

**Little Island NS**  
**Déan do Dhícheall**  
**Newsletter November 2014:**

**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 less than three weeks to the 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.

**Parent/Teacher Meetings:**

We had our Parent/Teacher meetings this month. These are a great opportunity for parents and teachers to share information and to work together to help each child achieve success in school. If, for any reason, you couldn't make the meetings last week you can make an appointment with your child's teacher for another time.

**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.

**4<sup>th</sup> Class Trip to UCC:**

As part of Science Week, our 4<sup>th</sup> Class went to UCC to carry out some experiments. They had a great day and were really well looked after.

**Dentist:**

One of our local dentists came to the school and spoke to each class about the importance of good oral hygiene.

**Lunch time leagues:**

Our lunch time football leagues have finished now. There was great participation from all the classes from 2<sup>nd</sup> up. Well done to all the boys and girls who played so well and took part in such a positive way. Thank you to the teachers who organised the leagues and gave up their lunch breaks to run them.

**Mini-7's:**

Our girls went to Carraig ns bhFear this week to play in the football mini-7's. They represented our school really well and performed excellently. They did a fantastic job in reaching the final and lost out narrowly. Well done girls!

**Lego Robotics:**

We hope that Learnit will offer an after school class in Lego Robotics on Mondays after Christmas for 8 weeks starting on Jan 12<sup>th</sup>. It will run for 8 weeks from 2.30pm to 4pm. I hope to have more details soon and I will let you know how to book your place etc.

**Brown Envelopes:**

Thank you to everyone for contributing so far this year. This month we have spent this money on extra maths and literacy resources as well as subsidising buses for school trips and matches. The main grant that we receive from the Department of Education was cut again this year. It has been reduced by €30 per pupil since 2010 which is a huge hole to fill so please continue to contribute via the brown envelopes when they come home.

**Junior Infants 2015:**

The closing date for applications is Friday January 23<sup>rd</sup> 2015. If you have a child for Junior Infants next year please make sure that we have your application. We have been oversubscribed for the last few years and there has been a waiting list. Our full Enrolment Policy is on our website, [www.littleislandns.com](http://www.littleislandns.com).

**St. Vincent de Paul Hampers:**

We are currently collecting for the St. Vincent de Paul hampers. Thank you to everyone who has sent food in so far. We have put nearly 20 hampers together each year for the last 4 years so we are hoping to reach 100 hampers this year. Please give what you can so we can help families in our area have a better Christmas.

**Swimming:**

Swimming will commence after Christmas for 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> Classes. The bus will leave the school at 12.30pm and return to the school before 2.30pm. It will run for 6 weeks starting on Tuesday January 6<sup>th</sup>. A note will be sent home before Christmas with more details.

**Literacy:**

After Christmas we will introduce a new plan to help improve attitudes to and fluency in reading. Every day at 12 o'clock every person in the school will Drop Everything And Read which will be known as D.E.A.R. time. This will complement our class work and our CAPER scheme. We have books in our library and the mobile library comes to the school to boost supplies. Reading has a hugely positive impact on children's academic achievement as well as being a great life skill and interest to give to children. Please consider buying some books for your child for Christmas this year. Feel free to talk to us here if you are looking for suggestions for books or authors that would be suitable.

That's all for now.

All the best,  
Micheál Rea

**Up Coming Events:**

**Mon 1<sup>st</sup> Dec:** 6<sup>th</sup> Class trip to Cork Golf Club

**Tues 2<sup>nd</sup> Dec:** Parents Association meeting

**Mon 8<sup>th</sup> Dec:** Diocesan Advisor to visit school

**Thurs 11<sup>th</sup> Dec:** 3<sup>rd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> Choir performing in Parish Centre after mass

**Tues 16<sup>th</sup> Dec:** Christmas Performance day – timetable will be sent out next week.

**Wed 17<sup>th</sup> Dec:** 1<sup>st</sup> Class to panto in Cork

**Wed 17<sup>th</sup> Dec:** PA Raffle

**Thurs 18<sup>th</sup> Dec:** 3<sup>rd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> Choir singing in Radisson to raise money for St. Vincent de Paul.

**Fri 19<sup>th</sup> Dec:** Closing at 12.15pm for Christmas Holidays.

**Mon 5<sup>th</sup> Jan 2015:** School reopens.