

Scoil Inse Rátha

Déan do Dhícheall

Newsletter March 2017

Dear Parents,

We have had a wonderful month in our school. Our students have had many opportunities to experience a variety of things. Each class has worked diligently and creatively during the term and have earned their holidays. We will have a busy summer term with plenty of things to look forward to. Here are some of the things we got up to since February.

World Book Day:

Reading for enjoyment is one of the best skills we can give our children. World Book Day is an opportunity to celebrate books. This year our students (with the help of their parents!) did a great job dressing up and making it a memorable occasion. Listening to the children talking about their favourite books and characters has been one of the highlights of the year so far.

Engineer's Week:

There were a number of activities in school to mark Engineer's Week.

5th & 6th visited Crest Solutions which is a pharmaceutical company in the Little Island area. It specialises in the production of medical devices. We were able to examine inhalers that Crest has produced. We learned about the use of cameras and the important role they play when checking packaging on the conveyor belt. We also got to use some fun computer programming and coding.

Lynda from Dornan Engineering has volunteered to come to 6th class for 10 education sessions. Each session looking at different areas of engineering from constructional, electrical, mechanical and everything else in between. We have already had 3 sessions where we were learning about bridges, towers and shelters.

6th Class also visited Happy Days ice cream factory in Harbour Point Business Park. What a tremendous visit we had. The children got to sample various ice creams and were also shown how the ice-cream is produced using different flavours.

4th Class planned and built a variety of structures that they then demonstrated to other classes. There were rockets, bridges and a variety of boats.

New SEN Model:

The Department of Education and the National Council for Special Education have announced a new model for the allocation of extra teaching hours for children with special educational needs. We have maintained our current allocation and any child who was allocated hours for 2016/2017 under the old system will maintain a similar amount of time next year. We will use a variety of methods for supporting children under the new model including withdrawal from class individually or in groups, in class support and team teaching. We will also have children being supported for English, Maths and social groups. Some of these groups will be mixed ability groups so children of all abilities can be

withdrawn from time to time. Resources will be allocated in future based on a child's complex needs which will be determined by the criteria required to get onto a HSE waiting list. These criteria haven't been agreed yet. We will plan how to use these resources best over the next few months. We (parents and teachers) have a responsibility to work as hard as we can to help each child to achieve their potential. This will mean that we will assess your child, use different teaching methods, styles and resources and involve other members of staff who have expertise in a given area if necessary. If you have any questions please feel free to contact me or your child's teacher and we will be happy to answer them.

First Confession:

Children in 2nd Class received their First Confession this month. They were excellent and represented our school brilliantly. Their First Holy Communion won't be long coming around now and I am sure they will be every bit as good on that day. Thanks to Mr. Crewe, Aoife, Fr. Ted and all the parents who helped to prepare our children.

Cork City Sports Trials:

Cork City Sports are on in CIT again this year. We held trials this month. We pride ourselves on including everyone in our school and giving everyone a chance to participate. Cork City Sports is the one activity where all children can't take part and we have to pick a team. It isn't easy and we don't like having to pick one child over another but as long as we take part in this we have to follow the rules. We have a long, proud and successful tradition in this competition and we look forward to another enjoyable day out this year.

Diocesan Advisor: (Religion Inspector)

Our Diocesan Advisor visited the school this month and spoke to the children in each class. She was extremely impressed with our children and with our school. We are not surprised but it is always nice when an independent observer says nice things about our school.

Cór Fhéile:

Our Junior and Senior Infants went to The City Hall last week and represented our school in The Cór Fhéile. It was a fabulous night with eight schools performing songs, dance and playing music. Each school was brilliant but I think that our boys and girls stole the show. Everyone took part and their performance was outstanding. It was a long night for them so the fact that their behaviour was so good as well made us all really proud. Well done to all involved and thanks to the parents and family members who came along and supported us.

FAI Soccer:

Our girls and boys played in the FAI qualifiers last week. This is a competition that has gone from strength to strength over the last number of years but this year it didn't go very well. There wasn't enough time in either competition to give the children a fair chance to give their all. After an appeal, the organisers agreed to run the semi-final stage again so we get another chance to show what we can do. It is to their credit that Dave Bell and the FAI put their hand up when they made a mistake

and put children first. Thanks to Mr. Crewe, Ms. Lane and John Gettings for preparing the teams and for guiding them on the day. Best of luck in the semis!

Charity for the school year 2016/2017:

We decided early in the year that we would fundraise for Enable Ireland this year. Our choir sang carols in The Radisson before Christmas and 6th Class ran a cake sale during Seachtain na Gaeilge. They raised an amazing €640. Maria from Enable Ireland came to visit 5th and 6th Classes to receive the cheque and to thank the children and staff for their efforts. She also spoke about the essential work carried out by Enable Ireland.

Chess Club:

Our chess team travelled to Killavullen this week to represent our school in an inter-schools competition. They have been practicing, training and playing over the winter, at lunchtime, to prepare for this. Well done to all involved. Congratulations to the winners of our internal junior and senior competitions as well.

That's all for now.

All the best,

Micheál Rea

Up Coming Events:

7th April: School closes at 12.15pm for Easter Holidays

24th April: School reopens for summer term.

1st May: School closed for bank holiday.