

**Scoil Inse Rátha**  
**Déan do Dhícheall**  
**October 2016**

**Dear Parents,**

As mid-term approaches we get a chance to draw our breath and reflect on what was a very busy term so far. There is beautiful art work and lovely projects up on our corridors and there is a lot to be seen on our school website detailing what is going on at each class level. See [www.littleislandns.com](http://www.littleislandns.com) for more. Thanks to all the staff, pupils and parents who have helped out this term so far.

**Sciath na Scol:**

We had a mixed boys and girls football team this year. They played a number of matches against schools of similar size. Our new school jerseys looked great on our players. As usual our students represented our school really well and we are very proud of them. They narrowly missed out on a place in the final but played very well. Well done to all involved.

**Lunch time Leagues:**

As well as training for Sciath na Scol we had a lunch time league running during September and October. Everyone could take part and it was competitive and fun. The students even refereed and umpired the matches themselves. Thank you to the teachers who sacrificed their lunch breaks to run this.

**Erin's Own County Final:**

Well done to Erin's Own for getting to The County Hurling Final this year. There was great excitement in the local community in the lead up to the match. We held a jersey day and put up flags and posters around the school to show our support. We are particularly proud of our past pupils who were involved. We hope that some of our current pupils will return with the trophy in years to come. It was a pity that they lost this year but they are a young team so hopefully the future is bright!

**5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> visit County Hall:**

The Arts Council of Ireland provided a wonderful opportunity to visit an art exhibition from the Arts Council of Ireland entitled The Schools Exhibition, in the Gallery space at Library Headquarters, Cork.

The exhibition was very interesting. In 1986, The Arts Council wrote to 20 Irish Artists asking them to contribute to an exhibition on the theme of school. The artists were asked to respond to the theme from their general attitudes to school. Their responses formed the basis for the show. We were guided around the exhibition by artist Julie Kelleher.

Afterwards, we were brought into County Hall. We were brought up to the 17th Floor and saw an amazing view of Cork City. Then we were able to go into a councillors meeting room, where we got the opportunity to pretend we were real councillors and were able to "propose" ideas for development in Little Island.

**Cork City FC v Finn Harps:**

Cork City FC are having a great season this year and are unfortunate to be up against an excellent Dundalk team. While the league is gone for this year to Dundalk, they still have the FAI Cup to play for on Nov 6<sup>th</sup>. They recently provided tickets for their match against Finn Harps for families in our school. This was a great opportunity for our children to see their local League of Ireland soccer team in action. Despite the atrocious weather on the night a large number from our school community went to cheer on City to a 2-0 victory. We wish them the best of luck in the Cup Final.

**Maths Week:**

Last week was Maths Week and the children were involved in various class activities including projects and maths trails. See our website for more and also [www.mathsweek.ie](http://www.mathsweek.ie). Maths is everywhere in the world around us and it is important

for the children to be aware of how often they use maths. It is also important for you to give them as many opportunities as possible to use the maths they learn. A simple example could be to give your child 50c and let them figure out what treat they could buy in the shop. Talking to them about prices and which item costs more than or less than the 50c they have is a great learning opportunity for your child.

**Basketball with Mark Scannell:**

Irish Ladies basketball head coach and coach of the UCC/Glanmire Ladies team Mark Scannell, works with our students during the year. At the moment he is coaching 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> but every class will have 6-8 weeks with him during the year. As part of his coaching he works on footwork and ball skills which are useful and transferable for many aspects of life.

**Calendar 2017:**

Our Parents Association are organising for the publication of our annual school calendar at the moment. Photos are being taken this week and sponsors are being approached. This is a big fundraiser for our school and we really appreciate all the time and effort that our PA put into this. Over the next few years we are going to have to replace our Interactive Whiteboards in our classrooms. Each of these range from €3,000-€5,000 and there is no direct funding from the Department of Education to pay for them. We will be relying on money raised by our PA along with some sponsorship to cover the cost of these. We hope to start the process of changing two of these whiteboards this year and to replace the others in the coming years.

We wish everyone a happy and safe midterm break.

That's all for now.

All the best,  
Micheál Rea

**Up Coming Events:**

**31<sup>st</sup> Oct – 4<sup>th</sup> Nov:** School closed for midterm break.

**9<sup>th</sup> Nov:** Local company, Lilly, volunteering to do some painting and gardening as part of their Global Day of Service.

**10<sup>th</sup> Nov:** 7pm Board of Management meeting

**14<sup>th</sup> Nov – 18<sup>th</sup> Nov:** Science Week – see [www.science.ie](http://www.science.ie) for more details.

**23<sup>rd</sup> Nov:** school closes at 1pm for Parent Teacher meetings.

**24<sup>th</sup> Nov:** Parent Teacher meetings after school, starting at 2.45pm.