

Scoil Inse Rátha
Déan do Dhícheall
Newsletter April 2016

Dear Parents,

We've had a great month in Little Island NS. There have been loads of activities with the Confirmation, Cór Fhéile and Munster Finals being among the highlights. We are very proud of all of our children and our school are very lucky to have such dedicated teachers who provide so many opportunities for our pupils.

FAI Girls Soccer Munster Finals:

We travelled to Waterford last week to play in the Munster Finals. It was a huge achievement to qualify as Cork Champions. The girls played really well and all of our school can be really proud of them. They reached the semi-finals and lost out narrowly to a very strong team from Tipperary. That leaves our girls as one of the top 4 teams in Munster which is brilliant. Our supporters were excellent in encouraging the girls and if there was a Munster Final for supporters we would have won easily! Thanks to John Gettings and the teachers involved for putting so much time and effort into preparing the girls. Thank you to Michael Fleming for supplying the gear for the final.

Cór Fhéile:

Our Junior and Senior Infants were in The City Hall last week for the annual Cór Fhéile show. They were amazing. They performed excellently and represented our school really well even though they were up late and had to wait around a lot. Thank you to the teachers and parents for helping to get the children ready for the night. I'm sure the children will remember it for a long time.

Confirmation:

Our 6th Class had their Confirmation this month. Bishop Buckley performed a lovely ceremony and it was a great day. Well done to all involved and as usual our children were a credit to our school and to their families.

Visit of Colm Cooper and Seamus Harnedy.

All of our students are superstars and have the potential to have a great impact on our world. We were delighted to welcome two very recognisable superstars to our school this month. They ran drills and played games with the children from 3rd-6th Class. They are fantastic role models for our students and we are very grateful to Niamh and Ger in AIB Little Island for setting this up.

Chess tournament:

Our Chess Club has been preparing all winter for this competition and our team will be in Ovens this week to play in the Cork Chess tournament. We hope that they enjoy it and are sure that they will represent our school very well.

Science Week:

All of our classes took part in a special Science Week last week. Each class prepared some experiments and invited other classes in to view them. There was a great buzz of excitement and our students did a great job teaching and learning from each other. Check out our website www.littleislandns.com for pictures and reports.

Active Schools Week:

This week is Active Schools Week. We are an Active School and we promote healthy eating and a healthy lifestyle. We are incorporating a physical activity into every day this week and children will have active homework each evening. We encourage you to take on this active homework with your child to make it even more special. Modelling good behaviours is also very important – children do what they see the adults in their lives doing rather than what they are told to do.

Board of Management:

We had a BOM meeting this month. We conducted the annual review of our Child Protection Policy. We have applied for funding to upgrade our toilets this summer. We were to receive a decision by the end of March but we haven't heard yet. In the absence of a permanent government no

announcement will be made. This is very frustrating because it makes it more difficult to be prepared for the job if we do get the funding.

Art Work on yard:

As if our staff wasn't working hard enough, they have decided to do some more artwork on the walls in our yard. We plan on touching up the existing mural and adding one or two other ones. This will make our school environment even more child friendly. Keep an eye out over the coming months to see what they come up with.

City Sports Trials:

Cork City Sports will take place on June 1st this year. We have a long and proud tradition of taking part in this competition and we have been very successful in it. We held the trials for this year's event recently and we have our team picked. We wish them the best of luck in their preparation and hope they enjoy it.

Engineer Visit to 4th Class:

An engineer came to speak with 4th Class this month. She spoke about her job and about what engineers do. It was a very informative session and the children enjoyed it.

Sciath Na Scol:

Our hurlers played their first match last week and won. They have been training hard and indeed they are so good at striking the ball that we are having trouble keeping sliotars! We wish them well in the rest of the tournament. Lunch time leagues are taking place every Friday as well. Thank you to the teachers involved for their commitment and dedication in preparing the team.

New Language Curriculum:

The NCCA have launched a new language (Gaeilge and English) curriculum for schools and it will be rolled out over the next few years for each class. It will start with Infants in September. There is more information available on www.ncca.ie. Two teachers from our school will attend training this week and we will have a full days training in school before the end of June. This will involve closing the school for a day. We let you know when this is once we get a date.

That's all for now.

All the best,
Micheál Rea

Up Coming Events:

26th April: Hurling match v Crab Lane

27th April: Language Curriculum training

29th April: Hurling match v St. Patrick's, Rochestown

29th April: School closes for midterm break.

9th May: School reopens.

10th May: match v Gaelscoil Pheig Sayers

12th May: Department of Children and Youth Affairs consultation with children on after school care – 3 children from junior classes representing us.

18th May: 6th Class school tour to Dublin.

21st May: Holy Communion

30th May: 3rd Class school tour

31st May: Juniors, Seniors and 1st Class school tour