

## **Scoil Inse Rátha**

### **Déan do Dhícheall**

#### **Newsletter December 2012**

##### **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.

##### **Christmas Concerts and Carol Singing:**

Our Junior and Senior Infant classes performed wonderful plays this week. It was lovely to see and it has helped to get us all into the festive spirit. 1<sup>st</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> performed a selection of Christmas carols. Well done to all involved and thank you to all the parents and extended family members who came in to share the day with us.

##### **Christmas Raffle:**

Once again this year our PA managed to get brilliant prizes for our annual raffle. We really appreciate the effort they put into getting these prizes. Thank you to everyone who supported us this year. Thank you, as well, to all the people who sold tickets. Well done to all the winners. A full list of prizes and winners will be on our school website [www.littleislands.com](http://www.littleislands.com) under School Info-Notice Board. Santa paid a special visit just before the raffle to assure all the boys and girls that he is ready for the big day next week.

##### **Mascot Names:**

We have received a large number of entries to name our mascots. There was a lot of thought put into the names. Thank you to all who put an entry forward. The names we have selected are Insí and Ráthaí. Congratulations to Emer in 5<sup>th</sup> whose entry won and to Sophie and Laura in 1<sup>st</sup> Class who came second.

##### **Swimming:**

Next term 4<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> Classes will go swimming. It will run on **Tuesdays from 15<sup>th</sup> January to 19<sup>th</sup> February inclusive**. It will take place within school hours. In 2010 it cost €37.50 for 5 lessons but this year it will cost a much reduced price of **€25 per child**. Our Parents Association are helping with the overall cost to bring the price down by €9 per child. Swimming is part of the PE Curriculum so every child must take part.

##### **Active Schools Award:**

Ms. Ahern has been taking some children from younger classes for athletics at lunch time. We have introduced different stations for the children to play different games at lunch break, three days a week. We have introduced an active school diary which allows each child to record any activity they

do outside of school. All activities can be included from walking to matches to mountain climbing and much more. It is about encouraging our students to be more active, so they don't need a trophy to include it in the diary. A selection of these will be read out at our weekly assembly.

#### **Calendars:**

Our new calendars sold very well this year. The new design was a big hit. There are still a few left and they can be bought from Jacinta in the office.

#### **Cork City Marathon:**

After Christmas many people look to start out the New Year with a healthier, more active lifestyle. We thought that if we formed a group of people with similar interests and goals and if we set an exciting target, that it might make it easier to stick to our good intentions. The Cork City Marathon provides many options that allow for a broad range of abilities and distances. Running/walking as part of a relay team means a distance of 4-6 miles per person. There is the half marathon of 13 miles and of course the 26 mile full marathon. Mr. McEvoy has offered to help with organising programmes to help give us direction and to make sure we build up our training realistically. For now, please think it over – would you like to take part in June as part of a school team? I will send out a note in January to arrange a meeting of those interested.

On behalf of everyone here in Scoil Inse Rátha I would like to wish you a very merry and safe Christmas and a happy New Year.



That's all for now.

All the best,

Micheál Rea

#### **Up Coming Events:**

**Fri Dec 21<sup>st</sup>:** School closes at 12.15pm for all classes for Christmas Holidays

**Mon Jan 7<sup>th</sup> 2013:** school reopens

**Tues Jan 15<sup>th</sup>:** swimming starts for 4<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> Classes

**Thurs 24<sup>th</sup> Jan:** 6<sup>th</sup> Class retreat

**Mon 28<sup>th</sup> Jan:** start of Catholic Schools Week