

Scoil Inse Rátha

Déan do Dhícheall

Newsletter March 2023

Dear Parents,

There has been a lot of activity over the last month with our wonderful staff working very hard to provide lots of different learning opportunities for our students. We have had a number of visitors, inspectors, student teachers and coaches during the month and they all commented on the lovely atmosphere in our school along with how good our students are. Everybody involved with our school should be proud of this as there is a lot of planning, work and effort put into making sure our school is a nice place to be. We all play our part, from parents to students to staff and our Board of Management. Thank you to everyone for making our school a better place every day.

Cork Pops:

4th and 5th Classes went to the Cork Pops this month in The City Hall. This was an interactive performance that encouraged children to listen and respond to live music. They had a lovely day out and thoroughly enjoyed the experience.

Bricks4Kids Workshops:

All our classes benefitted from the Bricks4Kids Workshops at the end of last month and at the start of this month. Thanks again to Crest Solutions for providing this opportunity for our children. In the workshops, children built machines from LEGO TECHNIC using instructions demonstrating key ideas of spatial awareness, physical relationships and practical application of mathematics.

Free School Books:

The Department of Education have announced details of new system for free books, workbooks and copies for all children from next September. We will order all the books your child needs and they will be waiting for them when they return to school at the end of August. We will send you more details closer to the end of the school year. This will be a major organisational project for our school so we have a lot of work to do to set this up properly.

Board of Management:

Our Board of Management met this week. We discussed the new book grant, enrolment for the new school year, staffing issues and we also reviewed and updated the following policies: Code of Behaviour, Critical Incidents, Administration of Medicine and Safety Statement.

AbbVie Summer Works:

Samhain's mother put us in contact with AbbVie, who are planning some volunteer work during the summer holidays. They have visited our school are to come up with a plan of action to work on our garden and to do some painting. It is great to have their help and support and it means we can spend our own money on our children rather than on property maintenance. Thank you to Fran for setting this up.

Primary Games Trials:

Clodagh, Ronan, Patrick and Judy have represented our school at The Cork Primary Game trials in hurling, camogie and football. The standard is incredibly high, and our students did us proud. It is an honour to be picked for these trials and they can all hold their heads up high for what they have achieved.

FAI Soccer Blitzes:

Our boys and girls took part in the FAI soccer blitzes this month. The girls played in Carrigtwohill and the boys played in Mayfield. The blitzes were very well run, and our players enjoyed the day out. They were very competitive and only narrowly lost out on qualification to the next round. Jill Long, our past pupil, helped with coaching and managing the team and we are very grateful for the time and effort she put in. Aoife Connolly helped us with the girls blitz while she was on work experience and also was a great help. Well done to all involved!

Cork City Sports:

The Cork City Sports will take place on Thursday June 1st this year. We recently held the trials as the entry forms have to be in by this week. We will start training for the sports in May.

Confirmation:

Our Confirmation Class will receive the sacrament of Confirmation on April 20th. They have been preparing for a while now and have been to the church to practice. We wish them well for their big day.

First Confession:

2nd Class received their First Confession this month. They attended mass first and then Fr. Damian heard their confession. Well done to all involved.

Children's School Lives Study:

DCU have been running a longitudinal study for the last five years. They are tracking children and classes each year. The children and class teachers fill in questionnaires to track their progress and attitudes over the years. Our current 6th class have been involved since 2nd class. The data is gathered and presented as part of a national picture on how our children are doing. When the study started they had no idea how much the world would change over that time. Our children have been through so much and the study's results will make for interesting reading. Thank you to the children and families of 6th class who consented to taking part in the study which will help to formulate national policy in the future.

Primary Curriculum Framework:

The New Primary Curriculum Framework has been launched this month. The last time the primary school curriculum was reviewed was in 1999. A lot has changed in the intervening years. It will come into being from September 2024. On May 10th our school will be closed for in-service The Primary Language Curriculum and on the first stage of The Primary Curriculum Framework. From September 2023 we will be phasing in the new Primary Maths Curriculum. There is a huge amount of change all happening in a short time so it will be a challenge for us all.

That's all for now.

I hope you and yours have a wonderful Easter break. We have a good long summer term to look forward to.

All the best,

Micheál Rea