

Scoil Inse Rátha
Déan do Dhícheall
Newsletter Review 2012/2013:

24/6/2013

Dear Parents,

As our summer holidays are very close it is a time to look back at some of the highlights of the year. We have had a busy schedule and the time has flown by. Thanks to all the staff, children, parents, Board of Management, Parents Association and members of the local community who have helped us and made all of our achievements possible.

September:

Our lunch time football leagues took place and there was huge interest in it. 5th and 6th took part in The Cycle Sense Programme over a number of weeks.

October:

2nd, 3rd and 4th took part in The Cross Country Races in Conna where they represented our school very well. We had a Red Day to celebrate Ms. Ní Chaoimh's involvement with the Cork Ladies Football team's victory in The All-Ireland Final. Our Sciath na Scol teams and our Mini-7's teams took part in their competitions this month and we are very proud of their achievements. The FAI's Show Racism the Red Card Programme was run in the school. We started the process of making our own school mascots who became known as Insí and Ráthaí. Our Parents Association had their AGM during this month.

November:

Our school extension got under way in November and our architect spoke to the children about the whole process from drawing to planning to construction. Our Parent/Teacher Meetings were held. Our Confirmation class had their Commitment Ceremony and our Holy Communion class had their Enrolment Ceremony. 4th and 5th Class took part in Fit Factor and put a project together to enter the competition. Work continued on our applications for a Green Flag for Water, an Active Flag and a Digital Schools Award.

December:

Our Junior and Senior Infant classes performed wonderful plays this week. It was lovely to see and it has helped to get us all into the festive spirit. 1st to 6th performed a selection of Christmas carols. Our Parents Association organised our annual Christmas Raffle which was another huge success. They also organised our school calendar with photos of all the children.

January:

"Here's a tip, don't let it drip", became our Green Schools motto for our work in the area of water conservation. Our Green Schools Committee was invited to Janssen to view their water treatment facility. Activity stations were set up on our yard at break time as part of our work towards an Active Flag. Some of our parents and staff started to train for the Cork City Marathon. 4th – 6th Class began swimming lessons this month.

February:

2nd Class received their First Confession. Eamonn Ryan, manager to the Cork Senior Ladies football team, did a training session with some of our boys and girls. 3rd Class took part in the indoor hurling competition and hurling training at lunch time started. 4th Class went to Blackrock Observatory.

March:

6th Class received their Confirmation. 4th Class put on a play for their parents called Hoodwinked. We raised €300 for Bóthar and Jeremy Meehan brought two goats called Clodagh and Cuddles to visit our school. Our boys took part in the Mini-Sevens hurling tournament. Camogie training started after-school on Thursdays. Trials were held for the Cork City Sports. Junior Infants and Senior Infants performed in The City Hall for Cór Fhéile and were brilliant. Our Green Schools Committee travelled to Gougane Barra to take part in The Walk for Water, as part of our Green Schools activities. Our Parents Association held a bag pack in Supervalu and raised much needed funds for the school.

April:

We received confirmation that we had been awarded our third Green Flag. We had our assessment for the Active Flag. Schools Direct sponsored a new set of jerseys for the school team which were worn during this year's Sciath na Scol hurling championship. Our girls travelled to Carrigaline to take part in the FAI 5-a-side blitz where they lost 2-1 in the semi-final. Our boys' soccer team also took part and lost out narrowly in the knockout stages. Our internal chess championship finished up and medals were presented at assembly. Our school team went to Carrigaline to take part in the ChessZ tournament. Well done to all involved. The Book Fair was on this month and was very well supported by all of our school community.

May:

2nd Class received their First Holy Communion. Our boys and girls took part in The Cork City Sports where they did our school proud. Mark Scannell, from Neptune Basketball Club, started coaching 4th and 5th Class. Football leagues started at lunch time.

June:**Active Flag:**

We have been awarded our first Active Flag. We will have a ceremony early in the next term to celebrate getting our Third Green Flag and our first Active Flag. Thank you to Ms. Neville for all her work on the Active Flag and to all the staff and pupils who have worked so hard over the years to get us to this point.

Football Leagues:

2nd – 6th have been taking part in football leagues over the last few weeks and they had a big finals day last week. There were five finals down for decision. The excitement and the standard of football was fantastic. Well done to all involved.

