

## **Rath National School, Baltimore, Co. Cork**

### **Our School Playground**

As part our Active Flag process this time around the School, Board of Management and the Parents' Association decided to introduce some new playground equipment to help benefit the children in their movement, co-ordination, motor skills and sensory needs. The equipment is for the children's use in the morning and during lunchtime.

Four pieces of equipment were purchased and installed and a rotation system was set up for each break time. Junior & Senior Infants use it on Mondays, 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Class on Tuesdays, 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Class on Wednesdays and 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> on Thursdays. On Fridays anyone can use the equipment.

The system works very well and all the equipment is constantly in use and loved by all the children. The equipment is located at various points in the school yard and is easily accessible by all the children.

### **The Playground Area**



This playground was the main piece of equipment installed. It has two slides, climbing frames, ladders and a soft outdoor play mat underneath for safety. The children love to climb, slide and hang on this and it has greatly increased their flexibility, mobility and climbing skills.

## **The Bars**



These very popular bars are of varying height and ideal for children of all ages. There is a soft outdoor mat underneath and these are great for balancing, functional movement skills and spatial awareness.

## **The Spinner**



The spinner is a revolving large piece of equipment with 5 seats on it. The children can sit in the seats and one person spins it around. The children rotate and take turns spinning it. This is very popular with all the children.

## **The Hammock**



The Hammock is located in the sensory school garden and the children love to sit on this and swing. It helps to improve balance and climbing skills and spatial awareness.

## **The Benefits**

We have seen huge benefits in the children's attitude to play as a result of this new equipment and a move away from ball games which tends to dominate school lunchtime activities. We have also seen an improvement in their movement and motor skills as a result of climbing, tumbling, twirling and generally using the equipment in a variety of ways. The equipment has greatly benefited the children with sensory needs and special needs.

To find out about our other ASF initiatives visit our [school website](#)