

Scoil Inse Rátha

Déan do Dhícheall

Newsletter October 2024

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:

We played our Sciath a Scol competition over the last two months. We have had training or games nearly every day. The enthusiasm and effort that everyone has put in has been excellent. Our boys won two games and our girls qualified for the semi-final. They narrowly lost out to Bartlemy by two points. Both teams represented our school brilliantly and we are very proud of them. A lot of younger players from 3rd and 4th classes got to play and experience this competition. There is plenty of talent coming through so the future is bright. I would like to particularly commend the players who started playing Gaelic football for the first time in the last few weeks. They have been a wonderful addition to our squad.

Lunchtime Leagues:

We ran soccer leagues at lunchtime with eight teams from 3rd to 6th taking part. Over the few years we have been looking at ways of encouraging student participation in decision making and listening to the Student Voice. I had intended running a Gaelic Football lunchtime league but the students voted for a soccer league instead. We have been very lucky with the weather and have managed to get all the games played before November. The children were excellent and a pleasure to spend lunchtime with. The games were played competitively but also sportingly.

Safer Routes to School:

We are still waiting for the surveys to send home for you to fill in. They are due shortly.

Chess Club:

Letters went home last week about our Chess Club. This will run after school on Mondays and Fridays from November 25th until February 14th for children in 3rd-6th classes. This is a fun activity that is run free of charge for the benefit of any students who are interested.

World Children's Day Event:

On November 19th, The Children's Ombudsman, Niall Muldoon and some other adults who represent children's groups, will come to our school to speak to our students. Our children will get an opportunity to express their opinions, ask questions and discuss issues of concern

with these adults. We are running this event for children in association with Cork CYPSC. It is part of our School Improvement Plan to encourage student participation.

School Closures:

The Primary Language Curriculum, The Primary Maths Curriculum, The Anti-Bullying Programme (Bí Cineálta) and The Primary Curriculum Framework are all being implemented or about to be implemented at the moment. We will have a number of school closures related to these during the year. On **November 8th** we will be closed for in-service on the Primary Maths Curriculum. On **January 6th** the school will be closed for NCSE staff training in relation to our special class. We will have another school closure in late Term 2 or early Term 3 for the PMC and Bí Cineálta in-service. It is a time of immense change in primary school education and these courses are essential to enable our staff to educate your child according to DES standards. Sherpa Kids have been informed of the closures so you should be able to book childcare if you need it. Our school is normally used as a polling station so once a date is announced for the **General Election** you can assume that we will be closed on that date too. Sherpa can't be on site on the day voting takes place as the entire building is requisitioned so they will be closed.

Parents Association:

Our Parents Association have been busy this month. They have arranged for the taking of photos for our annual school calendar and will be working with the printer to get it printed in time for sale in early December. They also have plans for our annual Christmas raffle. We really appreciate the work they put in and the time they volunteer from their busy lives.

Dyslexia Awareness Month:

Ms. Duggan, one of our teachers, gave a talk to 3rd to 6th classes on Dyslexia as part of Dyslexia Awareness Month. She explained that everyone's brains work differently and that we all have different talents. She explained that while some people struggle in one area, they have talents in other areas. No person should be defined by what they find hard or what they can't do. To paraphrase a wise saying – you wouldn't ask a fish to climb a tree. Our children have to negotiate a complex world so we need to celebrate what they can do and help them work around what they find hard.

Book Fair:

Ms. Murray and her band of helpers ran the annual Book Fair last week. Thank you for all your support. We sold over €1200 worth of books and we got more than half of that back in books as a commission for the school. Each class has some new books added to their library. Thank you to everyone involved for making it such a success again this year.

Stryker 3D Printer:

Stryker have given our school a loan of a 3D printer for the school year. 6th Class will lead this project as we learn and discover what we can do with it. 6th will involve other classes once we have figured it out ourselves! It is another learning opportunity for our children. Stryker use a 3D printer to make hips, knees etc for humans. While they use a much more

complicated device, our students are getting the chance to see, in an age-appropriate way, how this might work. We are very grateful to Stryker and look forward to discovering during the year. Keep an eye on Instagram for updates and photographs.

That's all for now.

Have a wonderful midterm break!

All the best,

Micheál Rea

Up Coming Events:

28th Oct to 1st Nov Inclusive: school closed for midterm break.

8th Nov: school closed for Primary Maths Curriculum in-service

13th Nov: Parent Teacher meetings after school

14th Nov: 3rd-5th Cork Pops in Opera House

14th Nov: school closed at 12.30pm for Parent Teacher Meetings

19th Nov: World Children's Day Event in school

25th & 26th Nov: winter flu vaccine being offered to children in school by Carrigtwohill Pharmacy – more details after midterm

25th Nov: Board of Management meeting at 7pm.