

## **Scoil Inse Rátha**

### **Déan do Dhícheall**

#### **Newsletter September 2019**

#### **Dear Parents,**

Everyone has settled in nicely so far this year and there is a great buzz of hard work around the building. We are planning events and initiatives for the year ahead so we hope that there will be something for everyone to enjoy while getting all of the necessary work done too.

#### **Parking:**

I would ask you to be conscious of our neighbours when you are parking outside the school. There are double yellow lines on the road so that traffic can flow safely – please do not park on the double yellow lines or in front of our neighbours. The Set Down area outside the school is for parents who are dropping their children and leaving so should be kept clear and not parked on.

#### **New Junior Infants:**

Our new Junior Infants have been great and we are delighted to see them settle in so well. They are our future so we hope that they have a very happy time in school.

#### **Charities for the year ahead:**

We have decided that we will fundraise for the Bumbleance Charity this year. We got a great response last year for this charity so we have decided to support it again this year. See <https://www.bumbleance.com/> for more information.

#### **Spare tracksuits/uniforms/boots/books:**

If you have any spare tracksuits or school uniforms at home that you are finished with, we would love to have them as spares in case of accidents etc. We are also looking for football boots that you are finished with as some children only require boots for school games and need to borrow boots. Any of these donations can be handed in to Jacinta in the office or to your child's class teacher. If you have any spare books that may be suitable for use in our school library, we would love to have to them.

#### **Making an appointment to speak to a teacher:**

Our teachers are always happy to speak to you about your child's progress, or to address your concerns. Please ring Jacinta in the office to arrange an appointment at a mutually convenient time as this allows the teacher to be prepared for the meeting and to be able to give you their full attention.

#### **Date for Parent Teacher Meetings:**

Our Parent Teacher meetings this year will take place on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> November. We will close at 1pm on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> and have meetings from 1.30pm-2.30pm. On Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> meetings will be held from 2.45pm on. If these dates don't suit you, please contact your child's teacher to make a different arrangement. We will organise the meeting times after midterm break.

#### **Sciath na Scol:**

Our school football teams have been taking part in the Sciath na Scol championship this month. They are representing our school really well and we are very proud of them. Our boys have qualified for the semi-finals next week and we wish them well in this. Our girls did really well and narrowly missed out on a semi-final place. Well done to all involved.

**Holy Communion and Confirmation:** Holy Communion is on Saturday May 16<sup>th</sup> and our Confirmation is on Thursday April 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**Basketball:** Basketball coach Mark Scannell has started working with 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> classes this week. Each class will receive 8 weeks basketball coaching with Mark during the year.

**Art:** Iryna Harty, a local artist, has started working with 4<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Classes. She will work for six to eight weeks with these classes and then we will review the programme. It has been well received so far and with the help of the brown envelope contributions we hope to include all the classes during the year.

**Golf:** David Ryan has started golf lessons again this year. Each class will have six to eight weeks of lessons during the year and some classes will get to visit Cork Golf Club as well.

**NEWB:** Please fill in pink forms and return to your child's teacher after an absence. These are essential for our reports to The National Education Welfare Board.

**Official School Opening and Closing times:**

Children are supervised from 8.40am each morning. They go into their classes at 8.50am when teaching starts. Infants go home at 1.30pm and 1<sup>st</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> classes go home at 2.30pm.

Outside of these times we are not responsible for your child(ren) unless they are on a school related activity. Organisers of after school activities take responsibility for your child(ren) for the duration of their classes. We cannot take responsibility for children who are dropped to school before 8.40am.

**Allianz Insurance:**

Every child in our school is covered by the pupil personal accident 24hr insurance policy. The policy is valid from 1/9/2019-31/8/2020. Please visit [www.allianz.ie](http://www.allianz.ie) for full details.

**Board of Management:**

Our Board of Management met this month and, among many other items on the agenda, ratified our new and updated policies. Details of all of our policies can be found on our school website, [www.littleislandns.com](http://www.littleislandns.com), under School Information. Our current Board of Management's term ends on the 30<sup>th</sup> November this year. We will be organising elections for parents' nominees to the new Board shortly.

**Beach Clean Up:** Our Students Council and Cork Harbour Waterkeepers held a beach clean last week in terrible conditions. They collected lots of rubbish and helped to make our local environment a better place. RTE and The Echo covered the event and our students spoke really well and represented our school and community excellently. I received calls and texts from all over the county saying how impressive our students are. Well done to all involved.

**After School Activities:** At the moment we have Fit4Life, Homework Club and Dance after school with a Science Club about to start too. Time of Wonder have started in the 1.30-2.30pm slot again as well. If you have any questions, please contact the activity organiser directly. You can get these details from Jacinta if you don't have them.

**Post Primary Enrolment:** In recent years there has been a growing demand for secondary school places in East Cork. Please be aware of the relevant closing dates for your preferred schools. They will all probably have waiting lists and if you miss the closing date you will be bottom of the list regardless of any other criteria.

That's all for now. Remember to watch out for our latest news on our app.

All the best,

Micheál Rea

Up Coming Events:

1<sup>st</sup> Oct: Boys semi-final vs Aghabullogue NS at 1pm in Erin's Own

5<sup>th</sup> Oct: World Teachers Day

7<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> Oct: Space Week

8<sup>th</sup> Oct: Parents Association taking photos for annual calendar.

14<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> Oct: Maths Week

14<sup>th</sup> Oct: Parents Association AGM

17<sup>th</sup> Oct: Junior Infant vaccinations

22<sup>nd</sup> Oct: NRG Xpress doing whole school aerobics/Zumba in The Complex.

28<sup>th</sup> Oct – 1<sup>st</sup> Nov: School Closed for midterm break.