

**Scoil Inse Rátha**  
**Déan do Dhícheall**  
**Newsletter May 2014:**

**Dear Parents,**

Welcome back to our monthly newsletter. We have had a wonderful month and there has been a lot of activity. The enthusiasm and energy with which the children and staff undertake their work is fantastic and it is a privilege to work with such wonderful people every day. Here are some of the highlights from May. There is a huge amount going on in each class as well and you can see more on our website, [www.littleislandns.com](http://www.littleislandns.com).

**Holy Communion:**

Our Holy Communion class made their First Holy Communion on Saturday May 10<sup>th</sup>. They were fantastic and we are very proud of them. Thanks to Fr. John Paul Hegarty for performing such a lovely, child-centred ceremony. Our Parents Association hosted a wonderful party at our school afterwards which was very much appreciated by all. Thanks to the staff involved for all their hard work and preparation as well.

**Girls soccer:**

We are really proud of our girls' soccer team who came 5<sup>th</sup> in Cork in the FAI soccer competition. We were delighted with the way they represented our school. Thanks to Cork City player, Andrea Carry who gave them a special training session before the finals.

**NAESP Visit:**

Representatives from The National Association of Elementary School Principals from America came to visit our school recently. They were in the country working with the Irish Primary Principals Network (IPPN) which is based in Glounthaune. They visited some classes and enjoyed performances from our very talented children. They also discussed their experience of education in the USA and compared it with our system. We were complimented on our warm, welcoming, child-centred environment and atmosphere. Our students represented our school, their locality and their country very well and we are all very proud of them.

**New Infant Day:**

Next year our Junior and Senior Infants will finish at 1.30pm. This will mean that they will be in school for big break each day. This will give them an extra chance to play and socialise with their class group and is in line with Department of Education guidelines. They will have small break from 10.40am to 10.55am and they will have big break from 12.30pm-1pm (eating in class from 12.30-12.40pm). This will lead to a reorganisation of our yard into a Junior Yard (JI, SI & 1<sup>st</sup>) and a Senior Yard (2<sup>nd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup>) with separate break times.

**Books and Uniforms:**

High Street Books and McCarthy's Sportsworld will be in our school on Thurs 19<sup>th</sup> June from 12.30pm selling books and tracksuits/uniforms. Book lists will be handed out the week of June 16<sup>th</sup> and will also be available at that stage on the school website.

**Staffing:**

The Department won't provide us with our completed staffing allocation until mid-June so I won't be able to allocate classes or teachers until then. I hope to inform you on the week of June 16<sup>th</sup>. There will be some recruitment issues to be sorted out during the summer so I won't be able to tell every class who their teacher will be before the holidays.

**Chess:**

Our chess team travelled to Carrigaline this month to take part in the ChessZ county finals. They have been playing at lunch time during the winter and they have improved a lot. Our team did better this year and won a few matches. The standard is very high and we are delighted with their performance.

**W.O.W. Day:**

Wednesday May 14<sup>th</sup> was W.O.W. Day in our school – Walk on Wednesday. This is part of our work with The Green Schools Programme and our work to achieve our fourth Green Flag for Travel. We

met in Eastgate, near the old PJ O’Hea showroom, and walked to school together. 178 children walked to school as well as some of their parents and school staff. It was a great success and we were delighted with the turnout. Thank you to all the parents who made the effort and took the time to let their children take part.

**Extension:**

We have been given permission to build an extra resource room which will go at the front of the school on the right hand side. We have been advised that in the interests of health and safety our big tree will have to be removed. This will happen during the summer. The planning permission phase will take a while so the building will start in mid to late August. This will mean that entry to the school will be by going left when you come in the school gate and around the back of the building onto our yard.

**New Junior Infants:**

Our new Junior Infants will come into school next Thursday June 5<sup>th</sup> from 1-2pm. As a result Junior and Senior Infants will go home at 12.15pm that day. We look forward to welcoming our next generation into our school.

**Cork City Sports:**

We have a long and proud tradition of participating and of doing really well in The Cork City Sports every year. This year was one of our best ever. Our team of boys and girls did really well with medals and trophies being awarded for individual and team events. Well done to all involved and thank you to the staff who trained them at lunch time and who supervised them in Páirc Uí Chaoimh – it was a very long day with the last of the children leaving the school after 6.15pm.

**Student Council:**

Our Student Council has been working away this month and they regularly come up with brilliant ideas. They have arranged for new library books to be ordered for each class and they have suggested a number of ways of making our school a better place. I have been very impressed by how practical, realistic and creative their ideas have been and we are all delighted with their work. This Friday they are organising a cake sale to raise funds for Barnardos so I hope that all of our students will support them. We were supposed to have a fundraiser for Barnardos before Easter, as our second charity event of the year, but ran out of time so this is part of our agreed plan.

**Parents Association:**

Our Parents Association are working on a number of plans and items to support our school, including some top secret projects! This month they organised the Holy Communion party which was brilliant. They are also helping with the new Junior Infant parents Information Evening this week, the sports day later in the month and the 6<sup>th</sup> Class graduation. Thank you to everyone involved who gives their time so generously to make our school a better place for all of our children. I’m sure you all have noticed the beautiful garden at the front of the school which is also the result of voluntary work by parents. Thank you!

**Cork City Marathon:**

Best of luck to all the staff, parents and friends of Little Island NS who are running and walking in The Cork City Marathon next Monday June 2<sup>nd</sup>. Please see [www.corkcitymarathon.ie](http://www.corkcitymarathon.ie) for course details and come out and support us...we’ll need it!

That’s all for now.

All the best,  
Micheál Rea

**Up Coming Events:**

**Thursday May 29<sup>th</sup> 7.30pm:** Information Evening for new Junior Infant parents

**Friday May 30<sup>th</sup>:** Student Council cake sale for Barnardos.

**Monday June 2<sup>nd</sup> 9am:** Cork City Marathon

**Wed June 4<sup>th</sup>:** 5<sup>th</sup> Class School Tour

**Thurs June 5<sup>th</sup>: 1pm-2pm:** Induction Day for new Junior Infants. Current Junior and Senior Infants go home at 12.15pm.

**Fri June 6<sup>th</sup>:** Parents Association Gold Rush- for essential school resources.

**Mon June 9<sup>th</sup>:** 6<sup>th</sup> Class School Tour

Staff training after school with Brainwave Irl.

**Tues June 10<sup>th</sup>:** School Sports (weather permitting. Wed and Fri are reserve days if weather is bad) including **Staff v 6<sup>th</sup> Class soccer match at 1.30pm.**

**Thurs June 12<sup>th</sup>:** 1<sup>st</sup> Class school tour

**Mon June 16<sup>th</sup>:** Booklists sent home this week with teachers names where possible.

**Tues June 17<sup>th</sup>:** Basketball Fun day for all classes. 45 mins to an hour for each class group of basketball.

**Wed June 18<sup>th</sup>:** Senior Infant school tour

School Summer Reports to be posted

**Thurs June 19<sup>th</sup>:** 12.30pm – 3pm: High Street Books and McCarthy's Sportsworld in school selling books and tracksuits/uniforms.

**Fri June 20<sup>th</sup>:** Junior Infant school tour

6<sup>th</sup> Class Graduation

**Thurs June 26<sup>th</sup>:** school closes at 12.15pm for all classes for summer holidays.

**Wed Aug 27<sup>th</sup>:** school reopens for all. Junior and Senior Infants will go home at 12.30pm for the first 3 days and at 1.30pm from September 1<sup>st</sup>.