

Scoil Inse Rátha
Déan do Dhícheall
Newsletter December 2013

Dear Parents,

We have reached the end of another exciting and busy term. We have achieved a huge amount and this is due to our wonderful school community. Staff, children, parents and local community have all worked together, with our Board of Management, to make our school a great place to work and to learn. Thank you to everyone who has helped out during the year. We look forward to building on the successes of 2013 during 2014.

St. Vincent de Paul Food Appeal:

Our Christmas charity appeal resulted in 18 hampers being donated to St. Vincent de Paul. The members of St. Vincent de Paul were very touched to see such generosity from the people of our community. Families living in our locality will have a better Christmas because of your generosity. Thank you to everyone who donated. A special thank you must go to Ann and the 6th Class coordinators who did such a brilliant job in promoting the food appeal and in making up the hampers.

Insí and Rathaí's first birthday:

Happy Birthday to our school mascots who are one year old this month!

1st Class Panto:

1st Class had a real treat this month when they were brought to The Everyman Palace for the Christmas Panto. They have worked really hard this term and Ms. Lynch and Laura decided that this would be a nice reward. They had a great time and really enjoyed the experience. They also represented our school excellently so well done 1st Class!

Christmas plays and Carol singing:

We had a very busy day on Tuesday this week. Junior Infants, Senior Infants and 1st Class each performed a play with songs. They were all brilliant and entertaining. There was a lot of hard work put into preparing them and it was all worth it on the day. Well done to each class and thank you to the teachers for organising it all and to the parents for helping with costumes.

2nd to 4th and 5th and 6th performed separate carol services. It was a great way to help us all get into the Christmas spirit. Well done to all involved.

It was great to see so many parents at these performances. I know that it can be difficult to make it to events during the day but the staff and children really appreciate the effort you made.

A selection of photos are on our website, www.littleislands.com.

Christmas Raffle:

We had our Christmas Raffle yesterday. It has been another huge success. Well done to Kate McCarthy in Senior Infants who won the first prize! We had 22 fabulous prizes to give out on the day. The full list of prizes, sponsors and prize winners will be on our website, www.littleislands.com, before the weekend. Congratulations to all of our winners and thank you to everyone who bought a ticket to support this vital fund-raising effort. Thank you as well to our sponsors whose generosity made the raffle such a success. Thank you also to our PA who have planned this event since September and who have knocked on the door of every business in Little Island and beyond to get sponsorship.

Religious Advisor:

The Diocesan Religious Advisor (formerly known as the Religion Inspector) came to our school this month. She was very impressed by the work being done in our school and also by the warm, welcoming atmosphere that exists. Well done to all of our staff and pupils for their great work.

Meeting of local primary and pre-school providers:

All of our local primary schools have been meeting with the local pre-school providers this term. We are working on a plan to make the transition from pre-school to primary school easier for our Junior

Infants each year. Pre-schools do great work and so do Junior Infant teachers but we are trying to link it all together a bit more so that pre-schools and primary schools are on the same page. Our goal is to make life easier for the children involved and everyone is very enthusiastic about it.

Closing date for enrolment of children for JI next year:

We have huge demand for places for Junior Infants for next year. This is a credit to everyone in our school community and reflects the excellent work being done here. **Friday January 24th** is the closing date for enrolment applications. Any applications received after that date will be put at the end of the waiting list. Please make sure that we have an application form for your child, even if they have a brother or sister already in the school. Our Enrolment Policy is available to be viewed on our website www.littleislandns.com. Siblings and children living in Little Island are prioritised but only if we have received an application form. All of our local primary schools have the same closing date for enrolment applications.

That's all for now.

All the best,

Micheál Rea

Up Coming Events:

Fri 20th Dec.: Infants finish at 12.05pm. 1st-6th finish at 12.15pm.

Monday Jan 6th: School reopens

Tues Jan 14th: swimming starts for 4th-6th Class-weekly for 6 weeks.

