

Scoil Inse Rátha
Newsletter February 2017:

Dear Parents,

We have had another busy and exciting month. There is a lot of work being done in each class and there is a lot of extra activity going on outside of class too. Thanks to all the students, staff and parents who have been working so hard.

Ambassador UCC Glanmire Ladies Basketball team visit.

Ambassador UCC Glanmire Ladies Basketball team won The National Cup Final for a record 4th year in a row recently. This is an amazing achievement as it is a very competitive competition. Mark Scannell, who coaches our own students, is their coach. Mark Scannell (Coach), Gráinne Dwyer (MVP in the final) and Chantelle Alford came to visit our school with the cup. They spoke at assembly about their careers and impressed upon our children the importance of hard work and fun. We were delighted to have such positive role models visit our school.

Internet Safety:

[Webwise](#) have launched a new online Parenting Hub: ***Webwise Parents and Parenting***

Handbook which will provide parents with easy access to practical advice and information to help address their concerns about the various issues facing their children online. The new hub features expert advice from professionals including John Sharry (Child and Family Psychotherapist) and Colman Noctor (Child and Adolescent Psychotherapist) and offers useful conversation starters and tips on managing internet safety in the home. Webwise have also launched a booklet – The Parents Guide to a Safer Internet which is free to download from their website – www.webwise.ie.

Clan Cluana: Diarmuid and Gráinne:

Clan Cluana returned to our school this week and performed their version of Diarmuid and Gráinne. It was a brilliant show and a great story told with talent, humour and energy.

Marine Science Workshop:

A marine biologist came to the school and took each class for a workshop. He showed and discussed different shells and sea life. He had some wonderful displays and a magnificent deep sea diver's helmet. It was very educational and interesting.

Swimming:

4th-6th Class have finished their swimming lessons for this year. They made great progress and they represented our school very well. Thank you to the staff of Mayfield Leisure Centre for looking after us so well.

ICT Update:

We continue to update our website regularly so keep an eye on it for news and photos.

Our new app is currently going through the approval process in the App Store so we should be able to launch that in March. We are hoping that all notes, newsletters and notifications will go through this app by September.

We are in the process of getting quotes for new interactive whiteboards. We are also trying to source extra funding from local industry and businesses to add to the grant from the DES. We hope to have funding in place by the end of March and to be able to complete the purchase of boards in April. Three or four boards will be installed this year, hopefully before the summer holidays.

Grandparents Day in Junior Infants:

We were delighted to welcome in some of our Junior Infants' grandparents this month. They shared stories of their time in school. The children performed a few songs for them and explained how they learn today. It was a lovely experience and we really appreciate those who came and shared with us.

Work Experience Students:

Two of our past pupils have been on work experience this month in our school. Christian Babalola and Sarah O'Rahilly were a great help to us when they were here. It is always nice to see how our pupils turn out after they leave us.

Concert next year:

We have decided to do another big concert next year. We have spoken to The Radisson and they are happy to host us again. We will discuss exact dates with them in the first term next year but it is likely to be on in Spring 2018. There is a huge amount of work involved in this type of production but our staff recognise the benefit of taking it on for our children. Last year's concert was a huge success and we look forward to similar success next year.

Visit to Cork Golf Club:

On February 8th 1st and 2nd classes visited Cork Golf Club. The General Manger, Mr Matt Sands, kindly invited us and David Ryan lead us on a tour around the famous club. We saw pictures of famous golfers such as James Bruen and Claire Coughlan and we also saw the very impressive trophy cabinet. We were given special permission to enter the members' only area where the chef had left some treats for us. Thank you to David Ryan for arranging the visit and to all at Cork Golf Club for welcoming us.

Golf Lessons:

David Ryan, Sam's Dad, spent 6 weeks working with 1st and 2nd Class. He brought them to the Complex each week to learn how to play golf. It was a great experience for them and they really enjoyed. Thank you David for a really enjoyable time.

East Cork Studios:

Austin and Gwen from East Cork Studios took our annual official photos of JI, 6th and staff. They also took family photos of siblings from various classes. He will have the proofs ready after midterm for people who ordered photos.

Chess:

Mr. Crewe's Chess Club is having a competition at the moment and it is reaching its climax. They are at the quarter final stage now in both the 2nd/3rd Class competition and the 4th-6th Class competition.

Hurling and Soccer:

We are holding trials this week for the hurling and soccer competitions that are coming up. We are in a very challenging hurling group this year but we will do our best. Our girls are the reigning Cork County FAI 5-a-side champions so we will approach that competition confidently. Our boys are very good too so they have a good chance of progressing as well.

National Parents Council Primary has been invited by the Minister for Education and Skills to submit the views of the organisation on "**the Role of denominational religions in the school admissions process and possible approaches for making changes**" to same. In advance of making this submission they are consulting parents via this survey <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/RoleOfReligioninSchoolAdmissions>.

Please follow the link if you want your views included.

That's all for now.

All the best,

Micheál Rea

Up Coming Events:

Thursday March 2nd: World Book Day-children can dress up as their favourite character from a book.

March 6-10th: Engineer's Week

March 9th: Board of Management meeting

March 10th: 5th&6th Visit Crest as part of Engineer's Week

March 14th: 1st&2nd Super Science Workshop

March 22nd: First Confession

March 27th: Cór Fhéile in City Hall

March 28th: FAI Girls' soccer qualifiers

March 29th: FAI Boys' soccer qualifiers

