

Scoil Inse Rátha
Déan do Dhícheall
Newsletter January 2024

Dear Parents,

Welcome to the first newsletter of 2024. Christmas feels like a long time ago. There is a lot going on and there is a fantastic buzz of work in each class in the school. We are lucky to have such diligent staff and hard-working children. Thanks to everyone – it is great to see our school motto “Deán do Dhícheall” (do your best) in action!

Swimming:

4th – 6th Classes are swimming once a week in Mayfield for six weeks. While we only have two weeks completed, we can see that the children are making great progress and are enjoying the experience as well. Swimming is a brilliant activity and skill so it would be fantastic if the children could build on what they learn in these lessons by going swimming with their families. It is also great to see the children developing independence and organisational skills. For some children this is the first time they have had to organise their own clothes and gear. The sense of accomplishment in being able to manage on their own can improve self-confidence.

STEM Lego:

We purchased 24 Lego robotics kits for our school this month. There are a variety of designs to build and to programme. The children are much faster at learning how to do it than the teachers! Keep an eye on our Instagram account for pictures and details.

FAI 5-a-side:

Our boys and girls 5-a-side teams will be playing in the FAI tournament at the start of February. We have been training hard since the start of January. We have used the Leaside astro to prepare and it was particularly useful last week when our own pitch was too wet. Leaside also donated some extra soccer balls to us to help with our preparation. We are very grateful for their continued support. We will have challenge matches against a school in Carrigtwohill tomorrow for 5th and 6th class boys and girls as part of our training.

Lunch Bag Job Opportunity:

The Lunch Bag will be providing hot meals to our children, through the Department of Social Protection funding, after the Easter Holidays. This is an exciting development, and we are looking forward to it. There is a lot of work to be done to set it up and to have the infrastructure in place. At the moment, they are recruiting someone to heat up and to distribute the meals in our school. The advert is available from Jacinta in the office, or you can email tlbhr@thelunchbag.ie for more details.

PMC:

A number of changes are being made to the Primary School Curriculum with English, Maths and Wellbeing being the focus now. We are implementing the Primary Language Curriculum this year, while receiving training and in-service on the Primary Maths Curriculum. We are to have a Wellbeing Framework Statement in place by Easter. We had more in-service this month to increase our familiarity with the changes we will need to make in the school and in our classrooms. It is an exciting time to be in education but it also an uncertain time as we come to grips with the changes. Children will always be at the centre of what we do, and we have the best children!

BOM:

Our Board of Management will meet again shortly but are working away in between meetings. Annual accounts have been prepared and will be sent to the FSSU by the end of the month. The new windows project is in the final stages with the blinds still to be installed. Our annual insurance renewal is due on 1st February so we have to review our cover and make sure we are adequately covered. It is over €5,300 so we want to make sure we are getting our money's worth. Our Board also have to plan for the future including on going maintenance, staffing and what is best for our school in the next three to four years.

Artist:

Julie O'Hea is working with 6th class again this year. This is her third year, and the children are getting a lot from the experience. She is available to us through a partnership with the Cork Education Centre, the Arts Council and our school. Our students are getting a chance to experience art on a level that wouldn't normally be possible in primary school.

Local Teachers Meetings:

Our 1st and 2nd Class teachers have been meeting with teachers from local schools to share ideas. We hosted teachers from six local schools last week. It is a wonderful opportunity to have professional conversations and to tap into the knowledge of other excellent local teachers and for our wonderful teachers to share their ideas. It will benefit all the pupils in our locality. The teachers and principals who visited our school were very impressed by the atmosphere, facilities and resources of our school.

Extra-Curricular Activities:

Chess will continue up to midterm break and then we will switch to outdoor activities. Ready, Set, Fun will start again after midterm so keep an eye out for the notes. Soccer, hurling, Gaelic Football etc will be coming up over the next few weeks along with Lego workshops.

Past Pupils Work Experience:

We have had a large number of past pupils applying for work experience this year and we have done our best to accommodate them. We have two students in this week and three next week. We will also have another student in on Wednesdays from the end of February. We are limited in how many we can take but we are always delighted to see our past pupils and to hear how they are getting on.

Little Island Culture Day:

On 29th February we will celebrate all of the cultures in our school. Children in some classes will show off their "Culture Boxes" which will contain objects that will show off their cultural highlights. On February 29th children can dress in clothes that are important to their cultures and bring in samples of food that are particular to their cultures or families. We have a wonderful diverse community that brings a richness to our school, so this is an opportunity to celebrate it all.

Sherpa:

- Midterm booking now open – email lins@sherpakids.ie. 8am-12pm (half day) €25 per day
8am-4pm (full day) €35 per day. Bookings by email only.

Sherpa won't be open for March 8th referendum day as the school will be fully requisitioned and not available for adults or children not involved in voting.

That's all for now.

All the best,

Micheál Rea

Up Coming Events:

1st February: 5th and 6th class soccer matches v Carrigtwohill 11am to 12.30pm approximately.

2nd February: 4th and 5th class girls invited to performance of Grease in St. Als, Carrigtwohill.

5th February: school closed for Bank Holiday

6th February: Safer Internet Day

7th February: FAI 5-a-side soccer: Girls competition in Lakewood

9th February: FAI 5-a-side soccer: Boys competition in Carrigtwohill

12th February: 7pm: Board of Management meeting

15th&16th February: school closed for midterm break

19th Feb-1st March: French Exchange teacher on work placement.

29th February: Little Island NS Culture Day.

March 8th: school closed for referendum voting.

June 7th: European and Local elections: school likely to be closed on this date as well.