

Scoil Inse Rátha

Déan do Dhícheall

Newsletter November 2022

Dear Parents,

We have had a great month. I continue to be amazed by the commitment and generosity that our staff show every day. They are constantly looking for ways to go the extra mile for our students. We are very lucky to have them! Our pupils are doing their bit too and it really is a pleasure to come to work here when you are met by smiling, happy faces each day. There are only three weeks to the Christmas Holidays and while there will be lots of seasonal items being done in each class, there is a lot of work and revision to be done as well. Here's the news for this month.

PepsiCo:

Volunteers from PepsiCo did great work in our garden during midterm break. It looked really well when we returned, and we are very grateful for their work. They also paid for the installation of new fencing around our bins which further improves our school environment.

PT Meetings:

Thank you to all the parents who came in for Parent/Teacher meetings last week. It was great to see everyone in person once again. We learn as much from you as you do from us in these meetings. This really helps to set us up for the rest of the year and help your child to reach their potential.

Credit Union Art Competition:

Once again, this year we had several winners in the annual Credit Union Art Competition. Congratulations to Ignacy, Emily, Noah and Luke who won prizes in the age 11-13 category, to Leona and Alexandra who won prizes in the age 8-10 category and to Maya, Alice and Ida who won prizes in the under 7 category. The standard was very high, and we are proud of everyone who entered.

Christmas Performances:

All our classes will perform for you for Christmas on December 16th. Infants will perform at 9.30am, 1st, 2nd & 3rd will perform at 10am and 4th, 5th & 6th will perform at 10.30am. We look forward to welcoming you into the school for these and hope that you will enjoy them.

Football Skills:

Well done to Clodagh and Ronan who were nominated to take part in the football skills competition in Páirc Ui Chaoimh this week. They are very talented footballers, and we are proud to have them represent us.

Covid-19/Illness:

There are several illnesses going around now, including Covid. We would ask that you continue to be responsible around sending your child to school to avoid spreading infections. We will continue to encourage handwashing and sanitising along with good sneezing etiquette.

The Department of Education have withdrawn a lot of the substitution cover for teachers. This means that in many instances that if a teacher is absent there is no sub cover. There is also a shortage of available substitutes so for the next few months we will be under pressure to be

properly staffed. We will do everything in our power to source subs and to provide emergency cover, but you need to be aware that we may have to send classes home if there is no other option. This would most likely happen at short notice so please consider in advance how you would manage this.

Say Yes to Languages:

As part of our work in the Say Yes to Languages Programme, Salvo Cacciato came to visit our school and to speak to the children at assembly. While we study English, Gaeilge and Italian at school we are all exposed to many more languages in our lives. Salvo highlighted the rich diversity of languages in our school. He was very impressed with our map of the world showing the different countries, cultures and languages represented in our school. Our pupils were amazing as always and Salvo didn't want to leave! It was wonderful to be acknowledged for all the excellent work we are doing.

Maths Week Workshop:

The Lifetime Lab came to visit us with their Maths Week workshop. Children from 3rd to 6th had an opportunity to try many different stations challenging them in different areas of Maths. See our app for pictures and more information.

Chess Club:

Children from 4th to 6th are learning to play chess after school on Tuesdays and Fridays. It is a great game of strategy and skill. We are all improving together, and it is a lovely calm way to spend some time after school.

Parents Association:

Our PA are very busy this month. They have organised the calendar and it will be ready shortly for sale. There is a lot of work that goes into its production, and it wouldn't be possible without our wonderful PA. Photographs, advertising and printing all take time and organisation. They are also running a Christmas Raffle in December. The funds raised by the PA, from the sales of calendars and tickets, provides extra opportunities for our students. We really appreciate all their work.

PipeLife Development:

Our neighbours, Pipelife (formerly Cork Plastics) are planning to develop their site. They have met with us a number of times and have consulted on the possible impact on us. Our Board of Management reviewed their plans and raised a number of issues of concern. As a result, Pipelife have modified their plans. We are grateful for their engagement with us and for being good neighbours. They have promised to install a raised pedestrianised area at their entrance to provide a much safer crossing point for our students. We look forward to working with them in the future for our mutual benefit.

Junior Achievement:

Every year each class engages with the Junior Achievement Programme. Volunteers from local companies are trained to run this programme under the supervision of the class teacher. 6th Class have started with The Energize Programme this term and other classes will run their programmes as the year progresses. See www.jai.ie for more information.

Erin's Own:

Erin's Own played in the County Junior A Hurling Final two weeks ago. The game ended in a draw so will be replayed this weekend. We wish them well in the replay and hope they manage to bring the cup home for the first time in their history.

We were particularly excited for the three boys from our school who played at half-time in the drawn game. It was a great experience for them, and they did themselves, their families and their club proud.

CYPSC Meeting:

The Children and Young Persons Services Committee is a group who work to try and bring the various agencies, working with young people, together. We have worked with them over many years and have found it very beneficial. We are starting a project shortly that will investigate ways of helping us to involve children more in the decisions that impact them. CYPSC will be leading this, so it is very exciting to be involved and for Little Island NS to be at the forefront of this research.

Christmas Traditions:

Christmas means different things to different people. Many families want to enjoy the magic and wonder of Christmas for as long as possible and other families don't. I would ask that you speak to your child to make sure they don't do or say anything to take away from someone else's experience of this time of year.

Christmas Presents for staff:

At our most recent staff meeting we discussed the pressure that parents can feel to get presents for staff. In some cases, there can be several adults involved with a child and this can make it very expensive for families at an already expensive time of year. We understand the importance of teaching children to say thank you. Firstly, there is no need to say thank you as we love working with the fantastic children in our school. If you do want to say thank you, a card or a note is always welcome and appreciated.

That's all for now.

All the best,

Micheál Rea

Up Coming Events:

Dec 5th: 4th Class soccer blitz in Carrigaline.

Dec 14th: Choir singing in The Radisson

Dec 16th: Christmas Performances

Dec 19th: Parents Association Raffle

Dec 21st: School closes at 12.15pm for Christmas Holidays.