



28<sup>th</sup> February, 2023.

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s),

I hope that you and your families are keeping well.

**Cycle Safe Ireland Workshops:** In January pupils from the two Fifth Classes took part in four workshops to promote safety while cycling. This is a new project for St. Ita's and it was positively received by the pupils.

**Internet Safety Workshops:** Helen Butler is an expert in this area and is a regular visitor to the school presenting workshops to 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> classes. These workshops were extended to pupils in 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> classes at the end of January and the pupils received advice and knowledge as to how to keep safe while on the internet. Parents can find lots of relevant information on [www.webwise.ie](http://www.webwise.ie)

### **Literacy and Numeracy:**

- Literacy Stations and team teaching by three teachers in Mr. Whelan's Senior Infant Class is in operation one day per week during second term.
- The Reading Recovery Intervention Programme – co-ordinated by Ms. Murray is continuing during this term.
- Lift off to Literacy – Power Hour – team teaching by three teachers over six to eight weeks in Ms. O'Brien's Third Class.
- Olive Mooney – visiting author, Olive visited pupils in 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> classes in mid-January. She read from her books and discussed and advised pupils on creative writing.
- Write A Book Project – pupils in 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> classes took part in this creative writing project. Entries have now been submitted to Galway Education Centre.
- Visits to the local Library – a number of classes have visited the Library at the start of this term.
- New equipment (mini whiteboards, cuisenaire rods) has been purchased for all classes.
- New sets of classroom novels have been purchased for 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> classes.
- Sets of HiLo Readers (Folens) have been purchased for the Support Teaching Classrooms.

**Catholic Schools Week:** This was held from 23<sup>rd</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup> January. The school Mass took place on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> January.

**Credit Union Quiz:** 8 teams of 4 pupils from 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> classes took part in the Quiz on Saturday evening 28<sup>th</sup> January. It was an educational and enjoyable experience. Well done to the pupils who represented the school in this event.

**Visits to Infant Classes:** Joe Higgins, a Postman visited the Junior and Senior Infant classes on Tuesday, 7<sup>th</sup> February.

**Sporting Events:** St. Ita's Co. Galway Volleyball Champions! St. Ita's entered five teams from the two Sixth Classes in this year's Co. Galway Primary Schools Volleyball Finals which were held in Ballinasloe.

All players gave their best in each game and two of our teams progressed in the final. Team No. 2 beat Team No. 1 in a closely fought final. Well done to the pupils who represented the school in this event. St. Ita's will now represent Galway in the All Ireland Primary Schools Final which will take place in Limerick on this Thursday.

### **Music:**

- School Band Practice for pupils in 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> classes.
- Na Drumadore Drumming Workshops – These were held on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> & Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> February in the Volleyball Hall and all classes participated in these very enjoyable and interactive workshops.
- Sixth Class pupils attended the “Beauty and the Beast” musical in St. Brigid’s College.
- The School Choir sang at the Catholic Schools Week Mass.

**Art:** Pupils took part in the “Imagine the Future” Art Competition to involve pupils’ vision of the future development of amenities at the Long Point in Loughrea.

**MMR Vaccinations & Vision & Hearing Screening:** The MMR Vaccinations and Vision & Hearing Screening for Junior Infant pupils were held in St. Ita’s N.S. on Thursday, 16<sup>th</sup> February. Parents were notified in advance. If you were unable to attend for any reason you should contact the HSE office in St. Brendan’s Campus, Lake Road, Loughrea to get advice regarding your situation.

**Reminder regarding Mobile Phones:** Pupils are not allowed to bring a mobile phone to school. For more information on this matter you can refer to the School Code of Behaviour on [www.stitaloughrea.com](http://www.stitaloughrea.com).

### **Dates for your Diary:**

- Celebration of the Sacrament of First Holy Communion for relevant pupils in 2<sup>nd</sup> Class will take place on Sunday, 7<sup>th</sup> May in St. Brendan’s Cathedral.
- The celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation for relevant pupils in 6<sup>th</sup> Class will take place on Saturday, 20<sup>th</sup> May in St. Brendan’s Cathedral.

**Enrolment of Pupils:** We are currently accepting enrolments of Junior Infants for September 2023. Forms can be downloaded from the school website [www.stitaloughrea.com](http://www.stitaloughrea.com) or can be requested by phoning 091 841605 or emailing [st.itasecretary1930@gmail.com](mailto:st.itasecretary1930@gmail.com).

Yours sincerely,

Mr. P. Coyle, Principal.