

Scoil Inse Rátha
Déan do Dhícheall
Newsletter October 2013

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.littleislands.com for more. Thanks to all the staff, pupils and parents who have helped out this term so far.

Little Island NS: Day of Celebration: 3/10/2013:

There was a great day of celebration at our school recently when we raised a Green Flag and an Active Schools Flag as well as having The Army Band from Collins Barracks come and play for us. The Army Band was fantastic and everyone really enjoyed their performance.

Green Flag: We received our third flag for our work in the area of Water recently and Ms. Maeve Tomlins officially raised it in front of our school. Our Green Schools Committee, led by Ms. Bernadette Walsh and Ms. Laura Daly, coordinated all of our work in this area. A visit to Janssen and a visit to the sea shore were some of the highlights of the activities that we undertook.

Active Flag: We received our first Active Flag recently and our Active Schools Committee, led by Ms. Julie Neville, coordinated all of our work in this area. Mr. Killian Murphy from Erin's Own and from the Cork Senior Hurling team raised this flag for us. He spoke about the value of leading an active life and the benefits of being involved in sports, both physical and social. Killian is a great role model for our students and we were delighted that he made time to be with us on this special day. We have been an Active School for many years so this was the culmination of years of work by many people. Thank you to you all.

These two flags highlight all that is good about our school and also what we are capable of when we work together. Our whole school community can be proud of our achievements and the 3rd October was a chance to celebrate that.

Parents Association:

Our PA held their AGM this week. They have been of great support over the last year and we are extremely grateful for all that they have done for the school and for our pupils. Deirdre O'Brien (Chairperson), Judy O'Connell (Secretary) and Deirdre Gettings (Treasurer) will form the PA Executive for the year ahead. There are eight other parents on the Parents Association and several parents have offered to help out when the need arises during the year. Our school relies on the PA to keep going and they have monthly meetings to discuss plans for the time ahead. There are several events during the year that add to our school calendar that wouldn't take place or be as successful without the help of parents. Sports Day, Graduation Day and the Holy Communion Party are just a few examples. Thank you to everyone who helped during the year.

Our PA took the photos this month for our annual calendar. All the children and staff are included in the calendar on the month of their birthday. These will be on sale before Christmas so they will make lovely stocking fillers for all your relatives.

Dave Bell FAI soccer coach:

Dave Bell came today to work with 5th and 6th Class on their soccer skills. He also talked to them about the FAI Show Racism the Red Card Programme.

Mark Scannell Basketball:

Mark has been working with 3rd & 4th this term so far to develop their basketball skills. We hope to have a basketball blitz with some other schools after mid-term break. Mark is the coach of Neptune Basketball Club and he will bring some of the Neptune players down to demonstrate their skills on this day too. He also hopes to give family passes to a Neptune basketball match to the children so that they can go with their families to see a proper basketball match.

5th&6th Class visit to Collins Barracks:

5th & 6th celebrated Cork Independence Day by going to Collins Barracks. The army put on a great display of their equipment etc. The children were really well treated and enjoyed themselves while learning too!

Swimming after Christmas for 4th-6th Class:

Swimming is part of the PE Curriculum and as such is compulsory. Unfortunately the Dept. of Education doesn't provide funding for it so we have to charge. We keep the price down as low as we can and over the years the PA have helped with the price of the bus. This year it will cost €30 approx. A note will go home in January to give all the details. No money is required now but we are giving you advance notice so you can budget for it. The swimming coaches in Mayfield Pool have been great over the years and even over the six week course we see all the children make progress.

LEESIDE ACADEMY:

The Leaside AFC Academy runs from 5.30-6.30 every Friday at the Leaside AFC grounds for all children, boys & girls aged 5,6,7,8,9 & 10. With the poor light & bad weather the schedule is as follows for the coming weeks.

U5 & U6 indoor from 5.30-6.30

U7/U8 boys & U10 & U12 girls from 6.30-7.30 indoor

U9 & U10 boys 5.30 - 6.30 outdoor or in poor weather 7.30-8.30

For further information or if you have any queries please contact Paidi O Sullivan on 0877859314

U-10 Girls Football County Champions:

The Girls are leading the way in Erin's Own. The U-10 team are now county football champions after following on from the success of the U-12 girls. We are very proud of the girls from our school who were taking part. Keep up the good work girls and we hope to see the boys following suit soon!

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. 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.

That's all for now. All here at the school wish you and your family a happy and safe Hallowe'en.

All the best,

Micheál Rea

Up Coming Events:

Mon 28th Oct to Fri 1st Nov: School closed for mid-term break

Mon 25th Nov: Board of Management meeting

Wed 27th Nov: school closes at 1.05pm for everyone for Parent/Teacher Meetings

Thurs 28th Nov: Parent/Teacher Meetings 2.45pm- 5.30pm.