

# *Scoil Chéile Chríost Rathmore N.S.*

## *Newsletter March 2020*



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### Seachtain na Gaeilge & Lá Fhéile Pádraig

Dear Parent/Guardians

Tugann Seachtain na Gaeilge deis iontach dúinn labhairt as Gaeilge. 'Seachtain na Gaeilge' gives us a great opportunity to use our language as you always have more 'Gaeilge' than you think, so bain triail as! (Have a go and try out your cúpla focal!)

We will be having lots of 'craic' and Irish cultural events in our school during '**Seachtain na Gaeilge**'. There will be a variety of fun activities and competitions to encourage greater use of our native language among the children such as a **Tráth na gCeist, (Quiz), Comórtas Seanfhocail, (Irish sayings competition)**, singing songs and reciting poems 'as Gaeilge', the daily '**Nuacht**' read aloud over the school intercom by pupils and teaching other curriculum subjects through Irish such as **Corpoideachas (P.E.)**. There will also be a '**Gaeilgeoir na Seachtaine**' prize for pupils who make a big effort to speak 'as Gaeilge', culminating in our annual **Čéilí Mór on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> March** which will take place outside in the school yard.

**Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> March** has been designated as "**Lá Glas**" when all children are asked to wear green to school and dress in a St. Patrick's Day theme. Many thanks to all our teachers for getting involved but especially to **Aoife Malone (5<sup>th</sup> Class) and Conor Ó Crónín (4<sup>th</sup> Class)** for co-ordinating the week of activities across the school.

Lá Fhéile Pádraig Shona Dhaoibh go léir!

Lucy Travers

Principal Teacher

### Child Protection Annual Review

Each one of us has a duty to protect children from harm and the Department of Education and Skills (DES) published the **Child Protection Procedures for Primary Schools in 2017** to give direction to school management and staff regarding the identification of and response to child protection concerns.

The *Board of Management of Scoil Chéile Chríost Rathmore N.S* has already adopted these procedures as school policy. Please note that the *Designated Liaison Person (DLP)* in place for dealing with child protection concerns is the school **Principal, Lucy Travers** and the *Deputy Designated Liaison Person (DDLDP)* is the **Deputy Principal, Caitríona Lancaster**.

The Board of Management have recently completed an annual review of our Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment. A copy of our school's *Child Safeguarding Statement* and *Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment* are on display in the school reception area and parents/guardians are welcome to read through a hard copy of the documents in the school office.

### Launch of Annual School Fundraiser- *The Rathmore Fun Run*



This year sees the launch of a new annual school fundraiser which will replace the golf classic. In keeping with our “*Active Schools*” initiative to increase the childrens’ physical activity and fitness levels and taking account of the fabulous running track which surrounds the school pitch, we have decided to stage the inaugural “**Rathmore Fun Run**” before the Easter holidays. Each class will set a target for the number of laps they can run for their class level. I am reliably informed that 3 laps are equivalent to one kilometre!

Sponsorship cards will be issued shortly for all pupils in the school and all cards and money raised must be returned to the school by **Friday 27th March**. Each pupil who returns a sponsorship card will be entered into a class draw to win one of 3 Easter eggs per class. There will also be a special treat for the class with the *highest average* collected in the school!

Remember that all monies raised from this fundraiser will go directly towards the provision of extra teaching resources, books and equipment for your child/children in the school.

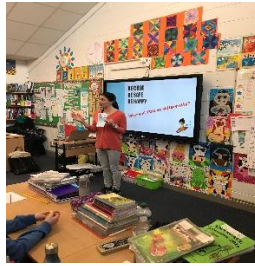
### Primary Language Curriculum: Additional School Closure – Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> March 2020

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, there will be an additional school closure on **Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> March** (see **calendar**) in order to facilitate teacher in-service support.

### Covid-19 Coronavirus Alert

The Department of Education and Skills (DES) has updated information for schools on Covid-19. The most important action we can take to protect ourselves from Covid-19 is **regular hand-washing and good respiratory hygiene**. As further information or advice is provided, it will be issued to schools and posted on the Department’s website. Please visit <http://www.hse.ie> for further advice and daily updates can be found at <http://www.gov.ie/health-covid-19>

## Cyberbullying Workshop



A very informative workshop was delivered by a facilitator with *Cybersafe Ireland* to all pupils in 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> classes as part of *Anti-Bullying Week* in the school. The focus was ensuring the children are aware of the dangers associated with the internet, the negative effects of cyberbullying, managing their digital footprint and ensuring their privacy and online safety is maintained. Many thanks to the *Parents Association* who kindly sponsored these excellent workshops.

## Spelling Bee Competition



Congratulations to **Gemma Harney**, in **Mr. Collier's 6<sup>th</sup> class** who has been selected to represent Scoil Chéile Chríost, Rathmore N.S. in the regional final of the **Spelling Bee Competition** which will take place on **Tuesday March 10<sup>th</sup>** in St. Brigid's N.S. in Kildare town. We wish Gemma the very best of luck in the next stage of the competition! Go n-éirí an t-ádh leat, Gemma !

## Tephra Bag Citizen Science Experiment

Our school and the children in **Ms. Malone's 5<sup>th</sup> class** have been invited to take part in the above Scientific Experiment in conjunction with *University College Dublin, Trinity College Dublin* and the *Irish Centre for Research in Applied Geosciences*. This research is investigating perceptions of and possible solutions to climate change. It is a great opportunity for the children to take an active part in current Scientific research. The two Research Scientists are trying to answer the following question: *Can volcanic ash help reduce the amount of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere?* The children will work in teams to plant seeds in soil and take various measurements that will help us understand how volcanic ash can help store carbon dioxide in soils. Both Research Scientists will then return to our school in June to collect and analyse the data collected by 5<sup>th</sup> class pupils and write up a report of their results which we will be able to read.

