

# **School Self Evaluation in Scoil Oilibhéir: Update #1**

Dear Parents,

In recent years, we have worked hard to implement a Department of Education & Skills initiative known as School Self Evaluation (SSE). Traditionally, Inspectors from the DES have visited schools to evaluate the quality of teaching and learning in the various subject areas. This still happens, but there is now an increasing focus on schools self-evaluating with the inspectorate supporting that process.

Supported by the Board of Management, we have conducted a variety of self-evaluation activities which are designed to assess where we feel we can make improvements in the quality of the learning experience we provide to your children. As a result of these self-evaluation activities we have drawn up School Improvement Plans (SIP) in the areas of Literacy (teaching of English) and Numeracy (teaching of Maths). I wanted to share with you the main areas contained within these SIPs.

## **Numeracy Initiatives:**

- Emphasis placed on maths as fun throughout the school
- We have worked as a whole staff on the creation of “mistakes friendly” classroom environment
- Focus on the skill of Problem Solving as ultimate goal of pupil learning in maths
- Teacher training on teaching methodologies and learning experiences in maths
- We targeted the teaching of Fractions as an area to improve
- We are focusing on the teaching of Measures at present
- Increased participation in maths week activities
- Increased opportunities for parental involvement
- We have increased the use of ICT in the teaching and learning of maths

## **Literacy Initiatives:**

- School-Wide Focus on Oral Language & Vocabulary Development
- We reviewed the teaching of Comprehension Strategies
- High Quality Children's Literature & Picture Books supported this Improvement Plan
- We began to focus on The Teaching of Writing Genres - Story; Report; Recount; Persuasive Writing etc.
- Whole-Staff Engagement in the Introduction & Implementation of the New Primary Language Curriculum (PLC) for English
- Continued focus on The Teaching of Writing Genres as presented in the New Primary Language Curriculum for English

We review each SIP annually and re-assess what areas we need to focus on. One of the key elements of our review is whether there is an improvement in pupil performance and experience in these areas. After Christmas we hope to distribute brief questionnaires to our parents to seek your input to our SSE process.

Le dea-mhéin,

