

**Scoil Inse Rátha**  
**Déan do Dhícheall**  
**Newsletter January 2015**

**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!

**D.E.A.R. Time:**

We continuously review and update our work in school and this term we have introduced Drop Everything And Read time. Each day at 12 o'clock everyone in the school stops to read. Our staff model reading and students read for fun. Positive attitudes to reading have a huge impact on children's learning. Taking time to talk to your child about the book they are reading would be a great way to encourage their reading and oral language.

**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 1.30pm 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.

**Swimming:**

4<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> classes are attending swimming this term. They are progressing well and enjoying it. Swimming is an important life skill and we are delighted to be in a position to be able to provide lessons as part of the school curriculum.

**Lego Robotics:**

Lego Robotics has started as part of our after school classes. It is proving to be very popular and the children involved are learning loads from it. We hope to be able to have some Lego Robotics taster sessions later in the year during the regular school day.

**Board of Management:**

This time last year we applied to the Department of Education for funding to extend the original part of the school building. Unfortunately, this was turned down. We applied again during the summer for funding to redecorate this part of the building. Again, we were turned down. We have approached the LIIDC and local politicians to try and get some funding to do this ourselves. LIIDC, a group of local industries, have agreed to grant us some funding. We are very grateful for this but we still need more money. We are working on it and saving hard – your money from the brown envelopes is helping with this. We have a goal of having the 5 classrooms at the front of the school done up before the end of the summer holidays.

**Parents Association:**

Our PA did Trojan work before Christmas with the calendars and the raffle. On behalf of all the school I would like to thank them for all the time and effort they gave. Our school is a better place thanks to their work.

**Green Flag:**

We are currently working on the 4<sup>th</sup> Green Flag for Travel. This week we will have an eCar visit the school from ESB – organised by Gerard Stapleton, our PA Chairperson. This may well be the future of motoring but at the very least it offers a more environmentally friendly option to the regular car. We

will have a C.O.W. Day (Cycle on Wed) in February which follows on from S.O.W. Day and W.O.W. Day – remember what they stood for? More details are to follow separately.

**Active Flag:**

Last year we were awarded our first Active Flag. We are continuing to maintain our good habits. We have an Active Yard a number of times a week where the children are allocated a variety of different active activities to take part in. We also are continuing with our Active Diary which is read at assembly every Friday.

**Teaching Practice and Work Experience:**

Over the next few weeks we will have a number of past pupils in our school on work experience. It is great for the staff to see how they have grown and matured since they left us. We will also have a number of student teachers in the school, including another past pupil, as part of our partnership with Mary Immaculate College, Limerick.

**ICT:**

After much negotiation and hounding, our school has been upgraded to fibre based broadband. We are one of the very few primary schools in the country with this and it helps us to get the most out of our iPads and Interactive Whiteboards.

**Evening Echo Kids Zone:**

The Evening Echo has a Kids Zone Supplement and we are to be featured in the next few weeks. We will let you know when it is to be published. It is great chance for students to show off what we do every day. We are very proud of our pupils and of our school and it will be nice to let the rest of the county see why.

That's all for now.

All the best,  
Micheál Rea

**Up Coming Events:**

30<sup>th</sup> Jan: eCar visit

5<sup>th</sup> Feb: 9am: Cycling Awareness training for parents/adults

10<sup>th</sup> Feb: STEPS Engineer to visit 5<sup>th</sup>&6<sup>th</sup> class as part of Engineer's Week.

11<sup>th</sup> Feb: C.O.W Day

12<sup>th</sup> Feb: East Cork Studios to take photos of children/families/classes.

16<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> incl.: school closed for mid-term break.

24<sup>th</sup> Feb: Scholastic Book Fair arriving for a week. More details to follow.