

Scoil Inse Rátha
Déan do Dhícheall
Newsletter June 2021

Dear Parents,

As we approach the end of our school year, I would like to thank each and every one in our school community for their help, support and understanding during the last year. It has been challenging and unusual for us all but we have stuck together and got through it in one piece. I am very proud of our students who have shown strength and resilience to cope with everything. Our parents have been supportive, careful and responsible which has helped to keep us all safe. Our staff have been resourceful, diligent and amazing in reinventing teaching in the middle of a global pandemic. Thank you all. It is genuinely a privilege to be part of such a wonderful school community. Next year will bring new challenges but together we can do anything.

Covid-19 Response Plan:

From August 30th, when we return to school, we will continue with the current measures for Term 1 at least. This will mean staggered opening and closing times, no parents on site, extra cleaning, hand washing and sanitising, and no visiting coaches. This is the plan for now and I will confirm the details closer to the end of August.

Sherpa Kids:

Sherpa Kids will begin their before and after school care from Monday August 30th in our school. This will give certainty and peace of mind to many parents in our school so we are delighted to be able to offer this service. They have begun recruiting so if anyone is interested please contact them directly.

The Lunch Bag:

This service will suit some parents and we are very happy with the quality of food and service so far. It is entirely optional and the school doesn't benefit from it. We hope that it makes some of your lives a little easier.

Fun Day:

Ms. Morgan arranged a fun day for 6th class to make up for them missing their big school tour. The bouncing castle on the pitch along with art activities and KFC made it a lovely day for the class. Obviously, you can't have a bouncy castle in the school and not let the other classes have a go! Despite the rain, it was a big hit and it was lovely to see everyone smiling and happy.

Sports Day:

Our Sports Day normally involves parents, fruit, mixed teams from each class and races. This year our staff were creative and ran a Sports Day that was fun and safe. Each class stayed together to take part in races and Superstars Circuits with different activities. 6th Class

manned the stations wearing masks and making sure that all equipment was sanitised after each group. It was a great success, again despite some dodgy weather! The highlight of that day was when our Parents Association organised an ice cream van to call with free ice cream for everyone.

Summer Reports:

Your child's summer report was posted last week. If you didn't receive it, please let us know. If you have any questions, please contact your child's teacher to discuss it.

Italian Graduation:

6th Class have been studying Italian this term with Ms. Ginevra. It has been a great opportunity to explore a new language and culture. The class really enjoyed it. Last week some members of The Italian Department along with the Italian Consul joined 6th class, remotely, to celebrate their achievements and to award them certificates. It was a lovely occasion and it was nice that parents could join in as well. Thank you to all involved.

6th Class Graduation:

This week we will have a remote graduation for 6th class. It is brilliant to be able to mark this occasion. The children in 6th class have contributed so much to our school community over the years and it will be good to be able to mark it. Some of our parents are leaving our school for the last time, including some parents who have been associated with our school for longer than they would like to admit! It has been a pleasure having you all in our school community and we wish you luck in the future.

Active Schools Week and Dare to Believe:

As I am sure you are aware, each class has been tracking their activities over the last few weeks. We are trying to get to Tokyo for The Olympics. We have been walking and running etc to try and cover the distance in time. As of Monday this week we have covered over 33,000km and it is about 10,000km to Tokyo. Well done to all involved. A special note of congratulations to 5th class who covered over 15,000km on their own. Maybe we have some future Olympians in our school!

Janssen Video Call:

6th Class had a video call from Janssen this month. Every year we have visitors from our neighbouring industries to show our students what is happening around us. Janssen, as one of closest neighbours, joined 6th class by video call to continue that tradition. Hopefully, site visits and physical workshops will be back on the agenda in the new year.

Board of Management meeting:

We had our final Board meeting of the year last week. Our Board have worked tirelessly to ensure that our school and our children stayed safe this year, while also making sure they received the best quality education possible. Our Board's support has been a key element to our success this year. I would like to thank all of the members for their work and for being available for all the meetings, phone calls and emails during the last twelve months.

School Tours:

Bus trips were off the agenda this year but that didn't mean that we couldn't have fun, educational trips. There is a lot to see and explore in our community and this year provided an opportunity for us to look a bit closer at what Little Island has to offer. We have a beach and playground for fun and activity. We have old buildings and historical sites to visit and learn from and we have a diverse range of industry and business to discover as well. Spar and Centra were generous in providing ice cream for our children – a school tour wouldn't be complete without a treat!

New Junior Infant Induction:

Our new Junior Infants will have their Induction Day next Monday June 28th. They have been invited in to see their teacher and their class in small groups. We look forward to welcoming the newest members of our school community and we hope that this visit will help to make the transition to primary school a little easier.

Classes and Teachers for 2021/2022:

Jl: Miriam Hennessy

Sl: To be confirmed

1st: Susan Lynch

2nd: Eleanor Crowley/Niamh Cameron job share

3rd: to be confirmed

4th: Estelle Cassidy/Julie Neville job share

5th: Audrey Roche

6th: Micheál Rea

SET: Gillian Diamond, Nuala Murray and Valerie McGrath.

We will be recruiting teachers during the summer for Sl and 3rd class. I will post the names of the teachers on the app by the second week of August. Job share teachers will send out details in September to explain how a job share arrangement works

GCC Award Winners:

We were very proud to hear that three of our past pupils received awards at the GCC Leaving Cert Awards. Caoimhe McGuirk received a medal for her results and Rachel and Robert Walsh received Special Commendation Certificates. We are delighted for them all and wish them well in the future.

That's all for now. Have a lovely summer.

All the best,

Micheál Rea

Upcoming Events:

Friday June 25th: school closes at 12.15pm for Summer Holidays.

Monday August 30th: school reopens for all classes.