

Scoil Inse Rátha
Déan do Dhícheall
Newsletter: End of year review June 2014

Dear Parents,

As another school year draws to a close we have much to be proud of here in Little Island NS. A quick look at our website, www.littleislandns.com, will show how much work each class has done. Our whole school community, children, staff, parents, PA, BOM and Community Association have worked hard together to make our school a better place. Here are some of the highlights of the 2013/2014 school year:

September:

Erin's Own U-12 girls won the county football title and some of our past and present pupils were in the squad. Basketball started again, as did football. We set up our variety of after school activities.

October:

We had our Day of Celebration when The Army Band played for our pupils after we raised our third Green Flag and our first Active Flag. It was a wonderful occasion and a great opportunity to celebrate all that is great about our school. Our PA had their AGM. Dave Bell came to work with 5th and 6th Class on their soccer skills. He also talked to them about the FAI Show Racism the Red Card Programme. 5th & 6th Classes visited Collins Barracks to celebrate Cork's Independence Day. Maths Week was on this month. Erin's Own U-10 girls won their county title, following on from the success of the U-12's last month.

November:

6th Class went to UCC for a tour and received a graduation certificate. 3rd & 4th Class went to Erin's Own to take part in a football blitz. We took part in Science Week this month and we started work on our next Green Flag for Travel.

December:

Insí and Ráthaí were 1 this month. We collected 18 hampers for St. Vincent de Paul. Each class performed a play or carols for our parents. Our PA organised another very successful Christmas Raffle. Our Religious Advisor visited and praised the staff and pupils for their excellent work. All of the local primary schools and pre-school providers met to discuss ways of sharing information.

January:

4th-6th Classes started swimming lessons this month.

February:

Our PA organised bag-packing in Supervalu and raised €1700 for our school. Safer Internet Day was marked this month in each class. 4th Class put on a play for their parents. 6th Class had their Ceremony of Light to help them prepare for their Confirmation.

March/April:

We celebrated Seachtain na Gaeilge in March. Clan Cluana performed their version of Setanta in The Sports Complex. 6th Class received their Confirmation. 2nd Class had their First Confession and we held our first Scoot on Wednesday. Our Chess team played against Beaumont and represented our school really well. Our boys basketball team travelled to Carrigtwohill to play in a blitz and did very well. Our boys and girls soccer teams played in the FAI 5-a-side blitz and the girls qualified for the county finals. Junior and Senior Infants took part in Cór Fhéile in the City Hall and were fabulous.

May:

2nd Class received their First Holy Communion and our PA organised a wonderful party afterwards. Our girls soccer team came 5th in the county finals. Primary Principals from the USA came to visit our school and were very impressed with our students

June:

School Sports: once again our school athletics team performed excellently in Páirc Uí Chaoimh. Well done to all involved and thank you to the parents and staff who spent a long day supporting our athletes.

School Improvement Plan: As part of the Department of Education's Literacy and Numeracy initiative we have engaged in self-evaluation and have developed a School Improvement Plan. We introduced Mata sa Rang in 1st Class this year and it has proven to be very successful. We have developed a common approach to maths language this year as well. Next year we will be looking at Literacy and as part of this we have introduced a new English scheme of readers from Junior Infants to 6th.

Marathon: We had a large number of staff, parents and friends of our school take part in this year's Cork City Marathon. Well done to everyone who competed and a big thank you to all the supporters who helped us to keep going. We had lots of people involved this year who never thought they would be taking part in this event so next year it could be you!!

Basketball Fun Day: Mark Scannell, our basketball coach held a fun day for all the classes. They played games and had a few matches as well. Thank you to Supervalu in Glanmire who sponsored water and bars for the children....without being asked!

New Infants and their parents: We were delighted to have our next generation of pupils visit our school with their parents. The Information Evening for parents and the Induction Day for the children went really well. We are looking forward to the end of August when they join our school community.

Green Schools: Sandy McGroarty visited our school to conduct a Green Schools travel survey this month. We hope to get our next Green Flag next year. Thanks to the Green Schools Committee for all their hard work this year.

Barnardos: Our wonderful Student Council presented a cheque for more than €300 to Barnardos. They had arranged a very successful cake sale to raise this money. Our Student Council has been a great success and we are delighted with all the work they have done.

Mural: Ms. Lynch, Ms. Walsh and Laura have been working away on a school mural. They drew the outline and each class has been given the chance to paint part of it. It is nearly finished and it looks great. Well done and thank you to all involved.

Parish Cup: The annual Parish Cup was held yesterday. Well done to all of our players. It was a chance to celebrate all the excellent work done by our Erins Own coach Niall McIntyre, our staff and our pupils. Well done to our girls on winning the plate final.

Uniform: Children are expected to present for school in a suitable manner and wearing the proper school tracksuit or uniform. Long hair should be tied up. Jewellery should not be worn in school for health and safety reasons. Runners (not boots) should be as plain as possible and tied properly. The uniform and tracksuit removes the need to have lots of different clothes options and also removes the competitive element. The other issues mentioned above are to make sure that each child can access the full curriculum effectively and safely.

Back to School: That's all for now. I look forward to seeing you all on August 27th. Infants will finish at 12.30pm on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday and all the other classes will finish at 2.30pm. From Monday September 1st Infants will finish at 1.30pm. We will send out a text in late August to remind you. I will be in school most of next week 9am-3pm and will be in school 25th and 26th Aug 9am - 3pm as well, if you need to speak to me about anything.

On behalf of everyone in Little Island NS, I hope you have a wonderful summer.

All the best,
Micheál Rea

Up Coming Events:

Thursday June 26th: School closes at 12.15pm for all classes for the summer holidays.

Wednesday August 27th: school reopens for the 2014/2015 school year.

