

## **Scoil Inse Rátha**

### **Déan to Dhícheall**

#### **Newsletter October 2021**

##### **Dear Parents,**

As we reach midterm break, we can reflect on another successful period in school. We can't underestimate the value of staying open despite increased Covid-19 numbers. Thank you to everyone in our community for helping to keep us all as safe as possible. Thank you to our amazing, resilient children who make every day special. It is a pleasure coming to school!

##### **Holy Communion:**

Last weekend, we celebrated First Holy Communion with children from our 3<sup>rd</sup> Class. They have been waiting since May so there was a lot of nervous excitement on the day. We couldn't have as many people in the church as we would have liked but it still was a very special day. Thank you to Fr. Damian for a lovely, child-friendly ceremony and to our staff who prepared our students in 2<sup>nd</sup> class and this term. The children were brilliant and we are delighted to have been able to gather together for it.

##### **Irish Wheelchair Association:**

The Irish Wheelchair Association came to our school this month. They provided a course for our staff after school. They hope to return later in the year to do a session with our children on how to play wheelchair basketball. We hope that this will help our children to have a greater understanding of life as a wheelchair user.

##### **World Teachers Day:**

Every year, on October 5<sup>th</sup>, World Teachers Day is celebrated. In our school we celebrate it as World Staff Day. We have a fantastic team here who work really hard to create a happy, open environment to allow all of our students to flourish to the best of their ability. I am sure that you will join me in thanking them all for making our school a better place.

##### **Maths Week:**

This week is Maths Week. It is a chance to focus on the importance of maths in our lives. From calculating that you have enough money for the basket of groceries to theoretical maths, we all need and use maths every day. Each class will undertake different activities to mark this special week.

##### **Sherpa Kids:**

We were delighted to welcome Charlene, Rebecca and Jodie to our school as part of Sherpa Kids. We are very happy with how it has worked out and look forward to a long and positive relationship with them. They are offering childcare during midterm and also for November 10<sup>th</sup> when our school will be closed for an in-service day. Please contact them directly at [lins@sherpakids.ie](mailto:lins@sherpakids.ie) to find out more and to organise a booking.

##### **Drop off and Pick up:**

School opens at 8.40am and teaching starts at 9am. We cannot accept responsibility for children before this time. As the weather gets worse, it will be important that children are not dropped to school early. Sherpa Kids open at 8am if you need to drop your child earlier. Infants finish at 1.30pm

and all other classes finish between 2.20pm and 2.30pm. Please arrange for your child to be picked up on time. Teachers often have meetings and courses that they need to attend after school finishes. Please remember to park responsibly around the school and keep the staff carpark clear.

**Turn off your engine:**

It is great to see so many children walking/cycling/scooting to school each day. After midterm you will see signs up outside the school reminding you to turn off your engine when you are stopped/parked. We all have a responsibility to look after our environment. If you have to drive to school, please turn off your engine, when you are parked, so we can reduce the amount of poisonous fumes in the air around our children. We have applied to Cork County Council for a grant for a new bike rack and shelter, to encourage even more children to cycle/scoot to school.

That's all for now.

All the best,

Micheál Rea

**Up Coming Events:**

**Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> October:** Children can dress up for Hallowe'en - €2 per child for Temple Street Children's Hospital.

**Monday 25<sup>th</sup> October – Friday 29<sup>th</sup> October:** school closed for midterm break.

**Week of 8<sup>th</sup> November:** Science Week

**Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> November:** School closed for teacher in-service training.

**Wednesday November 24<sup>th</sup>:** School closes at 1pm for Parent/Teacher meetings.

**Thursday November 25<sup>th</sup>:** Parent/Teacher meetings after school.