

Scoil Inse Rátha
Déan do Dhícheall
Newsletter November 2012:

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to our monthly newsletter. Our staff and children have been working very hard this month. There are numerous projects and displays up around the school and many of these are also on our school website, www.littleislandns.com. It was great to see so many of you in around the school recently for the Parent/Teacher meetings and the positive feedback from parents, teachers and students is lovely.

Parents Association AGM:

We had a fantastic turnout for our Parents association AGM this month. Thanks you to all the parents who helped over the last year with PA jobs. It is great to see new people coming on board to complement the experience of the existing members. Everyone has busy lives and we really appreciate the effort that parents are willing to make to help make our school a better place. I look forward to working with our new Parents Association over the coming year.

Extension:

Our extension is going really well and there is minimal disruption to the running of the school which is great. Fahy Construction are being very accommodating and our architect is very impressed with the quality of the work being done. We hope to be in the extension after the Easter Holidays, in early April. All Health and Safety precautions have been taken in order to insure your child is kept safe. Chris Ralphs, our architect, spoke to 1st-6th classes about the whole process from start to finish in a very child friendly way. The children had loads of questions for him and got a lot out of it.

Parent Teacher Meetings:

Thank you to all the parents who came in recently for parent/teacher meetings. If for any reason you couldn't make it and would like to meet with your teacher, please ring Jacinta to set up an appointment. If at any stage during the rest of the year you have a question or a concern, please feel free to contact us to arrange an appointment to discuss it.

Active Schools Award:

Work has begun on our Active Schools Award. There is new section on our website for School Achievement Awards and you can find details of what we are doing to get our Active Schools Award and our next Green Flag. We are a very active school and we are looking at ways of further developing this area. A committee of children and staff will be involved and they will organise an Active School Week later in the year and will review our PE policy. We will also look at ways of encouraging different types of active play on the yard at break time.

Green Schools Award:

Our Green Schools Committee has their Action Plan up and running. They are continuing to monitor our water usage. The highlight this month was World Water Day when 2nd Class and some of the Committee went down to the river. We have a Green Schools Noticeboard on our corridor with details of The Water Cycle and toilets and taps are being checked regularly for leaks and to make sure they are turned off when not in use. A speaker from WEEE Ireland came in to speak about battery recycling and of course we continue to collect old clothes and fabrics for recycling.

There is a huge amount of work going on with both of these awards, along with the work being done on The Digital Schools Award, and there is great credit due to the staff and pupils who are giving so much time and energy to these projects. Thank you!

Fit Factor:

Ms. Dunne's class have been working on The Fit Factor project over the last couple of weeks. They have been more active, have investigated different types of exercise and have looked at a variety of healthy foods. They conducted surveys in a number of classes to gather evidence and they have presented the project in a big folder which they are sending off to The Fit Factor judges. We are very proud of their work and they have learned a huge amount in the process. Well done to all involved!

Holy Communion and Confirmation.

Our Confirmation class had their Commitment Ceremony this month and our Holy Communion class had their Enrolment Ceremony at the weekend. We wish both classes well in their journey together this year and hope that you find it fulfilling.

Mascot:

We had a competition recently, for the children, to design a mascot for the school. We received a number of excellent, well thought out, entries. Toby and Jack in 5th Class designed a mascot together and they won the competition. We have decided to use the best bits from all of the entries and we have asked Mrs. Hayes from St. Lappans to make it. It is nearly ready and once we have it we will show the children and put it up on our website. The next step will be to pick a name for our mascot – that should be fun! Keep an eye on our website for more details!

School Self Evaluation:

Last year The Minister for Education informed us that we had to concentrate on, and give more time to, Literacy and Numeracy – I'm not sure what he thought we were doing up to that point! This year, as an extension to that, we have been asked to start looking at our school with view to drawing up a School Improvement Plan. We will be working on this over the course of the rest of the year. It will involve asking pupils questions about their learning experiences and it will involve asking you questions as well. All of this information will help to make our school the best it can be and it will ensure that we continue to provide a high quality education to our students.

Science Week:

Science Week was on this month. All of our classes did Science lessons to mark this week.

Special Visitor:

Eamonn McEvoy came to visit us on Nov 22nd. It is a year since our former Deputy Principal retired. It was lovely to see him and the children and staff loved having the opportunity to welcome him back. He is in great form and only recently represented Ireland at an international cross country meet in Belfast, where he won a bronze medal.

Christmas:

We have started collecting non-perishable food items for St. Vincent de Paul. We will make up hampers, similar to last year, to help out families in need in our local area.

Our Junior Infants will perform on Dec 18th at 12.15pm in Room 7 & 8. At 1.30pm the other classes will sing carols etc. We hope that you can join us on the day.

Library Books:

If you have books at home for children aged 5-13, that you are finished with, we would love to have them for our school library. We are always looking for books to freshen up our library and unfortunately, the County Library no longer gives us any.

Credit Union:

The Credit Union will not be coming to the school again before Christmas. They will start again after the holidays. We will let you know in January when they will return. Well done to all the excellent savers in our school!

That's all for now.

All the best,
Micheál Rea

Up Coming Events:

12th Dec: 3rd Class boys football blitz in St. Vincents

13th Dec: 8pm Board of Management meeting

18th Dec: Christmas Carols and Junior Infant show.

19th Dec: Christmas Raffle

21st Dec: school closes at 12.15pm for Christmas Holidays.

7th January 2013: School reopens.

