

**Scoil Inse Rátha, Little Island NS.**  
**Déan do Dhícheall**  
**Newsletter November 2011**

**Dear Parents,**

We have had an amazing month with lots of reasons to celebrate and smile but tinged with sadness at having to say goodbye to Mr. McEvoy. I continue to be amazed at the commitment and generosity that our staff show every day. They are constantly looking for ways to go the extra mile for our students. We are very lucky to have them! Our pupils are doing their bit too and it really is a pleasure to come to work here when you are met by smiling, happy faces each day. There are just over three weeks to Christmas and while there will be lots of seasonal items being done in each class, there is a lot of work and revision to be done as well. Here's a look back at the highlights of the last month.

**Football Final:**

This seems like a long time ago but what a great day it was. Our boys performed like heroes and our supporters were like an extra player on the pitch – Passage had no answer. Well done boys and trainers!! This week they paraded the cup around the locality and went to KFC for a well-earned treat. There are lots of good footballers in the younger classes so the future looks bright. The victorious team lead the school on a parade around St. Lappan's this week before heading to KFC for a treat.

**Parent/Teacher Meetings:**

We had our Parent/Teacher meetings this month. Thank you to all the parents who made the time to come in and discuss their children's progress. Teachers and parents have vital information about the children and it really helps the children's learning when that information is shared. Our door is always open so please come and talk to us if you have any questions or concerns.

**Staff Meetings:**

We have our staff meetings planned for the year ahead. We will have most of our meetings outside of school hours in line with The Croke Park Agreement and we will have one meeting per term starting at 1.30pm and finishing at 3.30pm. This is in line with Department of Education rules. On these days school will close at 12.30pm for Infants and 1pm for 1<sup>st</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> classes. We are staggering the closure to help with traffic management.

**New Board of Management:**

Our new Board of Management takes up office today (Dec 1<sup>st</sup>). Fiona Twomey is our Chairperson and along with Sean Twohig are our Patron's Nominees. Lynda Wakefield and Michael Delargey are our Parents' Nominees. Miriam Hennessey and I are staff nominees while Paudie O'Sullivan and Sandra Horgan are our Community Nominees. We have a broad range of talent available to us and we are very lucky that these people have volunteered for such an important job for our school. The outgoing Board did a fantastic job and I'm sure I speak for all of our school community when I say a big THANK YOU to them for all they did.

**Mr. McEvoy's Retirement:**

Last Friday was a sad day but also a chance to celebrate the wonderful career of Mr. McEvoy who spent nearly 37 years in our school. Each class presented Mr. McEvoy with a card and performed a song or poem or piece of music for him. He really appreciated it. We will have a special event after Christmas for Mr. McEvoy arranged by representatives from our Board of Management, our Parents Association and our staff. We will miss him in the school but all of the staff will work to try in some way to fill the gap left by his retirement.

**Cork POPS:**

1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Class went to The City Hall to Cork POPS this month which is an interactive music show. They had a great time and represented our school really well. We are always looking for ways to broaden the children's range of experiences so when an opportunity comes along we try to take it. The fact that our students are so well behaved and that you can take them anywhere helps too!

**Speech and Drama:**

Ms. Murphy's Drama Club continues each week. The children involved are taking part in a competition in CIT on Dec 10<sup>th</sup> so we wish them well in that. Thanks to Ms. Murphy for providing this after school club at no cost to the children and for giving so generously of her time.

**3<sup>rd</sup> Class Football Blitz:**

3<sup>rd</sup> Class boys are taking part in a football blitz at the moment over four weeks. This week is week 3 of it and they are doing very well and representing the school excellently. As already said, the future is looking bright! Well done boys. We hope to be able to organise a blitz for the girls next term.

**5<sup>th</sup> Class Science Day:**

5<sup>th</sup> Class set up a range of experiments in their class this month and invited the other classes in to explain them. The children displayed great knowledge of their work and explained what was going on very clearly. There was real, high quality learning taking place that day – well done to all in 5<sup>th</sup> Class and to Ms. Dunne for having the class so well prepared.

**Blackrock Observatory Star Dome:**

The Star Dome was in our school today. Blackrock Observatory came to us and the children were delighted with the display. Thanks to the staff for helping to arrange it and for moving rooms etc to accommodate the event.

**Calendar 2012:**

All the photos have been taken and the final proof of the calendar has been made up. It is looking great. Thanks to Sandra Horgan and to Miss Diamond for their work on this. I'm sure it will be the most sought after gift this year!!

**Cork Ladies Football Team:**

Niamh Ní Chuív came to the school this week with The Brendan Martin Cup that the Senior Cork Ladies team won this year – again. She answered questions and posed for photos with the children. It was a great chance for the children to see the cup and to hear about what it takes to win a major championship. Hopefully, some of our current pupils will be back with various cups and trophies in years to come.

**Diocesan Advisor:**

Our Diocesan Advisor will call to the school next Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> December. This is how our Patron keeps in touch with what is going on in schools.

**Christmas Charity Work:**

Our choir will be going out into the community over the next few weeks to sing carols and raise some money for charity. More details to follow shortly. Ms Duggan is also coordinating a non-perishable food collection to help out families in the area – more details shortly. That's all for now.

All the best,  
Micheál Rea

**Up Coming Events:**

**6<sup>th</sup> Dec:** School closed at 12.30pm for Infants and 1pm for 1<sup>st</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> for Staff Meeting

**12<sup>th</sup> Dec:** Board of Management meeting – first of new Board.

**15<sup>th</sup> Dec:** Choir and Nativity plays – please refer to note sent home this week for details.

**22<sup>nd</sup> Dec:** School closes at 12.15pm for all classes for Christmas Holidays. Back to school Mon 9<sup>th</sup> January 2012.