

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.

School Fair: On October 19th we will have our first School Fair. It promises to be a great day with something for everyone. We hope to see everyone there and don't forget to invite neighbours, friends, grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins etc.

Erin's Own Girls: Congratulations to all involved with the Erin's Own teams who have achieved so much success recently. We are very proud of our present and past pupils who played an important part in these successes.

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. The Set Down area outside the school is for parents who are dropping their children and leaving so should be kept clear and not parked on. 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. Denis Davoren 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 Make A Wish Foundation 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. 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 have met once already this month and will be meeting in early October again. The lack of proper finance from the Department of Education continues to be a major challenge. We made three detailed applications for extra funding last year to try and improve our school but were rejected each time. With the increase in student population across the country their priority is to have a classroom for each child. We have a very committed Board and we will continue to work hard for the good of our school.

Parents Association: Our PA met this week and has been planning activities for the year ahead. They will be taking photos on September 30th for the annual school calendar. Our PA AGM will be on Tues Oct 21st in the school at 7.30pm. 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. Drama, Tennis, Art & Craft, Modern Dance and Tae Kwon Do have started or will be starting soon. 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 coaches children 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.

Date for Parent Teacher Meetings: Our Parent Teacher meetings this year will take place on Wednesday 19th and Thursday 20th November. We will close at 12.30pm on Wednesday 19th and have meetings from 1pm-2.30pm. On Thursday 20th 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.

All-Ireland Final: Best of luck to the Cork team 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.

Garda Visit: Our local community Garda spoke to 5th & 6th Classes about Cyber Bullying.

Swimming: 4th -6th Classes will attend swimming lessons in Mayfield Sports Complex pool from 6th Jan 2015 – 10th Feb 2015 inclusive. More details will follow closer to the time.

Holy Communion and Confirmation: Holy Communion is on Saturday May 23rd and our Confirmation is on Tuesday April 21st.

Basketball: Basketball coach Mark Scannell will start working with 1st & 2nd classes next week.

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.

That's all for now.

All the best,

Micheál Rea

Up Coming Events:

30th September: Photos for school calendar – please bring props as listed on PA letter

7th October: Board of Management meeting

19th October: School Fair 1-4pm

21st October: 7.30pm Parents Association AGM

27th-31st Inclusive: School closed for mid-term break.