

Scoil Inse Rátha
Déan do Dhícheall
Newsletter June 2012

Dear Parents,

As our summer holidays are very close it is a time to look back at some of the highlights of the year. We have had a busy schedule and the time has flown by. Thanks to all the staff, children, parents, Board of Management, Parents Association and members of the local community who have helped us and made all of our achievements possible.

September:

Our beautiful new 2 classroom extension opened. There was a big flurry of activity to get everything ready for the children and, thanks to everyone working together, it all worked out perfectly. Ed Leamy's Rugby 4 Life programme ran for 5 weeks and our cross country athletics team took part in the East Cork competition in Conna.

October:

We celebrated 50 years of our school at its current location in October. We had numerous guests of honour including Gus O'Brien of Cork Plastics and former Principals of the school. We got our yard painted with new playground markings to make the school environment more colourful and to give the children more play options at break time. Ely Lily provided volunteers to paint the walls in our yard and of part of our school building. Our website went live this month – www.littleislandns.com. Our Mini-7's teams took part in their competition. The Credit Union started their weekly savings club in our school. The FAI "Show Racism the Red Card" programme was run in the school.

November:

Mr. McEvoy retired this month and we were very sad to see him go. Our boys' team won the Sciath na Scol football final with a powerful performance. We held our Parent/Teacher meetings. Our new Board of Management started their term of office. 3rd Class boys took part in a football blitz. 5th Class had a Science Day in their class. Blackrock Observatory brought their Star Dome to our school. Niamh Ní Chuív brought The Brendan Martin Cup to our school following the Cork Ladies team's victory in All-Ireland football final....again!!

December:

We had a Christmas Concert with carol singing and plays in the school. Our choir raised money for charity in The Radisson and we collected 16 hampers for the local St. Vincent de Paul. Ms. Murphy's Drama Club took part in a FEIS in CIT and stole the show! A scientist from UCC spoke to 5th and 6th. Our school calendars went on sale. Our Christmas raffle took place with some great prizes. Santa took some time out of his busy schedule to visit our wonderful pupils.

January:

Planning started for our big show "Cinderella, Spinderella". Lewis O'Mahony represented our school in the county final of The Spelling Bee competition. Fr. O'Doherty from the Kiltegan Fathers spoke to 5th and 6th classes about his work in Africa. Niall continued his weekly GAA coaching sessions. Schools Direct were awarded the contract to supply our school uniforms and tracksuits.

February:

We had a big night in The Radisson in honour of Mr. McEvoy. A great night was had by all and it was a fitting send off for a legend of our school. 3rd Class boys took part in an indoor hurling blitz. Swimming started for 4th-6th classes. Four quiz teams from our school represented us at an inter school quiz in Lisgoold. We came 6th out of 52 teams! Lewis came in the top 6 of the Speling Bee competition.

March:

Ms. Diamond was appointed as our new Deputy Principal. Swimming finished. We held our information evening for our incoming Junior Infant parents. Our Parents Association had their AGM. Our PA organised a very successful bag pack in Supervalu raising much needed funds. We will have a minimum 10% cut in funding to run the school next year. 3rd and 4th classes performed wonderfully in Cor Fhéile in the City Hall. 2nd Class made their First Confession this month. Our school chess finals took place this month. Trials took place for this year's Cork City Sports

The Irish Guide Dogs for the Blind visited our school. It was a lovely opportunity for the children to hear about this worthwhile charity. Our boys soccer team went to Midleton this month and won all their matches without conceding a goal! On the same day as the soccer matches we had our INTO Mini 7s competition. The photographer came and took official individual, family and class photos. Our Drama Club have their exams.

April:

6th Class had their Confirmation. We had our concert, "Cinderella, Spinderella", in the Sports Complex. Our boys' soccer team came in the top four in the FAI county finals. Our girls' team took part in the FAI soccer

tournament. Our chess team took part in a competition in Carrigaline. Our iPads arrived in the school, causing great excitement! We received a grant to build a new building to replace our pre-fabs. Junior Infants started work with Melissa on a collaborative art project between us, The Cork Education Support Centre and the Craft Council of Ireland.

May:

Our boys' team completed the double of hurling and football titles in one school year – what an achievement! Our 2nd class received their First Holy Communion. Our athletics team went to The Cork City Sports with the girls winning their group. Munster Rugby legend David Wallace came to our school and raffled a signed Munster jersey and two signed rugby balls. We won our first ever Discover Science Award.

June:

Our new Junior Infants came to our school this month for an Induction Day. They all settled really well and are looking forward to joining our school community. Parents had an opportunity to chat over coffee while the children got familiar with their surroundings. We are all looking forward to having them in our school for the next school year and beyond.

As we are planning for the future with our new Junior Infants, we are saying goodbye to our 6th Class. They have added hugely to our school over the years that they have been here and we are grateful for all that they have done. Their parents have helped out in many different ways along the road and on behalf of everyone here in the school I would like to thank them for their input too. We wish 6th Class and their families all the best in their futures and are confident that we will hear great things about them in years to come.

Mulcahy Ralphs Architects have been appointed as project managers for our extension. Planning permission will be applied for over the summer and work should begin in October with the building open for use before Easter next year.

Our Little Island Olympics was held last Friday. We were lucky with the weather and it was brilliant to see so many adults there to support the children. Well done to all involved and especially to Ms. Murray for organising it. Thanks to our Parents Association for organising refreshments for the children – it was really appreciated!

School uniforms will be available from Schools Direct from Aug 8th and if you fit and pay during July you will get 10% off an already very good price. **From September children are to wear black shoes that they can run and play in with their uniforms and plain runners (not bright multi-coloured runners or high tops) with their tracksuits.** Schools Direct will be starting a savings scheme in September to help spread the cost of uniforms over the year.

We will be appointing teachers to vacant posts during the summer so I can't give any more updates on staff at the moment. JI (Ms. Hennessy and Ms. Neville), SI (Ms. Roche) and 6th class (Ms. Cassidy) have their teachers confirmed but the other classes will have to wait until later in the summer. If at all possible I will text you once the appointment process is completed so that your child will know before they come back. There has been a delay with the Department and Patron run staffing system which is why we haven't been able to get this sorted before the summer.

We will have a number of after school activities available starting in September and further details will be available when we come back.

Junior Infants' art project that was created with Melissa, in conjunction with the Cork Education Support Centre and The Craft Council, is on display in our reception.

As you can see from this newsletter, we have achieved a huge amount this year and it has been very enjoyable. Staff, parents and, most importantly, the children spend most of their time smiling here which is a sign of what a nice place Scoil Inse Rátha is to be.

That's all for now. I hope you all have a lovely summer and I look forward to seeing you all on August 30th.

All the best,
Micheál Rea

Upcoming Events:

Thurs 28th June: 11am. 6th Class Graduation Ceremony

Fri 29th June: 12.15pm. School closes for summer holidays

Thurs 30th Aug: school reopens for new school year. I will be in the school from Mon Aug 27th on if you need to speak to me before school starts. You can email me on principal@littleislands.com if an issue arises during the summer. I will check this regularly but not daily.