

Scoil Inse Rátha
Déan do Dhícheall
Newsletter January 2022

Dear Parents,

It has been a challenging month for our school community with high levels of positive Covid-19 cases. It has been difficult for parents, children and staff. Keeping a warm and positive environment in our school for our children has been a priority for our staff. In many ways we are better off this year than last year because our school building is open and we can look forward with optimism to the spring and summer. We are starting to think about planning some normal activities for after Easter. Thank you to everyone in our school community who has helped to keep us open and as safe as possible.

At the end of February, we expect the safety measures currently in place to be reviewed. We will let you know, once we know, if there are any changes. As social distancing signs are being removed from shops, it is important to remember that all of our safety measures remain in place including masks, pods and sanitising.

Sacraments:

Fr. Damien has informed us of the dates for our sacraments this year. First Confession will take place in school on May 4th in school. Holy Communion will take place in Little Island Church on May 14th at 11am. Attendance is limited to immediate family members for now. It is unlikely that we will have the traditional Holy Communion party in the school unless Covid-19 case numbers are very low. Confirmation will take place on Friday April 1st in Little Island Church at 11am. This is limited to immediate family members and sponsors.

House of Circuits:

3rd, 4th and 5th Classes held workshops in their classes this month. The Lifetime Lab House of Circuits workshop was hosted remotely by a facilitator while the teacher coordinated the resources in the class. Each child had their own pack to work with and were able to create their own circuits. It was a great experience and the children learned a lot from it.

Speech and Drama:

After school speech and drama classes won't take place for the next few weeks given the Covid-19 situation. Ms. Crowley hopes that she can resume them after midterm, in early March.

Summer Works Scheme:

A few years ago we applied to the Department of Education for funding for new windows under the Summer Works Scheme. In the latest cycle of funding Pádraig O'Sullivan, our local TD, has informed us that we have been allocated funds to upgrade the windows at the front of the school. This is fantastic news. We hope to get this project completed during the summer holidays as it would be too disruptive to do during school time. Thank you to Pádraig for chasing up on our application and making sure we secured this funding.

Dunkettle Interchange:

Over the last few years works have been progressing on the changes to the Dunkettle Interchange. This has been largely offline meaning there has been limited impact on traffic. They have started to move into the next phase now where there will be greater impact on traffic. This combined with workers starting to return to their offices will mean that journey times to and from school could be impacted. I suggest that you sign up for the updates and that you download the Dunkettle App so you have access to the latest news. There is more information on how to do this on the article I put on the app yesterday.

Enrolment for Junior Infants:

Our closing date for receipt of enrolment application forms is tomorrow, Friday January 28th. Our enrolment form is on our website. We have a large number of applications this year and we may have a waiting list as a result. Letters offering places will be sent out next week.

LIIDC:

We applied to the Little Island Development Company before Christmas for funding to buy more Chromebooks for our school. We received a cheque from them last week towards the cost of these. We are extremely grateful for their continued support.

That's all for now. Please remember to keep an eye on our school app for news and pictures. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me.

All the best,

Micheál Rea

Up Coming Events:

7th February: Board of Management meeting.

21st-25th February: school closed for midterm break.

28th February: school reopens.