

## **Scoil Inse Rátha**

### **Déan do Dhícheall**

#### **Newsletter February 2020**

#### **Dear Parents,**

This month has flown by as we have been so busy. Everyone has been working really hard to make our school a better place. The next few weeks, up to Easter, will be even busier so we have lots to look forward to. The weather has been pretty bad during February but our fabulous students brighten up our days and make Little Island NS a lovely place to be!

#### **Nicky:**

We were all very sad to hear of the untimely passing of Nicky Hayes. Nicky has been teaching dance after school on Fridays for nearly ten years and has touched many of our lives with her kindness, generosity and positivity. Many of our staff, parents and children have their own stories of how she helped them over the years. We will mark Nicky's contribution to our school community after Easter. Ar Dheis Dé go raibh a h-anam.

#### **Swimming:**

4<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> Class finished their swimming lessons this month. The instructors were excellent and they were delighted with the progress our students made. It would be great if you could build on what they have learned by bringing them to the pool.

#### **Art:**

3<sup>rd</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> Classes are continuing to work with Iryna Harty. They are having a great time and are producing some lovely art. The display in reception gives a flavour of what is being done and it is very impressive.

#### **Fostering:**

Tusla's fostering department are looking for new foster carers. If you are interested, please contact me directly and I'll pass on your details so you can find out more about what is involved.

#### **Wild Shamrock Theatre Company:**

We were treated to a brilliant performance of Setanta in The Little Island Sports Complex this month. Three actors performed all the parts in a wonderful show. Even though it was more than an hour long it held the attention of all of our children from Junior Infants up to 6<sup>th</sup> Class. There is something special about seeing a live show and it was a lovely opportunity for our students. This was only possible thanks to your brown envelope contributions – thank you.

#### **FAI 5-a-side soccer:**

Our boys and girls teams are getting ready for the annual 5-a-side tournaments which start next week. We are all looking forward to it and are sure that our students will do our school proud. Thank you to John Gettings for helping Ms. Harrington and Mr. Finnegan to prepare the teams.

#### **3<sup>rd</sup> Class trip to The Glucksman Art Gallery:**

3<sup>rd</sup> Class and some students from 4<sup>th</sup> class went to the Glucksman Art Gallery in UCC.

First, we got a tour around the gallery by our tour guide Aoife. We examined the children's exhibition – Children's Rights in Imaginary Spaces. The art work was amazing and we were very impressed by all the work produced by different Irish artists! We then created our own exhibition based on this theme. Our pictures will be on display in the Glucksman later in the year!

Next we went for a tour around UCC. We saw lots of different buildings such as the Boole Library and Honan Chapel. Then we went to the Stone Corridor in the North Wing and examined Ogham Stones which illustrated an early coded form of the Irish Language.

We all had a wonderful time being college students for the day!!

#### **Infants Trip to Kent Station:**

Junior and Senior Infants have been exploring the theme of the Train Station in Aistear recently. To put all of our new learning into good use, we decided we just had to go on a trip to a real train station. Earlier this month we went to the train station in Cork City.

We were able to find the platform, the ticket machine and the train tracks at Little Island Station. We then had to make sure to stand behind the yellow line and that we had our tickets ready for the ticket inspectors.

#### **Students Council:**

Our Students Council have been busy this month. They are organising a "Design the Menu" competition in conjunction with The Radisson Hotel and as part of this they visited the kitchen in the hotel to see how a real chef prepares the meals. We can't wait for the results!

Last week our Students Council, in association with our Parents Association, organised a pyjama/cosy clothes day to raise money for our chosen charity, The Bumbleance. We raised €247 which is fantastic.

#### **Infants Trip to Cork Golf Club:**

David Ryan has been continuing with golf lessons for our Infants and as part of this they made a trip to Cork Golf Club. They had a lovely trip and we appreciate the golf club allowing us to look around their lovely facility.

#### **Board of Management meeting:**

Our Board of Management met this month to consider the issues concerning our school. Future enrolment, funding, staffing and maintenance were discussed as well as doing our annual review of our Anti-Bullying Policy. We have a lot of work to do to continue to provide the best education possible for the children in our community.

#### **Wifi Upgrade:**

We upgraded our wifi system during the midterm break. Most rooms now have a 70mbps speed which is very good. With lots of resources online it is essential to have good internet access in a modern school. It also allows our iPads to be used more effectively.

#### **East Cork Photos:**

Austin and Gwen from East Cork Studios were in this week to take photos of JI and 6<sup>th</sup> Class along with any family photos that were requested. Once they have processed these you will get proofs of the photos which you can buy if you wish.

That's all for now.

All the best,

Micheal Rea

**Up Coming Events:**

**1<sup>st</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> March:** Seachtain ns Gaelige

**2<sup>nd</sup> March:** Boys FAI Soccer 5-a-side in Midleton

**5<sup>th</sup> March:** World Book Day – children may dress up on this day as their favourite character from a book.

**March 10<sup>th</sup> &11<sup>th</sup>:** Bricks4Kids Engineer's Week workshops for all classes.

**11<sup>th</sup> March:** Girls FAI Soccer 5-a-side in Midleton

**13<sup>th</sup> March:** 6<sup>th</sup> Class Retreat

**16<sup>th</sup>&17<sup>th</sup> March:** School closed for St. Patrick's Weekend

**19<sup>th</sup> March:** Diocesan Advisor school visit

**30<sup>th</sup> March:** 7pm: Board of Management meeting