

Newsletter December 2011:

Dear Parents,

It has been a busy term and our school has been a hive of activity. We can all look forward to a well-deserved rest over the Christmas holidays. Thank you to all the staff and pupils for all their hard work this term. Thanks to our Board of Management and Parents Association for their commitment to our school. We can all be very proud of our school and of all that we have achieved this year. This month has been another busy one and here are some of the highlights.

Christmas Plays and Choir Carol singing:

We had a big day last Thursday when our Infant classes and 3rd class performed for our parents in the school. Our Choirs also sang for our parents. There was a lovely atmosphere in the school and everyone really enjoyed it. Thanks to all the staff who put in so much work in preparing for the big day and thank you to our wonderful students for performing so well.

The Olde Schoolhouse Café invited a small choir to perform there today. A reduced choir sang to entertain the customers and were paid with hot chocolate!

Charity Work:

This time of year reminds us all of our responsibilities to those less fortunate than us. It is important for us to teach our students to think of others. On our own we can't do much but when we work together we can make a difference without breaking the bank.

We donated sixteen large hampers to St. Vincent de Paul this month to help out local families for Christmas. That is two hampers from each class in our school! The level of generosity from the people of the Scoil Inse Rátha community is amazing. The volunteers who collected the hampers were very moved by the size of the donation they received. Thank you to everyone who donated. Many local families will have a happier Christmas because of your generosity.

The Radisson Blu Hotel invited our choir to sing in their reception area last week. We collected for The Simon Community and raised nearly €300 on the day including a donation of €100 from The Radisson Blu. Well done to all the boys and girls for their wonderful singing and thank you to all the parents and family members who came along to support us and this deserving charity.

Scoil Inse Rátha Drama Club:

Our drama club is only up and running for a few weeks but they took part in a FEIS in CIT last week. This was meant to be an introduction to competition and to give the children a chance to perform on stage but they exceeded all expectations and stole the show!! Well done to all involved – we are very proud of them and how they represented our school. Thanks to Ms. Murphy for preparing them so well.

School Calendars:

Our Parents Association are selling our special school calendars again this year. They are beautifully finished and have lovely photos. If you still do not have one they can be purchased from the office.

Christmas Raffle:

Our Christmas Raffle will take place on Thursday 22nd Dec at 11.15am in our new classrooms. Tickets should be returned by this Wednesday.

Santa:

Santa is taking time out from his busy schedule to visit the excellent boys and girls of Scoil Inse Rátha on Wednesday. I told him how hard they worked this term so he spoke to our Parents Association and arranged this special visit. Listen out for his bell on Wednesday!

UCC Scientist visit:

A scientist from UCC came to speak to 5th and 6th class. This was a very informative and interesting visit and the children enjoyed it. Speakers from outside the school are important to help provide the children with alternative views and experiences of the world. Hopefully, some of our current pupils will be returning to us in years to come to share their stories.

Junior Achievement:

We have signed up for Junior Achievement again this year. 5th Class have had volunteers from local industry working with them to help them prepare for the world of work and to help develop their enterprise skills. This can provide an alternative take on education which helps broaden children's learning experience.

Diocesan Advisor:

Our Diocesan Advisor called to visit us this month. The children were so good that they earned a special homework off voucher!

Board of Management:

Our new Board of Management met this month for the first time. We have a lot of work to do over the next four years but we have an excellent team. The Board acknowledged the great work done by the previous Board and discussed our plans for the future.

Website and Emails:

Remember to keep an eye on our website – www.littleislandns.com. Have you made it your home page yet? If you want to receive this monthly newsletter by email please email info@littleislandns.com.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from all of us here!

That's all for now.

All the best,
Micheál Rea

Up Coming Events:

Wednesday 21st Dec: tickets for raffle to be returned today.

Santa's visit to our school

Thursday 22nd Dec: 11.15am Christmas raffle

12.15pm School closes for Christmas Holidays

Monday 9th Jan 2012: School reopens after holidays.