

Scoil Inse Rátha

Déan do Dhícheall

Newsletter November 2019

Dear Parents,

We have had a great month. I continue to be amazed by the commitment and generosity that our staff show every day. They are constantly looking for ways to go the extra mile for our students. We are very lucky to have them! Our pupils are doing their bit too and it really is a pleasure to come to work here when you are met by smiling, happy faces each day. There are nearly four weeks to the Christmas Holidays and while there will be lots of seasonal items being done in each class, there is a lot of work and revision to be done as well. Here's the news for this month.

Board of Management:

Our new Board of Management has been finalised and we are lucky to have such a strong group to help lead our school into the future. We have a great school and I am confident that we will continue to go from strength to strength under our new Board.

NRG Xpress:

5th and 6th Classes went to visit NRG Xpress this month. They got an opportunity to try some of the equipment and were given a talk about general health and wellbeing. This is all part of our ongoing work to show children the importance of life long fitness, healthy eating and wellbeing. Thanks to NRG Xpress for hosting this event and we hope to be able to visit again next year.

Food Dudes:

On a related matter, we have started the Food Dudes Programme again. Children are given some fruit and vegetables to try each day for a period of time. They get a reward if they try or eat a portion. It is a great chance to expose children to new foods and it reinforces the importance of eating a healthy balanced diet.

Art Classes:

Iryna Harty is now working with 3rd and 5th classes to develop their inner artist. A selection of 4th and 6th classes' work is on display in reception. When 3rd and 5th are finished their programme with Iryna we will display a selection of their work in reception.

Kidz Zone in The Echo:

We have been invited to feature in Kidz Zone in The Echo. A photographer was in the school this week to take pictures highlighting some of our activities. Children in various classes have written articles to be featured in the supplement. It is a lovely chance to showcase all that is wonderful about our school community.

Station Teaching:

Every morning four teachers work with Junior Infants to 2nd Class in small groups to give intensive support to children in the area of literacy. These small groups help each child to work at their own level in reading, writing and word building. It is great to be able to offer this intervention in the younger classes to help our students achieve their full potential.

Indoor Football Blitzes:

3rd and 4th Classes have taken part in indoor football blitzes this month. These have been played in the Complex. It is based on Gaelic football rules but uses a large target net, at basketball hoop height, to score into. Our boys and girls have had a brilliant and enjoyable time. We are especially proud of the children who took part who have never played football before. It is one of our strengths that everyone who wants to take part in these activities can be included.

Parents Association:

Our Parents Association are very busy at the moment. Our annual calendars are on sale from the office. The quality of the calendars is a credit to all involved. It is a great keepsake. A number of parents have kept all the calendars since their children started school and can see the progression

from year to year. Tickets for our annual Christmas Raffle will be on sale shortly. The raffle will be held in the school on December 17th.

Parent/Teacher Meetings:

Thank you to all the parents who made the effort to attend their child's PT Meeting. There is invaluable information gained by our teachers to help educate your child during these meetings. Communication between home and school doesn't end here. Our teachers are available to meet at any time during the school year if you want to follow up and get an update on your child's progress. If there are day to day issues, feel free to write a note in your child's journal or to call the office. The office is open Mon to Thurs 8.50am to 1.40pm and until 12.40pm on Fridays. Outside of these hours leave a message and we will get back to you.

Teacher CPD:

Our teachers are always looking at ways of developing their skills as teachers and we all engage in professional development every year. This week we attended training on the new Primary Language Curriculum. This is the new national integrated curriculum that is in place for all classes from Junior Infants to 6th Class. Click on this link if you want more details:

<https://www.curriculumonline.ie/Primary/Curriculum-Areas/Primary-Language>.

Supervision:

Children are supervised in the morning from 8.40am to 8.50am. Our school cannot accept responsibility for any children on the school premises before this time. Staff members who are in school early are here to prepare for the day ahead and are not here to supervise children who arrive before 8.40am. Infants finish at 1.30pm each day and 1st to 6th Classes finish at 2.30pm. Please pick up your child on time as late pick-ups can cause anxiety for the child involved.

Panto Season:

Best of luck to all of our students who will be taking part in performances over the Christmas season in The Opera House, The Everyman and The Firkin Crane.

Cork Squads:

Congratulations to Ben and Lidia on being involved with their respective Cork squads. Well done to Luke who continues to lead his Cork team to regular wins.

That's all for now.

All the best,

Micheál Rea

Up Coming Events:

29th November: School closed for by election.

16th December: Dress rehearsals.

17th December: PA Christmas Raffle

18th December: Christmas Performances – see app for times for each class' performance.

20th December: School closes at 12.15pm for all classes for Christmas Holidays.

Jan 6th 2020: School opens for Term 2.