

Scoil Inse Rátha
Déan do Dhícheall
Newsletter February/March 2018:

Dear Parents,

Easter is almost upon us. We have had a lot of activity in the school since our last newsletter at the end of January. Thank you to all the staff, pupils and parents in our school for your support, help and hard work to make all of these activities possible. Here are some of the highlights from the last six weeks.

School App:

Regular updates and photos are posted to our app each week. Please make sure you have access to it so you don't miss out. If you don't have a smartphone you can access the information through a link on our website's homepage – www.littleislandns.com. Details on how to download and set up the app are in your child's homework journal.

Concert:

"A Night at the Oscars" was our big project this year. Our goal from the start was to provide a memorable experience for our students and their families. We started planning for it about twelve months ago and it was discussed at several staff meetings since. The theme and plays for each class were agreed in December and scripts were handed out after Christmas. Formal timetables were set up to practice. Props were built and created and the hunt began for costumes. Roles were clarified and lines were learned. This led up to the big performance. Tuesday 27th February was the big night when it all came together. The children were amazing and all the hard work that went in behind the scenes paid off. We were very disappointed that we couldn't perform on the second night but we are relieved that we managed to perform at all. We were bowled over by the goodwill and generosity of people in all of this. Students on work experience and teaching practice rowed in and helped as if it was their own show. The Radisson Hotel, especially Shane and Rosita, were really generous and accommodating throughout the process. The stage man, who has no connection with the school, was very helpful and gave us a very good price. Nicky Hayes gave us a lot of costumes which saved making or buying them. Our staff, once again, went beyond the call of duty in making sure all of our pupils were included in our performance. Ms. Crowley wrote the scripts and along with Ms. O'Donovan and Ms. Hynes guided, cajoled and pushed us all to make the performance as good as it was. Richard Kirby spent a huge amount of time setting up lights and sound systems which made it a very professional set up. Vincent and Mary Conroy looked after the recording of the show which became even more important with the cancellation on the second night. Parents played a vital role in providing costumes, helping with lines and by turning up on the night. Thank you to everyone who helped in any way. I am sure that our children will remember this long after they have left our school.

First Confession:

Well done to the pupils in second class who made their First Confession this month. They were a credit to our school and to their families. Thank you to Fr. Ted, our teachers and parents who helped to prepare the children for the sacrament.

FAI 5-a-side Soccer:

Our boys' team did really well in reaching the semi-final of their competition recently. They scored 17 goals over 5 matches. Everyone commented that they were the best soccer team there. They lost out narrowly to the eventual winners so they can be very proud of their achievement.

Chess:

Twenty five students travelled to Upper Glanmire Hall on Tuesday 6th March. We entered 3 teams (the Baby Ganda team, the Fort Knights and the Victorious Pawns). There were 2 competitions – a Masters competition for 5th/6th class students and a Budding Masters competition for 4th class students and younger. The players were selected from fifty eight 2nd to 6th class students who entered the school's Winter Chess League. Little Island NS is proud to be one of the 38 schools around Cork to take part in the first year of the initiative. Fícheall Bunscoile Chorcaí wish to

encourage the playing of chess in Cork primary schools as it promotes problem-solving, creativity, social skills, concentration and memory. Every Little Island chess player gave their all and represented the school and their community excellently, displaying respect and maturity beyond their years. Two of our teams qualified for the County Finals this week. They did really well to finish 7th out of 38 teams. Well done to all involved.

Child Protection:

On Tuesday this week our staff availed of in-service on the new Child Protection Guidelines. We engaged with an online training module from the PDST (Professional Development Service for Teachers). We went through our new Child Safeguarding Statement (formerly Child Protection Policy) and considered The Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment. The happiness, wellbeing and safety of the children in our care is something that we take very seriously and this day's work was a vital part of this.

Interactive Boards and LIIDC Funding:

Over the last three years we have been working on a project to replace our old interactive whiteboards. Last year we managed to replace four boards and this year we have replaced the remaining boards. These are essential resources for our teachers to work effectively in a modern classroom. Combining laptops, iPads, interactive boards and excellent teachers gives our pupils great opportunities to learn and to achieve their potential. While some of the funding came from The Department of Education this project could not have been completed without the support of the LIIDC (Little Island Industries Development Company). We are very grateful to them for this support.

Primary Language Curriculum In-service:

The new Primary Language Curriculum is being introduced at the moment from Junior Infants to 2nd Class. We attended in-service last week on this. I am attaching an information sheet for parents about this new curriculum for your information.

Spelling Bee:

Laura in 6th won our school Spelling Bee competition and Alex (6th) went on and represented us in the County Finals. Well done to both of them on doing so well and for representing our school excellently.

That's all for now.

All the best,
Micheál Rea

Up Coming Events:

Fri 23rd March: school closes at 12.15pm for Easter Holidays

Mon 9th April: school reopens after Easter Holidays

Wed 11th April: Cork City Sports Trials

Tues 17th April: Cyber Bullying Talk: children during the day and talk for parents at night.

Wed 18th April: Board of Management meeting.

Thurs 19th April: Confirmation