

**Scoil Inse Rátha**  
**Déan do Dhícheall**  
**Newsletter April 2021**

**Dear Parents,**

Welcome to this month's newsletter. There has been lots of activity and energy in our school. It is a big improvement from twelve months ago when we were all trying to work from home. There is hope and optimism that we will get back to normal in the next few months. In the meantime, we need to be really careful and keep following public health advice.

Thank you to all of our families who continue to make responsible decisions that are keeping us all safe. I understand and appreciate that it isn't always convenient to have to keep your child at home, but your actions are keeping our school open for everyone. We are very grateful.

**Drop off and Pick up:**

I would ask you to be conscious of our neighbours when you are parking outside the school. There are double yellow lines on the road so that traffic can flow safely – please do not park on the double yellow lines or in front of our neighbours. The Set Down area outside the school is for parents who are dropping their children and leaving so should be kept clear and not parked on. Please don't ask your child to cross the road to your car on their own. It is too dangerous so please get out of your car and make sure your child is safe.

**Gardening and painting:**

We have been doing some work to improve our school environment recently. The muddy grass verge on the yard has been removed and a new sandpit has been installed. Our bench has been repainted to give it a new lease of life. The Cogan family and Aoife and Mick Glavin have put a lot of work into this and our school is a better place now. Thank you for your excellent work! 6<sup>th</sup> Class painted the wall around the pitch and refreshed our garden. They did an amazing job and we are all delighted with it. Well done girls and boys! We have booked a painter to paint the boundary walls at the front and rear of the school which will further improve things. We have lots more to do but it is all worth it when you see the end product. We can't do it on our own and we very much appreciate all of the help and support.

**Board of Management:**

We had a Board of Management meeting this month. We have a very committed group of volunteers who provide great advice, guidance and support in the running of our school. We discussed plans for the next school year. As a school we are entering another phase in our history. In line with the population growth in the country, our school grew from a school with less than a hundred pupils to a school with just over 200 pupils. Now, as the population declines and there is a restricted supply of housing in Little Island, we are starting to reduce

in size again. The only change for next year will see me return to the classroom as a teaching principal. There will be further adjustments in the years to come. Our Board will work to mitigate these and make sure that our students continue to get the best possible education.

### **School Photographer:**

East Cork Studios visited last week to take photos of Junior Infants and 6<sup>th</sup> Class, along with any individual and siblings photos that had been ordered. We will pass these on when we get them.

### **Science Boxes:**

PepsiCo and Viatris (formerly Pfizer) have sponsored science boxes for our school. We would normally have scientists and engineers visiting our school to work with our students but we can't do that this year. These specially designed and expensive boxes have allowed our teachers to continue the good work from previous years. It would not have been possible without the generous sponsorship of our neighbouring companies and we really appreciate it.

### **School Calendar:**

We have agreed our calendar for the next school year. To avoid confusion, we will wait to send it out with the school reports in June. In the meantime, here are the dates for Term 1 in case you want to plan something. Monday August 30<sup>th</sup>: school opens for all classes. 25<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup> Oct: school closed for midterm break. Dec 22<sup>nd</sup>: school closes at 12.15pm for Christmas Holidays. If you need more information, please feel free to email me at [principal@littleislandns.com](mailto:principal@littleislandns.com).

### **Garda Dog Unit Visit:**

We were delighted to be able to hold a special socially distanced school visit from the Garda Dog Unit. We got an amazing insight into the importance of this unit and the dedication required of the Gardaí involved. The dogs were gorgeous and gave us all a great lift. Check out our app for photos and more information. Thanks to Cillian's mum in JI for organising the visit.

### **Dare to Believe Olympic School Programme:**

As part of the Active Schools Programme we have signed up for this programme. Our goal is to count up all of our physical activity and join the Irish Olympic Team on the Road to Tokyo for the Olympics. There are many thousand kilometres to travel. Along the way we will get messages from Irish Olympians to give us encouragement. This will help us to get to know our sports stars who will represent us all at The Olympics. 6th Class are also working on a couch to 5km plan at the moment.

That's all for now.

All the best,

Micheál Rea

**Up Coming Events:**

**Friday April 30<sup>th</sup>:** School closed for bank holiday weekend.

**May 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup>:** Bricks4Kids Remote workshops for SI, 1<sup>st</sup>&2<sup>nd</sup> Classes.

**May 6<sup>th</sup>:** Virtual visit for 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Classes from PepsiCo.

**May 10<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>:** Bricks4Kids for 3<sup>rd</sup>&4<sup>th</sup> Classes

**May 13<sup>th</sup>:** 6<sup>th</sup> Class Fun Day

**May 17<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup>:** Bricks4Kids for 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> Classes.