

Scoil Inse Rátha
Déan do Dhícheall
Newsletter February 2024

Dear Parents,

The daffodils are starting to bloom and the days are getting a bit longer. It all reminds us that we are into the second half of the school year. We have a lot to be proud of so far but there is still a lot to do. This term is quite broken and short as Easter is early and we have the referendum next week, along with St. Patrick's Day. While this gives a bit of a holiday feel for the children it is important to remember that we have a lot of important work to cover to make sure that every child is ready to move on in September. Our job as parents and primary school educators is to educate the whole child. We have provided many experiences in the last few weeks that are outside the academic but are no less important. Our students are a very special bunch, and we are lucky to have the privilege to work with them every day.

Cake Sale:

6th Class organised a cake sale last week to raise money for the school. They baked loads of cakes and we had a lovely morning selling the cakes to the rest of the school. Everyone took part and we raised €455! Thank you to everyone who supported us. The money will be used to decorate and refurbish the storage cabin on the yard.

FAI Soccer:

Our boys and girls played in the FAI 5-a-side blitzes this month. The girls went to Lakewood and the boys went to Carrigtwohill. We entered two girls' teams and they both did really well. They only lost two games all day but didn't progress as the standard was so high. Our boys had two teams playing as well and they played really well too. We are very proud of the boys and girls who represented our school excellently. It is one of the benefits of being in a smaller school that we could include everyone in 5th and 6th who wanted to play.

Culture Day:

Culture Day was held this week to celebrate the wide variety of cultures we have in our school. We have a map on the corridor, that you will be able to see on March 8th if you are voting in the school, that shows all the different countries represented in our school. We are very proud of our diversity and we feel that it helps to prepare our children for the global community that

we live in. We prepared culture boxes to represent each child's life and background and we visited different classes to discover more about each other. Thank you to everyone who took the time to help their child prepare for this event.

French Exchange Student:

Lysa is a student teacher from France and she spent two weeks in our school learning about the Irish Education system. She also spoke to different classes about what it is like to grow up in France. She loved her time in Little Island and got a lot from it. She feels that our system is better and more child centred. She particularly noted our use of play and active learning instead of children having to sit for hours just listening quietly. Lysa's visit provided us all with an opportunity to think about what we do from another perspective.

Hurling:

The Sciath na Scol hurling season has started. We have been training at lunch time and in the mornings before school. We have been delighted with the response to the morning sessions and we have had nearly twenty boys and girls playing each day. Hurling is always a bit more challenging than other sports because we don't have a lot of children playing hurling with Erin's Own. It is a difficult sport to pick up in a short space of time but the girls and boys are working hard and doing very well. Hurling is uniquely Irish and I think it is important that everyone can hit a sliotar with a hurley, even if they never play with a club. Erin's Own are always delighted to welcome new players so feel free to contact me if you want to know when training for your child is on. Erin's Own Ladies Football and Camogie Club are hosting an open day for U6s to U10s this Sunday from 12-1pm.

Girls Football:

GCC are hosting a girls football blitz next week for 5th and 6th classes. Their TY students have done a Ladies Football coaching and refereeing course as part of their TY work. They are running this blitz as part of the course work involved. All the local schools will be taking part so we wish them well and know that they will represent us very well.

Swimming:

Our swimming lessons for 4th to 6th Classes are finished now. The children made great progress – particularly the two groups in the shallow end. Even if you can't organise lessons for your child, it would be great if you could

bring them to the pool a couple of times a month so they can develop the skills they have learned in the last six weeks. There are a number of pools in Cork that are open to the public so you don't have to commit to a membership. Coral Leisure in Cobh and Leisureworld in Bishopstown and Churchfield have public sessions and a shallow pool for children starting out.

Cork City Council has 3 public swimming pools at Douglas, Bishopstown and at Churchfield.

These pools are operated by Leisureworld on our behalf. For further information please see www.leisureworldcork.com

Douglas Pool

Telephone: [021 4293073](tel:0214293073)

Leisureworld, Bishopstown

Telephone: [021 4346505](tel:0214346505)

Leisureworld, Churchfield

Telephone: [021 4397868](tel:0214397868)

Past Pupils:

It is always nice to see how our past pupils are doing. This month we had five past pupils on work experience from Transition Year in secondary schools. They are a credit to their schools and to their families. We are very proud of the people they are growing up to be and the small part we played. We also have a student teacher with us at the moment who is a past pupil. It is lovely to see the next generation of teachers coming through to continue the proud tradition the teaching profession has in Ireland. GCC sent us a copy of their Awards Nights brochure and we had two past pupils receive awards for excellent Leaving Certificate results. These are only the stories we have heard about, but we are sure there are many more.

Parking:

At pick up and drop off time please obey the road markings and don't block access routes, our neighbours' houses, and the staff car park. Please don't ask your child to cross the road without you as there are a lot of blind spots for drivers that children aren't thinking about.

That's all for now.

All the best,
Micheál Rea

Up Coming Events:

1st and 4th March: Bricks4Kids workshops sponsored by Catalyx

4th March: Girls football blitz in GCC

5th March: Engineering in a Box sponsored by Dornan's engineering continues in 6th class

7th March: World Book Day – children can dress up as a character from their favourite book.

8th March: school closed for referendum – school is used as a polling station

12th March: African Drumming Workshop

18th March: school closed for bank holiday for St. Patrick's Day

22nd March: school closes at 12.15pm for all classes for Easter Holidays

8th April: school reopens for the Summer Term.