

**Scoil Inse Rátha**

**Déan do Dhícheall**

**Newsletter January 2014**

**Dear Parents,**

Welcome to the first newsletter of 2014. 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!

**Active Schools:** We are continuing with our Active Schools Diary. Each week 6<sup>th</sup> Class pupils bring the diary to each classroom to record the activities that our students are doing outside of school hours. Some of these are then read out at assembly.

Our 6<sup>th</sup> Class students have been running daily. They are building up to a 20 min run in a few weeks' time.

Adults from our school community have started walking, jogging and running again. A note went out last week about this. We hope to have an even bigger team taking part in the Cork City Marathon this year.

We will be introducing our Active Yard in the next couple of weeks. Each class will have an organised activity to do 3 days a week at break time.

**School Uniform Supplier:** Our Parents association are meeting this week to decide on a new school uniform supplier. Our Board of Management will be meeting next week to ratify the Parents Association recommendation. We will let you know more when we have information. **This week only**, if you need a jumper or a tracksuit ring Jacinta as we may be able to source some sizes from Schools Direct old stock.

**Supervision times: Reminder:** we supervise children on the school grounds from 8.30am. Children go into class at 8.40am and formal instruction starts at 8.50am. Infants are to be collected at 1.05pm and all other children are to be collected at 2.30pm (except those who are going home on the second bus). We cannot accept responsibility for children before or after these times unless they are taking part in school related activities. Please do not drop your child to school before 8.30am and remember to collect your child on time. The phone is answered from 9am to 1.45pm Mon-Thurs and 9am-12.45pm on Fridays. Staff members who are in school outside of school hours are there to prepare work and are not available to supervise children.

**Staff Car Park:** The staff car park is for staff only. Please keep the car park free for staff to come and go in the mornings and evenings. **Please respect our neighbours by not blocking their doors or gateways.**

**Green Schools:** We have started work on our fourth Green Flag which is for Travel. During our work in this area we will be encouraging more environmentally friendly transport such as walking and cycling to school and carpooling. Sandy McGroarty, Green Schools Development Officer, came to visit our school recently. She brought our Green Schools Committee on a walk to Eastgate to assess how suitable it would be as a walk to school route. We plan on have W.O.W (Walk On Wednesdays) Days later in the year where children would be dropped to Eastgate in the morning and we would walk up together. More details will be given closer to the time.

**Students Council:** Over the next few weeks we will start a Students Council in the school. This will give children in the school even more of a voice for their opinions on how we can all make our school an even better place. We will start this year with the older classes and hope that we can extend it to the younger classes in the future.

**Survey of children from 3<sup>rd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup>:** Children from 3<sup>rd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> received questionnaires last week called "My Thoughts About School". The feedback received from our students will help us to plan for the future, taking their opinion into account.

**Future Planning:** Our Board of Management have been working hard over the last number of years to make sure that our students have a comfortable and modern school where each child can achieve their potential. Every classroom is warm and comfortable and has access to information technology in the form of iPads and interactive whiteboards. We have submitted a plan to the Department of Education that would involve extending and modernising our older classrooms. We hope that they will look favourably on our application but be assured that our Board will continue to work tirelessly for our school community.

**Enrolment:** The deadline for receipt of applications for enrolment for September 2014 was last Friday. It is a credit to everyone in the school that we have huge demand for places. We will have a waiting list again this year. Letters of offer will go out at the end of this week.

**Swimming:** 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> Class have started swimming this month. They are enjoying the experience and learning very important skills. This is week three of lessons and so we will hope to see the children make progress over the next few weeks.

That's all for now.

Micheál Rea

**Up-Coming Events:**

**Fri Jan 31<sup>st</sup>:** letters of offer to Junior Infants for Sept 2014

**Mon Feb 3<sup>rd</sup>:** Board of Management meeting

**Fri Feb 7<sup>th</sup>:** Closing date for acceptance of places

**Fri Feb 14<sup>th</sup>:** 5<sup>th</sup> Class going to Garda Band in Neptune Stadium

**Mon Feb 17<sup>th</sup> to Fri Feb 21<sup>st</sup> incl.:** School closed for mid-term break.

**Thurs Feb 27<sup>th</sup>:** School photographer in school

