

Scoil Inse Rátha
Déan do Dhícheall
Newsletter January 2017

Dear Parents,

Welcome to our first newsletter of 2017. It is a very exciting time to be in our school with so much going on. Everyone is working really hard in their class and having fun on the yard. We are lucky to have such a good and positive team here in the school along with the best children in the country!

Calendar for next year:

Every few years the partners in education (Patron Bodies, Parents Body, teachers' unions etc) get together and decide on the dates that schools should be open and closed each year. They come up with what is called the standardised school year. They do this for 3 or 4 years at a time. Normally we would be in a position to tell you when we will return to school at the end of the summer by now. Unfortunately, this group have not met yet so we will have to wait for a while more before we get the official dates for next year. As soon as we get the dates we will let you know.

Swimming:

4th –6th Class have started swimming in Mayfield Sports Complex. They have four of their six week slot completed at this stage. They are making great progress and are representing our school really well. It is a great life skill to be comfortable in the water so I would encourage you to bring your child to the pool as often as you can to build on the work that is being done in school.

Chess coaching:

Mr. Crewe has started his chess club again this year. It runs on Wednesdays at lunch time and he has had to open it up in a second classroom to cope with the demand. It is a brilliant game and a great one to learn together. It is calm and quiet too!

Basketball:

Congratulations to our basketball coach Mark Scannell. He coached the Glanmire Ladies Basketball team to a record 4 in a row victory in The National Cup Finals at the weekend. Gráinne Dwyer, who works in AIB Little Island, won the Most Valuable Player in the final. Mark continues to coach our children weekly and Gráinne will be helping out at our annual Basketball Fun Day on June 20th. Hopefully, in years to come, some of our past pupils will be returning with medals and trophies.

Golf:

David Ryan, Sam's in 1st class's dad, is doing golf lessons with our 1st&2nd Class each Monday for 6 weeks. Next week they will pay a visit to our local golf club – Cork Golf Club. They will get a tour and a talk about the history of the club. The children are really enjoying these lessons.

Early Years Music:

Junior Infants and Senior Infants are receiving music lessons from a specialist teacher who is linked to The Cork School of Music. The teacher provides a range of equipment and expertise that makes this a unique opportunity for our students. It is fun too!

New Language Curriculum In-Service:

The National Council for Curriculum and Assessment launched a new Language Curriculum last year. It links the Irish and English Curricula so there are similar approaches to how they are taught. We closed the school last year for some in-service and we will have another day of training this year. **The school will be closed on Tuesday May 30th** to facilitate this training. Please note that this training will take place off site so there will be no one in school that day. It is particularly important that you take note of the date so you don't leave your child unsupervised in school by accident.

New School App:

We have recently sourced a provider of a new school app. This will be free to download onto your device or tablet and we will be able to send you updates, notifications and news from the school and from your child's class. It is quite possible that this newsletter will be sent via the app in future. We are at a very early stage in this process and we will keep you up to date as we go.

ICT Grant:

The Department of Education have given us a grant to buy some new IT equipment. This money has to be spent on IT equipment. We had prioritised replacing our Interactive whiteboards over the next few years anyway so this grant has come at a good time. We are researching the best models and suppliers at the moment and we hope to install the new boards during the summer at the latest. Our Parents Association will be helping us to fund the new boards as well as, hopefully, the LIIDC.

Catholic Schools Week:

This week is Catholic Schools Week. There are different activities going on in each class. Junior Infants have invited Grandparents in to their class to share their stories and experiences and to see how their grandchildren are learning today.

Children's Well-Being:

We pride ourselves on focusing on keeping our children as happy as possible in school in order to help them achieve their potential. There is a lot of talk in society at the moment about wellbeing. At a recent staff meeting we agreed to prioritise this area for the rest of this academic year and for next year. We will continue to push and challenge our students academically but we will be doing our best to make sure they are happy and not anxious in the process. If you have any concerns about your child's anxiety levels or wellbeing please feel free to chat to us.

That's all for now. Remember to keep an eye on our website, www.littleislandns.com for pictures and articles from your child's class.

All the best,
Micheál Rea

Up Coming Events:

Thursday February 9th: East Cork Studios taking photos of J1, 6th, and any family photos you want.

Tuesday February 14th: 3rd Class Nutri Safari in Supervalu Glanmire- looking at different foods.

Thursday February 16th: Marine Science Workshops for all classes.

Thurs Feb 23rd and Fri 24th February: school closed for midterm break.

Tuesday Feb 28th: Clan Cluana performing Diarmuid and Gráinne for 1st-6th Classes.