

Scoil Inse Rátha

Déan do Dhícheall

Newsletter April/May 2023

Dear Parents,

It is hard to believe that we are approaching the final few weeks of the school year. In this month's newsletter you will get a taste of all the activities that have been going on since Easter. The school is a hive of activity. We are working hard to complete the curriculum while also allowing for the nice summer term activities. There is a reason for everything we do – even the fun stuff! Our job is to educate the whole of each child. While we have testing and reports to complete, we also have other goals to achieve. Our staff are doing a great job and our wonderful students make it a pleasure to be here.

AbVie Summer Works:

Samhain's mother, Fran, put us in contact with AbVie from Carrigtwohill. They wanted a project that they could help a school with, and we were happy to accept the help. Over the last few weeks, they have liaised with us to see what they could do. They have great plans and are being very generous. We look forward to seeing what they will do when they start work at the end of June. Thanks to Fran for making the connection. We are very lucky to have such great support in our community.

Windows Project:

We applied in 2019 to have the windows at the front of the school replaced. There has been a lot of waiting and work involved so far but it is looking like we will have the windows replaced during the October midterm. We have just received final approval from the department so we are hoping that the company that was successful can still complete the job.

School Books:

We sent a letter home to every family this month informing them of the new scheme set up by the Department of Education. Every child in the school will have their schoolbooks, workbooks and copies provided for them for the new school year. You will need to provide a pencil case including pens, pencils, colours etc, lunchbox and school bag. The books will belong to the school, so it is like an extension to the Book Rental scheme that we have operated for many years. We will need the children to be very careful of these books as they will have to be reused for many years.

New Junior Infants:

We were delighted to welcome our new Junior Infants' parents to our school this month. It is a new journey for some and a continuation of the journey for others. There has been a proud tradition of education in Little Island since 1881 so we are looking forward to continuing that with these new pupils and their families.

City Sports:

The annual school sports will take place on June 1st. The track in MTU is being redeveloped so everything will be happening on the pitch this year. There is also less parking because of the development so if you are planning on going, allow plenty of time to get in. No parents will be allowed in the stand as this is for runners only. You will be directed to the correct area by stewards. As always please remember that it is a huge achievement to be there at all and that should be

celebrated. It is the experience of being there that is important regardless of whether they win or lose.

Confirmation:

It seems like a long time ago now, but our Confirmation class received their sacrament in April. They were excellent and performed their jobs very well. They represented our school proudly and were a credit to their families and to their community. Well done!

Holy Communion:

Our First Holy Communion class received their sacrament in early May. Everything was perfect on the day, and they did us proud. Thanks to Fr. Damien and to our staff for making the day such a lovely occasion.

Primary Game:

Judy Cogan was picked for the Cork Primary Game team this year. We are very proud of her achievement. It is particularly impressive as it is only the second time we have had someone on this team and she is the first girl. She played at halftime in a Munster Championship game and performed very well.

1st-3rd Soccer Blitz:

6th class organised, managed and refereed a lunchtime league for 1st-3rd classes this term. They did six weeks of training before running off the league. All the classes came out onto the pitch to watch the finals. The standard of the competition was great and it was enjoyed by all. Well done to 6th class for a job well done and well done to the boys and girls in 1st-3rd for playing so well. The future looks bright for us, Erin's Own and Leaside!

GCC LGFA Blitz:

Some of the transition years in Glanmire Community College trained to be Ladies Gaelic Football coaches and referees during the year. To complete their training, they ran a blitz for 5th and 6th class students in local schools. Our team played very well on the day and were guided excellently by the transition year pupils. Thanks to everyone in GCC for providing this opportunity and well done to our girls who represented us so well.

Magic Show:

We had a very special surprise this month when Jessica Jane and Charlie came to perform for us. They amazed us with magic tricks and entertained us with music and song. There was an amazing energy in the room for the show and everyone who was there loved it. Thanks to Emma's dad, Gary, for setting it all up. It was definitely one of the highlights of the year.

Italian:

Dario, known on social media as The Sicilian Wanderer, came to speak to 6th class as part of their Italian class. He spoke about his life and how he came from Sicily and ended up living in Youghal. He spoke of his love for both countries and of the importance of language. He gave an excellent presentation and we all enjoyed it. Thank you to Dario for taking the time to come and speak with us.

PA:

Our Parents Association are very busy at the moment. They organised gifts for the Holy Communion class, ran a Gold Rush fundraiser, did tea/coffee for the JI information Night, organised treats for the new JI and are helping to organise the medals and fruit for the Sports Day. We are lucky to have committed and dedicated parents willing to help make our school a better place. The Gold Rush raised over €1,000 which is a new record!

World Bee Day:

Julius' mum, Hanna, came to speak to us again this year to celebrate World Bee Day. She showed us one of her beehives and spoke to us about the essential role that bees play in our food chain. Thank you to Julius and Hanna for taking the time to make such an important and interesting presentation.

Instagram:

Our school app is coming to the end of its usefulness, so we need to come up with an alternative. We have decided to move to Instagram. For the month of June we will use Instagram to tell you about activities and events in the same way we used the app. We won't include pictures of children until next term and after we have sought consent from you. As always, child protection is the centre of everything we do and we will be careful to act in the children's best interests. Please follow us on Instagram on [Little Island NS](#) to keep up to date with what is happening in the school.

Up Coming Events:

30th May: 5th Class tour to The Mardyke

1st June: Cork City Sports

2nd June: school closed for in-service day

6th June: 1st-3rd tour to Cuskinny; 6th class tour to Limerick

7th June: 4th class tour to Spike Island

8th June: Infants tour to Fota

9th June: Superstars

13th June: 6th Class Italian Graduation in UCC

20th June: School Sports; Summer reports being posted

21st June: 6th Class Graduation 1pm-2pm

27th June: school closed at 12.15pm for summer holidays.