

Scoil Inse Rátha
Déan do Dhícheall
Newsletter October 2012

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to our monthly newsletter. We have had a very busy month and our students and staff have been working very hard to fit it all in. We have had several visitors over the last month and each of them has commented on the warm, welcoming atmosphere that exists in the school. Our students are great and our staff makes a huge effort to make sure that everyone is looked after properly. There is a lot of work to get through at this time of the year and you will have an opportunity at the end of next month to meet with your child's teacher to discuss their progress. Our door is always open if you have a concern or a query at any stage.

Cross Country races in Conna.

2nd, 3rd and 4th classes took part in the East Cork Athletics races this month. It was a chance for the children of all athletic abilities to represent our school and to experience such an event. The children enjoyed the day. We hope to extend athletics participation in the school over the next few months and more information will follow.

6th Class concert in and tour of County Hall:

Cork County Council invited our 6th Class to a concert in the County Hall recently. The invitation also gave the class the opportunity to go to the top of the County Hall and view our city from this wonderful vantage point. The event was very well organised and we are grateful to Cork County Council for including us.

All-Ireland Ladies Football Final:

We had a Red Day to show our support for Ms. Ní Chaoimh who was part of the Cork team who won another All-Ireland title this year. We look forward to having The Brendan Martin Cup back in our school soon for another visit.

Sciath na Scol:

After all the excitement of last year, it was always going to be difficult to be as successful this year. We have been promoted up a grade this year which makes the competition even harder. Our boys and girls represented our school very well in this year's Sciath na Scol tournament and we are very proud of them. GAA training continues with Niall every Friday for 1st-6th and we look forward to the hurling tournaments that will start after Christmas indoors and after Easter outdoors.

Mini 7's:

The boys and girls mini 7's teams did excellently with the boys only narrowly missing out on going through to the final. Well done to all involved.

The teachers involved in preparing teams for football etc show incredible dedication to the children in our school. They include everyone who is interested and try to give everyone a chance to develop their skills. There would be no games without them and we all appreciate the effort they put into it –Thanks!

FAI Soccer – Show Racism the Red Card:

Dave Bell came and spoke to 3rd and 4th Classes on this topic and then took them for a training session.

Cycle Sense:

The Cycle Sense Classes ended this month. They were very well run and the children learned a lot about how to safely manage their bicycles.

School Mascot Competition:

We have been running a competition over the last month to get the children to design a mascot character that would be suitable to represent our school. The children came up with

some fantastic ideas and we are still looking at the entries. This is something that is aimed at being child centred and fun to help the children to identify with our school.

Board of Management:

We had our first Board of Management meeting of the year this month. A number of issues were discussed including budget and our building project. The cost of running the school continues to go up while the government grants continue to be cut. Our extension starts during mid-term break. Part of the yard will be fenced off but, by having the construction entrance at the side of the school near the office, school life should be able to continue as normal.

Our Board was represented at a meeting of all of the primary schools in the area recently. The aim of the meeting was to arrange a common approach to enrolment across all the local schools. This was a very positive meeting and a lot was achieved. At a subsequent meeting of all the Principals, dates for receipt of applications and for open days etc were agreed. Our Enrolment Policy will be amended to reflect these changes and published on our school website after our next Board meeting, subject to the Board's ratification of the changes.

Parents Association:

The PA AGM will take place on 13th Nov at 7.15pm in the school. All are welcome.

Our Parents Association has organised for the production of our school calendars once again this year. Photos have been taken and we hope to have the calendars on sale by the end of November.

Members of our PA have spent a lot of time and effort on maintaining our garden at the front of the school. It is very attractive and adds greatly to the school environment. Thank you to all involved. Thanks also to Hillside Nurseries who provided some plants, flowers and bark mulch free of charge.

Computer Course:

The Basics of Internet Security: Ms. Dunne will run this course over 3 Mondays after mid-term. More information can be found on the posters in the school or on The Notice Board of our website. This course is subsidised by Get Ireland OnLine. If you are interested please send in your name and the €10 fee to the office.

Green Schools:

Our Green Schools Committee meets every week as work continues towards getting our third flag for water.

Newsletter by email:

If you email Jacinta at info@littleislandns.com she can email you our monthly newsletter and it will help to reduce paper usage in school. The newsletter is also available, along with old issues, on our website, www.littleislandns.com.

Parking:

With the construction work beginning after midterm, parking will be even more of an issue. Could I ask that you please remember to keep our neighbours entrances free at all times please. There are double yellow lines painted on the road in areas that should be kept free. We need to make sure that we keep the road free for traffic to pass up and down in case of an emergency.

That's all for now. I hope you all have a lovely break for Hallowe'en.

All the best,

Micheál Rea

Up Coming Events:

29th October-2nd November: School closed for mid-term break

5th Nov: school reopens

21st Nov: school closes at 1.05pm for Parent/Teacher meetings

22nd Nov: Parent/Teacher meetings after school.

