

Scoil Inse Ratha
Déan do Dhícheall
Newsletter December 2023

Dear Parents,

We have had a busy and exciting first term and 2023 has been a successful year in our school. Our success is built on everyone working together and playing their part. Thank you to our parents, Board of Management, Parents Association and staff for everything they have done during the year. Our students deserve special gratitude and praise for being so amazing every day. We are very lucky and privileged to be part of this wonderful school. We can all look forward with optimism to 2024 in the knowledge that we are building on the excellent work that has been done by our community in the years gone by. Here are some of the highlights from this month.

Christmas Performances:

Our students were the stars of the show this week as they took to the stage to perform for our parents and families. We are so proud of everyone of them. Thank you to all the staff for preparing the children and for providing the opportunity for them to perform in public. Thank you to our parents and families for helping with costumes and for coming to support us. It is one of the highlights of the year and a good experience for everyone.

Christmas Raffle:

Our Parents Association ran their annual raffle this year. We are very grateful to all the local businesses and companies who supported us this year. Thank you to everyone who bought raffle tickets and a special thank you to our PA who organised the whole thing. The funds raised in this raffle will help us to provide more opportunities for our students in the year ahead.

Santa:

Santa took time out of his busy schedule to visit the wonderful girls and boys in our school. He has assured me that they are all on the nice list. He reminded everyone to be in bed on time on Christmas Eve and not to forget to leave a treat out for Rudolph and him. Thank you to Santa's Helpers who arranged Santa's visit and delivered special treats to each class from Santa.

New Board of Management:

Our new Board of Management met this month. We approved our new Acceptable Usage Policy for the internet and devices in school. This will be circulated to you in January. Our new Board members are as follows:

Patron's Nominee and Chairperson: Fiona Twomey. Patron's Nominee: Deirdre O'Brien

Parents' Nominees: Clare Duggan and Nicholas Casey

Community Nominees: Sandra Horgan and Pádraig O'Sullivan

Teachers' Nominees: Estelle Cassidy and Micheál Rea (Secretary to the Board)

Each member comes from one of the constituent groups to provide that perspective but are not there to represent the views of members from their constituency. If you have a concern that needs to be raised at Board level, you should write to the Chairperson. Generally speaking, most issues can be resolved by speaking to the Principal.

Parental Complaints Procedures:

The Parental Complaints Procedures have been revised and updated. This is an agreement at a national level between the management bodies and the unions. These are the procedures that each school has to implement so we don't have our own school policy on this. It follows a common-sense approach and is straightforward in the first instances. If you have an issue you speak to the class teacher and, if you are not happy with that outcome, then you speak to the Principal. After that it gets a bit more complicated but the vast majority of incidents can be resolved in these two stages. Full details can be found here: <https://www.into.ie/help-advice/staff-parent-relations/into-management-complaints-procedure/?cb=23339597323926739711701691282>

Primary Maths Curriculum:

We had our full day school closure this month so teachers could avail of CPD on the new Primary Maths Curriculum. This is the first major change to the maths curriculum since 1999 so it is

important for teachers to have a chance to have time to familiarise themselves with it. We will close on January 18th at 12.30pm for a staff meeting to consider how this will impact our students. We will have another half day in Term 3 along with using time in our regular staff meetings to plan for the full implementation from September 2024. Details on curriculum developments can be found here: <https://ncca.ie/en/primary/primary-developments/>

4th Class Soccer Blitz:

The FAI 4th Class soccer blitz took place in Carrigaline this month. Children from 3rd and 4th Class represented our school. They were divided into equal teams and played schools from around Cork in games designed to encourage participation and skill development. Our students were amazing as usual, and we are very proud of them. There are many children around the country who never get to represent their school in anything, so it was a great opportunity for our students to wear our school jersey.

Creative Writing Workshop with Anthony Garvey:

Author Anthony Garvey ran online creative writing workshops this month. 3rd/4th, 5th and 6th took part and learned how to create a story that would captivate and enthrall their audience. Some very exciting stories were written after the workshop. Well done to all involved.

Lifetime Lab: House of Circuits Workshop:

The Lifetime Lab ran their House of Circuits workshop for 3rd-6th classes this month. It was an excellent workshop that provided our children with an opportunity to use specialist equipment and to explore electrical circuits.

Both the creative writing workshop and the circuits workshops were only possible due to your generous support through the brown envelopes – thank you!

School Hot Meals:

We applied for and have been successful in securing funding for The Schools Hot Meals Programme. We have just completed the procurement stage. It will launch in April. Every child in the school will have the option to have a hot meal for free each day. There will be an app where you can select from a menu and register any dietary requirements your child may have. More details will follow in The New Year.

Referendum:

The government have announced that a referendum will take place in March next year. The date suggested at this stage is March 8th. Our school is normally used as a polling station so we will probably be closed on that date. We will receive confirmation in the weeks before it, but it might be useful for you to have the date in your diary for forward planning.

That's all for now.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from everyone in our school.

All the best,
Micheál Rea

Up Coming Events:

Friday Dec 22nd: school closes at 12.15pm for the Christmas Holidays.

Monday Jan 8th: school reopens for Term 2

Monday Jan 8th: artist starts work with 6th class.

Thursday Jan 18th: school closes at 12.30pm for PMC in-service

Tuesday Jan 23rd: swimming starts for 4th-6th classes for 6 weeks.