking about their favourite outfit for example. Older children may discuss what is fashionable, clothes worn by different cultures, clothes worn in different climates, look at the language used in clothing advertisements.....
Children have written diary entries, letters and recipes to name but a few since coming back in September.
- Maths Week: This week is maths week.
The children will do maths trails and lots of work on our target area 'problem solving'. Problem of the week will go home to you. Chat to your child about it.

Junior infants:

It is great to see how quickly the junior infants have settled in. Remember to continue to support your child with their homework. They will tell you they know how to do it and want independence but at this stage they still need you. A one to one at home is so valuable.

Ms Andrew's class will produce their own newsletter for distribution soon. They are busy deciding on topics. Sounds like it will be much more fun than this one!

Cross Country:

Training will start this week. We are still waiting on race dates.

Lunchtime activities:

Wednesday :

Music Club, children can bring their own instrument and learn how to play a tune together. (jamming session). Ms Burns teaches this.

Chess club:

Children are playing each other in a school chess league co-ordinated by Ms Andrews.

Thursday:

Library Club: Children can sit on cushions and read during lunchtime. They can borrow books. Very relaxing.

After school activities:

Tuesday: Music with Ms Burns 3 until 4

Tuesday and Wednesday: Homework club 3 until 4 with Ms O Mahony and Ms Andrews.

Tuesday : Irish Dancing with Breda Gibbons
Taekwondo (advertised at school gate)

Thursday : Dancing with Karen Graham.

Music

The children in Ms Gleeson's class are learning to play the tin whistle. Ms Burns has taken on this project.

Choir: Mrs Callaghan and the choir will soon start their preparation for the Peace Proms concert. They will also prepare for our remembrance ceremony.

Parental Involvement:

Every year we encourage parents to visit the school through Grandparents' day and last year during Catholic week grandparents and parents came to speak to the children.

This year we would like to use your skills to help us. We will send out a letter to invite you to offer your particular knowledge, skill or simply interest in

The plan would be to have some visits spread over time and of course at a time to suit you.

Examples:

Mystery reader: you might like to come and read a story, suits younger classes, children won't know you are coming to add to the excitement.

Art and craft: knitting, sewing, art in general

Sport: any!

Music: sing, play an instrument....

Work: You can talk about your work, how you trained to be a

Grandparent: life in the past

Science

Open to any suggestions

. Halloween safety

The local Garda will visit 5th class to speak about the importance of keeping safe at Halloween



Oíche Shamhna

Children can dress up on Friday the 25th of October. Please donate €1/€2 for Temple Street. Last year Ms McCrudden entered us into a draw for an Ipad and we won! We were presented with the ipad in June. Children will be reminded of this nearer the time.

Annual Shoebox appeal.

Each year Balrothery NS takes part in the shoebox appeal. This year we would like to be even more generous than ever. Try your best to make up a shoebox for a child this Christmas. All shoeboxes to be returned before half term.