

Scoil Inse Rátha
Déan do Dhícheall
Newsletter December 2015

Dear Parents,

As the term comes to an end we can reflect on a very eventful and exciting term. Our concert was the highlight but there were a million other smaller things that we are proud of too. Thank you to everyone in our school community for another successful term especially to our staff and pupils.

Parents Association:

Our PA has been working harder than ever this term. We have had a record breaking year with the raffle and the sale of the calendars. It is not an easy job having to go to ask businesses and industry for sponsorship and we really appreciate the parents who do this. Without them our school would not be as good as it is. Thank you to all of our sponsors as well. A full list of the sponsors and winners is on our website, www.littleislandns.com. The money raised by our PA will pay for the bus to swimming and for the replacement of an exit door from the corridor onto the yard.

Carol Singing:

Our choir sang in The Radisson and in Bank of Ireland last week to raise money for Make A Wish, our chosen charity for this year. Staff in the bank and in The Radisson contacted me afterwards to commend the children on their behaviour and singing. While we know they are brilliant it is nice to have members of our community saying nice things about us. They raised €237 in just a couple of hours singing – well done to all involved.

Bank of Ireland Christmas Card competition:

Congratulations to Greta in 2nd Class on winning this competition which was run as part of Bank of Ireland's customer day.

Fishing Competition:

Congratulations to Cathal in 6th on winning the shore angling competition for the third year in a row. Winning it once would be great but to win it three years in a row is amazing.

FAI Soccer Development Squad:

Congratulations to Kate in 6th and Amy in 5th for making the U-14 and U-12 Ireland development squads respectively. This is a fantastic achievement – well done girls!

Santa's visit:

Santa took time out of his very busy schedule to come and visit our school. He said that all the boys and girls are on the nice list. Our children sang songs and told him jokes. Thank you to Kady in 2nd's Dad and Wiktorija in 5th's Mum for providing the sweets that Santa gave to the boys and girls.

School trips and treats:

We have fantastic, trustworthy children in our school so we are able to plan and undertake school trips and treats during the year. This month 1st, 5th and 6th went to the panto in town, 2nd class went to the cinema and 3rd and 4th classes went ice skating. Junior and Senior Infants had a puppet show in their class. As expected, they all behaved excellently and represented our school really well.

Teaching Practice:

We have student teachers in our school regularly as part of their training. This term Ciara Connolly spent most of the term with us and did invaluable work around the school, especially in 5th and Senior Infants. Thank you to Ciara for everything she did for our students and for our school and we wish her well in her future career.

New Board of Management:

Our new Board of Management had their first meeting this month. We have applied for funding under the Department of Education Summer Works Scheme to refurbish and modernise our toilets. We have also applied to the LIIDC for funding to help defray the cost of the work done during last summer. We hope that these applications will be successful so we can continue to improve the facilities in our school.

Swimming:

4th – 6th Classes will start swimming lessons after Christmas in Mayfield swimming pool. We do this every year to fulfil the Aquatics strand of the PE curriculum. They will attend 6 weekly lessons from the 12th of January. Thanks again to our PA for paying towards the cost of the bus which makes the cost of swimming much more affordable.

Green Flag:

We finally got to raise our 4th Green Flag this month. Sandy McGroarty, who had helped us to earn this flag, raised it for us. This was the culmination of two years of work and is a great achievement for our school. I would like to say a special thank you to Ms. Walsh and The Green Schools Committee for all their work in helping us to get this flag.

Chess Club:

The Little Island NS Chess Club has started up again this year. It is running at lunch time and they will be entered into the annual inter-school chess competition after Christmas. There are several free apps that can help children (and adults) learn this fantastic game or of course you get a chess board and play together over Christmas.

On behalf of everyone here is Little Island NS I would like to wish you all a happy and safe Christmas and a wonderful New Year.

That's all for now.

All the best,
Micheál Rea

Up Coming Events:

Tues Dec 22nd: school closes at 12:15 pm for all classes for Christmas Holidays.

Wed Jan 6th: School reopens

Mon Jan 11th: Biz World Programme starting in 5th Class

Tues Jan 12th: 4th – 6th start swimming lessons

Wed Jan 20th: Parent Teacher meetings – school closes at 1.05pm

Thurs Jan 21st: Parent Teacher meetings – after school

Fri Jan 22nd: Closing date for receipt of enrolment applications for Junior Infants for September 2016.

