

Scoil Inse Rátha

Déan do Dhícheall

Newsletter December 2018

Dear Parents,

We have reached the end of another exciting and busy term. We have achieved a huge amount and this is due to our wonderful school community. Staff, children, parents and local community have all worked together, with our Board of Management, to make our school a great place to work and to learn. Thank you to everyone who has helped out during the year. We look forward to building on the successes of 2018 during 2019.

Christmas Performances:

We held our Christmas performances this week. Each class did something and the standard was amazing. The energy and enthusiasm was brilliant to see and everyone really enjoyed the day. There was a lot of work involved and there is great credit due to our staff who took this on at the end of a busy term. The help from home, with costumes and attending on the day, was very much appreciated. Well done to all involved!

Parents Association:

Our PA has been very busy over the last six weeks. They have prepared the calendar, got sponsorship for the calendar, organised the raffle, chased down prizes for the raffle and even managed to get Santa to take time out of his busy schedule to come and see our children! This week we had the raffle draw and the prizes have been won and delivered. There are still a few calendars left in the office. Thank you to everyone who supported our fund raising efforts. It means a lot to our school. Our big expense this year will be a set of graded English readers. These have a proven track record of improving literacy levels in schools and are highly recommended. Unfortunately, they cost €6000 for a set so it is only through your support that it is possible to buy them.

Golf Club Visit:

David Ryan arranged a visit to Cork Golf as an end of term treat for 1st and 2nd Classes. They got a tour around the clubhouse and some sweets as well. It was lovely and festive there, with really nice decorations. On the way out they met the caretaker of St. Lappans Church, who invited them in to see this historic building. It was a lovely trip and thank you to everyone who helped to make it possible.

Indoor Gaelic Football:

Our 4th Class girls and boys both played in an indoor football blitz this month. There is a large target hoop instead of goals in this game. They enjoyed the games and performed really well. We are lucky to have such a wonderful facility as The Sports Complex so close to us. Well done to both teams who represented us excellently.

Lifetime Lab:

6th Class had a maritime workshop with staff from The Lifetime Lab earlier in the term. The Lifetime Lab staff returned this month to see how 6th got on with their projects. They were very impressed with the standard and quality of the projects. Well done 6th Class!

Chess:

We have started playing chess as lunchtime this month. We will start winter leagues after Christmas and we will also have an inter schools competition to compete in. If you can play chess, I would encourage you to play with your child over the holidays as it is a great game.

Author Visit:

Olive Mooney, author of The Chronicles of Cadaver College, came to speak to us this month about being an author. 6th Class recently wrote their own books, so there was a lot of interest in what she had to say. We have many creative children in our school and it is important that we show children

that there is value in different types of intelligences and careers. Olive was very impressed with the quality of the questions she was asked and also with the respect that she was shown by our children.

LIIDC:

The Little Island Industries Development Company held their annual Christmas event for local community organisations. Once again this year they have helped our school to improve our facilities and resources. They do great work in enhancing our local community. We have been able to replace all of our interactive whiteboards with state of the art touch screen boards over a two year period. It would have taken at least four years without their support. Of course, the government should provide adequate funding for our school. Until that day comes we will drive on to make our school the best we can for our wonderful students.

Puppet Show:

Junior Infants, Senior Infants and 1st Class had a puppet show this month. They loved the live performance and were enthralled by the show. Your contributions helped to pay for this and the smiles on the children's faces showed how grateful they are.

Speech and Drama Group Feis:

Well done to our after school Speech and Drama Club. They took part in their Feis this month and they performed really well. Some of them even managed to win medals. This was a huge achievement.

Don't forget to keep an eye on our school app for photos and more regular updates on events.

That's all for now.

All the best,

Micheál Rea

Up Coming Events:

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

7th January 2019: school reopens for Term 2.

8th Jan: swimming starts today for 4th, 5th and 6th Classes, running for 6 weeks up to Feb 12th.

17th Jan: Board of Management meeting

