

Scoil Inse Rátha
Déan do Dhícheall
Newsletter June 2015

Dear Parents,

2014/2015 has been another great school year for our school. Thanks to everyone in our school community who helped to make this year a success. Please check out our website www.littleislandns.com to see the newsletters from each month to see how much we have achieved this year.

Cork City Sports:

Cork City Sports were held in CIT this year because Páirc Uí Chaoimh is being redeveloped. Our boys and girls teams enjoyed a glorious day. We brought home a number of trophies and continued the long tradition of excellence in athletics that has been enjoyed by our school. There are many children who never get to represent their school at City Sports so getting the opportunity to run there is a wonderful achievement and experience. Once again we are proud to say that our pupils represented their school and community excellently. Well done to all involved and thank you to the staff who gave up so much of their time to make it possible.

School Sports:

We held our school sports fun day last week. It was a beautiful day and everyone had a great time. Well done to all the children who took part so well and thank you to the staff and parents who helped to make the day such a huge success. Congrats to 6th Class on a well-deserved win over our staff team!

Robert Ahern:

After 5 years in our school, Mr. Ahern has decided to move back home to Waterford. We are all very sad to see him go as he has been an integral part of our school community. His commitment to our school has been brilliant. Children, staff and parents have huge respect and admiration for him and he will be missed. He has helped to lead us to four Sciath na Scol finals, winning two, while he was here. He prepared a class for Holy Communion and he has helped so many other children along the way too.

Niamh Ní Chaoimh:

Ms. Ní Chaoimh has been here for the last three years and during that time has made a big impression on the whole school community. Ms. Ní Chaoimh had been on a temporary contract here and has now accepted a permanent job in another school. We are sad to see her go but wish her well in her future career and are delighted for her. Her commitment to all the children in our school has been fantastic. She has prepared two classes for Confirmation and has helped to lead us to a hurling final this year. She has been a great role model, especially for the girls, in our school.

UCC/McAfee Junior Maths Circles.

McAfee/Intel has designed a maths based programme for 5th&6th Class pupils. This year 5th Class took part in this. It was very enjoyable and the children learned in a fun interactive way. Thanks to the tutors who volunteered to teach the classes, especially to Alan Creedon who is Juliette's Dad!

New Infants and their parents:

We were delighted to have our next generation of pupils visit our school with their parents. The Information Evening for parents and the Induction Day for the children went really well. We are looking forward to the end of August when they join our school community.

6th Class Graduation:

Our 6th Class will have their graduation on Friday 26th at 12.00. We are very proud of the young people that they have grown into since they started with us and we wish them well in the future. We look forward to hearing great things about our class of 2015!

School Improvement Plan:

As part of the Department of Education's Literacy and Numeracy initiative we have engaged in self-evaluation and have developed a School Improvement Plan. We introduced Mata sa Rang in 1st Class last year and it has proven to be very successful. We have introduced a new Maths Plan this year along with the introduction of a new English scheme across all classes. Next year we will be looking at the different genres of English writing and similarly in Gaeilge.

Programmes to help your child achieve their potential:

Here are some of the programmes that we have implemented and or extended over the last school year in order to help each child in the school achieve their potential.

Mata sa Rang, Reading Recovery, Junior Achievement, UCC/Intel Maths programme for 5th & 6th, revised school maths plan, Gaeilge to be reviewed next year, Green Flag, Science Award, CAPER... these are all on top of the regular work that we do in school and the extra-curricular activities that we do.

Again this year, our standardised test results are ahead of the national averages in both Maths and English.
Well done to everyone!

Basketball Fun Day:

Mark Scannell, our basketball coach held a fun day today for all the classes. They played games and had a few matches as well. Congratulations to Mark on being named Coach of the Year at the national awards ceremony for his excellent work with ladies basketball in Cork. We are lucky to have him here!

Green Schools:

Sandy McGroarty visited our school to conduct a Green Schools travel survey this month. We are delighted to have our 4th Green Flag and we look forward to raising it next term. Thanks to the Green Schools Committee for all their hard work this year.

Parish Cup:

The annual Parish Cup was held yesterday. Well done to all of our players. It was a chance to celebrate all the excellent work done by our Erin's Own coach Niall McIntyre, our staff and our pupils. This year the children from the different schools were mixed and it worked out very well.

Lunch time soccer league:

Over the last few weeks there has been a lunchtime soccer league taking place. There was fierce competition and it culminated in a finals day on the pitch in front of most of the school. Well done to all the players who took part. The skill level and sportsmanship was a joy to watch.

Parents Association:

Thank you to all the parents who have given their time and energy this year to make our school a better place. This month has been very busy with bag packing, sports day, new Junior Infants etc. Bag packing raised more than €1,000 so thank you to everyone who gave their time. We received numerous compliments about our 6th Class for their behaviour and manners – well done 6th Class bag packers!

Infants:

Our Senior Infants will have a play and a graduation ceremony next week to celebrate their achievements to date. After this, Junior Infants will host an end of year event for parents. Well done to both classes on an excellent year.

Class Teachers for next year:

Jl: Miriam Hennessy, Sl: Eleanor Crowley, 1st: Nuala Murray and Gráinne Duggan (job share), 2nd: to be advised, 3rd: to be advised, 4th: Gillian Daly, 5th: Audrey Roche and 6th: Brigid Lynch. 2nd & 3rd Class teachers will be appointed during the summer and I will advise you of the name of the teacher by text in mid-August.

After School Activities:

We have had a full schedule of after school activities this year. Art & Craft, Speech & Drama, Spanish, Modern Dance, Tae Kwon Do etc have provided many of our students with an opportunity to explore their different talents. When we return in September each of the providers will send home a note inviting you to sign up. Tennis will be offered again as Jo-Anne Williamson has returned to Cork. After a very successful introduction, Spanish will be available in September again.

Uniform:

Children are expected to present for school in a suitable manner and wearing the proper school tracksuit or uniform. Long hair should be tied up. Jewellery should not be worn in school for health and safety reasons. Runners (not boots) should be as plain as possible and tied properly; shoes should be black. When you are buying shoes and runners for next term please bear this in mind. This also ensures that each child can access the full curriculum effectively and safely.

Back to School:

I look forward to seeing you all on August 26th. Infants will finish at 12.30pm on Wednesday 26th, Thursday 27th and Friday 28th and all the other classes will finish at 2.30pm. From Monday August 31st Infants will finish at 1.30pm. We will send out a text in late August to remind you. Email principal@littleislandns.com if there are any urgent issues during the summer.

School Calendar 2015/2016:

This is available on our website www.littleislandns.com and will be sent out to you in hard copy next term.

On behalf of everyone at Scoil Inse Rátha, I would like to wish you an excellent summer and I look forward to seeing you all back here on August 26th.

That's all for now.

All the best,

Micheál Rea

