

Scoil Inse Rátha
Déan do Dhícheall
Newsletter March 2012

Dear Parents,

Easter Holidays are upon us. It is getting very busy with Confirmation, First Confession, concert preparations, Cor Fhéile, hurling, soccer finals and chess all going on while teachers are trying to hit their teaching targets as well. The hard work of the staff and the cooperation of the children are making it all possible. It will be a challenge to fit it all in but I have every confidence that it will all come together. Easter will give the children a chance to recharge and to hit the ground running when we come back.

New Deputy Principal:

Following the retirement of Mr. McEvoy, Gillian Diamond has been appointed as our new Deputy Principal. Ms. Diamond has a wealth of experience and expertise and we are lucky to have such a high calibre person working for the good of the children of our school.

Junior Infant Information Evening:

We had our Information Evening for the parents of the incoming Junior Infants this month. It is very likely that we will have two Junior Infant classes next year due to the demand. A large number of children coming in have brothers or sisters in the school already and the rest of the children are living in Little Island. It is a sign of the excellent work being done by the whole school community that so many people want to come here.

Classes for next year:

It is likely that next year some classes will have to be split. Teachers will work closely together. Classes will play together on yard and engage in mostly the same activities. Educationally it is quite beneficial to have children in mixed classes and each class will have 30 children or less. 70% of schools in the country operate with mixed classes and their educational attainment is as high if not higher than single stream classes. The Department of Education has cut funding and staffing across the country and we are not immune to effects of this. In all of our decisions, our children and their education is being put first. Further information will follow in May.

Swimming:

Our swimming lessons finish this week. We have seen great improvements in the children since they started and hopefully you will get the opportunity to bring them to the pool to build on what they have learned. Thanks to the staff at Mayfield swimming pool who have been very good.

Mr. McEvoy's night out:

We had a fabulous night for Mr. McEvoy at the end of February. He really enjoyed it and it was a fitting tribute to a teacher who gave so much to this community. Thanks to everyone who helped to make the night such a success.

Parents Association:

AGM: Our PA had their AGM this month. Thanks to the outgoing Executive for all their hard work. Deirdre O'Brien is our new Chairperson, Kay Kelleher is our new Secretary and Niamh McCullough is our new Treasurer. I have met with them already and we have discussed plans for the year ahead. There will be monthly meetings and I look forward to working with them.

Bag Pack:

We had a very successful bag pack this month. Thanks to all the children and parents and others who helped our school. A huge amount of money was raised which will go towards further improving the facilities and learning opportunities for the children. Homework vouchers have been given out as a thank you to the children (and parents!) who helped out.

Confirmation:

Preparations are well under way for Confirmation. 6th Class had their Ceremony of Light and have been to the church to prepare for the big day. We wish them well and hope they enjoy it.

First Confession:

2nd Class made their First Confession this week. It is their first sacrament this year and they were excellent. They are looking forward to their Holy Communion on May 12th. Well done to all involved.

Concert:

All the classes are prepared and now we have to tie all the pieces together. There are only two school weeks left to the show so there is a lot of work to be done. Wednesday 25th and Thursday 26th April at 7pm are the dates for the show. Tickets will be on sale after Easter from the office. Places are limited so please buy early to avoid disappointment.

Cór Fhéile:

3rd and 4th classes represented us at Cór Fhéile this year. It was a fabulous night and they did us all proud. Well done to the teachers and children who were involved.

Chess:

A chess club is being run at lunch time at the moment. We will be involved in the Cork County ChessZ tournament after Easter. Our own school finals take place this week.

Cork City Sports:

Trials have taken place for this year's Cork City Sports and the entry forms have been sent away. The Sports take place in Páirc Uí Chaoimh on Friday May 18th this year. Training is on-going and we are sure that our school will be well represented again this year.

Irish Guide Dogs for the Blind:

The Irish Guide Dogs for the Blind visited our school last week. We were told all about their work and the children got to meet Toni, the dog. It was a lovely opportunity for the children to hear about this worthwhile charity.

FAI Soccer:

Our boys soccer team went to Midleton this month and won all their matches without conceding a goal! They now go forward to the FAI schools finals after Easter in Turners Cross. We wish them well and are sure they will represent our school very well.

Mini-7s:

On the same day as the soccer matches we had our INTO Mini 7s competition. The boys did very well in this blitz but didn't qualify for the finals. We are proud of them and of the way they represented our school.

School Photographer:

We had the school photographer in this week. Proofs will be sent to you and you can decide what if any of the photos you wish to purchase. The school will get a small percentage of the sales but it is entirely up to you if you wish to purchase the photos.

Drama Exams:

Our Drama Club have their exams this week. Ms. Murphy has them really well prepared and I am sure that they will perform fantastically. Good luck to all involved.

Easter Holidays:

We close on Friday at 12.15pm for all classes for our Easter Holidays. School reopens on Monday 16th April.

That's all for now.

All the best,
Micheál Rea

Up Coming Events:

29th March: Drama Club exams

30th March: close 12.15pm for Easter Holidays

16th April: reopen after Easter Holidays

19th April: Confirmation

25th and 26th April: 7pm Concert Little Island Community Centre.