

Little Island NS
Déan do Dhícheall
Newsletter September 2013

Dear Parents,

Everyone has settled in nicely so far this year and there is a great buzz of hard work around the building. We are planning events and initiatives for the year ahead so we hope that there will be something for everyone to enjoy while getting all of the work done too.

Erin's Own U-12 Girls County Champions: Congratulations to all involved with the Erin's Own U-12 team that won the Premier County Championship. We are very proud of our present and past pupils who played an important part in the victory and of course our school's former Principal, Mr. Irwin, who is the team coach. We were delighted to have the cup and some of the team visit our school last week. We hope that many more pupils from Little Island will be involved in future success for Erin's Own.

Parking: I would ask you to be conscious of our neighbours when you are parking outside the school. There are double yellow lines on the road so that traffic can flow safely – please do not park on the double yellow lines or in front of our neighbours. I have contacted the Gardaí and asked them to keep an eye on what is going on as I am concerned for the children's safety.

New Junior Infants: Our new Junior Infants have been great and we are delighted to see them settle in so well. They are our future so we hope that they have a very happy time in school.

New Teacher: We welcome Mr. Páidí O'Sullivan to our staff. We are sharing him with Mitchelstown CBS. He will be here on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Charities for the year ahead: We have decided that we will make up hampers for St. Vincent de Paul again this year before Christmas. We will raise money for the charity Barnardos during Lent in the run up to Easter Holidays.

Spare tracksuits/uniforms/books: If you have any spare tracksuits or school uniforms at home that you are finished with we would love to have them as spares in case of accidents etc. We are also looking for football boots that you are finished with as some children only require boots for school games and need to borrow boots. We are also looking for any suitable books for our school library that you may be finished with. Any of these donations can be handed in to Jacinta in the office or to your child's class teacher.

Making an appointment to speak to a teacher: Our teachers are always happy to speak to you about your child's progress, or to address your concerns. Please ring Jacinta in the office to arrange an appointment at a mutually convenient time as this allows the teacher to be prepared for the meeting and to be able to give you their full attention.

Board of Management: Our Board of Management will be meeting on 30th September where we will discuss the challenges and opportunities for the year ahead. One of the biggest challenges will be maintaining the school building without the support of the Department and also the threat posed by a proposed increase in the Pupil/Teacher ratio. Our excellent staff and pupils provide us with a lot to work with. Our staff's willingness to get involved in extra work for the good of our pupils is something that our Board of Management values hugely.

Parents Association: Our PA met this week and has been planning activities for the year ahead. They will be taking photos shortly for the annual school calendar and they will be helping out with our day of celebration on Oct 3rd as well. Our PA AGM will be on Tues Oct 22nd in the school. Our Parents Association is only as strong as the parents who get involved. We have had very committed people involved in the past and we have excellent people involved now but there is always a need for new parents to get involved.

After School Activities: All of our after school activities are up and running now. We have Drama and Taewon-Do on Monday's, Art & Craft and Fit 4 Life on Tuesday's, Tennis on Wednesday's, Art & Craft on Thursday's and Modern Dance on Friday's. Some of these activities are full now but contact details are available from the office if you want to check with the activity provider about availability of places.

Erin's Own Coaching Scheme: Niall McIntyre does coaching in our school from 1st-6th Class on Fridays in hurling and football. This is arranged in partnership with Erin's Own and other local schools. The money we collected for our Red day on Friday will help with the funding of the scheme.

Date for Parent Teacher Meetings: Our Parent Teacher meetings this year will take place on Wednesday 27th and Thursday 28th November. We will close at 1.05pm on Wednesday 27th and have meetings from 1.30pm-2.30pm. On Thursday 28th meetings will be held from 2.45pm to 5.30pm. If these dates don't suit you please contact your child's teacher to arrange a different date and time to meet.

Day of Celebration: On October 3rd The Army Band will visit our school. We will also raise our Third Green Flag and our first Active Flag on that day. Maeve Tomlins and Killian Murphy will raise the flags at 10.15am and we will go to the Little Island Sports Complex afterwards to hear the band play at 11.15am approx. We hope to see you there.

All-Ireland Final: Best of luck to the Cork teams this weekend, especially to Ms. Ní Chaoimh, who will be involved with the Cork ladies.

Sciath na Scol: Our school football teams have been taking part in the Sciath na Scol championship this month. They are representing our school really well and we are very proud of all involved.

Stay Safe Survey: The Stay Safe Programme is currently being revised. Please follow the link here to the parents' survey if you are interested in giving your opinion: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/StaySafeParentsSurvey>

Anti-Bullying Guidelines: The new Anti-Bullying Guidelines require us to review our current Anti-Bullying Policy which we will do this term. It will then be forwarded to our Parents Association for consultation and finally to our Board of Management for ratification. If you want to know more about the guidelines you can look at the DES website www.education.ie. The National Parents Council will be running a series of workshops for parents as well. You can register for these at www.npc.ie. The nearest one will be on in The Rochestown Park Hotel on Oct 7th at 7.30pm. There is a computer with internet access on the corridor outside Room 9 if you don't have access to one yourself.

Basketball: Basketball coach Mark Scannell has started working with 3rd & 4th classes and we hope to have a blitz before the mid-term break for them against some of the local schools that Mark is working with as well.

NEWB: Please fill in pink forms and return to your child's teacher after an absence. These are essential for our quarterly reports to The National Education Welfare Board.

Talk for Parents: Raising Teens in the 21st Century, with Dr. John Sharry, in Silversprings Hotel on Saturday 12th October. Contact Mary-Rose O'Sullivan for more details 086 8114944. Tickets €20.

That's all for now.

All the best,

Micheál Rea

Up Coming Events:

Friday September 27th: Red Day

Thursday October 3rd: 10.15am-1pm: day of celebration with the Army Band.

Friday October 4th: School closed for use as a polling station for referendum.

Monday October 14th: Start of Maths Week and Rebel Week!

Wednesday October 16th: Cork Independence Day!!

Tuesday October 22nd: Parents Association AGM

Friday October 25th: School closes at normal time for mid-term break. Reopening Monday November 4th.

