

Scoil Inse Rátha
Déan do Dhícheall

Newsletter September 2011:

Dear Parents,

September has flown by. The staff and children have been working very hard and there is a great buzz of activity around the school. We have to plan for the celebration of our school's 50th anniversary on this site and for the official opening of our new extension. We have a lot to be proud of here in Scoil Inse Rátha and we look forward to sharing and celebrating these occasions with our school community. Thanks to the staff and children for all they do every day to make our school special.

Retirement of Mr. McEvoy:

Mr. McEvoy will be retiring at the end of November. He started work here in 1975 and has served the school and its community wonderfully in that time. Mr. McEvoy commands huge respect from staff, parents and children and we will be very sorry to see him go. He has been a great colleague to work with and we all wish him the best in the future. We will plan an occasion, to acknowledge the mountain of excellent work that Mr. McEvoy has done, in the next few months and we will let you know the details closer to the time.

GAA:

Our teachers have been busy organising lunch time leagues, training, practice matches and Sciath na Scol matches since we came back. We had a fantastic final last week with extra time played. We will present medals to the top three teams tomorrow at assembly. Our boys and girls teams played this week and represented our school very well. Our boys won both their matches. Well done to all involved and a special big thank you to the teachers involved for giving so much of their time for the benefit of our pupils. Niall has returned for another year to continue GAA coaching on Fridays for 1st – 6th classes.

Junior Infants Jolly Phonics Evening:

Parents of our new Junior Infants were invited in to an information evening on The Jolly Phonics Programme. This programme introduces the children to letters, their sounds etc. It was great that so many parents could make it on the night as it is so important that school work is followed up at home and that parents are giving the children the same message as they are getting at school. Thanks to Ms. Murphy for facilitating this evening.

Staff meeting:

We held a staff meeting this week and went through our plans for the year ahead. There is great energy, enthusiasm and commitment among our staff and this was evident at the meeting. Plans are afoot for Cor Fhéile and a concert in the second term. We discussed our use of the extra hours under The Croke Park Agreement. We will set up a Green Team in each class again this year as part of our work in the Green School Programme. We reviewed our Child Protection Policy as well.

Board of Management Meeting:

Our Board of Management met this month. Great satisfaction was expressed at the standard of the new extension and the Board were very appreciative of the efforts of all involved in getting the project completed on time. This Board's term of office comes to an end at the end of November so we will shortly be engaging in the process for putting a new Board in place for Dec 1st. The Board is made up of 2 Patron's nominees, 2 Parents' nominees (1 male and 1 female), 2 Community nominees and 2 nominees from the staff. There will be an election organised for the parents' nominees. More information to follow closer to the time.

Communication with the school:

From time to time you may have questions about your child's progress or about something that has happened in school. In the first instance you should ring Jacinta in the office and make an appointment to talk to your child's teacher. If, after that, you want to discuss the issue further you can arrange to discuss the matter with me. If, at that stage, you feel the matter hasn't been addressed to your satisfaction you can write to the Board of Management and ask them to deal with it. Our staff bring the children to the gate each evening and are here in the morning before school. You can talk about brief issues at these times but if you would like privacy it is best to make an appointment. Notes from the teacher will generally be included in your child's homework journal so please keep an eye out for these.

Improvement works:

We hope to paint the school and level the playing pitch in the next while to finish off our beautiful school.

Holy Communion and Confirmation Dates:

Holy Communion 12th May 2012.

Confirmation 19th April 2012.

We look forward to these special days and the teachers will be preparing the children in partnership with our local parish. Fr. John Paul has visited the school and met with most of the children already this year and we hope that he will be very happy in his new parish.

Athletics:

4th, 5th and 6th class went to Conna today for East Cork Cross Country races. This event gives children of all abilities the chance to experience taking part in a major athletics event. Running is something that nearly everyone can do all through their lives and they can take part at their own level. We will continue trying to provide our children with a wide range of activities in order to help them find a healthy area of interest that suits their individual talents.

CAPER:

CAPER started this week with 1st to 4th this week. It is very important to read with and to your child as much as possible. Please read the CAPER book with your child each night and sign the accompanying sheet. Senior Infants will start their CAPER books on Nov 7th (after mid-term). 5th and 6th do a shared reading programme.

Parent/Teacher meetings:

Our Parent/Teacher meetings will take place on November 23rd and November 24th. On Wed Nov 23rd Infants will go home at 12 and everyone else will go home at 12.15pm to help stagger traffic. On Thursday Nov 24th children will go home at the normal time and meetings will take place after class time. Class teachers will organise times for your meetings closer to the time. If these days do not suit you please contact your child's teacher to arrange an alternative date. Resource teachers, Learning Support teachers and I will be available on these dates to meet if you wish.

Opening and closing times:

Children are allowed into the school at 8.30am and are supervised on yard until 8.40am. They go into their classrooms at 8.40am and classes begin at 8.50am. It is very important that your child is here on time every morning so they don't miss out on any work. Remember that if you miss 5 mins each day that adds up to 3 full school days over the course of a year! School ends at 2.30pm. The school can take no responsibility for children outside of these times unless on official school activities.

Rugby for Life:

Ed Leamy, brother of Munster and Ireland rugby player Denis, is running his five week course called Rugby for Life in our school at the moment. He teaches the children about goal setting, communication, decision making, teamwork etc and then links this with games of tag rugby. He is working with 5th and 6th though 3rd and 4th got a bonus session this week because 5th and 6th were at a Sciath na Scol match!!

That's all for now. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

All the best,

Micheál Rea

Up Coming Events:

12th Oct: 2.30pm – 4.30pm: staff in-service on Science.

20th Oct: 8pm: Board of Management meeting.

27th Oct: School will probably be closed for Presidential Election. We haven't received formal notification yet. You will receive confirmation when we get notice.

31st Oct – 4th Nov incl.: school closed for mid-term break.