

## **Scoil Inse Rátha**

### **Déan do Dhícheall**

#### **Newsletter October 2022**

#### **Dear Parents,**

Time flies when you're having fun! It is hard to believe that we are nearly at midterm break already. Getting to work with excellent staff and fantastic children makes it hardly seem like work at all. Thank you to everyone for your support and help since the start of the year. Here are the highlights for this month.

#### **Sciath na Scol:**

Our boys and girls finished their Sciath na Scol campaign this month. They represented our school really well and we are very proud of their efforts. The leadership shown by the older children was brilliant and helped to bring the younger players along. The girls won their last game, and the boys produced a storming second half display to nearly win their game. Over the six weeks of training and games every player improved and developed their skills. It would be great to see more of our children join Erin's Own to build on this experience.

#### **Soccer Blitz:**

We ran a soccer blitz after school this month. Eight teams are battled it out. It was played in a wonderful sporting manner. Older children are encouraged and involved younger children with the result not being the most important thing. It was a pleasure to see it all being played in such a lovely atmosphere. We had to move the final games to the Complex as the weather was getting too unreliable. There was a great atmosphere as the excitement built up for the last games!

#### **Book Fair:**

For the first time in a number of years we were able to hold a book fair in the school. Reading is one of the most important skills we can teach our children. It is an essential life skill in order to be able to function in the world, but it also opens our minds to new worlds and experiences and gives us well-being benefits. Your child is never too old to read to them! "Reading is the gateway skill that makes all other learning possible" Barack Obama

#### **Credit Union Art Competition:**

The closing date for this year's Credit Union Art Competition is nearly here. There are some amazing entries already in, so we look forward to seeing how we get on in the competition.

#### **Second Level Enrolment:**

The closing date has passed for the local second level schools now. We hope that everyone will secure a place. It important that parents of children in 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> classes are aware of the enrolment process for the next couple of years. It all happens quite quickly in late September and October each year. You can't put your child's name down in advance. If you have any questions, please let me know.

#### **Parent/Teacher Meetings:**

We will have our Parent/Teacher meetings in November. We haven't received any advice on these yet, but we are hopeful of being able to hold them in person. We will have the option of a phone call

for parents who can't attend. They will be held on November 23<sup>rd</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup>. We will send out more information closer to the time.

### **Dealing with Issues:**

Teaching, learning and parenting are complicated and constantly changing endeavours. They can be challenging but are also very rewarding. If an issue arises in relation to your child, we are always happy to meet and discuss it. In the first instance you should speak to your child's teacher. If that doesn't resolve the issue you can contact me to discuss it further. An appointment can be made by contacting Jacinta to arrange a suitable time.

### **Covid-19:**

We have had a few cases of Covid-19 in the school. Children with symptoms must be kept at home until they are symptom free for 48 hours. There are no rules in relation to close contacts so siblings can still attend school provided they have no symptoms. It is getting quite complicated as the normal winter colds and viruses are around again. We have a duty to the whole school community so we will have to take a common-sense approach. Ventilation is one of the best ways we have to prevent the spread of all viruses. Windows and doors will be opened regularly to change the air in the room. Again, we will take a common-sense approach in order to get the balance right between clean air and warmth/comfort. Children will need to dress appropriately with extra layers under their uniform when it gets colder.

### **World Map:**

Over the last month Ms. Ginevra has been working on a project to highlight the number of countries represented in our school community. Every country our children, or their parents, are from is marked on the map. We have 36 countries represented! This shows a fabulous wealth of cultures and experiences in our community. Our children are growing up as part of a global community and this will be huge advantage as they go out into the wider world later in life. We are very proud of our diverse school community.

### **School Improvement Plan:**

Every year we review what we are doing and decide to focus on a few areas to improve on for the school year. Some of the areas we have to focus on are dictated by the Department of Education. This year we will be focusing on The Primary Language Curriculum and Well-being.

### **Italian Week:**

Last week 6<sup>th</sup> class went into each class to teach a few words of Italian to each class as part of Italian Language Week. It was a lovely opportunity for 6<sup>th</sup> to show off what they have learned themselves.

### **Maths Week:**

We had Maths Week last week. Each class did different activities to celebrate the week. We were due to have a workshop from The Lifetime Lab but they had to cancel due to flood damage to their premises. They have rescheduled for the end of November.

That's all for now.

All the best,

Micheál Rea

**Up Coming Events:**

**Oct 31<sup>st</sup> to Nov 4<sup>th</sup>:** school closed for midterm break – Sherpa Kids are running a midterm camp if you need childcare.

**Nov 8<sup>th</sup>:** Chess Club starting for children in 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup>. Only children who have signed up can attend as the club is over-subscribed.

**Nov 16<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup>:** Irish Primary Principal's Conference in Killarney.

**Nov 23<sup>rd</sup>:** school closes at 1pm for PT Meetings.

**Nov 24<sup>th</sup>:** PT meetings after school.

**Nov 25<sup>th</sup>:** Lifetime Lab Maths Workshop

**Nov 25<sup>th</sup>:** Visit from Salvo Cacciato in relation to our Say Yes to Languages Programme.

**Nov 28<sup>th</sup>:** 7pm: Board of Management meeting.