

Scoil Inse Rátha

Déan do Dhícheall

Newsletter March/April 2025

Dear Parents,

As Term 2 draws to a close we can reflect on all that we have achieved this year so far. We have a fantastic group of children who work hard and bring joy and pleasure to our school every day. Our staff are diligent and committed to helping each child flourish and achieve their potential. Our community including parents, local people and businesses help us in many different ways to provide the best opportunities for our students. We have a lot to celebrate and be proud of and we should not take it for granted. Thank you for the part you play in making Little Island NS a better place!

FAI 5-a-side tournament:

Our girls started the month of March in great style. They won the group stage and only conceded 1 goal in four matches. They comfortably qualified for the county finals which were played in Musgrave Park last week. Once again, they were amazing and topped their group, scoring lots of goals and conceding very few. They lost out narrowly in the county semi-final, finishing 3rd out of 75 teams! We are incredibly proud of them and of how they represented our school. Our supporters deserve special mention for the enthusiastic support they provided from the stands. Thank you to the parents who were able to cheer us on. The commemorative tops sponsored by the PA were very much appreciated as well.

Girls Football Blitz in GCC:

Our girls football team played in a blitz organised by GCC's Transition Year students recently. It was a very well-run competition and a great day out for our girls. One of our past pupils, Eileen Lynch, looked after us on the day and managed our team. We played really well and were competitive throughout, even though we were playing against schools that are a lot bigger than ours. The girls rose to the challenge and won the plate final in fine style! Well done girls!

Seachtain na Gaeilge:

Bhí Seachtain na Gaeilge ar siúl i mí Márta. Bhí comórtas ealaíne againn agus bhí an caighdeán ar fheabhas. Chomh maith le sin bhí comórtas ag am lóin. Fuair na páistí cárta buí nuair a bhain siad úsáid as aon Gaeilge ar bith. Rinne na daltaí sár-iarracht Gaeilge a labhairt. I ndeireadh an lae bhuaigh rang Ms. Ginevra an comórtas. Táimid an-bhródúil as na páistí go léir.

Confirmation:

Children from 6th Class received the sacrament of Confirmation in March on a glorious day. The children were fantastic, doing all their jobs and readings really well. The singing and the music were highlights of the day. It was a wonderful occasion and a pleasure to be part of. Thank you to Fr. Damien for helping us to prepare and for making all the children as relaxed as possible on the day.

First Confession:

Children from 2nd Class make their First Confession on March 13th in the church in Little Island. Our students were brilliant and represented their families and their school very well. Preparation is already underway for their Holy Communion and we wish them well in that.

Board of Management:

Our Board of Management have a lot going on in the background at the moment.

1. Solar Panels: we applied for solar panels to be installed under the Department of Education scheme. These were installed this week and we hope that they will help reduce our electricity costs. A monitor will be installed in reception to show us how much power we are generating.
2. Flat Roof: our flat roof is nearing the end of its life and we have had a number of leaks. We are applying for funding to replace this roof.
3. Internal reconfiguration works: we have to divide up two of our rooms during the summer to provide accommodation for Special Education Teachers and for a sensory room. This involves another application for funding from the Department of Education.
4. Yard works: Nicholas Casey, on our Board, has volunteered to fix a section of the yard that has subsided to make it safer for our students to play. Thanks Nick!
5. Budgeting: this is a constant issue. A number of schools across the country have had to apply for emergency finance to help pay their bills, coming to a head recently when a school in Dublin had to threaten to close on April 1st due to inadequate funding. This is the reality of trying to run a school. As an example, our insurance bill costs nearly 20% of our grant to run the school. Cleaning costs nearly 40%. That is before we pay for heating, electricity and water. Your contributions are very much appreciated and needed.
6. Maintenance: we have a big building and grounds to maintain and we are delighted to have finally been able to find someone to help with caretaking. We have a beautiful school environment but that needs lots of effort to keep it look well.

Thank you to our Board members for their ongoing commitment and dedication to our school.

Brick4Kids Workshops:

Bricks4Kids were back building with us again last week. They provided challenges and lots of fun while teaching problem-solving skills and teamwork. Lego is a great way to engage children and they all get something out of it. Thank you, once again, to Luke's Dad, Mark, for arranging for Catalyx to pay for these workshops.

Sciath na Scol Hurling:

We had great fun over the last six weeks or so playing hurling every morning. We were blessed with some lovely weather which helped! A very committed group of hurlers turned up every day to learn and to develop their skills. It was a lovely way to start the day. We played our championship games over two days in Mayfield GAA Club. Our players were great and were very competitive. We didn't qualify for the finals but we won a game and were very close in the other games. Ms. Cunningham and I are very proud of the progress that was made during the hurling season. I would encourage you to bring your child to Erin's Own to further develop their skills. Thank you to all the parents who brought their children in each morning to train.

Lunchtime Leagues:

Lunchtime soccer leagues for 3rd-6th Classes will start after Easter. Everyone is welcome to play and we would particularly encourage children who don't normally play to try it out. Leagues for 1st and 2nd Classes will start once these leagues are over.

Cork Golf Club:

Cork Golf Club recently held a fashion show to raise money for charity. Their Lady Captain selects the charity each year and this year they chose us as one of their beneficiaries. They want to assist us in kitting out our new sensory room. We are incredibly grateful to them and particularly to Joan Dobson, Lady Captain, for leading this. This money combined with the LIIDC donation, will mean that we should be able to create a lovely sensory space for our students. Thanks to Claire Coughlan for making the introduction!

Tricycles:

Roca Sports in Carrigtwohill provided two new tricycles for our school recently. They were paid for by fundraising by Erin's Own U-11s. Thank you to everyone involved. These bikes will be used for activity breaks, to teach safe cycling and to encourage children who are reluctant to cycle on two wheels to gain confidence. We would like to thank one of our former teachers, Amy Ní Cheallaigh, for driving this initiative.

Swim Gala:

We entered our first ever swim gala yesterday. It was held in Mayfield Sports Complex and was very well run. The children were fantastic and performed excellently. We are very proud of them and they have created a little bit of history! Well done to all involved.

Sherpa Kids:

Sherpa Kids booking portal for next year is open. Places and preferred dates fill up quickly so please don't wait around. We had a number of families who were caught out last year due to the demand. Sherpa have very specific staff ratios so they need to know the level of demand early so they can have staff in place. The information was emailed to everyone earlier this week. If you didn't get it, please email me at principal@littleislandns.com or email Heather in Sherpa at lins@sherpakids.ie.

That's all for now. Happy Easter!

All the best,

Micheál Rea

Up Coming Events:

April 11th: school closes at 12.15pm for Easter Holidays

April 28th: school reopens

May 9th: First Holy Communion

May 12th: school closed for in-service

7pm: Board of Management meeting

May 15th: Parents Association Gold Rush – please start keeping your coins!

May 21st: Bricks4Kids Creative Schools Workshop in 3rd&4th

May 29th: Cork City Sports