

## **Scoil Inse Rátha**

### **Déan do Dhícheall**

#### **Newsletter December 2021**

#### **Dear Parents,**

As we come to the end of 2021 we can look back with pride on what we have achieved as a school community. With many workers still working from home, we managed to keep our school open for most of the year. This is down to the combined efforts of everyone. Parents made difficult decisions that kept us all safe. Staff members maintained a warm and positive environment while making sure we followed public health advice. Our wonderful students did everything we asked of them and much more. I can't say it often enough – we are very lucky to have such a fantastic school and we shouldn't take it for granted. Thank you for the role you have played during the year to make it all possible.

#### **Santa:**

We didn't want to risk Santa's health by asking him to visit us this year so our Parents Association arranged for a video message from Santa for all of our students. He made sure to send some treats in as well as he had heard how wonderful our boys and girls have been this year. Thanks you to our Parents Association for organising all of this.

#### **Class Performances:**

Normally at this time of the year we have timetables and schedules for parents to come and see their child's class perform a Christmas play or have the choir sing songs. That is not possible this year but we wanted our students to still have some of the magic and fun. Each class performed a song and poem for another class. Some classes did mini-plays. It was a pity that family members couldn't be part of it. Hopefully we will be back to normal next year.

#### **Penny Dinners:**

This year we asked parents to donate to Penny Dinners instead of giving staff presents. Thank you to everyone who gave so generously. Cillian's (Senior Infants) mum, Tina, dropped the hampers to the charity on Monday this week. Thank you to Ms. Roche for organising the collection and to Tina for dropping them off.

#### **Board of Management:**

Our Board of Management met this month. We discussed all of the relevant issues, from Covid-19 to finance and teaching and learning. We will meet again early next year. Thank you to all of the members of our Board for this essential work, in what is a voluntary role.

#### **Carol Singing in The Radisson:**

The Radisson Hotel had invited 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> classes to sing carols in their reception area this month. However, as the Covid-19 situation evolved we agreed that this wouldn't be a good idea. We were disappointed to have to cancel but The Radisson gave our students selection

boxes to make up for it. We hope to be able to be able to sing carols in the hotel next year. Thank you to the staff in The Radisson for their support during the year.

#### **Little Island Community Association Christmas Tree:**

Our Community Association have planted a Christmas tree at the entrance to the Complex. This will be a permanent fixture and we can watch it grow each year. Some of our students made decorations for the tree. If you are out walking over Christmas have a look at it. We can add more to it next year.

#### **Fibre Broadband:**

You may have noticed workmen digging around the carpark and pitch in our school recently. The Schools Broadband team have selected our school for fibre broadband which will give a faster, stronger and more reliable internet connection. They were bringing the cable from the main road across the carpark into the school. We hope that the final stage of the connection can happen in early 2022. We have asked the Little Island Industries Development Company for money towards more Chromebooks, in anticipation of the new broadband being able to support the use of more devices at the same time.

That's all for now.

All the best,

Micheál Rea



#### **Up Coming Events:**

**Wednesday Dec 22<sup>nd</sup>:** school closes at 12.15pm for all classes. We will stagger children exiting the building from 12.10pm.

**Thursday Jan 6<sup>th</sup> 2022:** school reopens for Term 2.

**Jan 11<sup>th</sup>:** House of Circuits workshops for 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>.