1st&2nd played a hurling blitz against Glounthaune last week. It was a great opportunity for the school team of the future to show their talents. There was a fabulous atmosphere and the games were played in a great spirit.

Marathon:

Congratulations to everyone who took part in the Cork City Marathon on the June weekend. There was a great buzz before and after and it was brilliant to have support around the course. The training group will continue to meet up and they are already planning their next event. They are looking for new members all the time and especially walkers. Contact Jacinta in the office if you are interested and she will put you in contact with one of the group.

Classes for next year:

Here are the teachers for each class for next year. We are waiting for confirmation from The Department of Education and from our Patron before we can appoint the remaining teachers. It is completely unsatisfactory from our point of view that we don't our complete staff for next year yet.

Junior Infants: Ms. Julie Neville

Senior Infants: Ms. Audrey Roche

1st Class: tbc

2nd Class: tbc

3rd Class: Ms. Miriam Hennessy

4th Class: Ms. Michelle Dunne

5th Class: Ms. Valerie McGrath

6th Class: Ms. Niamh Ní Chaoimh

Learning Support: Ms. Nuala Murray/Ms. Gillian Daly

Resource: Ms. Gillian Diamond and Ms. Gráinne Duggan

Part Time Learning Support: tbc

Resource hours have been cut again this year. We are now receiving 75% of what we are entitled to. This means that we are short one full teacher on top of the other cuts to staff that we have suffered over recent years. Every child in our school, and indeed across the country, is losing out because of this. We will continue to do our best for you child(ren) with what we have. Please find attached to

this newsletter a notice regarding a protest against the cut to resources. This cut effects every child and not only those with Special Needs.

Mouth guards/gum shields for football:

From the start of next year every child who takes part in football training and school matches will be required to wear a gum shield. This is in line with the GAA Directive that came into place on Jan 1st this year. Gum shields can be purchased in most sports shops for less than €5. Due to hygiene reasons we will not be able to provide gum shields here in school. It does not apply to PE lessons in general. It applies to training for Sciath na Scol and for Sciath na Scol matches. Our insurance company has advised to introduce this measure. Your child will not be allowed to play in Sciath na Scol football related activities without a gum shield.

6th Class Graduation:

Our 6th Class had their graduation ceremony earlier this month. It was a time to reflect on their time in school with us and to wish them well as they head off on the next stage of their lives. It was a pleasure to have had them as part of our school community and they have made our school a better place by being here. Thank you to our Parents Association for providing a wonderful party afterwards where parents and children got to mingle and share stories.

New Junior Infants visiting:

Our new Junior Infants had their Induction Day earlier this month. It all went really well and everyone is looking forward to these children and their families being part of the future of Little Island NS.

Local History:

Many of our classes have been exploring the local history of Little Island recently. Paddy Twomey and Mrs. Twohig came and spoke to the classes about life in school in the past. There is a rich and varied history to Little Island and the children heard many interesting stories.

Boys and Girls Soccer in CIT:

Our boys and girls soccer teams took part in soccer blitzes in CIT recently. They both did really well. Our boys finished 5th out of 25 teams while our girls lost out narrowly in the plate final.

Little Island Olympics:

Our Little Island Olympics was held last week on a glorious day. There was a fantastic atmosphere as many family members and past pupils came along to cheer on the participants. The day ended with the Staff vs 6th Class soccer match. 6th Class snatched a last minute equaliser to end the match 3-3. They went on to win 2-1 on penalties. It was all very exciting and dramatic. Thank you to everyone who helped to make the day possible.

Basketball Fun Day on June 26th:

This week we will have three basketball coaches in to run a basketball fun day for all the classes. This should be great fun and an opportunity for the children to experience another sport.

Painting:

The wall in front of the school needs to be painted this summer. We propose doing this on the week of the 19th August. We will meet at 10am on the 19th. Anyone who can hold a paintbrush would be welcome and the help would be most appreciated. It will help to brighten up our school and make it a nicer place for our students. Thank you in advance for your help!

That's all for now. I hope you all have a happy and safe summer and I look forward to working with you all again next year.

All the best,
Micheál Rea

Back to School:

Thursday August 29th 2013. Junior Infants and Senior Infants will go home at 12 o'clock on Thursday 29th and Friday 30th and will go home at 1.05pm from Monday September 2nd. 1st to 6th Classes will go at 2.30pm from the start of the year.