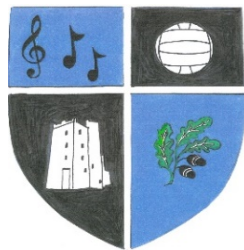


Scoil Chéile Chríost Rathmore N.S.

Newsletter January 2020



Website: www.rathmorens.ie Phone 045-862145

Email: office.rathmorens@gmail.com

Dear Parents/Guardians

Welcome back to a new term. I hope you all had an enjoyable Christmas Break and wishing you and your family a very Happy and Healthy New Year in 2020!

Lucy Travers

Principal Teacher

Charity Fundraiser



Thank you all for supporting our non-uniform Christmas Jumper Day so generously on Friday 20th December last. A total of €729 euro was raised in our school and all proceeds will now be shared between the Naas and Blessington Conferences of the **St. Vincent De Paul** who are very appreciative of your donations. Well done everyone!

HSE Health Protection Advice

The HSE's Health Protection Surveillance Centre has developed some new posters and information for schools and parents/guardians to help improve respiratory hygiene among children. Young children are at increased risk of contracting infectious diseases because they tend to cough and sneeze into their hands, they are grouped together in school and are therefore more exposed to many new germs, have immune systems that are not fully developed to fight germs and have personal habits that spread germs more easily such as rubbing eyes and putting things in their mouths.

These posters are now on display around the school and the key messages for children and adults are:

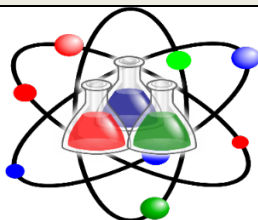
1. **When you cough or sneeze cover your nose and mouth with a tissue.**

or

2. **Cough or sneeze into your elbow, not your hands.**
3. **Always remember to throw away your tissue into a bin!**
4. **Remember to clean your hands after coughing and sneezing.**

There is also a very useful free on-line educational resource www.e-bug.eu/ for classroom and home use. The HSE Under the Weather website has been updated recently www.undertheweather.ie which provides information on managing common illnesses. This website focuses on reducing the use of antibiotics and empowering people to self-manage simple illnesses such as colds, coughs, sore throats, ear aches, rashes and flu.

Science Week



Science Week will be taking place from Monday 20th January until Friday 24th January across the school. The focus will be on promoting an interest in the STEM subjects (Science, Technology, Engineering, Maths) among our pupils and giving them an opportunity to become actively engaged in Science experiments during this week. Special thanks to teachers **Siobhán Parker, Niamh Brady, Amy Gleeson and Siobhán McCabe** for co-ordinating the week of activities across the school. They have organised some very interesting pupil talks/workshops focusing on energy conservation, astronomy and forensic Science and we look forward to an exciting week ahead!

Junior Infants Parent/Teacher Meetings

Parent Teacher Meetings for both **Ms. Roche's** and **Ms. Roe's** Junior Infant classes will take place on **Monday 27th & Tuesday 28th January** in the school. Appointment times have been released through the Aladdin Schools App since **Wednesday 8th January** from **7.30pm**.

Please note that you must be **registered** on the *Aladdin App* to be able to book your child's Parent Teacher appointment time.

Junior Infants Enrolment 2020/2021 School Year

Please note that enrolment for Junior Infants classes for the 2020/2021 school year is now taking place. Please contact **Martina** in the school office for a Form of Enquiry or it can also be downloaded from the school website. The form must be handed into the school or posted by **Friday 21st February 2020**. Thanks to our active *Parents Association* for sponsoring the newly erected sign at the school entrance advising of enrolment.

Bebras Computational Challenge

Congratulations to **Naomi O'Sullivan** and **William Noone** both pupils in 6th class who have qualified for the National Final of the *Bebras Computational Thinking Challenge* which will be taking place in Maynooth University in March. We wish them well as they represent our school in the final and thanks to their class teacher **Mr. Collier** and teacher **Niamh Brady** for co-ordinating this competition.

Life Credit Union Primary Schools Quiz Competition

Best of luck to our Junior and Senior Quiz Teams who will represent Scoil Chéile Chríost Rathmore N.S. in the *Life Credit Union Quiz Competition* which takes place on Friday 31st January in Toughers, Newbridge at 6.30pm. Special thanks to teachers **Mr. Collier** (6th) and **Ms. Malone** (5th) for co-ordinating the competition in our school.

