



Scoil Náisiúnta Inse Rátha, Little Island National School.
Tel: 021 – 4354087.

Principal – Micheál Rea

August 2024

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to the new school year. I hope that you all had a lovely summer and that you are ready for the school year ahead. I would especially like to welcome the children and families who are new to our school community. I hope that you will have a very happy and fulfilling time here.

Summer Works:

We undertook a good deal of maintenance and cleaning during the summer to make sure that we have a nice environment for our children. This was a considerable expense that we had to take on with limited support from The Department of Education. We will be asking that you continue to support our brown envelopes to help us to pay off the balance of these works and to maintain and replace resources in the school.

Staff:

I am very confident that we have a great team in place to continue the excellent traditions of our school.

Our staff is as follows:

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

Secretary: Jacinta Flannery

Cleaner: ChocLatte Cleaning

Deputy Principal and SEN Coordinator: Gillian Diamond.

Junior Infants: Susan Lynch

Senior Infants: Laura Ginevra

1st Class: Louise Morgan

2nd: Valerie McGrath

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

5th Class: Audrey Roche

6th Class: Micheál Rea

Resource and Learning Support: Gillian Diamond, Nuala Murray, Gráinne Duggan, Miriam Hennessy and Lauren Cunningham.

Teaching Principal:

As a teaching principal, I will be teaching 6th class. I will have a day each week to do administrative work and attend meetings. This year, Ms. Diamond will take my class when I am on these admin days. I will be in school before and after school each day, normally 7.30am to 3.30pm, if you need to speak to me. You can email me at principal@littleislandns.com to make an appointment or you can ring Jacinta.



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Sherpa Kids Childcare:

Sherpa Kids will continue to operate again this year from 8am to 6pm. They provide care and activities before school and after school. Contact Heather at lins@sherpakids.ie to book a place for your child. Places are very limited but it is important to put your name on a waiting list so Sherpa Kids can plan and cater for the demand.

Supervision:

Children are allowed into the school yard from 8.40 am and will be brought into their classrooms by their teacher at 8.50 am. Formal classes begin at 8.50 am. On wet days children will be supervised in their classroom from 8.40am-8.50am. No responsibility can be taken for children before 8.40 am or after 2.30pm (1.30pm for Infants) unless on official school activities. We receive very strict guidelines from our insurance company so we have to stick to these times even if it is wet or cold. Please bear this in mind when you drop your child to school.

New Junior Infants:

Parents can bring their child to the external classroom door for the first week. Enter the school grounds using the gate by the pitch. After that we would encourage you to drop your child at the gate and let them walk in.

Pupil Accident Insurance: This, 24 hr cover, is compulsory for every child in the school. Accidents happen both at home and in school and this insurance has proven to be priceless for families over the years. Check out www.allianz.ie for more details. Children from our school reclaimed nearly €5,000 in medical and dental expenses last year through this insurance.

Communication: Each teacher will communicate with you via your child's homework journal/homework folder. Please check regularly for notes. Feel free to make an appointment to meet your child's teacher through the office as well. Information about school events etc will be posted on the school **Instagram** during the year. You will need to follow us in order to receive information. This will be the main form of notification and updates so please sign up as soon as possible so you don't miss anything.

We will also use Text-a-Parent for short messages and newsletters will be available on our website.

Jacinta is in the office until 1.45pm each day. The office is unmanned after this time. Leave a message and we will get back to you as soon as possible.

Uniforms: Please make sure your child wears the correct tracksuit/uniform on the appropriate days. Teachers will inform each class of their tracksuit days shortly. Please label all your child's belongings clearly – even for those in the older classes!



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Healthy Eating Policy:

Please see our school's homework journal for details of our Healthy Eating Policy. Proper healthy and nutritious foods help children to focus and to work better. Water is the best drink for the same reason. The Lunch Bag will be providing hot school meals during the year. Please download the app and select the meals you want for your child 48 hours in advance of the day to ensure they get what they want. If you haven't activated your child's account please do so as soon as possible. Your child will still need a small lunch/snack for the first break and this should be in line with our Healthy Eating Policy.

Entry and Exit from the school:

A number of people have come to me about pets at the gate. Some of our children are very nervous of these pets and are finding it hard to enter and exit the school when these pets are nearby. If you *have* to bring a pet to the school could you please bear in mind that not all children are comfortable with them and keep a path clear for them to exit safely and happily. No animals, except assistance dogs, are allowed on the school grounds at any time.

Parking: Please note that the car park is for staff use only and we would appreciate it if the entrance could be kept clear at all times. Please be considerate of our neighbours when parking outside the school and don't block their entrances or park on the double yellow lines. Please keep the bus and disabled parking spots free as well.

Calendar: details of our school closures for this academic year are available on our website: <http://www.littleislandns.com/calendar/>

Best of luck to everyone for the year ahead. Feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

All the best,

Micheál Rea.

Up Coming Events:

Friday November 8th: school closed for in-service on Primary Maths Curriculum.

Wednesday November 13th: Parent/Teacher meetings after school

Thursday November 14th: school closes at 12.30pm to facilitate Parent/Teacher meetings.



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