

Scoil Inse Rátha

Déan do Dhícheall

Newsletter June 2019

Dear Parents,

As we reach the end of another fantastic year in our school we can reflect on all that we have achieved together. Our students have had lots of opportunities to try different experiences along with excellent teaching, helping them to achieve their potential within the curriculum. We are all grateful to be part of such a lovely school community and we can be proud of what we have here. Thank you to our students, who make it such a pleasure to work here, our parents, Parents Association, Board of Management and local community for everything you did this year to make our school a better place. Here are some of the highlights from this month.

Official Opening of Sensory Garden:

We had the official opening of our Sensory Garden this week. Representatives from Pfizer Upjohn and H&H Construction came along to help us celebrate this great addition to our school. We have developed a lovely relationship over the course of the year and we hope that it will continue into the future. The LINK Team from Pfizer Upjohn held a bake sale and they presented us with a cheque for €480.96. We will spend this money on science equipment next year. Trish, Ava's mum, deserves a huge amount of credit for encouraging this connection and we are very grateful to her for this. Our students (and staff!) were very excited to hear the ice-cream van arrive after the ribbon was cut to add to the celebrations – thanks to Pfizer Upjohn for organising that.

School Tours:

Over the last number of weeks every class went on a school tour. The children loved these trips and loved the experience. From the bus trip to the beach, farm, jail etc a great time was had by all. These trips are fun and educational

Muintir na Tíre School Garden Competition:

Ms. Diamond has been working hard on the school garden again this year and we entered the Muintir na Tíre competition. The award ceremony was held this week in County Hall. We won a prize for the Best Bee Friendly Garden in Cork! We are delighted to receive recognition for all the work that has gone into it. Our garden is a true collaboration and evidence of what can be achieved when we all pull together. Well done to all involved.

New Junior Infants:

Our new Junior Infants and their parents came to visit our school this month. It was a lovely opportunity to welcome our newest members to our school community. Our Parents Association were there to help out and spoke of the importance of parental involvement to help our school be the best it can be for our children. We look forward to welcoming them into our school in September.

Bus Éireann Visit:

We were delighted to welcome Gary McGlinn, Jamie and Kieran's Dad, and Pawel Giec, Martyna and Zuzanna's Dad, who brought a big double decker bus to our school. They spoke to our students about public transport and the important role it plays in society. They also covered the new public transport plan for Cork and how it will benefit everyone if there are less cars on the road. They brought each class for a drive around Little Island as well which was a lovely treat. Thanks to Gary and Pawel for the time and effort that put into this and we hope that they will return again next year.

Sports Day:

We held our annual Sports day last week. We had a glorious day and our children took part in many events and everyone won medals. We were delighted to see so many families coming out to support the day and as always it was lovely to see so many of our past pupils again. The adult and pre-schoolers races added to the atmosphere. Thank you to the PA who again peeled and chopped fruit and served drinks for our children.

Basketball Fun Day:

Mark Scannell was back for the annual Basketball Fun Day last week. The children played fun games and matches and won some spot prizes. It has been another successful year with Mark's excellent coaching and our students have benefitted greatly from it.

Bumbleance:

This year we chose Bumbleance as our annual charity. Over the course of the year we raised €275 for this children's ambulance service. One of the Bumbleances came to visit our school last week. John spoke to all of the classes about their work and showed them the inside of the Bumbleance. We presented John with a cheque for the charity. He was delighted and thanked everyone for their generosity.

6th Class Graduation:

After eight years for most of our 6th Class it is time to say goodbye to them. It has been our privilege to have been able to work with them over the years. They are a wonderful group and we are very proud of the young people they are growing into. We celebrated their time with us at Graduation last week. Thank you to Ms. Hynes for the huge amount of work she put into this ceremony. Thank you to the PA who paid for the yearbook again this year – it is a lovely keepsake to have.

Artist Visit:

Iryna Harty is a local artist who will start working with some of our classes next year. She came in last week to do a taster session. The children loved it and we look forward to developing this side of the school with Iryna next year.

IPPN President Visit:

David Ruddy, President of the Irish Primary Principal's Network (IPPN), called to visit our school this week. IPPN is based locally and over the years our school has been involved in helping them to push for improvements in the Irish education system. The President called in to thank us for our support. He was very impressed with the atmosphere of the school and dedication of our staff. He also complimented the children he met on their excellent manners.

Ann O'Keeffe:

After 17 years working in our school Ann is retiring this week. She has touched the lives of every member of our school community over the years. We are grateful for the kindness, hard work, dedication and style that Ann brought to our school. On behalf of everyone in the Little Island NS community I wish her well in her retirement. Our PA will make a presentation to her at assembly on Friday.

Conor Lehane Visit:

Cork hurler, Conor Lehane, visited our school this week and did some fun skills sessions with our 3rd & 4th Classes. It was a great opportunity for our students to work with an elite hurler and a local hero. Thank you to Conor for his time and to AIB, Little Island for releasing him to from his day job.

That's all for now. I hope you all have a happy and safe summer.

All the best,

Micheál Rea

Up Coming Events:

Friday June 28th: school closes at 12.15pm for summer holidays

Monday September 2nd: school reopens for new school year.