

Scoil Inse Rátha
Déan do Dhícheall
Newsletter March 2019

Dear Parents,

There has been a lot of activity over the last month with our wonderful staff working very hard to provide lots of different learning opportunities for our students. We have had lots of visitors, inspectors, student teachers and coaches during the month and they all commented on the lovely atmosphere in our school along with how good our students are. Everybody involved with our school should be proud of this as there is a lot of planning, work and effort put into making sure our school is a nice place to be. We all play our part, from parents to students to staff and our Board of Management. Thank you to everyone for making our school a better place every day.

Engineer's Week:

To mark Engineer's Week this year we had a number of visitors who helped our students have a look at what engineering means. We were delighted when Denise McCarthy, engineer on the Dunkettle project, offered to come and speak to us. She, along with some of her colleagues, spoke about what is involved in realigning the Dunkettle Interchange. It was fascinating to find out more about our local environment and the complications in planning and delivering such a massive project.

We also had a visit from The Tyndall Institute. They are a highly sought after section of UCC and it was a real coup to have them return to our school. The fact that we have brilliant and engaged pupils definitely helps when they are deciding which schools to visit!

Water Guardians:

We finished our slogan and posters as part of The Water Guardian Programme. Noel called to collect these and was delighted to officially make us the first school to be awarded Water Guardian status. We will organize a beach clean-up in the summer term with some of the older classes.

Gymnastics:

Our six week gymnastics programme for 1st-4th has finished and was a huge success. Gymnastics helps with fundamental movement skills and gross motor skills while being fun as well. These skills are beneficial in life in general as well as complementing other sports. Thank you to Peter for his excellent classes and we look forward to next year when we hope to welcome him back again.

World Book Day:

Our students, (and some staff!) dressed up for World Book Day again this year. While there are many benefits and positives to modern technology, it is also important to remember that "between the pages of a book is a lovely place to be" (Anon).

Little Island An Post Sorting Office:

6th Class were invited to visit The An Post Sorting Office in Little Island this month. They were given a full tour of the facility and shown how letters are sorted to make sure they are delivered to the correct address. As an added bonus they were given some treats at the end of the tour. Thanks to Charlotte Gillis for organizing the trip.

First Confession:

Well done to our students who received their First Confession recently. Over the last couple of years this has become a parish lead sacrament and this year all the schools in the parish received the sacrament on the same night. In order to allow the parish the space to organise and run the night as they wish, and to avoid confusion as to who the children should be

looking to for support, the four schools of the parish decided not to attend. We will continue to prepare and support our students as we all look forward to their special day in May when we can celebrate together as a school community.

Science Quiz:

Four students from 5th Class took part in the inaugural GCC Science Quiz. It was an excellently run and challenging quiz. Our team represented our school very well and we are very proud of them. Thank you to everyone in GCC for making us feel welcome and for organising the quiz.

Cork Primary Game:

Well done to Adam Kelly who represented our school in the Cork Primary Game trials recently.

Cork Soccer Team:

Best of luck to Luke Downey who will play for Cork in the Munster Semi-Final this weekend.

ESB Robots:

3rd & 4th Class had great fun learning about electricity and robotics. The children made their own scribblebot which can draw and move by itself. It was a very enjoyable and educational day for all. Many thanks to Ger Stapleton and his team from ESBI for taking the time to visit us.

Basketball Blitz:

5th and 6th class girls will take part in a basketball blitz in Upper Glanmire this week.

Board of Management:

Our Board of Management met this week. We discussed plans for the next year including staffing, infrastructure and resources. We also conducted our annual review of our Health and Safety Statement.

Mini-7's Camogie:

Our camogie team are taking part in the mini-7's competition this week. We wish them well and know that they will do us proud.

Pfizer Upjohn:

We have taken part in an Easter Art Competition organised by Pfizer Upjohn. These entries will be displayed in their facility and will be used to promote a fundraiser they are doing for our school. The funds raised will be spent on new science equipment for our school. Unfortunately, the painting work that was supposed to be done last week couldn't go ahead due to the weather. We look forward to it being rescheduled. Engineers from Pfizer Upjohn have visited our school to plan for the development of a sensory garden at the front of the building. There is significant planning and work to be done to deliver this project successfully and we are delighted that Pfizer Upjohn have the same high standards as us to ensure that our students will have the benefit of this beautiful and functional garden.

Students Council:

Our Students Council continue to meet regularly and are coming up with some brilliant ideas. They will be going to Pfizer Upjohn next week to plant some plants etc in their garden as part of our partnership. They have got plans to hold an International Day on May 10th which should be very exciting and colourful. More details will follow shortly.

That's all for now.

All the best,
Micheál Rea

Up Coming Events:

1st April: Students Council planting planters in Pfizer Upjohn.

1st and 2nd April: Cork City Sports trials

3rd April: Boys and girls FAI 5-a-side soccer blitz.

5th April: Boys mini-7's hurling blitz

9th April: Confirmation Class retreat

10th April: 5th Class visit to Janssen.

12th April: school closes at 12.15pm for all classes for Easter Holidays.

29th April: school reopens for summer term.