

**Scoil Inse Rátha**  
**Déan do Dhícheall**  
**Newsletter February 2013**

**Dear Parents,**

Welcome back to our monthly newsletter. There has been a lot going on around the school and there is much more planned for the months ahead. Thank you to all of our staff, children and parents for their help and support so far this year. We can all be very proud of our school.

**First Confession:**

This month saw students from 2<sup>nd</sup> class receive the sacrament of Penance. They were excellent on the day and we are all very proud of how they represented themselves, their families and their school. Thanks to Fr. John Paul for a lovely ceremony and a big thank you to Ms. Walsh and to Laura for all their hard work. We now can look forward to their Holy Communion at the end of May.

**Visit of Eamonn Ryan, Cork Lady Footballer's Manager:**

We were honoured this month to have the brilliant coach and manger, Eamonn Ryan, take our boys and girls for a coaching session. He spent time with them and worked on their football skills. It was great to have him here and we are very grateful to him for taking the time to share his knowledge with our students. We wish Eamonn and The Cork Ladies team all the best for the year ahead and we hope that he will be back with the cup later in the year!

**Enrolment:**

This month was the closing date for applications for Junior Infants for next year. There was huge demand again this year for places. We are delighted to be able to offer places to all applicants living in Little Island and/or those with brothers or sisters already in our school. We were not able to offer places to everyone this year. It is a credit to everyone connected with our school that there is such high demand for places.

**School Uniforms:**

There will no order forms used this year. You can go to the shop in Donnybrook and buy uniforms anytime but the stock for next year will be in from June.

**Parking and entrance to car park:**

I would ask that you please be considerate of the residents around the school when you are parking. Please keep entrances free and leave space for traffic to pass up and down freely. I would also ask that you don't block the entrance to the staff car park. Please allow space for vehicles to enter and leave.

**3<sup>rd</sup> Class indoor hurling and camogie.**

Our 3<sup>rd</sup> Class boys and girls took part in indoor hurling and camogie tournaments recently. Both teams did brilliantly and represented our school really well. Well done to all involved. Hurling training has started at lunch time to prepare us for the Sciath na Scol tournament after Easter. Camogie training is also being organised at the moment and will take place after school on Thursdays.

**School Fitness Group meeting:**

Our School Fitness Group continues to meet up for walks/jogs/runs on most Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at Little Island Church. Some of our group have taken part in races recently – some for the very first time. Mr. McEvoy attended our most recent meeting in the school to give advice and support. We all appreciated his advice and the time he gave to us. If you have any questions that you would like passed on to him you can give them to me. Good luck with your training! We hope to meet up over Easter for a walk or run around Blackrock. More details to follow.

**Family Contributions:**

Many thanks to everyone who continues to support our brown envelopes. This money helps cover the running costs of the school. Government grants should cover the running costs of the school but sadly this is not the case. Gas and electricity alone costs €1000 per month. Our school is a nice place to be for your child(ren) and we appreciate your contribution to this.

**4<sup>th</sup> Class to Blackrock Observatory:**

4<sup>th</sup> Class went to Blackrock Observatory this month. We are lucky to have such a wonderful resource so close to us. See our website [www.littleislandns.com](http://www.littleislandns.com) for more details of the trip.

**5<sup>th</sup> Class FAI soccer:**

FAI are running a 6 week programme with 5<sup>th</sup> class from the 12<sup>th</sup> March. This is free and will end with an event in Leaside's grounds. We hope everyone enjoys it!

**PA Bag packing:**

Our Parents Association have organised their annual bag pack for Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> March and Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> March in Supervalu. We have no choice about the date we are given so we have to make the best of it when it comes along. Please try to make yourself available to help out when you are asked.

**Cyber Bullying talk:**

Our Parents Association have organised a talk for parents. This will help parents to better understand how they can help and protect their children when they are on the internet. This talk will take place on April 23<sup>rd</sup> at 8pm in the school. Trend Micro are a company based in Cork who are providing this seminar free of charge.

**Inspector's visits:**

Our school inspector and an inspector from the teacher training college in Limerick have visited our school a number of times recently. They are very impressed with our students and with our school in general. They commented positively on the atmosphere and quality of work being done in the school. Well done to all of our staff and students for the excellent work they do every day to make our school great.

**Website for Parents:**

[www.helpmykidslearn.ie](http://www.helpmykidslearn.ie) This new website has been set up to help parents to help their children. It is part of The National Literacy and Numeracy Strategy. You can access it from the computer on the corridor at school if you can't access it anywhere else. It is very useful and user friendly.

That's all for now.

All the best,

Micheál Rea

**Up Coming Events:**

**March 4<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>:** Gold Rush for Bothar

**March 7<sup>th</sup>:** start of camogie training after school for 1<sup>st</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> Classes.

**March 8<sup>th</sup>:** Jeremy Meehan from Bothar to visit school (with goats!) to talk about Bothar's work.

**March 8<sup>th</sup>:** letters accepting places in Junior Infants for 2013/2014 school year to be returned.

**March 12<sup>th</sup>:** Active Day for Bothar

**March 12<sup>th</sup>:** 5<sup>th</sup> Class FAI soccer training starts

**March 13<sup>th</sup>:** Confirmation

**March 18<sup>th</sup>:** school closed for Bank Holiday.

**March 20<sup>th</sup>:** Green Schools Committee going to Gougane Barra for Water Day.

**March 20<sup>th</sup>:** Cor Fhéile: Junior and Senior Infants taking part. 7pm in City Hall, Cork.

**March 22<sup>nd</sup>&23<sup>rd</sup>:** PA Bag packing in Supervalu.

**March 22<sup>nd</sup>:** School closes at 12.15pm for all pupils for Easter Holidays.

**April 25<sup>th</sup>:** David Coleman (Clinical Psychologist from TV) to speak on Understanding and Supporting your teen through adolescence. Tickets are €20 and available from Mary-Rose O'Sullivan 086 8114944. This talk is privately arranged and not affiliated with our school.