

Scoil Inse Rátha
Déan do Dhícheall
Newsletter January 2018

Dear Parents,

Welcome to our first newsletter of 2018. It is a very exciting time to be in our school with so much going on. Everyone is working really hard in their class and having fun on the yard. Our concert will dominate everything for the next five weeks and there is a great buzz around the school in anticipation of it.

Concert:

Our concert will take place on Tuesday February 27th and Wednesday February 28th at 7pm in The Radisson. We try to have a big production every two/three years and we are delighted to be able to put on a performance this year. We really appreciate The Radisson accommodating us as we basically take over their main ballroom for three days. Tickets will be available shortly and they will cost €5 per person.

Clan Cluana:

Clan Cluana are due to visit our school on Wednesday morning the 28th February. They will perform Young Fionn McCumhail for 1st – 6th class. This has been booked since September. It will be a nice easy way for the children to face into school after their own performance the night before.

Parents Association:

After an incredibly busy and productive December, our PA are back to work too. They are researching and planning a Cyber Bullying workshop for students and parents for the summer term. We will have more details for you closer to the event.

Chess:

Our lunchtime chess leagues are continuing at the moment with 6th Class refereeing the games. They are reaching a conclusion and will be finished by early February. Twenty four students will represent our school in the Fícheall Bunscoile Chorcaí competition on February 9th. This is a new competition which allows for greater participation. We will have teams from 4th, 5th & 6th classes.

Swimming:

We are half way through our swimming lessons already. It is great to see progress from week to week with each group. The staff in Mayfield are very good at helping children to develop and move on while allowing them to improve at their own pace too.

Board of Management:

Our Board met this month and ratified and approved the following policies: Enrolment, Code of Behaviour, Critical Incidents and Special Education Needs along with the statutory annual review for our Anti Bullying Policy.

Child Protection Guidelines:

There are new child protection guidelines in place since December. We, as a school, are to have a new Child Safeguarding Statement in place for March 11th. We haven't received the guidelines or training yet but hopefully it will be organised in February. We will keep you up to date when we know more. Our existing policy and procedures continue to be valid for the moment.

CYPSC Parents Focus Group:

The Children and Young Persons Services Committee (CYPSC) is made up of representatives from many different organisations around the country. I represent The Irish Primary Principals Network on the Cork CYPSC. Recently we have been conducting focus groups

around the county to get parents views on their children's social and emotional wellbeing. We held one such focus group in our school this month. The Supporting Parents Sub Group of CYPSC is hoping to produce some resources to help parents to help their children. Thank you to the parents who attended and gave their time and energy to this process.

SENO SNA Review:

Every year our Special Education Needs Organiser comes to the school and reviews our SNA allocation. There are very strict criteria for the allocation and retention of SNAs in a school. Our annual review took place this month and we will find out in May what our allocation for 2018/2019 will be. Every member of our staff is highly valued and goes beyond the call of duty for our students so we hope that we will maintain our current allocation.

Skipping Workshop:

Mark McCabe from Skip N Rope came today and did skipping workshops with each class. Our children had lots of fun and learned some very useful skills that are transferable to many sports and to life in general.

That's all for now.

All the best,
Micheál Rea

Up Coming Events:

9th February: Chess competition in Upper Glanmire

15th & 16th February: School closed for midterm break

26th February: Rehearsal for all classes in The Radisson

27th February: Rehearsal for all classes in The Radisson. 7pm: Performance In the Radisson.

28th February: 9am: Clan Cluana performance in The Complex.
7pm: 2nd performance in The Radisson.