

**Scoil Inse Rátha**  
**Deán do Dhícheall**  
**Newsletter Feb/March 2016**

**Dear Parents,**

As we reach the end of Term 2 we can be very proud of the work that our children and staff have done. There are beautiful displays of the children's work up around the school and on our website. There is a great buzz of work being done in each classroom and on the yard. We look forward to Term 3 where there will be even more work and excitement. Thank you to everyone for their work this term.

**FAI Soccer: County Champions!**

Our boys and girls soccer teams were playing recently. The girls did excellently well and qualified for the A finals in Turners Cross which they won. We are very proud of their achievement and look forward to the Munster Finals in Waterford on April 20<sup>th</sup>. Our boys got into the top four in their competition but only the top two progressed. Thank you to John Gettings and to the teachers involved for their work and help in getting the teams ready for action.

**3<sup>rd</sup> Hurling and Camogie:**

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Class hurling and camogie tournaments have been held in The Little Island Sports Complex. The Complex has one of the best sports halls in the county so is a prime venue for the indoor hurling tournaments. We are lucky to have it on our doorstep and to have easy access to it. Our boys and girls did us proud. Well done!

**Catholic Schools Week:**

Catholic Schools Week was in February. This is a special week every year where we are to reflect on what it means to be a Catholic School. In our school we celebrate diversity and inclusion, honesty, kindness and sharing. We are proud of every one of our children equally and place them at the centre of every decision that we make.

**Seachtain na Gaeilge:**

Tá Seachtain na Gaeilge ar siúl i rith mi Márta. Tá alán rudaí á dhéanamh i ngach rang agus timpeall na scoile. Tá gach duine ag déanamh iarracht speisialta níos mo Gaeilge a usáid ar scoil.

Congratulations to 6<sup>th</sup> Class on their very successful cake sale which took place as part of Seachtain na Gaeilge. They raised over €400 for The Make A Wish Foundation – our chosen charity for this school year.

**World Book Day:**

Children were allowed to dress up in their favourite book character for World Book Day. Each child also received a special token to get a free book. Reading a book is still one of life's most important skills and I would encourage you to have a book for your child to read all the time. The library is a fabulous service which gives you access to a range of books very cheaply.

**Swimming:**

Swimming is over for this year. The swimming instructors were very impressed with the progress that the children made over the 6 weeks. Thank you to everyone in Mayfield Sports Complex for their excellent work with our students.

**Clan Cluana Theatre Group:**

Clan Cluana performed their version of the story of Deirdre of the Sorrows for us last week. It was up to their usual high standards and our students from Senior Infants to 6<sup>th</sup> Class really enjoyed it.

**Confirmation Class Ceremony of Light:**

Our Confirmation Class had their Ceremony of Light recently to help them on the way to their Confirmation later in the year.

**Holy Communion Class:**

First Confession was on at the end of February. Fr. Ted, helped by Fr. John, held a lovely, child friendly, ceremony that was very special. Our children were excellent and represented our school really well.

**Engineer's visit to 6<sup>th</sup> Class from SISK:**

Anthony O'Donovan from Sisk came to work with 6<sup>th</sup> Class as part of Engineer's Week.

**Electronics Workshop:**

5<sup>th</sup> Class went to The Lifetime Lab to do an electronics workshop. They enjoyed it a lot and learned a lot too.

**Board of Management meeting:**

Our Board of Management met in February to discuss the needs of the school. We are lucky to have such an active and interested Board who work hard for this school community. We discussed Health and Safety, our Summer Works Scheme application, buildings and maintenance as well as planning for the next school year's staffing and class organisation.

**School Times:**

Children are supervised in the morning from 8.30am. Teachers bring them into their classes at 8.40am and teaching starts at 8.50am. Infants finish at 1.30pm and the rest of the school finish at 2.30pm. No responsibility can be taken for children outside of these hours unless they are on an official school activity. The supervision of children who are attending after school activities is a matter for the organiser of that class. Teachers and staff, who are here outside of these hours, are here to prepare work for class or to do other essential work for our school. They are not in a position to supervise.

**Green Schools Workshop:**

As part of our continuing work for the Green Schools Programme Niamh Flynn, co-ordinator came to our school this week to do some workshops with our children.

**Proclamation Day:**

Tomorrow we will join every primary, secondary and third level educational establishment in raising our National Flag to mark the centenary of 1916. We will read the Proclamation and the children will read a version of the proclamation that they wrote themselves. We will also sing Amhrán na BhFiann.

That's all for now.

On behalf of everyone here I would like to wish you a very happy Easter.

All the best,  
Micheál Rea

**Up Coming Events:**

**March 16<sup>th</sup>:** School closes at 12.15pm for all students for Easter Holiday

**April 4<sup>th</sup>:** School reopens for summer term.

**April 13<sup>th</sup>:** 7.30pm Board of Management meeting

**April 15<sup>th</sup>:** Confirmation

**April 19<sup>th</sup>:** Cor Fhéile for Junior and Senior Infants in City Hall.

**April 20<sup>th</sup>:** FAI Girls Munster Finals in Ferrybank AFC, Waterford.

**April 25<sup>th</sup>:** Chess tournament in Ovens.