

Scoil Inse Rátha
Déan do Dhícheall
Newsletter May 2025

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 on May 9th. 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 last week. 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.

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. 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.

School Books:

The DES have decided to provide free schoolbooks, copies and workbooks again for the 2025/2026 school year. These have been ordered, 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.

Board of Management:

Our Board of Management met this month. They discussed our plans for building and reconfiguration works during the summer. There are some

repairs that need to be carried out as well along with the normal cleaning routines. Our Board also ratified our Bí Cineálta Policy which will come into force from the start of the school year. It replaces our Anti-Bullying Policy. It will be available to view on our website before the start of the school year.

Sherpa Kids:

Sherpa Kids provide a great resource and support to many of our parents. They are organising their staffing for the new school year now and are actively recruiting to make sure we have the best people working with our wonderful students. It is really important that you make contact with them if you think you will need childcare next year. It may not be possible to secure your desired dates if you leave it too late to book a place. Email lins@sherpakids.ie for more information.

Congratulations to Fr. Damien:

We are delighted to congratulate Fr. Damien on the occasion of his 30th anniversary of joining the priesthood. It is a significant milestone and it is worthy of celebration!

Fr. Damien works very closely with us during the year and is a great help to us in many ways. One of the most important traits that he brings is his kindness to our pupils. He helps the children to relax during the stressful time around the sacraments. He calls in regularly to meet the children so they are familiar with him and know that he is nice to deal with. We are lucky to have such a positive presence in our school.

Gold Rush and PepsiCo bottles:

Our Parents Association are always working away to help support our work in making our school a better place. This month they organised the Gold Rush which raised nearly €1,500! That is one of the most successful ever Gold Rush fundraisers. Thank you to everyone who organised and supported this. They are also continuing to work with PepsiCo to collect and recycle plastic bottles from their canteen which is also raising some extra money for our school. We really appreciate the support from PepsiCo and from our PA for collecting and recycling the bottles.

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.

Lunchtime Leagues: 3rd to 6th and 1st&2nd

We have been running soccer leagues at lunchtime for the last couple of months. The 3rd to 6th Class leagues were very competitive and it was great to see so many pupils improve since our leagues in Term 1. Playing the games is fun but there is some serious learning as well. Sporting behaviour, being a good winner and a good loser, team work, kindness and self-control are some of the life skills that the children learn.

6th Class have organised a league for 1st&2nd Class. This has been running for the last few weeks. 6th have managed the teams and refereed the games. The finals were played yesterday. The enthusiasm, energy and skill on display is wonderful to see. Well done to everyone involved in both leagues.

PepsiCo VR Headsets:

PepsiCo ran a cyber safety workshop with 6th Class last week. They discussed security online and did an interactive quiz with the children to highlight some of the dangers so our children can be safe online. At the end of the presentation, they let each child use Virtual Reality headsets to ride a rollercoaster. Thank you to PepsiCo for organising this and for the free pens, notebooks etc they gave us!

That's all for now.

All the best,

Micheál Rea

Up Coming Events:

4th June: 7pm Information Evening for parents of new Junior Infants

5th June: 1st&2nd Class school tour

12.15pm Junior and Senior Infants go home early

1pm: Induction Day for new Junior Infants

6th June: JI & SI school tour

9th June: 3rd to 6th visit to NRG Xpress

10th June: 3rd&4th class school tour

11th June: 6th Class school tour

12th June: 5th Class school tour

13th June: 6th Class UCC Italian Graduation

17th June: Sports Day

18th June: Coffee morning for Breast Cancer Ireland

19th June: 1pm 6th Class Graduation

20th June: Basketball Fun Day

23rd June: Superstars

26th June: close at 12.15pm for summer holidays.