

January 2018

We hope you all had a relaxing break, and have settled in happily to the new term and new year.

School News

- ✓ This term, all classes are participating in the Maths and Science Awards, and in Engineering Week. Ann has organised for many parents to come in and speak to the children about their jobs in the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) fields, so thank you to each one of them. Please keep an eye on our website for all relevant science and maths activities undertaken by the classes <http://www.ballinteeretns.ie/>
- ✓ This month is Anti- Bullying month which is being explored in all classrooms with the help of the student council who chose it as an important issue. Classes are making posters and discussing issues related to friendship and standing up for others. Weekly assemblies are devoted to this topic too.
- ✓ To coincide with anti – bullying month, we are introducing the 'Buddy Bench'. On Feb 6th, each class will attend a workshop on how to use the buddy bench, and it will be installed in our yard so children will always have a place to go to make friends and find play companions!
- ✓ Between now and the end of the year, class performances will be organised separately by each teacher. Dates have yet to be arranged, but Jessica and Laura's second classes intend to have their school concert on Thursday, February 8th, from 1.15 – 1.55pm in the Finsbury Hall. The class teachers will email you with more details in due course.
- ✓ RTE2News for Children will bring their cameras to our school on 9th February to do a feature on how we learn about and celebrate Chinese New Year.
- ✓ Junior Infants will be taking their BIAP (Belfield Infant Assessment Profiles) and will be having MMR vaccinations at the end of February.
- ✓ Senior Infants are exploring friendship and healthy eating.
- ✓ First Class are preparing for Seachtain na Gaeilge in March and getting up to lots of interesting science experiments.
- ✓ Second Class have embarked on the topic of inventors and inventions.
- ✓ Third Class are discussing friendship and conflict-resolution.
- ✓ Fourth Class are preparing for a visit to the National Concert Hall for 'Musical Adventures' with the NCH Orchestra.
- ✓ Keep an eye on the website for more!

Dates for your Diary

- School Closure for staff training
March 8th
- Mid-term break :
Feb 12th – 16th
- Junior Infant Parent-Teacher Meetings (PTMs) : **7th and 8th February**
- Third (Claire's) Class PTMs also on **7th and 8th February**
- Second Class School Concert :
8th February @1.15 in Finsbury Hall
- School closed for St. Patrick's Day Holiday on Monday, 19th March



Important Reminders

- Our online payment system seems to be working very well for our parents; we hope those of you who have used it have found it convenient. If there is an error with your payment, this can often be the result of a dropped internet connection, or a card error and usually is fixed if you try a second or third time. This is the advice given to us by Aladdin. If a problem with payment persists, please get in touch with us on info@ballinteerets.ie and we can arrange an alternative.
- After School Activities will run for 8 weeks. All classes will finish on the week before the St. Patrick's Day bank holiday, on Friday, 16th March.
- The buzzer at the Finsbury Building alerts the Gaelscoil only, so please remember that our main entrance is off the Churchtown Road. If your child arrives after 8.30am, for any reason, please bring them to Churchtown Building entrance. There is no access to the Finsbury Building after 8.30am.

Our New Sensory Room

A sensory room is a designated space containing lots of sensory stimuli, including light, object, colour and texture. Sensory rooms are excellent for children with any type of sensory need, and act as a safe space where children can come to help restore calm. We would like to extend our sincerest thanks to the PTA for their fundraising effort for the sensory room. It has had a positive impact on so many of our children with additional needs, who are finding it much easier to remain alert, calm and attentive in class, and equally for their peers who also benefit from a calmer learning environment.

Pictures : <http://www.ballinteerets.ie/sensory-room/>