

Scoil Inse Ratha
Déan do Dhícheall
Newsletter May 2024

Dear Parents,

We are on the last lap of the school year and, as with all races, it isn't over until we cross the finish line. There is a lot of valuable work to be done each day in school. While this may look different, at times, it is no less important. We have many events to look forward to and much to celebrate. Here are some of the highlights from this month:

Holy Communion:

We celebrated our First holy Communion last Saturday. It was a lovely ceremony and the children were amazing. Everything was perfect and we are very proud of all the children. Thank you to the staff and to Fr. Damian who made it such a special day for the children. Well done to the children who made it all look effortless.

City Sports:

Our boys and girls took part in The Cork City Sports yesterday. This is the biggest athletics event in Europe, with more than six thousand athletes running, and it is a great honour to be able to take part. We are very proud of all our students who represented our school so well. Thank you to the staff who accompanied the children. There is a lot of work involved in the preparation and on the day.

Customs Dogs:

We had a visit from The Customs Dog Unit this month. It was lovely to see how the dogs work. The children asked very intelligent questions and we learned lots about what the Unit do. Thanks to Ger, whose daughter will be starting in September, who arranged the visit.

Junior Soccer Leagues:

We ran our Junior Soccer Leagues this month. We had some great games that culminated in a finals day earlier this week. It was lovely to see how much some players have progressed since the autumn leagues. The future is definitely looking bright for our sports teams! Well done to all involved.

World Bee Day:

Hanna, Julius' Mum, came in to speak to us on World Bee Day. She brought in a hive with bees and some products that are made with honey and bees wax. She also spoke to us about all the things we wouldn't have without bees – even chocolate! It was fascinating to learn all about bees and to see them working away. Thanks to Julius and Hanna for this excellent workshop.

Bricks4Kids Lego Creative Schools Workshop:

Bricks4Kids spent the day with 3rd and 4th last week as part of The Creative Schools programme. It was an opportunity to mix art, creativity and engineering. The children created some amazing works and the facilitators were very impressed with the standard of the pieces. Thank you to Luke's Dad, Mark, from our neighbours Catalyx, who sponsored this workshop. Bricks4Kids are running summer camps this summer in East Cork. See <https://www.bricks4kidz.ie/cork-city-cork-east/lego-summer-camps/> for more details.

Primary Maths Curriculum:

There are a number of changes being made to the primary curriculum at the moment. We have implemented a new Primary Language Curriculum in the last few years and have been learning about the new Primary Maths Curriculum this year. This is due to be implemented from September. In the junior end

of the school you will see new Maths books which will be aligned with this new curriculum. The content will stay largely the same but the way we engage with the curriculum and ask the children to engage with the curriculum will be changing. There is a consultation being run by the NCCA at the moment on the future direction of other areas of the curriculum which you can see on www.ncca.ie. If you have any questions please contact me.

Junior Achievement:

Local companies work with Junior Achievement Ireland to send volunteers into our classrooms to talk about the work that is done outside of school. This allows children to see what kinds of jobs they might pursue and also to learn about how different things work. 6th Class are working with Conor from Janssen and they built wind turbines this week while they learned about sustainable energy. Each class in the school gets a volunteer each year and we are very grateful to the many volunteers who provide these learning opportunities for our children and to the companies that release their employees for this.

Information Evening for new JI:

We met the parents of our incoming Junior Infants this week. It is an exciting time for these parents, and we look forward to welcoming their children into our community. The children will visit next week for their Induction Day.

School Lunches:

Friday May 31st sees the launch of the new schools meals programme. Details will be sent home and parents will have a chance to order meals for their children on The Lunch Bag app up to 36 hours before delivery. The first lunches will be delivered next Wednesday, June 5th. It should all go smoothly but feel free to contact me if you have any issues.

School Books:

The DES have decided to provide free schoolbooks, copies and workbooks again for the 2024/2025 school year. These are in school now, so we are ready to go for September! You will receive a list of stationery items before the end of June that you will need to purchase.

Parents Association:

Our Parents Association have been very busy recently. They held a meeting and voted in the Executive for next year. Aoife Dwyer will take over from Lisa Byrne as Chairperson. Lisa has given fantastic service to the school over many years, and we are really grateful. She has made our school a better place in so many ways – thank you Lisa! Claire Ryan will be our Treasurer and Claire O'Donnell will be our Secretary. Thank you to our PA for all the wonderful work they have done during the year to support our school. They ran their annual Gold Rush recently and raised €755. They have also organised with Pepsi to collect plastic bottles from their canteen to recycle – the last collection raised €122.05. Thank you to Kristina who is leading this. The PA have helped with gifts for the Holy Communion class, welcoming the new parents at Information Evening, goodies for the new JI and they will be helping with Sports Day, Graduation and much more over the next few weeks. New members are always welcome, even if you can only help at one or two events during the year.

Teachers for next year:

Subject to final DES approval, this is the list of teachers and split of classes for 2024/2025:

Jl: Ms. Susan Lynch

Sl: Ms. Laura Genevra

1st Class: Ms. Louise Morgan

2nd Class: Ms. Valerie McGrath

3rd/4th Class: Ms. Estelle Cassidy/Ms. Julie Neville

5th Class: Ms. Audrey Roche

6th Class: Micheál Rea

SEN Team: Gillian Diamond, Nuala Murray, Miriam Hennessey, Gráinne Duggan and Lauren Cunningham.

SNAs: Siobhán Collins, Mary Clifford, Aoife Glavin and Tara Coomey.

That's all for now.

All the best,

Micheál Rea

Up Coming Events:

5th June: First meals delivered by The Lunch Bag

5th June: Junior and Senior Infants go home at 12.15pm to facilitate Induction Day for new JI.

6th June: 5th Class school tour to The Mardyke Arena. 6th Class school tour to UL.

7th June: school closed for Local and European elections

10th June: 6th Class visit to Italian Department

12th June: 2nd/3rd & 3rd/4th school tour to Planet, Gaol and Lifetime Lab.

13th June: SI&1st school tour to Tír na Sí

14th June: School Sports Day

17th June: JI school tour to Leahy's Farm

17th June: Board of Management meeting

18th June: Superstars – whole school, team based, multi sports, cooperative event!

19th June: Summer Reports posted

20th June: 1pm: 6th Class Graduation

27th June: school closes at 12.15pm for Summer Holidays.