

Scoil Inse Rátha

Déan do Dhícheall

Newsletter March/April 2022

Dear Parents,

As we come to the end of Term 2 of another extraordinary school year, I would like to thank you for your continued support. While society may want to believe that Covid-19 has gone away, we know the reality. Parents, staff and children continue to get it and many are quite sick. We really appreciate that families continue to act responsibly and stay away from school when they have symptoms to keep our school as safe as possible. In the meantime, we are trying to reintroduce activities that we associate with normal school life. Our children have been fantastic throughout the pandemic and they need these opportunities and activities. It is wonderful to hear the excited screams as they mix with other classes on yard, race in the City Sports trials, get on a bus again and play against other schools in hurling matches. There is a lot going on in the world at the moment that adults have to worry about, but it is also our job to insulate our children from most of it, so they can have their childhood. Here are some of the events that have been going on in school this month. There are regular updates and photos on the school app each week so don't forget to keep an eye on it.

Sciath na Scol:

Our school hurling team have been taking part in the inter-schools hurling competition. We have played Monkstown, Leamlara and Glenville so far and we are due to play Kinsale after Easter. Most of our team started hurling in February and we have very few players who play with a club. This makes it challenging to compete but we have enjoyed the experience and the trips on the bus! The children's attitude and sporting behaviour have been inspiring and we are really proud of all of them. They have worked hard and trained nearly every day since the start of February. Hurling is an important part of our culture so it is brilliant that the children get a chance to experience it and learn the skills.

Kinga in 6th Class went forward to the individual skills competition in Páirc Uí Chaoimh where she competed against the best camogie players in the county. It was a challenging skills test but Kinga did her school, club and family proud by finishing just outside the top three. Well done Kinga!

Athletics:

3rd Class have been receiving athletics coaching over the last six weeks through the Cork County Sports Partnership. They took part in an inter-school skills test this week in Cobh. They had a great day out and enjoyed the experience. They represented our school very well and we are proud of their achievements.

Art:

6th Class continue to work with artist Julie O'Dea. They have been weaving and dyeing material to create different pieces. They have used various materials as well. The opportunity to work with a real artist and to develop skills they wouldn't normally develop in school is brilliant.

Junior Achievement:

Junior Achievement Ireland (JAI) is a member of one of the world's largest educational non-profits, helping prepare young people for their futures by delivering hands-on, experiential learning in

entrepreneurship, employability, financial literacy and the value of STEM. We have volunteers coming into each class during the year for five to six week blocks. It promotes links with local business and industry and it gives the children an opportunity to hear about different jobs as well as what they learn from the actual programme.

Engineering in a Box:

Engineering In-A-Box is a classroom resource designed to show students how engineers impact society through different disciplines, creative thinking, and collaboration. Lynda from Dornan Engineering is working with 6th class to bring us through this programme. This week we discussed and built wind turbines.

Summer Works Scheme:

We have been approved for a grant to replace and upgrade the windows at the front of the school. We hope to be able to do this work during the summer holidays. We applied for this in 2019 so we will have to wait and see if the amount we were granted will be sufficient given the inflation of prices in the construction industry.

LIIDC:

The Little Island Industries Development Company have always been great supporters of our school. This year they have given us money to buy twenty new Chromebooks and a charging station. We now have nearly forty Chromebooks in school which helps us to provide wider and more varied ways of teaching our students.

Basketball:

Mark Scannell has started basketball coaching again this term. He is involved with a number of secondary schools that have reached finals this month so he has missed a few sessions. He will be back properly after Easter.

Badminton:

Ms. Murray and Ms. Morgan attended badminton coaching training recently. This was run in conjunction with Cork County Sports Partnership and we received some free badminton gear for taking part. We have purchased nets that can also be used for tennis. We are planning to use these during the summer term when the weather will be nicer....hopefully!

Confirmation:

Children from 6th class received their Confirmation this month. Fr. Damian conducted the ceremony and it was held in our local church. It was a lovely intimate ceremony. Each of our students had a job to do on the day and they all did great. We are very proud of them. It was really nice to be able to share this event in person as well.

Photographer:

Austin and Gwen from East Cork Studios were in the school this month taking group and family photos. You should have received the samples by now. These need to be returned as soon as possible to us if you want to buy the photos, so the order can be completed.

Primary Language Curriculum In-Service:

We closed for a half day this month to avail of in-service training on the new Primary Language Curriculum. The current curriculum is being reviewed and updated all the time so we will have more of these in-service days in the months and years ahead. You will get plenty of notice in advance of these.

St. Patrick's Day:

Well done to all of our students who took part in St. Patrick's Day parades this year. Our local community held a disco for children as well to add to the celebrations. They are raising money to upgrade the playground and walkway. Cork County Council are paying for eighty percent of the cost but our local community have been tasked with raising the balance, which is a sizeable amount. They have a GoFundme page to help with this: https://www.gofundme.com/f/little-island-playground-refurbishment?utm_campaign=p_lico+share-sheet&utm_medium=copy_link&utm_source=customer

That's all for now. Happy Easter to everyone!

All the best,

Micheál Rea

Up Coming Events:

Friday April 8th: school closes at 12.15pm for all classes.

Monday April 25th: school reopens for Summer Term.

25th – 29 April: Spanish teachers visiting our school as part of Erasmus scheme.

Week of 25th April: hurling match vs Kinsale

4th May: First Confession in school during the school day.

14th May: Holy Communion

16th & 17th May: Bricks4Kids Workshops in each class.

26th May: Information Evening for incoming Junior Infant parents.

31st May: Induction Day for new Junior Infants – current Junior and Senior Infants going home at 12:15 to facilitate this.