

Scoil Inse Rátha

Déan do Dhícheall

Newsletter January 2020

Dear Parents,

Welcome to our newsletter for January. This is a very important month for teachers as we refocus the children after the excitement of Christmas and get good routines back in place for the rest of the school year. With less distractions it is also an opportunity to focus on teaching and learning. There have been some lovely moments this month where I have seen yet again how special our community is. Everyone has been working together to make our school a better place and there has been numerous examples of people helping each other when needed. This generosity and kindness is part of what makes our school such a lovely place to be.

Swimming:

4th to 6th Classes are doing swimming classes at the moment. We have completed four weeks already and our students are making great progress. It is great to see so many children comfortable in the water. It would be brilliant for their further development if you could bring your child to the pool to build on what they have learned.

Past Pupils:

We were very proud to hear of the success of some of our past pupils this month. Conor Cogan and Aaron Coleman received awards from Cork ETB for their excellent leaving cert results. Ana Cruceanu has gone on to study medicine. We also have a number of past pupils in on work experience this term. Clodagh O'Regan and Craig Murphy have been doing great work and when they finish next week we will miss them. It is great to have such positive role models for our students to look up to.

Basketball:

Mark Scannell is doing basketball with 1st and 2nd classes at the moment and they are enjoying it. Ms. Hynes will be taking two teams to Neptune Stadium this term to take part in a basketball blitz. We hope they all enjoy it.

Golf:

David and Clare Ryan continue to do golf lessons. This term they are working with Junior and Senior Infants.

Radisson Competition:

Shane Fitzpatrick, General Manager of The Radisson, contacted us recently about a competition they want to run for our school. They want our pupils to design the Children's Menu for their restaurant. Our Students Council will work with the hotel to design the competition and run it. The Radisson are being very flexible and supportive and our students are very excited. There will be food tasting and a launch along with recognition on the menu! I can't wait to see what they come up with.

Children's Consultation:

The Department of Children and Youth Affairs are holding a consultation with children from around the country. The department has responsibility for developing a parenting support policy and the children will be discussing their views on parenting. This consultation will take place in Dublin and

Ms. Hennessy has volunteered to take some of our pupils to it. There are only four places per school and only ten schools per consultation so this is a great opportunity. We look forward to hearing how they get on in.

PA Bag Packing:

Our Parents Association have managed to secure a slot for bag packing in Supervalu this weekend. This is a great chance for the school to raise some extra money. Thank you so much to all the parents and children in 6th Class who have volunteered to pack. We know how busy weekends are for everyone so we appreciate you giving up your time for the good of our students. If you have not volunteered yet there is still time and some free slots available. Contact me, Lisa or any of the PA to get a slot. Your children will be the ones to benefit. As the General Election approaches it would be a good chance to ask politicians, when they knock on your door, when they plan to introduce a properly funded primary school system where schools can concentrate on teaching and learning and not on fund-raising.

Second Level Places:

As previously stated, there is a shortage of places at second level in the East Cork area. Please make sure you are fully aware of the enrolment policy of the school(s) you are interested in and also make sure you have a backup plan. If there are any special circumstances or if you are unsure what is best to do, I would encourage you to speak to the relevant secondary school before their closing date. Once they make their offers it is too late to contact them.

Our local primary schools are seeking a meeting with the Department of Education to raise our concerns. It is likely to continue to be a problem for the next few years. We have written to all local politicians about it too so please raise it with canvassers at your door before the election. Our children deserve proper accommodation in their local area to achieve their full potential in education.

That's all for now.

All the best,

Micheal Rea

Up Coming Events:

31st Jan: Closing date for applications for Junior Infants for September 2020

10th Feb: Wild Shamrock Theatre Company performance of Setanta

13th Feb: Basketball Blitz in Neptune Stadium

7pm: Board of Management meeting

20th and 21st Feb: school closed for midterm break

25th Feb: East Cork Studios to take photos of JI, 6th, individuals and siblings.