

Scoil Inse Rátha
Dean do Dhicheall
Newsletter
October 2011

Dear Parents,

As our first mid-term of the year approaches we can take a breath and reflect on all that we have done so far. There is a fantastic buzz of work around the school as our diligent and talented staff guides the children through the curriculum and provide them with a variety of learning opportunities. Our students are responding well and giving their best. Our Board of Management and Parents Association have been helping and supporting the excellent work being done in school as well. Thanks to everyone for making the start of the year a success and we can look forward to the rest of the year.

Fiftieth Anniversary Celebrations:

We welcomed Mr. Gus O'Brien from Cork Plastics as our guest of honour for this special occasion. He donated land to the school. This donation meant that our extension didn't take over our pitch and that we have lots of space to play on at lunch break. We were delighted to see so many people there. Our school has a long and proud tradition and we hope to continue this into the future. Thanks to Fr John Paul for a lovely ceremony and thanks to our wonderful PA for organising the catering on the day. This event could not have happened without the support of staff, parents and pupils and it was a credit to all involved. Roll on the next 50 years!

Sciath na Scol Final:

Congratulations to our boy's football team on reaching another final. We are very proud of them. The final is on Thursday November 10th at 12 midday. We hope to have a large number of supporters there on the day in Páirc Ui Rinn and we will try to bring as many children as possible with us. We will let you know more details after mid-term. Thanks to the boys' coaches for all their dedication – they are even organising training during their mid-term!

New Child Protection Procedures:

The Children First Guidelines and The Department of Education guidelines on Child Protection have been reviewed and updated. I am the Designated Liaison Person for our school if you have any concerns about this subject. For too long this important area wasn't organised properly so even though it adds significantly to our work load in school we welcome these new procedures. Where there is a report or a disclosure we have to report it to the Social Worker. While these guidelines are similar to the last ones there is a new emphasis on the area of child neglect. More details on Children First 2011 can be found by searching "Circular 0065/2011" or feel free to speak to me about it. We have a Child Protection Policy in place and we will update and review it at our next Board of Management meeting in order to fully implement the new procedures.

Yard Markings:

We got new games painted on our yard this month. They add colour and variety to our yard. Thank you to our Parents Association for paying for these games which every child in the school benefits from.

Eli Lilly Volunteer Day:

Eli Lilly volunteered to paint our school this month. They provided the volunteers and all the equipment – we provided the tea/coffee and biscuits! They worked really hard and they have improved our school environment. There is still some more painting to be done and we will do it ourselves when we get some good weather. Thanks to all at Eli Lilly for their generous support.

Newsletter by email:

As we are a Green School it would be great if we could send you our monthly newsletter by email. Please send an email to Jacinta in the office at littleislandns.ias@eircom.net to sign up for this service.

Website:

Our new website www.littleislands.com is now live. Gráinne Murphy has put a lot of work into it and we are very proud of it. Each class can add their own content so keep an eye on the site for updates and information and also for a chance to see examples of what is being done in school. There is a guestbook section for you to post a comment so let us know what you think. If you would like to see our website and you don't have access to the internet please feel free to come into the school and we can arrange for you to see it.

FAI Show Racism the Red Card:

FAI coaches worked with 3rd and 4th class recently on this topic. They discussed it in the class before doing some coaching. We hope that they will return later in the year to work with other classes.

INTO Mini 7s:

Our teams took part in the Mini-7s competition last week. They did us proud and represented our school really well. Results didn't go our way this time but it was a good experience. Well done to the teams and their coaches.

Board of Management Elections:

Our current Board's term ends at the end of November. Nominations have been received for parents' nominees to the Board and ballot papers will be sent out to all parents after mid-term. The Patron will nominate 2 people and the staff will nominate 2 people. These six people (2 Parents nominees + 2 Patron's nominees + 2 staff nominees) will meet to discuss who from the community could be approached and asked to join the Board so that there is a good spread of talent and experience available to the Board for its four year term. These 8 people will then form the Board of Management and manage the running of the school as a corporate body. It will not be the parents' nominees' job to represent the views of parents or to bring issues from parents to the Board. This can be done by speaking with me, the Chairperson or by writing to the Board. If you have any questions about this process or about the various roles on the Board please feel free to contact me.

Parking:

A letter is being attached to this newsletter in relation to parking in Cork Plastics. Please read carefully. The car park outside the school is for staff only so please do not park there in the morning or evening.

Classrooms:

First class and third class have swapped classrooms as 3rd class are a larger class and needed more space.

Credit Union:

Our local Credit Union will be visiting us after mid-term to encourage pupils to start saving. They will come to the school every week. I would encourage you to get your children into the habit of saving. They could start saving for Christmas or for their school tour etc. More details to follow after mid-term.

That's all for now. I hope you all have a happy and safe Hallowe'en break.

All the best,
Micheál Rea

Up Coming Events:

31st Oct-4th Nov: school closed for Mid-term break.

10th Nov: 12 Noon- boys Sciath na Scol Final in Páirc Ui Rinn

23rd and 24th Nov: Parent/Teacher meetings. You will get a note after mid-term to organise times.

