

## Little Island NS

### Déan do Dhícheall

#### Newsletter February 2023

#### Dear Parents,

Welcome back to our monthly newsletter. There has been a lot going on around the school and there is much more planned for the months ahead. Thank you to all our staff, children and parents for their help and support so far this year. We can all be very proud of our school.

#### CYPSC Meeting:

The Children and Young Persons Services Committee subgroup meet in our school every two months. They are discussing ways to improve youth participation for young people in Cork. We are also looking at ways to include students in our decision-making processes as well. This includes actively listening to feedback from children, formally and informally, and letting children lead activities in an age-appropriate way. We are lucky to have responsible and capable children in our school who have massive potential. Trauma Informed Practice and Supporting Children's Emotional Regulation are some of the courses our teachers have undertaken recently to help us understand our students better.

#### FAI Soccer:

Our boys' and girls' squads are training for their upcoming tournaments. Our girls will be playing on March 7<sup>th</sup> and our boys will be playing on March 16<sup>th</sup>. Jill Long, one of our past pupils is helping to prepare them. Jill coaches in the Cork City FC academy so we are delighted to have her expertise to call on.

#### Sciath na Scol:

Hurling will start soon for our Sciath na Scol squad. We will have a mixed team of boys and girls as we don't have enough players to have separate teams.

Primary Game trials: every year the best players in each school are invited to try out for the Cork Primary Game squad. Eleven players are selected to represent Cork in football and hurling at halftime in Munster Championship games. The standard is incredibly high, and I can only remember one player being selected from our school in the last fifteen years. We will send players to represent our school in football, hurling and camogie over the course of the next month. It is a great honour to be selected to represent your school and we wish them luck with the trials.

#### Enrolment September 2023:

We have sent out letters offering places for Junior Infants for September. We will welcome the children and their parents to our school in late May to help them transition to primary school. If you know of anyone who still hasn't secured their place for September, please let me know and I will look after them.

#### Safer Internet Day:

We celebrated Safer Internet Day on February 7<sup>th</sup>. The internet and associated technologies have changed our lives. The childhood that your child is experiencing is vastly different to the one you experienced as a result. Some of the changes are positive but there are also challenges. As an adult it

can be hard to keep up to speed with the changes, apps, language etc involved. We have to protect our children and at the same time allow them to be part of this new world. In school, we work to explain responsibilities and dangers while also encouraging good etiquette online. As a parent, if you are looking for information or help, [www.webwise.ie](http://www.webwise.ie) is an excellent resource. Charities such as Barnardos and Childline also have helpful advice.

### **Swimming:**

4<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> Class finished their swimming lessons this month. The instructors were excellent, and they were delighted with the progress our students made. It would be great if you could build on what they have learned by bringing your child to the pool regularly.

### **Artist in Residence:**

Julie O’Hea is back again this year in 6<sup>th</sup> Class. They made their own charcoal last week! Keep an eye on the school app for pictures and more details of what they are doing.

### **East Cork Studios:**

Austin and Gwen took group and individual photos last week. The photos of the Junior Infants and 6<sup>th</sup> Class form part of our school records and are displayed on the walls each year. It is always interesting to look back on the old photos, so they are precious to us.

### **SET Meetings:**

As part of our continued work with local schools, our Special Education Teachers will be meeting weekly over the next month. The sharing of ideas, resources and expertise will benefit all the children in our local area.

### **Bricks4Kids Lego Workshops:**

We are looking forward to our Bricks4Kids Workshops sponsored by Crest Solutions. Thanks again to Mark, Luke’s Dad, for organising these. Keep an eye on the app for photos and information. I’m sure your child will have lots of tell you about it too.

That’s all for now.

All the best,

Micheál Rea

### **Up Coming Events:**

**Feb 28<sup>th</sup>:** Bricks4Kids Lego workshop for JI – 3<sup>rd</sup> Classes

**March 1<sup>st</sup>:** 4<sup>th</sup>&5<sup>th</sup> Classes to Cork Pops

**March 2<sup>nd</sup>:** World Book Day – children can dress up as a character from a book for this.

**March 3<sup>rd</sup>:** Bricks4Kids Lego workshop for 4<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> Classes.

**March 7<sup>th</sup>:** FAI 5-a-side soccer, Girls. Carrigtwohill Astro Pitches.

**March 15<sup>th</sup>:** Confirmation Class Retreat

**March 16<sup>th</sup>:** FAI 5-a-side soccer, Boys. Mayfield AFC.

**March 17<sup>th</sup>:** school closed for St. Patrick’s Day

**March 23<sup>rd</sup>:** First Confession

**March 27<sup>th</sup>:** Board of Management meeting

**March 31<sup>st</sup>:** school closes at 12.15pm for Easter Holidays.