

Scoil Inse Rátha
Déan do Dhícheall
Newsletter November 2018

Dear Parents,

We have had a very busy and productive November. Thanks to everyone who has helped to make our school a better place this month! Here are some of the highlights of what has been going on. Continue to keep an eye on our app for information on some of the great work being done in individual classes.

Christmas Performances:

Our Christmas Performances will take place on Tuesday December 18th. A schedule has been put up on our app so you can plan your visit. Please understand that the times are approximate. We are on a tight schedule so will do our best to stay on time. As many of you are aware, there are new GDPR (Data Protection) laws in place. While parents are free to make recordings and take pictures at the performances, these pictures/recordings are for your own personal use and may not be shared on social media without the permission of the parents of all the children in these recordings.

Chess:

Our chess club is up and running again this year. We will play at lunchtimes up to Christmas and we have entered a competition in Term 2.

School Improvement Plan:

Our School Improvement is up on our website, www.littleislandns.com, under Information for Parents. This details our list of priorities for the year as a school. This is a requirement under the 2011 Literacy and Numeracy Strategy. It doesn't include details of the fantastic work being done in each class to improve the outcomes for each child, helping them to reach their potential.

ISPC Event:

Six children from 6th Class were invited to an ISPC Event in The Radisson recently. Schools from around East Cork were invited to explore how children can develop their own resilience (the ability to bounce back from the challenges that life can present). This was a very useful exercise and the students involved had to report back to their class so the whole class can benefit from their learning.

Golf:

David Ryan has started golf lessons again this year. 1st and 2nd Class will work with him until Christmas and after that he will move onto infants.

Board meeting:

Our Board of Management met this month. We reviewed our Enrolment Policy in light of the new School Admissions legislation. As we didn't prioritise Catholic children or charge an enrolment fee, we didn't need to make many changes. The Board also reviewed our Fire Safety provisions under Health and Safety. A fire drill has been conducted and fire safety equipment has been inspected by the relevant professionals.

Boys Indoor hurling blitz in GCC:

Glanmire Community College held an indoor hurling blitz for 4th/5th Class boys this month. It was really well organised and our students really enjoyed it. It also provided our students with an opportunity to see GCC which should help with their transition to second level if they decide to attend there. Well done to all involved.

Science Week:

Each of our classes took part in Science Week again this year. There were lots of experiments around the school. Many of these are recorded on our school app.

Irish Champion:

Congratulations to Kaiden Conway on winning the Irish title in Taekwon-do. He has worked really hard over the years and we are very proud of him.

Parent/Teacher Meetings:

Thank you to everyone who attended Parent/Teacher meetings this month. There is an invaluable sharing of information and opinions during these meetings which helps us all to help our students

achieve their potential. Feel free to make follow up appointments with your child's teacher at any point through the year if you want to discuss your child's progress.

Credit Union Art Competition:

Our Lady Crowned Credit Union calls to our school every week to allow and encourage children to save. They ran an art competition earlier this year which our students entered and we were delighted to win some prizes! The pictures are on our school app. Congratulations to our prize winners.

Heritage in Schools:

Our schools Heritage Ireland expert came to our school last week. She worked with three classes and helped them to explore our local environment. She also spoke to our children about the importance of trees to our survival.

Lifetime Lab Maths Workshops:

Lifetime Lab took over Room 2 last week. They worked with each class to help them solve maths problems through games. It was a very enjoyable day. It is particularly important to encourage positive attitudes to maths among girls – the recent Growing up in Ireland study reported that 9 year old boys still have a more positive attitude to maths than girls.

GOAL Workshop:

5th and 6th Class had the opportunity this month to take part in a workshop organised by GOAL. The children were introduced to the realities of drought, famine and migration in Ethiopia. The children also took part in drama activities related to these issues.

Diocesan Advisor:

Our Diocesan Advisor visited this week and spoke to the children about their religion programme. I received the following message from her after her visit:

Hi Micheál,

It was such a pleasure to visit the school today.

I got a great welcome in every class and all the children are an absolute credit to their families and indeed, to yourself and all the staff.

The warm, caring atmosphere was very evident throughout the school.

The best of luck for all the Christmas productions coming up.

Hopefully, I'll see ye all again next year.

Kind regards,

Caitríona

It was lovely to get such positive feedback!

GCC Consultation:

Glanmire Community College is in the middle of formulating their strategic plan for their future. As part of this we were invited to attend as one of their feeder schools. It was great to get an opportunity to provide some feedback and to be included in their process. Enrolment, the transition of pupils from primary to secondary, communication between the schools and a greater understanding of how learning takes place in both sectors were among the areas discussed.

3rd Class Indoor Football Blitz:

Our 3rd Class boys took part in an inter-schools indoor football blitz this week. They played really well against much bigger schools and ended the tournament unbeaten. The boys represented our school really well and we are very proud of them.

That's all for now.

All the best,

Micheál Rea

Up Coming Events:

3rd Dec: Little Island Community Association hosting a meeting to discuss Country Clean's planning application for a new recycling centre in Little Island. 7pm in The Complex.

5th Dec: 4th Class girls' indoor football blitz.

7th Dec: Olive Mooney, author, visit to 3rd-6th classes for a reading from her book and a Q&A session.

13th Dec: Puppet Show for Juniors, Seniors and 1st.

18th Dec: Christmas Performances

19th Dec: Parents Association Christmas Raffle

21st Dec: school closes at 12.15pm for all classes for Christmas Holidays

7th January 2019: school reopens for Term 2.