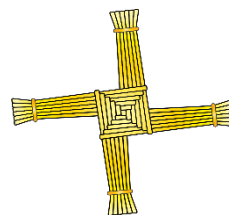
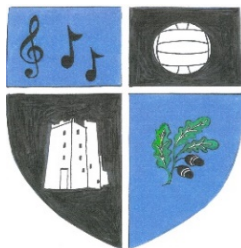
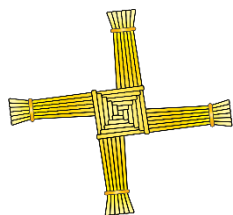


Scoil Chéile Chríost Rathmore N.S.

Newsletter February 2020



Website: www.rathmorens.ie Phone 045-862145

Email: office.rathmorens@gmail.com

Anti-Bullying Week & Safer Internet Day

We are holding an 'Anti-Bullying Week' in Scoil Chéile Chríost Rathmore N.S. this week. This schoolwide initiative is part of a range of preventative strategies outlined in our school **Anti-Bullying Policy**.

'Bullying is unwanted negative behaviour, verbal, psychological or physical conducted by an individual or group against another person (or persons) and which is repeated over time'.

The Board of Management recognises the very serious nature of bullying and the negative impact that it can have on the lives of pupils and is therefore fully committed to fostering a positive school culture and climate which:

- is welcoming of difference and diversity and is based on inclusivity.
- encourages pupils to disclose and discuss incidents of bullying behaviour in a non-threatening environment and,
- promotes respectful relationships across the school community.

Safer Internet Day (SID) takes place on **Tuesday 11th February** and the theme for this year is **"Together for a Better Internet"**. It is an EU wide initiative to promote a safer internet for all users, especially young people and is promoted in Ireland by the PDST Technology in Education and Webwise. Children are spending more time online at a younger age and we have a responsibility as educators and as parents to ensure their safety through effective supervision, monitoring and safety awareness. The recently constructed Webwise Parents Hub at www.saferinternetday.ie/parents/ has information and support. You can get started by downloading their *Parents' Guide* which offers practical advice on dealing with conflict around technology use in the home. Other resources include *Online Safety Tips for Parents*, the *Family e-Safety Kit* which is aimed at six to twelve-year olds and was created to help parents share the benefits and risks of surfing the web in a fun and engaging way.

The children in the senior classes from 3rd-6th will participate in an **Internet Safety/Cyberbullying Workshop** on 18th February which will be delivered by Cybersafe Ireland and generously sponsored by our Parents Association. Each class workshop is specially tailored to suit the age and profile of the pupils in that class using information gathered in advance through an online questionnaire which all pupils were asked to complete confidentially.

St. Valentine's 'Wear Red' Non-Uniform Day School Fundraiser

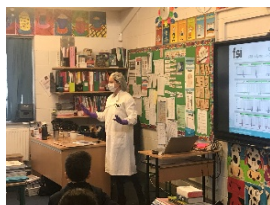


We will be having a [St. Valentine's No-Uniform Day](#) on **Friday 14th February**. We are asking that all children dress in red in keeping with the St. Valentine's theme and make a [€2 donation](#) towards the purchase of school resources.

Primary Language Curriculum: Additional School Closure – Wednesday 18th March 2020

Please note that as part of the *Department of Education and Skills* guidelines in relation to the implementation of the new **Primary Language Curriculum** in English and Irish, the school will be closed on **Wednesday 18th March** in order to facilitate teacher in-service support.

Science/STEM Week



Special thanks to parent and forensic scientist, **Clara Boland** (Naomi's Mum) who kindly took some time off work to visit our school and deliver a highly informative and engaging presentation on her role in gathering forensic evidence, "CSI" style as part of criminal investigations to all pupils in 5th and 6th classes during *Science Week*. Pupils were then given an opportunity to take their fingerprints and compare patterns, examine various footprint moulds to find a match and had an opportunity to "dress-up" as a real forensic scientist!

Thanks also to **Dr Emma Whelan**, Lecturer in Astrophysics in Maynooth University who visited all classes later in the week to give a talk on astronomy which all the children found really interesting. The Junior and Senior Infants classes were invited to a workshop on conserving energy delivered by a speaker from the *Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland* (SEAI). Senior pupils also visited the junior classes to showcase their Science experiments.

Thanks also to teachers **Siobhán Parker**, **Niamh Brady**, **Amy Gleeson** and **Sharon McCabe** for co-ordinating the week of activities across the school.

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 to arrive by **Friday 21st February 2020**.

School Expenses

School expenses are payable at each class level. A breakdown of fees is listed on each class booklist and covers your child's stationary supplies, book rental, art and craft and photocopying costs in school. You can pay by cheque or in cash to **Martina** in the school office. If you have any difficulty, please talk to your child's class teacher or to me. Thank you to all parents/guardians who have already paid in full.

Parking and Safety

PARKING: We are asking for your co-operation with the following guidelines to ensure the safety of our pupils and your children in relation to the use of the school car park and surrounding areas.

