

Scoil Inse Rátha
Déan do Dhícheall
Newsletter May 2013:

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to our monthly newsletter. After our break at the start of May it is full steam ahead to the end of term. As you will see below there is a lot going on. Football, hurling, basketball, soccer, City Sports etc, not to mention all the normal school work that our staff are helping our students to work through, are all part of what is happening here every day. We have a dedicated and committed staff that regularly goes beyond the call of duty for the good of our students and there is great credit due to them for this.

Holy Communion:

It was a special day for second class last Saturday when they received their First Holy Communion. It was a wonderful day and the children were great. Our Parents Association organised a lovely party back at the school afterwards. Thanks to everyone who helped out in any way to make this day happen. Holy Communion day is always one of the nicest days in the school calendar and this year was no exception. Thank you to Ms Walsh, Laura Daly and Ms Daly for preparing the children and to Fr. Greg for conducting a lovely child centred ceremony.

Cork City Sports:

Our girls and boys teams took part in the Cork City Sports again this year. They represented the school really well and were a credit to the school. They won a lot of trophies and medals. Well done to all involved. It is great to see our athletics tradition being kept up.

Chess:

Our Chess team travelled to Carrigaline at the end of last month and represented our school really well. The standard was very high but they did us proud. Well done to all involved.

Sciath na Scol:

Our Sciath na Scol hurling team have played nearly all of their games. They worked very hard and played really well. Their coaches are very happy with the effort they put in and we have a strong young panel so we look forward to next year's tournament with great optimism.

New Junior Infants:

The parents of our new Junior Infants are coming in this week for their Information Evening. On June 6th our new Junior Infants will be coming in for their Induction Day. Our current Junior and Senior Infants will go home at 12 o'clock to facilitate this. We look forward to welcoming the newest members of our school community.

Basketball:

Neptune coach, Mark Scannell, is working with our 5th Class this term. It is a fabulous opportunity for us to have such a high quality coach working with our pupils. It gives our students a chance to experience another sport following on from the soccer coaching and hockey coaching sessions earlier this term. Hopefully, by providing these opportunities, each child will find an activity that they can enjoy throughout their lives.

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. The uniform and tracksuit removes the need to have lots of different clothes options and also removes the competitive element. The other issues mentioned above are to make sure that each child can access the full curriculum effectively and safely.

Back to school:

Our calendar for next year was sent out earlier this term but it is available on school website or from Jacinta in the office if you have misplaced it. JI and SI will finish at 12 on Thurs 29th and Fri 30th only. After that they will go home at 1.05pm.

Brown Envelopes:

Many thanks to everyone who continues to contribute to the running costs of the school via the brown envelopes. We will not receive any more funding from the Dept. of Education until next January so your help is very necessary and very much appreciated. Please check your child's bag weekly for the brown envelopes.

Marathon:

On next Monday June 3rd 24 adults from our school will take part in The Cork City Marathon. We will be wearing red tops with Little Island NS on the back. Please come out to support us. The marathon runners and the second leg of the relay will pass under the tunnel between 9.30am and 10.30am approx. so this may be an easy vantage point for Little Island residents. For more details on the route see www.corkcitymarathon.ie.

Staffing and classes for next year:

We will have eight classes next year from Junior Infants to 6th class. Our current Junior Infant class is too big to have on their own so some of them will be in with 1st Class next year. No decision has been made yet about how this will happen but we will inform our current JI parents before the summer holidays. We have to wait for The Department of Education and The National Council for Special Education to inform us of our staff allocation for next year before we can finalise what teachers and SNAs will be allocated to each class. You will be informed in June as to which class and which teacher your child will have next year.

Summer 2013:

My brother is getting married in New York at the end of June so I will not be in school for the last few days of term – 25th-28th June. If you need to speak to me I will be available before these dates and again from the 3rd-5th July. I will also be in school at the end of August from the 26th – 28th before school starts on the 29th. If there is anything urgent during the summer I can be emailed at principal@littleislandns.com. I will check this email regularly, but not daily, during the summer.

6th Class Graduation:

6th Class Graduation ceremony will take place on June 7th at 12 o'clock. We look forward to having the opportunity to celebrate our time with our 6th Class. Our Parents Association will provide tea/coffee afterwards.

Skype:

Some of you may find it difficult to make it to school for meetings. A face to face meeting is always the most desirable option but sometimes that is not possible and a phone call won't do. I have signed up for a school Skype account that provides a middle ground. I hope that it will make it even easier for you to get the information you need about your child's learning and social development.

My Skype username is principallittleislandns. Once you have registered as a Skype user you should be able to find me by entering this username.

School Books:

Our school book lists will be available shortly. High Street Books will be in the school again this year. They will be here from 12.30pm on June 18th until 3pm.

Summer Reports:

We hope to post our summer reports on Monday June 24th. Please send in a stamped addressed envelope to your child's teacher as soon as possible.

That's all for now.

All the best,
Micheál Rea

Up Coming Events:

June 3rd: Cork City Marathon-24 members of our school community taking part!

June 5th: SI School Tour

June 6th: Junior Infants for 2013/2014 Induction Day. JI and SI go home at 12 o'clock.

June 7th: 6th Class Graduation

June 18th: 12.30pm-3pm: High Street Books selling school books for next year.

June 19th: Little Island Olympics – school sports

June 28th: Close at 12.15pm for school holidays. Re opening on Aug 29th.