

Scoil Inse Rátha
Déan do Dhícheall
Newsletter April 2018

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to our monthly newsletter. Our Easter Holidays seem like a very long time ago as we have been so busy. This term is always full and exciting with its mix of regular school work, active learning and outdoor activities. We have squeezed a lot into this month and I am extremely grateful to our amazing staff and pupils, our Parents Association and our Board of Management for their help and support in making our school a better place. Here are some of this month's highlights. Don't forget to download our app for regular updates, photos and information. Instructions on how to download it are available in your child's homework journal. If you have any issues please call in and we'll try to help you out. Remember to download the Text a Parent app as well. This saves us the cost of a text but will send you a text if you can't access the app so you'll never miss a text from the school.

Hurling:

We have a fantastic start to our Sciath na Scol hurling competition this year. We have played three games and won three. This is with a panel that includes a number of third class pupils! The present and the future look bright. Bandon, Mahon and St. Marys on the Hill have all fallen to our hurling superstars. While winning is nice, the most satisfying element of it all is the excellent way that boys are representing their school and their community. We have a one more game to go and hopefully we will qualify for a semi-final which will be played 14th/15th May.

5th Class visit Janssen:

5th Class were delighted to be invited to a site visit of our near neighbours, Janssen. They were given an overview of Janssen's work around the world. They were also given a tour of their production facility from the delivery of raw materials to seeing the end product. Next up our students had to put on lab coats to do some experiments and before they finished they were given some treats. Thank you to everyone in Janssen for such a warm welcome.

Heritage Council:

Three of our classes took part in The Heritage Council's Heritage in Schools programme. A Heritage Expert, Usna Keating, facilitated the day's learning. Senior Infants and 1st Class explored the environment around the school and discovered different plants and mini beasts. 5th Class visited the seashore to examine the different flora and fauna there.

The first week back from the Easter Holidays a man, who is a Marine Biologist, came to our school. On the way to the beach birds sang out to each other. When we got to the shore there was lots of rubbish washed up. Pictures were taken and everyone looked under rocks for sea creatures. 5th Class learned their names and have taught people to think twice before dumping rubbish into the sea. We really enjoyed identifying birds songs and names. Usna told us how to tell the age of creatures by the swirls on their shells. He spoke about how bad plastic pollution was and he showed us an

interesting video on the terrible effects of it on sea life. (by Ryan McCarthy 5th Class)

Board of Management:

Our Board of Management met this month. Among other things they ratified our Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment and our revised Computer and Internet Policy. Both of these are available on our website, www.littleislandns.com. Our Board should take a lot of credit for managing the replacement programme of all of our interactive boards over the last twelve months. It took a lot of planning, savings, bargaining and begging to secure the €25,000 necessary to finance this project. Our Board is made up of volunteers who give their time freely and generously and we are very grateful for their work.

Cork City Sports:

Cork City Sports take place in CIT on June 1st this year. We have held our trials and have sent off our entry forms. Training will start shortly and we wish the girls and boys who will be representing us the very best.

Cyber Safety Talk:

Jason from Children of the Digital Age provided cyber safety talks to children from 1st – 6th this month. He also gave a talk to parents that night. It was a very useful opportunity for our school community and hopefully you benefitted from the chance to talk to your child(ren) about their use of IT. Thank you to our PA for sourcing, organising and paying for this visit. We hope to have him back again the year after next and every second year thereafter.

Confirmation:

Children in 6th Class made their Confirmation this month. After a lot of preparation they were ready for the big day and they did us all proud. Congratulations to all involved.

Science Award:

We are applying for Science award again this year. All the experiments that have been done in class have been correlated and submitted. We hope to be awarded with a plaque for the excellent work being done here.

School Garden - Renewal and Renovations

Over the last few weeks every class in the school has had the opportunity to plant some vegetables for the garden. In our final term we look forward to watching our garden grow and harvesting our crops.

We have been up-cycling, reusing and recycling items to make the school garden more colourful and interesting. Keep an eye out to see our school garden transform over the next few weeks.

We have entered the Muintir na Tíre school garden competition this year for the first time and will have a visit from their judging panel in late May or early June.

We are continuing to collect bottle tops and are busy creating features for the garden with the bottle tops. Thank you to all who have collected bottle tops to date.

Our PA also has plans to redo the rockery by the front gate. We really appreciate all the help we are receiving from various families who are improving our school.

Diocesan Advisor:

We had a visit from our Diocesan Advisor last week. She visited each class and spoke to the children about the work they have done during the year. She was very impressed by our wonderful students and the lovely atmosphere in the school.

4th Class basketball blitz:

Mark Scannell, our basketball coach, has been working with our students again this year. Mark works with several schools as well as the Glanmire Club and the Irish Ladies team. He

organised a basketball blitz in Upper Glanmire last week for 4th Classes in a number of schools that he works in. The children had a lovely day out and really enjoyed the basketball too.

Junior Achievement Ireland:

Every year Junior Achievement Ireland train volunteers from various companies to work in schools to deliver a programme that helps children to understand how the economy works. There are a lot of hands on activities with lovely resources to help the children learn. The class teacher stays in the class at all times. Term 3 is when they normally come to our school so there are a number of JA volunteers in our school at the moment.

That's all for now.

All the best,
Micheál Rea

Up Coming Events:

1st May: Dara Murphy, former Minister for European Affairs, visiting school for Europe Day.

7th-11th May: school closed for midterm break.

22nd May: 5th Class school tour

23rd May: Information Evening for parents of new Junior Infants.

25th May: school closed for Referendum (school is a polling station).

30th May: Induction Day for new Junior Infants - Current Junior Infants and Senior Infants going home at 12 o'clock to facilitate this.

31st May: finals of 6th Class debating