

## **Scoil Inse Rátha**

### **Déan do Dhícheall**

#### **Newsletter October 2023**

#### **Dear Parents,**

It has been a busy and exciting term so far. Everyone has settled into the new school year very well and the school is a hive of activity. There is a happy buzz of hard work in each classroom. It is a pleasure coming to work every day with our wonderful students and dedicated staff. We've had an excellent start to the year, and we look forward to continuing this for the year ahead.

#### **Sciath na Scol:**

Sciath na Scol football is finished for this year. Our boys and girls represented our school very well and we are proud of them all. We arranged for some pizza to be delivered to reward them at the end of the season. It is particularly rewarding to see how much the players improved during the six weeks season. I hope that anyone who isn't in a club will consider joining up to build on this progress.

#### **Lunchtime Leagues:**

We have been running a lunchtime league over the last few weeks to encourage more players to take part and to prepare some of the younger players for Sciath na Scol next year. We had nearly sixty children taking part from 3<sup>rd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> classes which is fantastic to see. The standard was very high and all the games in the league were played in a great spirit. The final was a fantastic game with both teams playing some lovely football and getting some great scores.

#### **Erin's Own Visit:**

Erin's Own Junior Hurling Team won their county championship again this year which means they will be promoted to the Intermediate division next year. Two county titles in back-to-back years is an amazing achievement. They called to visit us for a special assembly last week. We were delighted to welcome them, and our students were even more delighted when they were given homework off by the team! They encouraged our students to take part in any activity they enjoy and to work hard at it to improve. We hope that some of our current students will be back some day with cups and trophies they have won. We also want to wish the Erins Own Junior Women's team all the best in their county final this weekend – especially Ms. Ní Chaoimh who used to teach here.

#### **Chess:**

After midterm we will start chess after school. This will be for the 3<sup>rd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> classes and was very successful last year. It is designed to be fun and about participation, so everyone is welcome. Notes are to be returned before midterm break and letters will go out after break with more details.

### **Board of Management:**

Our current Board of Management's term ends on November 30<sup>th</sup>. We held elections last week for one of our parents' nominees. Thank you to everyone who voted. I would also like to thank John and Bogdan for putting themselves forward for election. Many schools struggle to get anybody to volunteer for the Board so having an election is a really good thing for our school. Nicholas Casey and Clare Duggan will be the parents' nominees to our new Board of Management which starts on December 1<sup>st</sup>. Thank you to the members of our last Board of Management who served our school so diligently and well over the last four years.

### **Instagram:**

We are continuing to use Instagram to send out information and reminders. We are also using it to display some of the work we are doing in school. This can help to encourage conversations between you and your child about their day in school. If you are not on Instagram you could miss out on important news and information.

### **Primary Curriculum Developments:**

There is a lot of change happening at the moment in the curriculum for primary schools. The Primary Curriculum Framework sets how the direction of curriculum developments for the next few years as well as changes to the time allocations for each subject. The Primary Language Curriculum has changed in the last few years and is currently being used. The Primary Maths Curriculum is being rolled out this year and next year and ***we will have a school closure on December 6th to facilitate staff training.*** Each school has to have a Wellbeing Statement in place by the end of Term 2 this school year as well. Other areas of the curriculum will be changing after the Maths Curriculum has been implemented. As you can see, our staff have a lot to deal with and process in facilitating the curriculum for each child in their care. The National Council for Curriculum and Assessment have some useful information for parents here: <https://ncca.ie/en/primary/resources-for-parents/>.

### **Basketball:**

Mark continues to work with 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> classes this term. Their basketball skills are improving all the time. The next group will start with Mark in mid-November. It is great to have a coach of Mark's calibre working with our students.

### **Local Schools Partnership:**

We have worked with our colleagues in a number of local schools for over ten years on areas of common interest and concern. This gives us all access to a larger pool of expertise for the benefit of all our students. Our latest project is to facilitate all the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> class teachers in Little Island NS, Glounthaune NS, New Inn NS, Brooklodge NS, Riverstown NS, Upper Glanmire NS and Knockraha NS meeting up to discuss best practice. It is a great opportunity for our teachers to compare notes on how to teach their class. We have excellent teachers here, but the best teachers are always looking to improve. We are all part of the same community and working together makes us all stronger.

### **Book Fair:**

We held our Book Fair last week. Thank you to everyone who supported it. For every €100 of books we sell we get €60 of books for the school in return. This is a fabulous chance for us to refresh our school library, encourage reading and for you to instil a love of reading in your child. Thank you to everyone who bought books at the Book Fair. We received €200 worth of free books for each class this year!

“Books are a uniquely portable magic.” Stephen King

### **Parents Association Annual Calendar:**

We are gathering the photos for the annual PA calendar this week. It will go to the printers and be ready, hopefully, before the end of November. Calendars will be €10 each this year.

### **Summer Works Scheme:**

We applied in 2019 for funding to replace our windows at the front of the school. We received approval earlier this year but the price had increased hugely in the meantime. After much negotiation, we finally received the money to start the project last month. Wesco will be on site during the midterm to remove our old windows and install the new ones. They will restore any paint work that has been damaged and install new blinds. This will be a fantastic improvement for our school, and it is a significant investment from the department at nearly €150,000. This funding is separate from normal school funding and can't be used for any other purpose. There is still uncertainty around when or if normal school funding will be restored. We have received no money yet this term and no date has been given for the next payments. We are still open due to your contributions and a donation from PipeLife.

### **Leeside AFC Astro:**

Congratulations to everyone in Leeside AFC on the completion of their new astro turf/all-weather pitch. This took a huge amount of effort from a dedicated group of volunteers and was also helped by sponsorship from the people and businesses in Little Island – a true community effort. This will be a brilliant resource for our school as well as the wider community. Leeside AFC has a long and proud history, and this new pitch secures its future for future generations. If your child is interested in joining up and you are not sure where to start, feel free to ask me.

### **Road Safety:**

As the days get shorter, we need to remind everyone to take more care on and around our roads. Some of our classes took part in a Road Safety webinar organised by Cork County Council this week. After midterm PipeLife will host a number of classes to highlight some of the dangers specific to living and working in an industrial area. The children will also get high visibility vests which we would encourage them to wear walking/cycling/scooting to school. I

would encourage you to take a few minutes to discuss this topic with your child, even if you think they know it already.

That's all for now. I hope you all have a happy and safe midterm break.

All the best,

Micheál Rea

**Up Coming Events:**

**27<sup>th</sup> October:** children can dress up. School closes at the normal time.

**6<sup>th</sup> November:** school reopens.

**15<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> November:** IPPN Conference.

**20<sup>th</sup> November:** start of Chess Club

**22<sup>nd</sup> November:** Parent Teacher meetings after school

**23<sup>rd</sup> November:** school closes at 1pm for Parent Teacher meetings

**4<sup>th</sup> December:** 4<sup>th</sup> Class soccer blitz

**6<sup>th</sup> December:** *school closed for Primary Maths Curriculum in-service.* Sherpa will open for a full day if there is sufficient demand. They will send out details after midterm to their usual clients – email [lins@sherpakids.ie](mailto:lins@sherpakids.ie).