

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

**Dear Parents,**

2013 is up and running, as are many of our parents and students!! The days are going to start getting brighter and longer soon and we can look forward to Spring which starts on Friday. As you can see from our newsletter, this month has been very busy.

**Active Schools Award:**

Work is continuing on our application for our Active Flag. We have an Active Schools Week planned for 29<sup>th</sup> April to May 3<sup>rd</sup>. There will be skipping, hockey, active homework etc on that week. There are stations on yard with each class allotted different activities from Wednesday to Friday each week. Many of the classes have undertaken some basic gymnastics and there will be an active 10 mins every day for each class. This is all on top of the normal PE curriculum and our regular activities like hurling etc.

**School Marathon Group:**

It is not only the children who are being encouraged to get more active. Walkers and runners of all abilities are welcome to join our group. There is plenty of support and advice available if you are interested. Feel free to contact me if you want more information. At the moment the group are meeting Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 6.30pm in the church car park in Little Island. There is still plenty of time to prepare for the marathon and don't forget that there are lots of different distances to suit all speeds. Mr. McEvoy, our former Deputy Principal and vastly experienced athlete, will attend our next meeting which is on Feb 7<sup>th</sup> at 7.30pm in the school. He will be on hand for advice and encouragement. He is currently Chairperson of St. Finbarrs AC and is doing a lot of work with people who are new to running/walking. We hope to see you there.

**Fit Factor:**

Ms. Uí Gheairr's (Dunne) class took part in Fit Factor this year. They recently received a certificate commending the excellent and hard work that they did as part of the application process. Well done to all involved.

**Green Schools Award:**

"Here's a tip, Don't let it drip": this is Rachel Kelleher's slogan that won the competition for our slogan for the water theme. Well done Rachel and to everyone who took part. Emma Daly was a very close second in the competition. Check out our website, [www.littleislandns.com](http://www.littleislandns.com), for more on this.

Our Green Schools Committee and 2<sup>nd</sup> Class went to **Janssen** recently to visit their water treatment plant. They learned a lot and were so well looked after that I was afraid they wouldn't come back! Thanks to everyone at Janssen, especially John Gettings for setting up the trip. There will be photos up shortly on our website under School Achievement Awards – Water Flag.

We had a visit from our Green Schools Coordinator last week to check on our progress. She was so happy that she recommended that we apply for the flag now. Well done to all involved in the Green Schools Committee.

**Digital Schools Award:**

As if The Active Schools Award and The Green Schools Award weren't enough, we are well on our way to getting a Digital Schools Award as well. In the last 18 months we have built on the great work that was done in previous years by adding a school website, iPads, a wi-fi network etc. We aim to continue this growth and to integrate it even more into our teaching and learning so that using IT equipment will be second nature to our students as we prepare them for the future.

Thank you to all of our staff for their hard work in all of these areas. These are all extras that our staff doesn't have to take on, but they do it for the good of our pupils. Thanks you also to the pupils who give up their spare time to help make these things a reality for everyone.

**School Mascots:**

Insí and Ráthaí are our school mascots. Insí is in uniform and Ráthaí is in our tracksuit. At the moment they are spending time in our classes learning from our boys and girls. There is a lot for little bears to remember but they are getting lots of help.

**Swimming:**

4<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> Classes are swimming once a week in Mayfield for six weeks. We are half way through the course already. They are making great progress and are enjoying the experience as well. Swimming is a brilliant activity and skill so it would be fantastic if the children could build on what they learn in these lessons by going swimming outside of school time.

**Chess:**

Chess has started at lunch time. We have entered a team in the ChessZ tournament again this year. It is a fantastic game that requires skills of strategy and analysis while having fun. If you want to know more about the game, so you can play it with your child, feel free to contact us.

**After School Activities:**

Knitting has started after school on Mondays for children from 2nd and 3rd Classes. Thank you to our staff who give so generously of their time. All of our other after school activities are back up and running by now. If you have any questions about these activities please direct them to the organiser of the activity. All contact details are available from the office.

**Indoor Hurling and Camogie:**

These competitions are due to begin shortly. Our 3<sup>rd</sup> Class camogie team is up first next Tuesday. Hurling training will start at lunch time once we get any bit of dry weather!

**First Confession:**

Pupils from second class will receive the sacrament of Penance on Feb 27<sup>th</sup> at 10am in the church in Little Island.

**School Closures 2013/2014:**

The calendar for the 2013/2014 school year is now available on school website, [www.littleislandns.com](http://www.littleislandns.com), under School Info. Hard copies will be sent home before the Easter Holidays. There is a computer in the school corridor if you need dates but can't access our website at home.

That's all for now.

All the best,  
Micheál Rea

**Up Coming Events:**

**5 Feb: 2pm:** 3<sup>rd</sup> Class Indoor Camogie in Watergrasshill.

**5 Feb: 7.30pm:** Confirmation Ceremony of Light

**7 Feb: 7.30pm:** School Marathon Group meeting in school. Run/Walk afterwards!

**11 Feb:** Staff meeting after school

**13 Feb:** Staff meeting after school

**14<sup>th</sup>&15<sup>th</sup> Feb:** Closed for mid-term break.

**21 Feb: 8pm:** Board of Management meeting.

**27<sup>th</sup> Feb: 10am:** First Confession in Little Island Church.