

Scoil Inse Rátha

Déan do Dhícheall

Newsletter December 2020

Dear Parents,

As we approach the end of the calendar year we can reflect on what has been a strange year. It has been challenging for all of us, none more so than our amazing students. They have shown a strength, resilience and positivity that has been an example to all of us. We are very fortunate to be able to come to work every day and to be able to work with great staff members and wonderful students. We have had a very good first term and we look forward with hope and optimism to 2021.

First Confession and Holy Communion:

Last week was very busy for 3rd Class. They finally received their two sacraments. It is unusual to be preparing for Christmas and Holy Communion at the same time, but the children and their teacher and SNA did a brilliant job. While it wasn't the experience that anyone would have imagined it was an historic and (hopefully!) a unique occasion. They are part of one of the most memorable and historic events in the school's history. Well done to all involved!

Halls of Fun:

Recently, The Little Island Community Association presented a cheque for €2000 to our school to help improve the facilities and environment of our school for our students. Last Wednesday, after school, Halls of Fun installed decals on the floor of the corridor. These will make our school even more child friendly and will provide opportunities for indoor physical activity for individuals and small groups on wet days. There was great excitement on Thursday morning when we opened the doors and the children saw the new corridor decorations for the first time. Thank you to everyone in the LICA who donated this money to make our school a better place. Check out the photos of our school app.

Performances:

Normally at this time of the year we have timetables and schedules for parents to come and see their child's class perform a Christmas play or have the choir sing songs. That is not possible this year but we wanted our students to still have some of the magic and fun. Each class performed a song and poem for another class. Some classes did mini-plays. It was a pity that family members couldn't be part of it hopefully we will be back to normal next year. Our Merry Christmas dance is on the school website.

Christmas Jumper Day:

Tomorrow is Christmas Jumper Day. We will collect €2 from each child and their name will be entered into a draw for one of the hampers sponsored by UpJohn/Viatrix. Thanks to Trish Dempsey for organising the hampers. It will be a lovely, positive way to finish out the term.

Santa:

We didn't want to risk Santa's health by asking him to visit us this year so our Parents Association arranged for a video message from Santa for all of our students. He made sure to send some treats in as well as he had heard how wonderful our boys and girls have been this year. Thanks you to our Parents Association for organising all of this.

Calendar:

Our calendar for 2021 is a unique production unlike any of the previous editions. It still has the useful family planner section but the photos are organised differently. There are only limited copies available so make sure you get yours before they are all gone. You can send in money with your child and we will send the calendar(s) home with them. This is an important school fundraiser so we appreciate your support.

Chromebooks:

More and more classes have been using our new Chromebooks in class over the last few weeks. Each child has their own sign in and password which they can use at home or in school. Keyboard and typing skills, as well as file management and organisation are all being taught while school work is being done as well. We also have a few laptops, along with our iPads to give our students a broad range of safe IT experiences.

Nicky Hayes RIP:

Nicky Hayes taught dance classes after school on Fridays in our school for a number of years. She got to know many of the families in our school community and gave generously of her time to help many of us outside of dancing. She died in February of this year and she is missed by everyone who knew her. We have planted a tree and erected a plaque in her memory. Ar Dheis Dé go raibh a hanam.

Covid -19 Health and Safety Inspection:

The Department of Education are conducting inspections of schools around the country to make sure that the Covid-19 restrictions and safety measures are in place. We recently had an inspection and the report will be published in the New Year. Based on feedback from the inspector on the day I am happy to report that we have passed with flying colours. I will publish the report on our app and website when we get it. It should be reassuring for you, as parents, to know that our school is as safe as it can be.

School Nurse:

Due to remote learning from March to June, last year's Junior and Senior Infants missed out on hearing and sight screening. This is essential work that is required for the good of our students so we were happy to accommodate the public health nurse in our school. Screening has been completed for Senior Infants and 1st Class. She hopes to return in 2021 to screen Junior Infants. Parents will be informed in advance of this happening.



That's all for now.

All the best,

Micheál Rea

Up Coming Events:

Tuesday December 22nd: Christmas Jumper Day and Raffle

Tuesday December 22nd: school closes for Christmas Holidays

12:00: Infants leave

12:05pm: 4th and 5th Classes

12:10pm: 3rd and 6th Classes

12:15pm: 1st and 2nd Classes

Wednesday January 6th: school reopens after the Christmas Holidays.