

Scoil Inse Rátha
Déan do Dhícheall
Newsletter May 2021

Dear Parents,

It is hard to believe that we are heading into the final month of the school year. Our school community has gone through a lot during this academic year and we have all shown remarkable resilience. Our children are amazing and have managed all the ups and downs with a smile on their faces. Thank you to all of our families for continuing to make responsible decisions to keep our school safe. We look forward to the next four weeks. Here are some of the highlights from the last month.

Bricks4Kidz:

Each class from Senior Infants to 6th Class took part in the Bricks4Kidz workshops this month. Normally this workshop, using Lego, is facilitated by a Master Builder. This year our teachers had to adapt, learn and facilitate the workshops. Bricks4Kidz provided the equipment and the instructions. We had the kits in each class for three days so we had a chance to learn, improve and build. You can see the fruits of our labours on our app.

PepsiCo Virtual Seminar:

We have great relationships with the local businesses and industries. We regularly have visitors to our classrooms explaining what they do. This allows our students to imagine themselves in roles that they might not get a chance to do normally. This month PepsiCo held a virtual meeting with 5th and 6th classes. Our students really enjoyed it and found it very informative – the treats helped as well! Thank you to David and the team in PepsiCo.

Junior Achievement:

Junior Achievement Ireland run an educational programme that links companies and schools. Employees from different companies facilitate a programme over a number of weeks in different classes. This year it had to be done virtually but it still worked out well and we all learned from it. Thank you to the companies involved and to JA for setting it all up again.

EU Quiz:

Our school regularly takes part in the European Union Blue Flag Programme. This month 1st and 4th class took part in a quiz that was taking place in schools around Europe.

School Garden:

Our school garden is looking very nice at the moment. Ms. Diamond has coordinated with children from across the school to plant different fruits and vegetables. 6th Class have spread a fresh layer of bark mulch as well.

Student Teacher Placement:

Every year, as part of their training, student teachers need to spend time teaching in a variety of classes. Each class in our school hosts a student teacher for a number of weeks. The student teacher works under the supervision of the class teacher at all times. Since Easter we have had a number of student teachers in our school. They worked very hard and creatively to provide an excellent experience for our students.

Standardised Testing:

For the last number of years, we have used the Micra-T and Sigma-T standardised test for English and Maths. These are quite old now and a bit out of date. We decided to move to the newer Drumcondra English and Maths tests this year. Given the difficulties of the last two school years and the fact that the Drumcondra is a new and slightly harder test, we expect there to be a drop in the overall scores in each class. This is not anything to worry about as we cannot compare this year with any other year our children have ever experienced.

Summer Reports:

Our Summer Reports will be posted on the 15th or 16th of June. If you have questions about anything in the report please feel free to arrange an appointment to discuss it with your child's teacher. Our calendar for 2021/2022 and your child's booklist will be included with the Summer Report.

New Junior Infants:

We held our Information Evening for our new Junior Infants via Google Meets last week. We look forward to welcoming them into the school on June 28th for

their induction. This will be done in small groups and is happening after the rest of the school has finished up for the summer, to reduce the risks.

Sherpa/After School:

The Gate Childcare are no longer in a position to offer after school care from this June. We have made contact with Sherpa Kids and they are happy to provide a service here in our school. I am meeting with them again this week and we should be able to send out information to parents in the next week or so. They have to register this location with Tusla and pass an assessment. It will all be set up properly and safely but that does take a bit of time.

6th Class Italian:

6th Class have been working with Ms. Laura Ginevra to learn some Italian before heading off to secondary school. They have thoroughly enjoyed it and it has been a great experience.

That's all for now.

All the best,

Micheál Rea

Up Coming Events:

Fun Day for 6th Class. There will be an inflatable obstacle course on the pitch which all classes will get to use.

Sports Day: Normally we have a big community event with parents and extended family invited. This year we can't have visitors so we will hold it on a fine day before the end of June. Classes won't be mixing. Our PA have organised an ice cream van to visit as a treat for our wonderful children!

Graduation Day for 6th Class: Leaving primary school and moving onto second level is a rite of passage but we will have to mark it this year without parents. Ms. Morgan will video it or host it live online. We are holding a trial event in the next two weeks to see which works best. Our PA have once again sponsored the yearbook for 6th class to commemorate their time in our school.