

**Scoil Inse Rátha**  
**Little Island NS**  
**Deán do Dhícheall**  
**Newsletter January 2012**

**Dear Parents,**

Welcome to the first newsletter of 2012. Christmas feels like a long time ago. There is a lot going on and there is a fantastic buzz of work in each class in the school. We are lucky to have such diligent staff and hard-working children. Thanks to everyone – it is great to see our school motto “Deán do Dhícheall” (do your best) in action!

**Time keeping morning and evening:**

Could I ask everyone to make sure that their children are in time for school each morning and picked up promptly after school. If your child is 5 mins late for school every day then they miss the equivalent of 3 full school days over the year. Work begins at 8.50am so please make sure that your child doesn't miss out. We will be introducing a system to keep track of later arrivals and will be using the cumulative amount of time missed to report to the NEWB.

**School Concert:**

Preparations have begun for our school concert that will take place after Easter. The Radisson Blu is unavailable to us during March and April. We would have liked to return there as there was a great buzz there the last time. It is far too expensive to hire the hotel this time around and they have limited availability. We are looking at other venues and once we have decided we will let you know.

**Enrolment:**

There is a huge demand for places in our school for this September. This is a great compliment to our wonderful staff, pupils, parents, Board of Management and community. Closing date for receipt of applications for enrolment is Thursday March 1<sup>st</sup>. We will process these applications as soon as possible. If you plan on sending a child to our school in September please check with Jacinta in the office that we have your enrolment application form. Applications received after the deadline will be at the end of the list even if there are siblings already in school.

**Spelling Bee Competition:**

Congratulations to Lewis O'Mahony who won our Spelling Bee competition in school recently. He now goes forward to represent our school in the County Spelling Bee Competition in Ballinora on Feb 9<sup>th</sup>. Best of luck Lewis!

**Safer Internet Day:**

February 7<sup>th</sup> is Safer Internet Day. Please check out [www.webwise.ie](http://www.webwise.ie) for information on how to protect your child when they are on the internet. As adults we need to be as informed as possible so that we can make sure that the internet is a good influence on our children.

**Visit of missionary priest:**

Fr. O'Doherty from the Kiltegan Fathers spoke to 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> classes about their work in Africa. It was interesting to hear how they have helped to provide wells for water and animals to families. Their aim is to help make the families and communities self-sufficient. It is important for our children to hear about this type of work so that they can learn to think of others and to think of ways that they can use their talents to help others.

**Staff Meeting:**

We have a staff meeting planned for Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> Feb from 1.30pm – 3.30pm. Junior Infants and Senior Infants will go home at 12.30pm on this day. 1<sup>st</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> Classes will go home at 1pm.

**GAA Coaching:**

Niall continues to coach 1<sup>st</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> every Friday and hurling training has started as well. Erin's Own are taking registrations now for this year. They have a fantastic set up in Caherlag and they would love to see new members. Check out their website [www.erinsowngaa.ie](http://www.erinsowngaa.ie) for more details. Well done to 4<sup>th</sup> Class indoor hurlers who took part in a blitz last week. They represented our school really well and did us all proud. Next up are the 3<sup>rd</sup> Class indoor hurlers – best of luck!

**IPPN Conference:**

The Irish Primary Principals' Conference was held in Dublin last week. Minister for Education Ruairi Quinn, Mary Robinson and Lord David Puttman were among the speakers.

**Staff:**

Ms. Gillian Daly has gone out on maternity leave. We wish her all the best over the next few weeks and months and look forward to her return next year. Ms. Nuala Murray returns to our staff this week.

**Board of Management:**

Our Board of Management met this week. We reviewed our Code of Behaviour and our Enrolment Policy. There were other items on the agenda. Thanks to all our Board members for their time and effort in preparing for, and participating in, our meetings.

**Uniforms:**

At a recent Parents Association meeting it was decided to go with Schools Direct as our uniform and tracksuit supplier. Order forms will be circulated in February and our order will be available in June. Items can then be collected from their shop in Frankfield near Douglas. Different size legs and tops can be purchased. If your child's size changes, from when you order to when you buy, that is not a problem as they will have stock in place. The order forms are to give an indication of what stock they need to buy but are not what you will be tied to. This decision was taken as part of a big effort to reduce the costs associated with sending your child to school. We hope to extend the book rental scheme over the next few years as well to further reduce the cost of books. There will be a slight change to the design of the tracksuit and uniform jumper but children can still wear the current tracksuit and jumper until they are worn out or too small. Shirts, polo shirts, pants etc have been kept generic so that you can source them cheaper in Dunnes, Tesco, M&S etc. Thanks to our excellent Parents Association for giving this issue a lot of time and consideration.

That's all for now.

All the best,  
Micheál Rea

**Up Coming Events:**

6<sup>th</sup> Feb: 3<sup>rd</sup> Class indoor hurling competition

7<sup>th</sup> Feb: Safer Internet Day

7<sup>th</sup> Feb: Staff meeting: Infants home at 12.30pm and 1<sup>st</sup> -6<sup>th</sup> home at 1pm.

8<sup>th</sup> Feb: swimming money due in by today (4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> class)

9<sup>th</sup> Feb: Lewis O'Mahony at County Spelling Bee competition

9<sup>th</sup> Feb: 7pm School quiz teams in Lisgoold

13<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> Feb inclusive: school closed for mid-term break

21<sup>st</sup> Feb: swimming starts for 4<sup>th</sup> -6<sup>th</sup> classes.

24<sup>th</sup> Feb: 8pm Radisson Blu: celebration for Mr Eamonn McEvoy. Tickets on sale from the office until Feb 10<sup>th</sup>.