

Scoil Inse Rátha
Déan do Dhícheall
Newsletter May 2019

Dear Parents,

Summer is here! It is a busy time of the year as teachers are finishing up areas of the curriculum, correcting tests, writing reports and trying to allow our children to have some of those fun activities that we all remember from summer term in school. May has been another busy month with lots of activities as well as the regular school work. Even though we are getting to the end of the school year there is still lots of very important work and revision to be done in each class. Teachers like to take the chance at this time of year to bring their classes outside to explore and learn skills that aren't possible when the weather is wetter and colder. Every day is important in school and while some of the work is fun it is still part of your child's learning and development in school.

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.

Holy Communion:

We had a fantastic day for Holy Communion. The children were excellent and read, sang and prayed perfectly. We are all very proud of them. Thank you to everyone who helped to make the day possible. There was a huge amount of work that went on in the background from preparing the church to preparing the children. Our wonderful parents organised a brilliant party afterwards in the school. You will have seen the photos on our school app so you will know that it was better than professional catering standards! This is one of the best days on the school calendar and it is wonderful to see all the community coming together to create a great occasion. Thank you!

Garden:

A huge amount of work has been done at the front of our school over the last month. Volunteers from Pfizer Upjohn painted our front wall which helped to brighten up the whole area. Pfizer Upjohn and H&H Construction completed the Sensory Garden which is amazing. The new signs provided by Woodland Print have finished it off beautifully. Ms. Diamond and the students have been weeding, planting, organising and adding new features to our garden as well. Muintir na Tíre will be back in early June to evaluate our progress in their school garden competition and there will be an awards ceremony in County Hall after that. Fingers crossed that all the great work is recognised!

Student Council International Day:

On May 10th we had an excellent day celebrating International Day. Our students come from nineteen different cultures and backgrounds, providing all of our students with a global educational experience. The colour and excitement made for a great day. Thank you to our Students Council for making this day such a success.

Active Schools Week:

We held Active Schools Week this month. 6th Class took the lead on this and put a huge amount of energy into making it work so well. We had soccer leagues, rounders, tag rugby, running and much more. The week culminated in Superstars with teams made up of children from each class working together across sixteen stations. It was a brilliant way to end a fabulous week. Well done to all involved.

Science:

We had visits from two groups to some of our classes this month to work on science. The Tyndall Institute spoke about their work in making new discoveries in different areas of science and they conducted experiments to show how light can split into different colours. IPIC are a group that bring together researchers from a variety of institutions to develop new light enabled technologies. They spoke to some of our classes and conducted some experiments as well. It is a wonderful opportunity for our students to experience and work with these institutions. Hopefully it will inspire our students.

Scholastic Book Fair:

We had a very successful Book Fair last week. Thank you to everyone who supported it. Your child got a book and our school library will benefit as well!

CYPSC Supporting Parents Seminar:

Last year The Children and Young Persons Services Committee Supporting Parents Sub Group conducted a focus group in our school. This focus group was asking parents what worked well and what they needed support with in terms of their child's social and emotional wellbeing. Several such focus groups were held around the county and some advice sheets were produced in response to the feedback. A fieldworker from Barnardos and the one from ISPCC came to our school recently to provide a workshop for parents based on the results of the feedback. It was very well received and the advice sheets are available via this link: <https://www.cypsc.ie/cork/sub-groups.361.html> If you have any questions please feel free to ask. If you can't access the webpage let me know and I can get you hard copies.

Gold Rush:

Our Parents Association ran the annual Gold Rush last week. It was very successful and we really appreciate the support. The money raised will go towards the purchasing of more graded readers to add to the significant investment we made earlier in the year. These readers help to develop literacy for all children in a structured way but costs about €2,000 per class group. The money raised by the Gold Rush is a massive help. Thank you to everyone who supported it. Well done to 5th Class and 1st Class on winning the prizes.

Leeside AFC:

It has been a great month for Leeside AFC and our pupils. First Luke Downey was part of the Cork U-12 squad that won the All-Ireland title and then the U-11 boys team won the local cup. The boys involved did themselves and their community proud. Well done to all involved, especially the coaches who have worked so hard to develop all the players in the club over the years.

Cork City Sports:

Cork City Sports is a big day in the sports calendar. Our school team will travel to CIT this Thursday to represent us all. We have a long and proud tradition in this competition and the team have been training hard over the last few weeks. We wish them well. Keep an eye on our school app for updates. Thank you to the staff who have given up their lunch breaks to train the team and who will be in CIT long after school closes on Thursday!

Local History Trails:

Little Island has a rich and varied history and we have done some work this year to try and make sure that it stays alive for our students. Our SNAs put a lot of work into researching age appropriate, child friendly routes around Little Island so we can do some field trips. Siobhán put together a file for each class so that each teacher has a bank of knowledge to share with the children. Many of the classes have explored our locality already and there is much more for us to do. All of this helps our children to understand more about where they live and to develop a sense of pride in their wonderful community.

That's all for now.

All the best,

Micheál Rea

Up Coming Events:

30th May: Cork City Sports

31st May: School closed for Bank Holiday weekend.

6th June: 2nd Class and 6th Class school tours.

Information Evening for parents of new Junior Infants.

7th June: Munitir na Tíre School Garden assessment.

11th June: 3rd Class, 4th Class and JI &SI school tours.

5th Class trip to Vistamilk

12th June: 5th Class school tour

Induction Day for new Junior Infants

13th June: Board of Management meeting

18th June: School Sports Day.

19th June: Bumbleance to visit school to receive money raised during the year as our nominated annual charity.

20th June: 1pm: 6th Class Graduation

Summer Reports to be posted home today.

24th June: Muintir na Tíre School Garden Awards in County Hall.

25th June: 11.20am: Official Opening of Sensory Garden with reps from Pfizer Upjohn.

28th June: School closes at 12.15pm for all classes.