

**Scoil Inse Rátha**  
**Déan do Dhícheall**  
**Newsletter September 2017**

**Dear Parents,**

This month has really flown by. All of the new members of our school community have settled in well and are adding to the atmosphere in a positive way. We look forward to a great year ahead full of hard work and excitement!

**East Cork Athletics Cross Country Races:**

2<sup>nd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> Classes travelled to Castlelyons last Friday to take part in these races. The races were 650m for the older children with shorter distances for the younger ones. It was a great experience. Our students had a great time at cross country races but we did notice a gap in the fitness levels of some of our children. It is very important to maintain an active lifestyle for your child. They are exposed to at least two PE sessions each week in school along with an active yard where everyone is encouraged to keep moving. Organised sport is an excellent way of encouraging your child to be active but there are other ways. Walking to school or to the shop, running up and down the stairs to get things, cycling and even dancing in the kitchen! Children need to be out of breath regularly to keep fit and healthy. We are doing a running challenge between now and Hallowe'en where each class will run a number of laps around the school each day. Our target is a combined 2500Km in the next 5 weeks which is equal to running The Wild Atlantic Way from Little Island to Malin Head. We will update a map of Ireland each week to show our progress. Keep an eye on our app.

**Sciath na Scol Football:**

We have played three matches so far. Our teams are playing really well and our players are representing the school excellently. We rotate the squad so that everyone who wants to play will get the chance. Our team this year is a boys and girls mixed team as we don't have enough girls at the senior end of the school to make a full girls team.

**After School Activities:**

A range of after school activities for all ages has started. Art & Craft, Fit 4 Life, Speech & Drama, Guitar, Chess, Homework Club and Modern Dance are all up and running. Please contact Jacinta for contact details for the teachers involved.

**Parent/Teacher Meetings:**

Parent/Teacher meetings will take place on Wednesday November 22<sup>nd</sup> and Thursday November 23<sup>rd</sup>. If you can't attend on either of these days please contact your child's teacher and they will be happy to facilitate another time that is mutually convenient. If you have any concerns or questions at any time of the year feel free to contact us. You can make an appointment by ringing Jacinta in the office 8.50am-1.40pm Mon-Thurs and 8.50am-12.40pm Fridays.

**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 1<sup>st</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> 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 our app and 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 19th 2018. Enrolment applications are available from Jacinta in the office or on our website, [www.littleislandns.com](http://www.littleislandns.com).

**Confirmation/Holy Communion/First Confession Dates:**

Confirmation will take place on Thursday April 19<sup>th</sup> at 10.30am in Glounthaune Church. Holy Communion will be on Saturday May 26<sup>th</sup>. First Confession is on March 13<sup>th</sup> at 7.30pm with Glounthaune and in Glounthaune Church. First Confession is being taken on by the parish, reducing the role of the school in the organisation of the sacrament. Parents will be required to take on a much more active role than in previous years.

**Basketball/Golf:**

Basketball coach Mark Scannell has started to work with our classes. He will take every class in the school for 6-8 weeks at different times during the year. David Ryan, parent and golf professional will start to work with 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Class next week for five weeks and will work with 3<sup>rd</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> as the year progresses.

**NEWB/Tusla:**

Please fill in pink forms and return to your child's teacher after an absence. These are essential for our reports to TUSLA (formerly 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 1/9/2017-31/8/2018. Please visit [www.allianz.ie](http://www.allianz.ie) for full details. Most activities are covered during school and outside of school. Most expenses you incur if your child has an accident can be recouped through this scheme.

**Resilience and Problem Solving:**

One of the areas we are looking at again this year is the whole area of children's mental health. We will be encouraging children to solve more of their own problems rather than just fixing everything for them. We will be asking you to do the same at home. Sometimes it is quicker to tie a child's coat or answer a question than help them to sort out the issue themselves. Children who can help themselves develop more independence and are better able to bounce back when they encounter problems in life. We will be working on this during the year.

**SEN Inspection Report:**

Inspectors evaluated Special Education Needs provision in our school in May this year. Their report is available on [www.education.ie](http://www.education.ie). We are very happy with their report and feel that it reflects the excellent work being done by everyone in our school community.

That's all for now.

All the best,

Micheál Rea

**Up Coming Events:**

**Oct 2<sup>nd</sup>:** Parents Association AGM

**Oct 5<sup>th</sup>:** World Teachers Day

**Oct 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup>:** Parents Association Bag Pack in Supervalu, Glanmire

**Oct 16<sup>th</sup>:** Junior Infants vaccinations

**Oct 16<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup>:** Maths Week

**Oct 19<sup>th</sup>:** Maxi Zoo school visit on responsible pet ownership.

**Oct 30<sup>th</sup>-Nov 3<sup>rd</sup>:** school closed for midterm break