

Little Island NS
Déan do Dhícheall
Newsletter September 2015

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.

Concert:

We are planning a whole school performance this term. It will take place in The Radisson Blu, Little Island on Tuesday 24th November and Wednesday 25th November at 7pm. Rehearsals, as I'm sure you are aware, have begun already. We are gathering props etc. Shops are full of costumes at the moment so it is a good time to pick up any costumes that may be needed – they might be gone in a few weeks once Hallowe'en is over. Each class will have their own slot to perform and this will weave together into an overall theme. It promises to be very exciting and hopefully it will be one of those school memories that the children will have long after they leave us.

Parent/Teacher Meetings:

Our formal PT meetings for this school year will take place on 20th & 21st January. If you wish to speak to any of our staff about your child before then please feel free to make an appointment and we will be happy to accommodate you.

Charity for this year:

We have decided that we will support The Make-A-Wish Foundation as our charity for the year.

Parking outside the school:

Please do not use the staff car park in the mornings or evenings. Staff need to be able to access their spaces so they can come into work and take charge of your children. They should not be obstructed from leaving in the evening either. The car park is also our assembly area, in case of a fire, so it needs to be kept free. The set down area is for parents to drop their children and leave. If you wish to bring your child into the school you can park a little further up the road. Please don't park on the double yellow lines or in front of our neighbours' houses/entrances.

Official School Opening and Closing times:

Children are supervised from 8.30am each morning. They go into their classes at 8.40am and teaching starts at 8.50am. Infants go home at 1.30pm and 1st-6th classes go home at 2.30pm. Outside of these times we are not responsible for your child(ren) unless they are on a school related activity. Organisers of after school activities take responsibility for your child(ren) for the duration of their classes. We cannot take responsibility for children who are dropped to school before 8.30am.

Contact details:

We use Text-a-Parent as a means of communicating reminders to you. We may also, on occasion need to contact you during the day if something happens to your child. Please make sure that we have the correct contact details for you. The number you provide must be a number that will be answered as it could be an urgent matter to do with your child.

Enrolment Closing Date:

The closing date for receipt of enrolment applications for 2016/2017 is Friday January 22nd 2016. Enrolment applications are available from Jacinta in the office or on our website, www.littleislandns.com.

Green Flag:

Sandy McGroarty, our former Greens Schools Co-Ordinator, will raise our 4th Green Flag on Monday October 19th at 10am. This is the culmination of two years of work and is a great achievement for our school. All are welcome to attend!

Budget 2016:

The decisions for the budget will be made in the next week or two. Primary education has suffered greatly in the last number of years. There has been a huge increase in the number of children in schools during this time so while more money has been spent on education there has been serious cuts made. The main grant to run our school has been cut by nearly 15% while there has also been a 15% cut in teaching resources. We have made several applications for funding to improve our school facilities and these have been rejected. Please send the postcards that went home last week to your local representative and freetext "StandUp" to 50050. You can see what else is happening nationwide on www.standupprimary.ie. There is a pre-worded email on the website that is very easy to send.

Board of Management:

Our Board of Management's term of office is coming to an end on November 30th. Over the next few weeks we will be starting the process of electing a new Board to run our school. Each Board of management is made up of 2 Patron's nominees, 2 parents' nominees (one mother and one father), 2 community nominees and 2 staff nominees. We will be looking for nominations for parent's nominees shortly.

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. They will take part in a blitz in Erins Own tomorrow – best of luck!

Swimming:

4th -6th Classes will attend swimming lessons in Mayfield Sports Complex pool on Tuesdays from 12th Jan 2015 – 16th Feb 2015 inclusive. More details will follow closer to the time.

Holy Communion and Confirmation:

Holy Communion is on Saturday May 21st and our Confirmation is on Friday April 15th.

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.

Allianz Insurance:

Every child in our school is covered by the pupil personal accident 24hr insurance policy. The policy is valid from 1/9/2015-31/8/2016. Please visit www.allianz.ie for full details.

That's all for now.

All the best,

Micheál Rea

Up Coming Events:

Fri 25th Sept: Erin's Own Football blitz

Mon 5th Oct: World Teachers Day

Mon October 19th: 10am: Sandy McGroarty to raise our fourth Green Flag.

Thurs Oct 22nd: 5th Class Science Workshop in The Lifetime Lab.

Mon 26th Oct-Fri 30th Oct: school closed for mid-term break.

