

Parent Newsletter: Monday April 26th

1 Reminder: School closes for the children this Friday (April 30th) at 12noon. Parents are asked to ensure that their children are picked up promptly at 12noon. The school is closed next Monday (May 3rd, Public Holiday) and **reopens at 8.45am on Tuesday May 4th.**

2 Crossing the Road/ Traffic

Parents are asked to remind the children who walk home from school to use the Lollipop Lady at the school's front gate to cross the road, and not to cross elsewhere. It has come to our attention that a number of the children who live in the Hamlet Lane direction from the school are crossing the road near Dunnes Stores where it is very dangerous and where there is no lollipop Lady.

I wish to thank all the parents who drive their children for their co-operation in not-using the front gates of the school which are out-of-bounds until the new school opens. We regret this inconvenience but, hopefully, it won't be for too long.

3 Have your say in the school's next Five Year Plan?

Parents are invited to the school from 9am to 10am this Thursday (29th) to have your say in future plans for our school. At this meeting you will be invited to offer your opinion on a wide range matters about the school.... what aspects of the school you are happy with?... what aspects of the school do you feel might be improved? This exercise is part of a wider consultation process with all school partners as the school sets about devising a development plan for the next five years. This session will be facilitated by a parent (Veronica) who will feedback to Fintan afterwards.

4 Some recent successes.....

- Congrats to a two teams from Dan's and Cathal's classes on their respective 1st and 2nd in their categories in the national European Commission poster competition on Human Rights. A fantastic achievement.
- Congrats to the science team in Dan's class who have made it through to the filming session of a new RTE primary science quiz to be broadcast in June. Best of luck!
- Congrats to the Gaelic football team who completed their first ever campaign in the Cumann na mBunsciuols school competion, narrowly beaten in the quarter-finals.
- Congrats and best of luck to the boys and girls basketball team in their current season including two blitz tournaments this week.
- Congrats to all of the classes who have submitted our projects for this year's Discover Primary Science School Award (which we won last year). Best of Luck!
- Congrats to the children who took part and were highly commended for their Young Business Entrepreneur Award projects recently.

5 Some forthcoming events.....

- The HSE will be conducting the MMR vaccinations for those Junior Infant children whose parents have returned the completed form on Tuesday May 4th.
- The HSE will be conducting the hearing and vision testing with the Senior Infant classes starting on Monday 17th May.
- The Department of Education Inspectorate will be conducting an evaluation of aspects of the school for three days, Tuesday 4th to Thursday 6th May.
- The school's own programme of Standardised Tests of the children's attainment levels in Maths and Literacy will take place over late May.
- The Stay Safe Programme and the Relationships and Sexuality Education programme (RSE) will be taught in the school over the month of May. (see www.balbrigganetns.com for School RSE Policy)
- Details of how parents/children may apply for school places in the new VEC Community Primary School to be based, ultimately, in the Stephenstown part of Balbriggan are available on the Principal's Blog on www.balbrigganetns.com (see comments on New School for Balbriggan Area, and What is the difference between and Educate Together school and a Community Primary School postings on the blog
- Check out the Principal's Blog too for some opinions from the Student Council that will be of great assistance to us as we embark on recruiting new teachers for next year.