## Parenting Support for Parents/Guardians in Kildare

The website [www.parentingsupport.ie](http://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 March and April in Kildare Libraries which may be of interest to you.

## Active Schools – “Get Off Your Chair And Get Some Air”

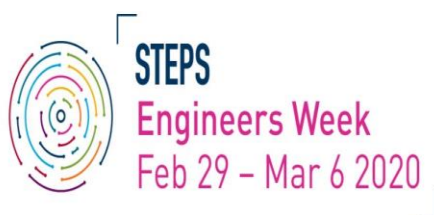


Congratulations to the following pupils who were awarded “**Active Pupil of The Month**” by their class teachers. **Brian Magee** (Junior Infants, Ms. Roche), **Shay Doran** (Junior Infants Ms. Roe), **Charlie Ashe** (Senior Infants Mr. Bolton), **Ailbhe Carew** (Senior Infants Ms. Brady), **Kayla McLoughlin** (First Class Ms. Gleeson), **Reuben McCann** (6<sup>th</sup> class Mr. Ryan), **JP Reynolds** (2<sup>nd</sup> Class Ms. Lancaster), **Ronan Walsh** (4<sup>th</sup> Class Mr. Cronin), **Grace Dowling** (5<sup>th</sup> Class Ms. Malone) and **Tom Freeman** (6<sup>th</sup> Class Mr. Collier).

**Ms. Malone, Ms. Shaw, Mr. Bolton** and **Mr. Ryan** would also like to thank our amazing playground leaders who are doing an excellent job each day to ensure the active zones are running smoothly on the yard. A competition was also held in each class to come up with a catchy Active Schools Slogan for our school and there were some fantastic suggestions from each class. It was virtually impossible to choose an overall winner but after much deliberation, **Ali Dowling** in **Mr. Cronin’s** 4<sup>th</sup> class came up with the winning slogan “**GET OFF YOUR CHAIR AND GET SOME AIR!**”

Well done to Ali and let’s follow her advice and get more active!

## Engineer’s Week 2<sup>nd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> March



Thanks to one of our parents and mechanical engineer **Noelle Wright**, (Mum to Allana and Callum) who kindly delivered a workshop as part of *Engineers Week* to all classes from 3<sup>rd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup>. It was a very interesting presentation which emphasised how engineers use Maths and Science to problem solve and develop solutions to issues in many areas of our everyday life and may just be the spark to ignite some budding engineers of the future! Thanks also to **Ms. Brady** for co-ordinating the presentation in our school.

## Sacramental Preparation

Congratulations to all the boys and girls in **Ms Lancaster’s** and **Mr. Ryan’s** Second Classes who received the *Sacrament of Reconciliation* in the Church of the Immaculate Conception in Eadestown with Fr. Comer and Fr. Lyon recently. They were a credit to their families and their teachers. Thanks to their teachers for preparing them so well and to **Ms. Roe** for her musical accompaniment.

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

The **Ceremony of Light** will take place on **Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> March** at 7.30 pm in Kiltel Church.

## Sports Update

The **Girls' Mini-7's Football Blitz** competition takes place on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March in Kill GAA and thanks to **Ms. Shaw**, their coach.

The **Boys' Football Mini-7's** takes place on the same day in St. Corban's N.S. in Naas and thanks to **Mr. Bolton** for coaching our school team.

The **Boys' Hurling Mini-7's** Blitz will take place on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> March in St. Corban's N.S. Naas. Thanks to **Mr. Collier** who coaches the hurling panel.

The **Girls' Camogie Mini-7's** takes place on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> March in Kill GAA. Thanks to **Ms. Lancaster** for coaching the girls' panel.

Good luck to all our teams in the upcoming competitions!

## Co-Curricular Activities

**Hurling** with **John Holmes** continues with pupils in both First Classes in-school on **Tuesdays**.

**Golf** with **Dermot Griffin** has begun on **Mondays** with children in 4<sup>th</sup> class.

GAA coach, **Dave O'Neill** is 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** with Ms. Shaw takes place on **Tuesdays** after school from 2:45pm-3:45pm.

**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.

**Camogie training** with **Ms. Lancaster** takes place on **Mondays** after school from 2.45-3.45 pm and during lunchtimes on **Wednesday**. Shin-guards, boots, track suit bottoms/shorts and socks must be worn.

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

Thank you to everyone who generously contributed to our recent 'no-uniform' St Valentine's Day fundraiser. A total of €493.50 euro was raised which will go towards the purchase of school resources. We will be having a '**Rock Your Socks**', Funky Sock Day fundraiser in the school on **Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March** in aid of the *Down Syndrome Centre Midlands* and a donation of €2 euro per pupil or (€5 per family) is kindly requested in support of this worthy cause. Pupils can come to school wearing their funniest socks!

## REMINDER

**Ceremony of Light: Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> March at 7.30 pm in Kiltel Church.**

**Confirmation Preparatory Programme during 11.30am Sunday Mass on 8<sup>th</sup> March in Eadestown Church.**

## School Calendar Dates for your Diary

**St. Patrick's Day:** School closed from Friday 13<sup>th</sup> -18<sup>th</sup> March 2020 and re-opens Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> March\* (\*Additional closure on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> 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 29<sup>th</sup> May until Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2020.

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

