

## Scoil Inse Rátha

### Déan do Dhícheall

#### Newsletter November 2013

Dear Parents,

We have had a great month. I continue to be amazed by 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 Holidays 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 the news for this month.

**6<sup>th</sup> Class visit to UCC:** our 6<sup>th</sup> Class visited UCC this month for a tour of the grounds and facilities. They each received a graduation cert which hopefully is a sign of things to come. Third level education is what we hope that they all aspire to and giving our students the opportunity to look around the college will help with that.

**Swimming:** Swimming lessons will start for 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> Classes on Jan 14<sup>th</sup> 2014. Our Parents Association are going to subsidise the bus for these lessons which means that the cost for the 6 lessons is €25. That is just over €4 per lesson. Swimming is part of the PE Curriculum and as such is compulsory for all students.

**Basketball:** Mark Scannell continues with basketball coaching for 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> classes. He is planning a blitz for before Christmas. The children's skills have come on a lot in recent weeks and they are enjoying it.

**3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Class Football Blitz:** Cork County Board are organising a football blitz in Erin's Own this week. This will give our boys and girls a chance to show off the skills that they have learned from Niall over the last few years. It will also give some of our younger footballers a chance to represent our school.

**Children's Achievements:** At assembly each week we try to acknowledge our students achievements inside and outside of school. We have a very talented bunch here with students taking part in swimming, gymnastics, tae kwon do, athletics, motor sport, soccer, GAA, Rugby, Drama, Art, Cubs, Scouts, Guides etc. The children really benefit from these activities but they require a major time commitment from parents. Thank you. If your child has an award, or a story to tell about an event they took part in, let us know. Our Active Diary is brought around each week to record examples of what children do at weekends to keep active and healthy.

**Board of Management:** At our recent Board meeting we reviewed our Child Protection Policy as per The Child Protection Guidelines. Everything is up to date and being done properly. The Policy is on our website if you wish to read it – [www.littleislandns.com](http://www.littleislandns.com). Our staff are currently looking at the new Anti-Bullying Guidelines and our Board will discuss and update our Anti-Bullying Policy next term. Our current policy is available on our website. Our Board are looking at options for the future development of our school. We have an architect working on some options that the Board will decide on shortly. We will apply under the Summer Works Scheme for new toilets and hope that it will be approved. This work would take place next summer if approved.

**Science Week 2013:** all of our classes took part in Science Week this year. There were experiments of all sorts being conducted across the school! The children loved getting stuck into these. 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> went to Blackrock Castle Observatory as well and were very well looked after. Science is for everyone and even getting your child to do some baking at home is a little bit of science!

**Green Schools:** Our next Flag is for Travel. In order to maintain our Green Schools status we have keep up the work. We must follow up on our work with Waste and Recycling, Energy and Water and move on to the Travel Flag. Ms. Walsh and Laura Daly will once

again coordinate our action plan but they will need to be supported by everyone in the school community. Sandy McGroarty from The Green Schools Programme visited our school this week and she will return next term to kick start our plan. If you have any suggestions or would be interested in helping out with this work please contact Ms. Walsh, Laura or myself.

**School Concerts:** Some of our classes will be putting on Christmas performances on Tues Dec 17<sup>th</sup>. These will be done class by class with each set of parents being invited in at a specific time. We have limited space so we can't accommodate a whole school performance with all of our parents attending at once. You will be given times early next week and we hope to see you there.

**Christmas Raffle and School Calendars:** Our annual school calendars are on sale now. A huge amount of work has gone into them and they are a great memento of your child at a specific time in their lives. They are also a very useful family planner. Our Christmas Raffle will be on Wed Dec 18<sup>th</sup> at 12.30pm. Tickets will go home shortly. There are some fabulous prizes again this year.

**St. Vincent de Paul:** our chosen charity for this term is St Vincent de Paul. We collected nearly 20 hampers for local families in need last year. A note will go home next week asking you to give what you can to help us to put hampers together. You can be sure that everything you give will help to make a local family's Christmas better.

**Parent/Teacher Meetings:** Thank you to everyone who came to the Parent/Teacher meetings. We learn a huge amount from these meetings and that helps us to do a better job for your child(ren). Our teachers are always happy to meet with you to discuss your child's progress at any stage during the year. You make an appointment by contacting Jacinta in the office or by putting a note into your child's journal/folder. Thank you to everyone who took time to acknowledge the hard work of our staff and if you offered suggestions please be assured that we will take them on board. P/T meetings are a big deal for children so reward them for all the good things that their teacher said. If there are areas for improvement, they can be worked on over the coming weeks and months.

**Parents Suggestions:** Teachers are always looking for good ideas. If you have an idea, please send it in to us or come and talk to me. We won't be able to do everything but we also know that we don't know everything! Positive feedback is also welcome!

That's all for now.

All the best,

Micheál Rea

### **Up Coming Events:**

**Dec 6<sup>th</sup>:** local primary schools and local pre-school providers are to meet. We are looking at ways to smooth the transition of children from pre-school to primary school.

**Dec 9<sup>th</sup>:** School vaccination team in our school.  
Staff meeting after school.

**Dec 17<sup>th</sup>:** class concerts.

**Dec 18<sup>th</sup>:** 12.30pm Christmas Raffle

**Dec 20<sup>th</sup>:** Close at 12.15pm for all classes for Christmas Holidays.

**Jan 6<sup>th</sup> 2014:** School reopens.