

Scoil Inse Rátha
Déan do Dhícheall
Newsletter November 2016:

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 nearly four 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.

Science Week:

Science Week was this month and each class did some extra experiments and work in Science to mark this special week. We had the Electronic Brainbox workshop in the school for 3rd-6th Classes. Check out our website for some pictures and reports of the workshop and of other work done in class, www.littleislandns.com.

Basketball:

1st and 2nd Classes have completed their seven week slot with Mark Scannell doing basketball. 3rd and 4th Classes started their block last week. They will have four weeks now and four weeks in March. This is a great activity and we are delighted to have a coach of Mark's calibre to coach our children.

Lilly's Day of Service:

On Wednesday Nov 9th Lilly, a global pharmaceutical company with a base in Little Island, came to do some work in our school. This was part of Lilly's Global Day of Service. 20 members of their staff volunteered to do some painting and gardening for us. Work that would have taken a huge amount of time and money for us to do was done by the excellent workers from Lilly. Nothing was too much trouble and our school looks much better as a result. We are extremely grateful to all the staff from Lilly who helped us and to the management of the company who organise this each year. We pride ourselves on creating an excellent learning environment for our students but as the sun shone on the front of the school on Thursday morning we were all a little bit more proud of our school. Thank you Lilly!

Board of Management meeting:

We had a Board of Management meeting this month. We reviewed our Anti Bullying Policy and approved our Attendance Strategy. Our Board also continues to work on our Health and Safety Statement and all the work associated with that. We discussed finance, staffing and the future needs of our school.

Erin's Own U21 County Champions:

We were delighted to welcome the Erin's Own U21 County Hurling Champions to our school. We were particularly happy to see two of our past pupils, James and Robbie O'Flynn, return to us. Gearóid Cody, the other past pupil on the panel couldn't come on the day. The lads showed off their two trophies, The East Cork Trophy and The County Trophy. They spoke to our students about how they had started playing in school and how by training hard they became successful. They recommended that all of our students get involved in sport as there are fantastic benefits to it. These young men are great role models and I am sure that they have inspired some of the next generation.

Thanks very much to Erin's Own for organising this visit.

6th Class talk by Finbarr Walsh:

Finbarr Walsh, father of Donal Walsh, spoke to 6th class about many of the issues involved in growing up today. This talk was organised by the parish and we were very happy to be invited to it. You can find out more about Donal here: donalwalshlivelife.org/

P/T Meetings:

We had our Parent Teacher meetings last week. Thank you to everyone who made the effort to come in. It is a great opportunity to discuss your child's progress and to share information about your child with their teacher. If you couldn't get in to meet your child's teacher please contact them and they will be happy to arrange another time to meet with you.

Parents Association:

Our Parents Association have been working very hard organising the annual calendars. Photos have been picked and sponsors have been sourced so hopefully it will all come together for sale before Christmas. A number of our parents who have served on our PA for a long time are finishing up and this means that we need new parents to step up to help out with the various activities that happen during the year. The AGM will be coming up shortly so we will be looking for new people to get involved— remember it is to improve your child's school experience and provide opportunities for them so it is a worthwhile experience.

Peil Faoi Díon/Indoor Gaelic Football:

Sciath na Scol have organised a new competition for 4th Class this year. It is indoor Gaelic Football. Our girls are playing this week and our boys are playing next week. We wish them the best of luck and hope that they will enjoy it. Keep an eye on our website and on this newsletter next month to find out how they got on.

That's all for now.

All the best,
Micheál Rea

Up Coming Events:

29th November: 1pm Girls indoor football in Little Island Complex

30th November: Martina Ryan, Cork Mental Health, to speak to 5th&6th Classes

8th December: 1pm Boys indoor football in Little Island Complex.

15th December: 5th&6th going to panto in Everyman

16th December: 1st-4th Class going to panto in Everyman

20th December: Christmas performances in Rooms 10&11 (all classes)

22nd December: close at 12.15pm for Christmas Holidays.

9th January 2017: school reopens.