- Please use only the **car park spaces provided** in the school car park and **reverse** into the spaces.
- When dropping off or collecting pupils, please **do not stop or park on the roundabout.**
- Use the overflow car park to the rear of the Community Hall if necessary.
- **No parking** is permitted **along the school driveway** outside of the marked spaces. This allows cars to enter and leave and also provides the necessary space for buses to enter and leave safely.
- **Please be vigilant**, as young children are liable to run behind cars if they are not properly supervised. Once children are collected from the plaza/school hall they become the **responsibility of parents/guardians.**

Punctuality and Safety: Please be **punctual** in collecting and dropping off your children. School starts at **09.00 am** and **children are dismissed at 2.45pm, each afternoon** (Infants at 1.45pm). We supervise children on the playground in the morning from 8.45 am-09.00 am. Please do not leave your child unattended as we cannot take any responsibility for their safety outside of these times.

Spelling Bee Competition



Congratulations to **Gemma Harney**, a pupil in **Mr. Collier's 6th class** who has been selected to represent Scoil Chéile Chríost, Rathmore N.S. in the regional final of the **Spelling Bee Competition**. A thrilling 'knock-out' qualification round was held in our school hall recently which tested the pupils' ability to spell words from a specially selected list. We wish Gemma the very best of luck in the next stage of the competition!

Parenting Support for Parents/Guardians in Kildare

The website www.parentingsupport.ie which is operated by the *Kildare West Wicklow Parenting Training and Support Forum* has information and details of talks and workshops on a range of topics to support parents throughout County Kildare. This is a multi-agency forum that was established by the Health Services Executive (HSE) in 2009. Please follow the link to find out details of upcoming workshops and talks during February and March in Kildare Libraries which may be of interest to you.

Catholic Schools Week & Charity Fundraiser



Two cheques for €365 each (€730 in total) were presented by sixth class pupils **Charlie Croke** and **Ava Moran** to **Eamonn Elliott** of the Blessington Conference of the *St. Vincent de Paul* and parent **Susan Madden** (Jack, Rose and Mark's Mum) representing the *St. Vincent de Paul* Naas Conference during a school Assembly as part of *Catholic Schools Week*. Eamonn addressed the assembled children from first to sixth classes to thank them for their generosity and explained the work of the *St. Vincent de Paul* and how the money they had raised would be used to support others in need. The pupils listened with interest to Eamonn's talk and they had the opportunity to ask some questions of their own. Well done to everyone for donating so generously!

Life Credit Union Primary Schools Quiz Competition



Well done to our Junior and Senior Quiz Teams who represented Scoil Chéile Chríost Rathmore N.S. in the *Life Credit Union Quiz Competition* which took place on Friday 31st January in Toughers, Newbridge. Both our school teams finished with high scores of **44 and 48 points** respectively. Special thanks to teachers **Mr. Collier** (6th) and **Ms. Malone** (5th), **Mr. Cronin** (4th) and **Ms. Shaw** (3rd) for co-ordinating the competition across the senior classes.

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)

Sacramental Preparation

First Confession for all children making their **First Holy Communion** will take place on **Thursday 13th February at 7.30 pm in Eadestown Church**. Special thanks to Second Class teachers **Ms. Lancaster** and **Mr. Ryan** for preparing the children so well for this special Sacrament of Reconciliation.

All children in Mr. Collier's 6th Class who intend making their **Confirmation** on **March 27th** are asked to attend the next preparatory **Sunday Mass** on **8th March at 11.30 am in Eadestown Church**.

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

Co-Curricular Activities

Swimming for all pupils in *Junior and Senior Infants* began on **Wednesday 5th February** and runs for 4 weeks in the Killashee Leisure Centre, Naas.

Hurling with **John Holmes** continues with pupils in both *Junior Infant* classes in-school on **Tuesdays**.

Golf with **Dermot Griffin** has begun on **Mondays** with children in 4th class.

GAA coach, **Dave O'Neill** has begun coaching GAA skills in the school on **Thursdays**.

Playball with coach **Henry Byrce** for pupils in the *Infant* classes on **Tuesdays from 1.45 pm -2. 45 pm**.

Senior football training takes place during lunchtime on **Thursdays** with **Mr. Bolton**.

Senior girls football begins on **Mondays** after school from **2:45pm-3:45pm** with **Ms. Shaw**.

Senior hurling training takes place during lunchtime on **Mondays** with **Mr. Collier**.

Boots and gum shields must be worn for all football and hurling training.

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 anti-biotics and empowering people to self-manage simple illnesses such as colds, coughs, sore throats, earaches, rashes and flu.

REMINDER

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

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

Confirmation Preparatory Programme during 11.30am Sunday Mass on 8th March in Eadestown Church.

School Calendar 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 -18th March 2020 and re-opens Thursday 19th March* (*Additional closure on Wednesday 18th March for teacher Curriculum In-Service day)

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.

