

Scoil Inse Rátha

Déan do Dhícheall

Newsletter September 2021

Dear Parents,

September has really flown by. We are delighted to be here in school and working with your children each day. We have a wonderful group of children and it is a pleasure coming to work! Covid-19 still presents a real challenge for us but we have negotiated the first month well. This has been made possible by everyone in our community playing their part. As the number of confirmed cases increases in schools it is really important that we continue our good habits and not become complacent. We want to stay open and that will only be possible if we work together. Thank you for the part you have played so far!

Official School Opening and Closing times:

Children are supervised from 8.40am each morning. They go straight into their classes and teaching starts at 9am. Infants go home at 1.30pm and 1st-6th classes go home between 2.20pm and 2.30pm. Outside of these times we are not responsible for your child(ren) unless they are on a school related activity. We cannot take responsibility for children who are dropped to school before 8.40am. We will keep the staggered start and finish times under review.

Sherpa Kids:

Sherpa Kids are a private childcare provider that offers before and after school care for students in our school. They are open from 8am to 6pm Monday to Friday. Email LINS@sherpakids.ie for more information and to book a place.

Attendance:

Every child should be at school every day when they are healthy. Every family will have periods this winter when their children can't attend school, even if they would have attended school on a normal winter. Public Health experts, doctors and our school will be asking you not to take any chances again this winter so we expect there to be a greater level of absences. Pink Forms will be sent home when your child returns. It is important that you fill these in and return them as we still have to report our figures to Tusla.

Parking:

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. The bus bay and the disabled parking bays are required for members of our school community so please do not use at any time. The Staff Carpark is for staff only and needs to be kept free as well. Staff have to be able enter and leave the school at all times.

New Junior Infants:

Our new Junior Infants have been great and we are delighted to see them settle in so well. They are our future so we hope that they have a very happy time in school.

Making an appointment to speak to a teacher:

Our teachers are always happy to speak to you about your child's progress, or to address your concerns. Please ring Jacinta in the office to arrange an appointment at a mutually convenient time as this allows the teacher to be prepared for the meeting and to be able to give you their full attention. If there is anything that I can help with feel free to email me at principal@littleislandns.com.

Allianz Insurance:

Every child in our school is covered by the Allianz pupil personal accident 24hr insurance policy. The policy is valid from 1/9/2021-31/8/2022. Please visit www.allianz.ie for full details.

Post Primary Enrolment:

In recent years there has been a growing demand for secondary school places in East Cork. Please be aware of the relevant closing dates for your preferred schools. It is important that you check with each school by checking their website etc to make sure you have the up to date information. It is unlikely that any secondary school will be visiting us this year to advertise. They will all have waiting lists and if you miss the closing date you will be bottom of the list regardless of any other criteria.

After School Activities:

As part of our fight against Covid-19, we can't mix classes for activities or training. We can't have external visitors unless absolutely necessary, especially coaches who may be going from one school to another. Public Health have allowed after school activities to begin again from last week. Speech and Drama has started in our school and tennis has started in The Complex. Erin's Own and Leaside are back training as well. Contact me if you need details on any of these activities.

That's all for now.

All the best,

Micheál Rea