

**Scoil Inse Rátha**  
**Déan do Dhícheall**  
**Newsletter February 2025**

**Dear Parents,**

We are now into the second half of the school year. Time is flying and there are lots of activities going on. Academic work is at the heart of what we do every day but we also have a responsibility to educate the whole child. We work very hard to provide as wide a range of activities as possible to allow every child flourish and shine. We have a great group of children and a very dedicated team of staff so we have a lot to be proud of. Here are the highlights of the last month in our school.

**FAI 5-a-side Competition:**

We entered three teams in this competition which was held in Carrigtwohill. Even though this was the competition for boys some of our girls took part as well. All of our players played really well and represented our school excellently. It was an exciting, fun and enjoyable day. We were very competitive and only narrowly missed out on progressing to the finals. Ronan Murray, one of our past pupils, helped us out on the day and we were grateful for his help. Well done to all involved. The girls are playing on Friday so they will be training at lunchtime this week.

**Challenge Matches:**

In preparation for this competition, we played a number of challenge matches. We travelled to Carrigtwohill to play one of the primary schools there. Our boys and girls took part and learned a lot.

Park NS, from outside Youghal, travelled up to play us in a challenge match before midterm. Our Parents Association arranged treats and medals for the children to mark this special occasion which added to the whole experience.

It is a pleasure to be able to take our students out for these activities and to be able to trust that they will behave properly and represent our school community well.

**Chess Club:**

Our Winter Chess Club ran from October midterm to the February midterm. Nearly forty children took part every week on Mondays and Fridays after school. It was great fun watching the children playing together and learning from each other. Children can come to my room at lunchtime to play chess any day that I don't have training on the pitch.

**Hurling:**

The hurling season has begun. Matches will start soon so we have started training before school this week. All children from 3<sup>rd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> are welcome to attend and we have hurleys and

helmets for anyone who needs them. Hurling is part of our culture so it is nice that every child should experience it in some way during their lives.

#### **Confirmation Class Retreat:**

Our Confirmation Class went to The Parish Centre for a retreat to help them to prepare for their upcoming sacrament. Liz and Kathryn led them through some prayers, hymns and reflections. It was a lovely occasion and allowed the children some time out of school to think about what they are about to receive. Thank you to Fr. Damien for organising this.

#### **Graduation Hoodies:**

6<sup>th</sup> Class got their graduation hoodies this week. It is a badge of honour and a recognition of what they have achieved in their time in primary school. It also allows them to stand out and be recognised as being on the cusp of moving onto the next stage. They still have a lot of work to do but they are onto the last lap of primary school now.

#### **Past Pupils Work Experience:**

We have had six past pupils in on work experience this year so far as part of their Transition Year Programme. It is great to see out past pupils and hear how they are getting on as they get closer to being adults. We have limited capacity each year to accommodate students on work experience but we do our best to fit in as many as possible, especially those who are interested in working in school when they grow up.

#### **Local Schools Network:**

We are part of a network of primary schools in the East Cork area from Glanmire to Middleton. We meet regularly to share resources and ideas. Over the last two months, teachers from third and fourth classes have been meeting in different schools to share teaching strategies and to discuss the latest methodologies. This helps every teacher to improve and in turn, improves the education provided to your child. Together we are stronger.

#### **Basketball:**

Mark continues to coach our students every week. 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> have finished their block and Senior Infants and 1<sup>st</sup> will be start this week. There will be basketball fun day at the end of June to celebrate the progress made during the year.

#### **Swimming Gala:**

We have swimming trials for the gala this week. This is our first time entering a gala so we are excited to see how our swimmers get on. On March 12<sup>th</sup> we will have our final day of swimming for 3<sup>rd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> to make up for the day we missed at the start of January. The swimming gala will be on April 10<sup>th</sup>, before the Easter Holidays.

#### **Student Teachers:**

Student teachers have to do placements in various schools as part of their course. We take student teachers into every class every year. It helps the next generation to prepare to join

the teaching profession and it also allows our students to experience a different approach and teaching style. This builds their resilience and adaptability. Our teachers get to see our students from a different perspective and it also provides an extra adult in the classroom which helps our students. As a school we also have access to the latest developments in education through our links with the colleges of education.

#### **East Cork Studios:**

Austin and Gwen took our usual annual photographs this month. They will have the proofs ready soon and you will be able to purchase whatever you like from them. We display our Junior Infants and 6<sup>th</sup> Class each year and we have an impressive collection going back many years at this stage.

#### **Junior Infant Screening:**

The Public Health Nurse was in this month doing sight and hearing screening with Junior Infants. This is an essential service that often picks up underlying issues that are impacting children's ability to see and hear in class. If you missed your appointment, please make sure to follow up with the Public Health Nurse at their clinic.

#### **Bricks4Kids – Catalyx:**

Catalyx have agreed to run the Brick4Kids Lego workshops in every class again this year. This is a great chance to build on the work we do in school, with Lego Master Builders. It would not be possible without the continued generous support from our neighbour, Catalyx. Thanks a million to Luke's Dad, Mark, for making it happen!

#### **Nature Signs – PipeLife:**

Our children's ability to recognise and identify important parts of our nature was identified as something we could improve. We sourced a series of outdoor nature signs that have pictures and names of birds, trees, bugs, mammals and flowers. They are very expensive and more than we can afford. PipeLife have agreed to sponsor these signs so we are absolutely thrilled. They have been ordered and will be delivered before the summer holidays. I will be looking for a volunteer (or volunteers) with a drill to put them up!

#### **World Book Day:**

Children can dress up this week on Thursday March 6<sup>th</sup> for World Book Day. We love this day every year as it is some fun and it reminds everyone how important it is to read. If you can only do one thing to help your child's development – read to them.

#### **Solar Panels:**

We are in the final stages of applying for funding for solar panels for the school. We hope to have them installed by the summer.

That's all for now.

All the best,

Micheál Rea

**Upcoming Events:**

**3<sup>rd</sup> March:** 7pm Board of Management meeting

Junior Achievement Energize programme continues in 6<sup>th</sup> Class

Junior Achievement in 3<sup>rd</sup>&4<sup>th</sup>

**4<sup>th</sup> March:** Engineering in a Box starts in 6<sup>th</sup> sponsored by Dornan Engineering

**5<sup>th</sup> March:** Swim trials

**6<sup>th</sup> March:** World Book Day

ESB Engineers Workshop with 3<sup>rd</sup>,4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Classes

**7<sup>th</sup> March:** Girls FAI Soccer Competition

**12<sup>th</sup> March:** Last day of swimming

**13<sup>th</sup> March:** First Confession

**19<sup>th</sup> March:** Girls football blitz in GCC

**24<sup>th</sup> March:** Confirmation

**31<sup>st</sup> March:** School closed for in-service