

Scoil Inse Rátha
Déan do Dhícheall
Newsletter May 2017

Dear Parents,

The days are getting longer, the sun is shining, and children are playing on the pitch – all signs that the summer term is in full flow. Each class is busy making sure they are ready to move up to the next level. We have had a very busy month since we returned after the Easter Holidays. Here are some of the highlights.

Confirmation: children in 6th Class received the sacrament of Confirmation on 10th May. They were brilliant on the day and a real credit to their school and to their families. Well done to the boys and girls and thank you to their teacher Ms. O'Donovan and Laura for their work in preparing them.

Holy Communion: on the 20th May children in 2nd Class received the sacrament of First Holy Communion. There was a beautiful atmosphere in the church and the children were great. A huge amount of work went into the big day. Thank you to Mr. Crewe, Ms. Crowley, Nuala and Aoife for everything they did to prepare for the day and thank you to Fr. Ted for making it a holy and child friendly occasion. There was a lovely party in the school afterwards. This provides an opportunity for families and their children to celebrate together before heading off for family events. It would not be possible without the organisation of our Parents Association or the volunteers who helped on the day. Thank you to everyone who provided baking and a big thank you to the people who volunteered to give their time. We are always looking for parents to volunteer their time for events during the year. Even if you can only help out once or twice during the year it would help a lot and it means that events like the Holy Communion party can take place each year.

Sciath na Scol: Our boys' hurling team were amazing this year. They were unbeaten in the group stages and qualified for the semi-final. They played Midleton CBS in the semi-final – an all-boys school with a much bigger number to pick from. Our boys played out of their skin and lost out controversially by a point. We are extremely proud of them, not only in how they played but the mature and sporting manner in which they reacted to the way they lost. Well done boys! Thanks to Ms. Lane and Mr. Crewe for all their work in preparing them.

FAI 5-a-side: our boys' soccer team qualified for the county finals in Turners Cross. This was a great achievement in itself. They played really well and represented our school brilliantly. We had great support and it was a great experience for the boys.

Lunch time soccer leagues: Mr. Crewe and The Students Council have organised two separate lunch time soccer leagues. The Students Council are organising the 2nd and 3rd Class one and Mr. Crewe is organising the other one. Everyone who wants to can play and have fun with a hint of competition!

Inspectors: two inspectors from the Department of Education spent two days evaluating what we are doing in our school. They gave us excellent oral feedback at the end highlighting our wonderful children, the lovely atmosphere and the quality of the work our staff is doing. We know we are working hard and that our students are great but it is nice to have that recognised by the Department of Education. There will be a written report which we expect to receive sometime in September or October. We will put it on our website when it is all finalised.

New interactive screens: Earlier this year we received some money from the Department of Education for IT equipment. We prioritised replacing our ageing and expensive interactive whiteboards. We sought extra funding from local industries and then engaged in a procurement process to make sure we got the best value for money. Sharptext, who provided the best value and service in their quotation, are installing 4 new interactive screens this week. We are delighted to be able to get them in place so quickly. Over the next year or two we will replace the remaining four interactive boards. We are very grateful to LIIDC, Crest Solutions and PepsiCo for contributing to the overall cost.

Language Curriculum Day: please find attached to this newsletter an information sheet about the new Primary Language Curriculum.

School App.: We update our school app regularly and it provides pictures and news from the school. We want to keep you up to date about what is happening but we are also hoping that having some information will help encourage conversations between you and your child about what they are doing in class.

Summer Works Scheme: We received confirmation recently that our application for funding to upgrade our older toilets has been approved. Our Board of Management have been trying for years to get this funding so we can modernise these toilets. Our Student Council regularly bring this up as an issue they would like resolved so we are delighted to be able to proceed with improvement works during the summer. There is a complicated procurement process to go through and I'm sure there will be hiccups along the way but we can all look forward to better facilities in September.

Chess: the chess leagues are finished for this year. Well done to the senior league finalists who only completed their final recently because it was so busy!

That's all for now.

All the best,

Micheál Rea

Up Coming Events:

Tuesday 30th May: school closed for staff in-service on the new Primary Language Curriculum.

Wednesday 31st May:

- New Junior Infants Induction Day. Our current Junior and Senior Infants go home at 12 o'clock to facilitate this.
- Drama Exams

Thursday June 1st: Cork City Sports

Friday June 2nd: school closed

Tuesday June 6th: 3rd Class school tour

Wednesday June 7th: Parents Association Gold Rush (collecting loose change to raise funds for the school)

Thursday June 8th: 6th Class school tour

Monday June 12th: High Street Books in school selling school books

Wednesday June 14th: Summer Reports being posted

Thursday June 15th: 1st Class school tour

Friday June 16th: School Sports Day

Tuesday June 20th: 6th Class Graduation

Wednesday June 21st: Junior Infants and Senior Infants end of year events.

Thursday June 22nd: Basketball Fun Day with Mark Scannell

Friday June 23rd: School closes at 12.15pm for all classes for Summer Holidays.