

Scoil Inse Rátha
Déan do Dhícheall
Newsletter January 2023

Dear Parents,

Welcome to the first newsletter of 2023. Christmas feels like a long time ago. There is a lot going on and there is a fantastic buzz of work in each class in the school. We are lucky to have such diligent staff and hard-working children. Thanks to everyone – it is great to see our school motto “Deán do Dhícheall” (do your best) in action!

Swimming:

4th – 6th Classes are swimming once a week in Mayfield for six weeks. We are more than halfway through the course already. They are making great progress and are enjoying the experience as well. Swimming is a brilliant activity and skill so it would be fantastic if the children could build on what they learn in these lessons by going swimming with their families.

Board of Management:

Our Board of Management met this month. We reviewed our enrolment and staffing and conducted our annual review of our Anti-Bullying Policy. There is a lot for our Board to consider and oversee and we appreciate all the time they volunteer to our school.

Chess Club:

Our Chess Club has run since November, and it was great to have nearly 40 children playing every week. They have made great progress and had some fun as well. It was an absolute pleasure to work with them and they are a credit to their families and to their community. Anyone who wants to play at lunchtime is welcome to do so but our after-school club is over for now. Thank you to everyone who took part for making it so special.

FAI Soccer:

We have our FAI 5-a-side tournament coming up, so we are getting ready for that. There will be a boys’ team and a girls’ team with a panel of 8 in each. This will mean there will be lots of disappointed players. It is run off over one day so there is no opportunity to rotate the squad. It is the first time in three years that we have had this tournament so priority will be given to the older classes.

Basketball:

Mark Scannell has been working with 5th and 6th classes this month. They are progressing well and there is a definite improvement in their ball skills, shooting and game play.

Bricks4Kids:

Luke’s (in SI) Dad has arranged for Crest Solutions to pay for Bricks4Kids Workshops in each class. This would have cost the school nearly €1,100 so we are very grateful for this generous

sponsorship. A big thank to Luke's Dad, Mark, for organising this. Bricks4Kids provide Lego workshops run by Lego Master Builders. They develop skills of cooperation, communication and teamwork while also developing the skills for STEAM. The workshops will take place at the end of February/start of March – keep an eye on the app for photos.

Absences:

Winter is a challenging time to maintain good attendance at school. It is important that your child is in school every day. We have seen during the period of remote learning how much children missed out on being physically in school. On the other hand, we have to try and limit the spread of illness and infection. It can be difficult trying to make the right decision and we understand and appreciate this. Thank you to everyone who has made the difficult decision to keep your sick child at home in order to protect our school community. As we emerge from Winter, we hope that we won't have to worry about this as much. If you have any worries or concerns, please feel free to contact me.

SSE Focus:

This year, as part of our School Self Evaluation and School Improvement Plan, we are focussing on Wellbeing along with the new Primary Language Curriculum. This work is on-going with in-service, training and discussion at staff meetings.

Local Schools Partnership:

Our local schools meet regularly to share ideas, resources and to discuss the latest developments in education and how they impact our communities. Over the last month the infant teachers in each school met and discussed how we do things. We learned from each other and got a different perspective on how to approach our work. We hosted all of the teachers for one of the meetings and they were very complimentary of our school. Having access to this shared wisdom makes all of our schools stronger for our students.

That's all for now.

All the best,

Micheál Rea

Up Coming Events:

Mon Feb 6th: School closed for bank holiday

Tues Feb 7th: Safer Internet Day

Thurs Feb 9th: artist in residence starts work with 6th class.

13th-17th Feb: school closed for midterm break.

21st Feb: last day of swimming

23rd Feb: East Cork Studios, school photographer, taking photos.