



Scoil Chéile Chríost Rathmore NS

Rathmore, Naas, Co. Kildare

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COVID-19 School Closure for Remainder of 2019/20 School Year

Dear Parents/Guardians

Last Friday, 1st May, the Taoiseach Mr. Leo Varadkar, published the Government's '*Roadmap for Re-opening Society and Business*' document which was drafted on foot of the advice of the *National Public Health Emergency Team (NPHE)* and outlined a phased public health approach to reducing the social distancing measures which are currently in place. As part of the measures announced in Phase Five of the road map, schools will not re-open until the beginning of the new 2020/21 academic year and *Scoil Chéile Chríost, Rathmore N.S.* will now remain closed until after the Summer holidays.

All the teachers and staff in Rathmore N.S. are disappointed that we will not get the chance to see the children and teach them in their classrooms for the rest of this school year. I am sure that there are also a lot of disappointed children who were looking forward to returning to Rathmore N.S. to see their friends and their teachers. Unfortunately, it will not be possible to organise the annual class School Tours or Sports Day for this school year. Confirmation and Communication ceremonies have also been postponed until further notice. The children in our current Sixth Class will not be returning to Rathmore N.S. next year as they transition into secondary school, but we will not let them leave us without marking their graduation from primary school in some special way!

However, we must put our disappointment in context as not for generations has Ireland been faced with a health threat as serious as COVID-19 and the daily life of every single person has been changed. We have all been forced to adapt to the new public health measures in a national effort to suppress the transmission of this virus and we are making progress every day.

The teachers will continue to communicate with parent/guardians and assign a manageable timetable of schoolwork for the children in their classes during this last term. I encourage all parents/guardians to engage with the Timetable which your child's class teacher will email to you as best you can, taking account of your particular family situation. You can email your child's teacher using the email address communicated to you and I can be contacted through the school office email address. All the support teachers are liaising closely with class teachers to support the pupils in their care. Please try to engage with your child's teacher and you can provide some feedback on how your child is managing the class work. It is very important to maintain the home/school links from now until the end of the school year and to keep

the momentum going as best you can. The teachers look forward to receiving completed work from the pupils and they are always willing to help you with any queries you may have.

Please say a big 'hello' to all our wonderful boys and girls and thank them for working so hard and that Ms. Travers has requested if they could keep up the great work for the rest of this last term. Thank you to all parents/guardians for your patience and co-operation since the start of the pandemic and thanks to the teachers and staff of Rathmore N.S who have had to adapt quickly to providing continuity of schooling to the children in their classes remotely.

Working together as a school community and following the public health guidelines in relation to hand washing, coughing/sneezing etiquette and social distancing measures, we will come out the other side of this health crisis and we now all look forward to a return to normal school life in Rathmore N.S. for the start of the 2020/21 school year.

Take care

Lucy Travers

Principal Teacher