

Scoil Inse Rátha
Déan do Dhícheall
Newsletter February 2014

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.

Parents Association:

Thank you to everyone who helped and took part in the bag packing at Supervalu in Glanmire during mid-term. Nearly €1700 was collected which is an amazing amount of money. Homework off vouchers will be handed out shortly to those families who helped. We really appreciate the fact that people gave so generously of their time during holiday time. The money raised will ensure that we can continue to provide the best education we can for our students.

Anti-Bullying Policy:

Our Anti-Bullying Policy has been revised in line with Department of Education Guidelines and is available on our website, www.littleislandns.com.

Safer Internet Day:

Safer Internet Day was on Tuesday 11th of February. A number of classes discussed this topic. Please be aware of what your children are doing on the internet. Facebook and other social media sites are really for older teenagers and adults so children in primary school shouldn't have their own accounts.

Road markings and walkability audit report:

During the mid-term Pádraig O'Sullivan from our Board of Management met with the Senior Engineer for our area. Pádraig received a commitment that the lines and road markings in front of the school would be redrawn. These lines are there for the safety of all road users, especially our students. Pádraig also raised the results of our walkability audit. We have concerns about the lack of safe pedestrian access to the school with no proper zebra crossings in Eastgate, by Cork Plastics, etc. The Engineer said he would consider this request but didn't give any commitment to improve things. I am waiting for a response from the engineer. We may have to look at other ways of convincing the County Council to get this essential work done. If you have any suggestions or contacts please feel free to contact me. Thanks to Pádraig for all his work in this area.

4th Class Play: Uncle Crumble's Mad Machine:

There was great excitement in the school before mid-term with the 4th Class performances of their play. The acting, music and direction were first class and everyone really enjoyed the show. Well done to 4th Class and to Ms. Dunne. It was brilliant to see everyone involved and it showed what can be achieved when everyone pulls together.

Swimming:

Swimming for 4th – 6th is over for this year. The children learned a lot and enjoyed the experience as well. It would really benefit the children if they could build on the skills they have developed by going to a swimming pool regularly. Mayfield Sports Complex and Coral in Cobh both offer great deals for families who want to go swimming. Their prices are similar: about €2 for a child and €5 per adult. Younger children have to have an adult with them. See www.mayfieldsportscomplex.ie and <http://www.coralleisure.ie/our-clubs/cobh.html> for more details.

Junior Infants 2014/2015:

We have had huge demand for places again this year but we are able to cater for siblings and for those living in Little Island. We have had lots of visitors recently and they have all commented on the lovely atmosphere in the school. We will continue to work hard to maintain that and we look forward to these children and their families joining our school community.

Green Schools:

4th Class won The Golden Boot last month for being the best class for using environmentally friendly modes of transport to school. As the weather gets better (hopefully!) we hope that the competition will intensify for The Golden Boot.

The Green-Schools Committee, are very excited about our very first **SOW** day (Scoot on Wednesday) coming up on the 12th of March. It is the first time any country has had a SOW day so we are proud to be invited to take part in this new initiative. We ask you to show your support for a greener, healthier environment by simply encouraging your child to scoot to school on the 12th of March. A photograph will be taken of all the pupils who scoot to school that morning and this photograph will be on our school website (and it will also feature in the local 'Cork News' magazine).

Website Competition:

This month's website competition winners will be announced on tomorrow at assembly. Check out www.littleislandns.com for more details.

Calendar 2014/2015:

The Department circular on the standardised school year for next year was published this week so our calendar for 2014/2015 will be up on our website next week.

Board of Management: Future Plans:

Our Board of management met this month and among other things discussed our future plans. We have plans lodged with the Department that would improve our school and we hope that they will look favourably on them. We are very conscious that we have a lovely building and lots of resources so our children have a nice place to come to school. However, we have to look forward and plan to make sure that we have as nice an environment as possible for our students now and into the future.

Confirmation Class Ceremony of Light:

Children had their Ceremony of Light last night in the Sacred Heart Church, Glounthaune. Well done to all involved and we look forward to their big day on April 5th.

That's all for now.

All the best,
Micheál Rea

Up Coming Events:

March 3rd – 21st: Seachtain na Gaeilge: Beimid ag déanamh iarracht níos mó Gaeilge a usáid tríd an scoil.

March 3rd: Clan Cluana Theatre Company performing Setanta in the hall for 1st to 6th Classes.

March 4th: 5th Class going to The Neptune Stadium to hear The Garda band perform.

March 6th: Fota Wildlife Park Education team doing a Biodiversity Workshop with 5th and 6th Classes.

March 7th: 6th Class Retreat

March 17th: school closed for St. Patrick's Day.