



Scoil Náisiúnta Inse Rátha, Little Island National School.
Tel: 021 – 4354087.

Principal – Micheál Rea

26/08/2015

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to the new school year. I hope that you all had a lovely summer and that you are ready for the school year ahead. I would especially like to welcome the children and families who are new to our school community. I hope that you will have a very happy and fulfilling time here.

We refurbished the 5 classrooms at the front of the school during the summer to bring them up to the same standard as the newer rooms. This took a huge effort to organise and to fund but has made the school a more bright, airy and child friendly location. Thank you to Little Island Development Company (LIIDC), our Parents Association and Direct Blinds who all helped us to stay within budget. This was still a considerable expense that we had to take on without any support from The Department of Education. We will be asking that you continue to support our brown envelopes to help us to pay off the balance of the refurbishment works and to maintain and replace resources in the school.

We have some teachers on leave this year and during the summer we recruited teachers to replace them. I am very confident that we have a great team in place to continue the excellent traditions of the school.

Our staff is as follows:

SNAs: Ann O’Keeffe, Siobhan Collins, Mary Clifford, Laura Daly and Louise Taaffe.

Secretary: Jacinta Flannery

Cleaner: Squeaky Clean

Caretaker: Mick Glavin

Junior Infants: Miriam Hennessy (Acting Deputy Principal)

Senior Infants: Eleanor Crowley

1st Class: Nuala Murray and Gráinne Duggan

2nd Class: Ber Walsh

3rd Class: Louise Morgan

4th Class: Gillian Daly

5th Class: Audrey Roche

6th Class: Brigid Lynch

Resource and Learning Support: Valerie McGrath/Estelle Cassidy (job-share), Ken Crewe, Michelle Dunne and Helen Hunt.

We will have a range of after school classes running this year. You will receive notes from the organisers of these classes over the next week or so. We have arranged for tennis, art and craft, children’s yoga, speech and drama and modern dance to be offered so far. The school is facilitating the organisation of these classes but you will be entering into an arrangement with the class organiser so all queries and money will need to go directly to them. These are optional classes and our teachers will continue to run extra-curricular activities such as football, hurling, chess etc.



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Children are allowed into the school yard from 8.30 am and will be brought into their classrooms by their teacher at 8.40 am. Formal classes begin at 8.50 am. On wet days children will be supervised in a classroom from 8.30am-8.40am. No responsibility can be taken for children before 8.30 am or after 2.30pm unless on official school activities. We receive very strict guidelines from our insurance company so we have to stick to these times even if it is wet or cold. Please bear this in mind when you drop your child to school. The bus service is a private arrangement between parents and Joe Delea and, while the school facilitates it, we are not responsible for it in any way.

Pupil accident insurance: This, 24 hr cover, is compulsory for every child in the school. Accidents happen both at home and in school and this insurance has proven to be priceless for families over the years. Check out www.allianz.ie for more details. It pays out quickly and is relatively hassle free.

Each teacher will communicate with you via notes and your child's homework journal. Please check regularly for notes. We will continue to use Text-A-Parent so make sure that we have your most up to date contact details. I will send home a newsletter each month to keep you updated on school news. Our school website has been a huge success and we will update it regularly so keep an eye on it – www.littleislandns.com.

Jacinta is in the office until 1.45pm each day. There will be no one in the office after that. Leave a message and we will get back to you as soon as possible.

Uniforms: **Children are to wear black shoes that they can run and play in with their uniforms and plain runners (not bright multi-coloured runners or high tops) with their tracksuits.**

Please label all your child's belongings clearly – even for those in the older classes!

Please note that the car park is for staff use only and we would appreciate if the entrance could be kept clear at all times. Please be considerate of our neighbours when parking outside the school and don't block their entrances or park on the yellow lines.

Best of luck to everyone for the year ahead. Feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

All the best.

Micheál Rea.



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