Junior U11 Team: **Róisín Finn** (3rd Class) **John O'Dare** (4th Class), **Jessica Nichol** (5th Class) and **Will Cullen** (4th Class)

Senior U13 Team: **Calum Dowling** (6th Class), **Kayla Jebb** (6th Class), **Kate O'Dare** (6th Class) and **Adam Sargent** (5th Class)

School Library



Our school *Library Committee* led by **Terry Delaney** give of their free time to operate the school library service every Friday. This provides an opportunity for all classes in the school to visit the library and choose from a rich and varied selection of books for all ages and interests and fosters a love of books and reading among our pupils. Terry organised a *Book Review Competition* during last term which encouraged the children to read their choice of book and complete a book review based on it. There was a total of 177 entries received. Congratulations to all the children who entered.

The *overall winners* in our school were as follows:

1st place – **Kate Doyle** and **Shauna Malone** (5th class Joint Winners)

2nd place – **John Fielding** (4th class)

3rd place- **Frankie O'Loughlin** (2nd Class)

Congratulations also to the winners at each class level and to the 42 runners-up in addition to those listed here.

Junior Infants- **Éabha Malone**, Senior Infants- **Ailbhe Carew**, 1st Classes- **Alex Cusack & Saoirse Donnelly** (Jointly), 2nd Classes- **Eoin Mescal**, 3rd Class- **Romy O'Neill**, 4th Class- **Ben Walsh**, 5th Class- **Misha Magee** and 6th Class- **Kate O'Dare**.

Punctuality

Following on from our successful initiative to promote school attendance, we would now like to draw your attention to the issue of **punctuality in school**. Our school day begins at **09.00 am**, but the school yard is supervised from **08.45 am** each morning to facilitate parents/guardians. It is very important that children come to school on time each morning and are ready to join their class line to begin the school day together. Pupils who are *regularly late* (as opposed to isolated incidences) can find it difficult to settle and miss out on important learning activities in the classroom. As you can appreciate, class teachers may not always be able to repeat a learning activity or task missed by a pupil due to late attendance. Similarly, all pupils should be collected promptly at the end of the school day at either **1.45 pm** for all Infant classes or **2.45 pm** for all classes from First to Sixth.

It is our school policy in *Scoil Chéile Chríost Rathmore N.S.* to monitor pupil punctuality and incidences of late attendance are recorded on the Aladdin system. Your co-operation is appreciated as we have your child's best interests at heart in terms of providing them with quality teaching and learning experiences in our school and establishing good habits early on in their schooling. Thank you for your support in this matter.

Sacramental Preparation

The boys and girls in 6th class will also be taking part in a **Class Retreat** organised by the Mount St. Anne's Retreat Team in Rathmore Hall on **Friday, 17th January**.

The preparation programme for all children receiving the **Sacrament of Confirmation** "*You Shall be My Witnessess*", will take place over **two nights on 22nd and 29th January 2020 at 7.30pm** in the Church of the Immaculate Conception in Eadestown.

Children making their **Confirmation** are asked to attend the preparatory **Sunday masses at 11.30 am** in Eadestown Church on **19th January, 9th February and 12th March**.

The **Ceremony of Light** will take place on **Thursday 12th March at 7.30pm in Kilteel Church**.

First Confession for all children making their **First Holy Communion** will take place on **Thursday 13th February at 7.30pm in Eadestown Church**.

Catholic Schools Week 2020

This year **Catholic Schools Week** will be celebrated from **26th January to the 2nd February** on the theme '**Living in Harmony with God's Creation**'. As Irish society changes, it is important that we reflect on the unique contribution of Catholic schools to our collective goal of education. Catholic schools offer a view of the world as the gift of God's creation. We are called to be co-creators of love and joy in the world, thus sharing God's love. We are called to be stewards of the environment, with a responsibility to protect the environment around us for future generations.

Co-Curricular Activities

Swimming for all pupils in *1st and 2nd classes* began on **Wednesday 11th December** and runs for six weeks in the Killashee Leisure Centre, Naas.

Hurling with John Holmes began with pupils in both **Junior Infant** classes on **Tuesday 10th December**. Our newly assigned GAA coach, **Dave O'Neill** has begun coaching on Thursdays with the first group of classes.

Playball with coach **Henry Byrce** for pupils in the Infant classes **resumes on Tuesday 14th January from 1.45 pm - 2.45 pm**.

REMINDER

First Confession: Thursday 13th February at 7.30pm Eadestown Church

Ceremony of Light: Thursday 12th March at 7.30pm in Kilteel Church

Confirmation Programme "You Shall Be My Witnesses". Attendance at 11.30am Sunday Mass on 19th January, 9th February and 8th March.

Dates for your Diary

Mid-term break: School closed on Thursday 20th and Friday 21st February 2020.

St. Patrick's Day: School closed from Friday 13th March until Wednesday 18th March 2020.

Easter Break: Starts at 12.30 pm on Friday 3rd April and school re-opens on Mon, 20th April 2020.

Mid-Term Break: School closed from Friday 29th May until Wednesday 3rd June 2020.

Summer holidays commence on Friday 26th June at 12.30pm.