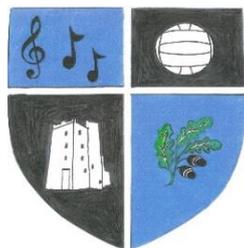


Scoil Chéile Chríost Rathmore N.S.

Newsletter October 2020



Website: www.rathmorens.ie Phone 045-862145

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'Slán' to Ms. Roche

Dear Parents/Guardians

I hope that you and your families are keeping safe and well. As our country enters Level 3 of the *National Living with Covid-19 Framework*, I wish to thank you for your co-operation with our School Re-opening Response Plan so far and to all of the school community who have made a big effort to adhere to the physical distancing requirements and public health guidelines which are being implemented in the school. We will continue to ensure that there is as much physical distancing as is possible in our building and that robust hygiene and sanitation procedures are in place.

Sadly, I also wish to inform you that **Ms. Erika Roche** will be retiring as a class teacher in Rathmore N.S. on Friday, 23rd October, 2020. Erika has been employed as a teacher in the school since 2006 when she joined from Scoil Mhuire, Ballyboden, Dublin and has completed 14 years of teaching service here with us. She is a very experienced teacher, having taught in nearly all class levels in primary school and she also held the post of Deputy Principal in Rathmore from 2012-2016.

Erika is a valued member of our teaching staff and we will all miss her greatly in the school when she retires. She is a caring and compassionate teacher who puts the children in her class at the centre of everything she does, and she has contributed to all aspects of Rathmore school life during her time with us.

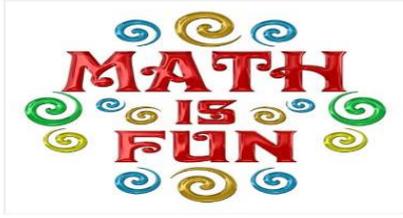
I know that you will join with me and all her colleagues and staff in Rathmore N.S. in wishing her a long, happy and healthy retirement. Erika's last day in Rathmore N.S. will be on Friday 23rd October and we will be giving her an appropriate send-off as she begins the next stage of her life.

Wishing you all a safe and happy Halloweén Mid-Term Break.

Take Care,

Lucy Travers

School Principal



The 15th annual *Maths Week* Ireland takes place from 10th -18th October 2020 and it has grown to attract participation from as many as 300,000 people annually across the island of Ireland. Maths Week is the biggest festival of its kind in the world. It celebrates a positive image of *Maths For All*.

In 2019, over 335,000 students and their teachers participated in Maths Week activities. It has evolved into a partnership of more than 50 organisations all united with the shared vision of making Maths accessible to people of all ages, abilities and backgrounds and gives schools, teachers and pupils and opportunity to celebrate Mathematics and boost motivation.

We are looking forward to a very busy and fun-filled Maths Week in Rathmore N.S. while adhering to social distancing and public health requirements.

Special thanks to **Ms. Power** for co-ordinating *Maths Week* for all in our school.

Please see the official Maths week website www.mathsweek.ie for lots of ideas and resources and follow the link to the parents page at <https://www.mathsweek.ie/2020/parents-page/>

Maths Tips for Parents

1. Encourage children to think flexibly about numbers.
2. Encourage drawing whenever you can (mathematicians draw sketches all the time!)
3. Whenever you help your child, do not lead them step by step, as this takes away important learning opportunities for them.
4. Encourage children to work on problems that are challenging for them, so that they can learn from their mistakes.
5. Encourage students to make sense of maths at all times, (as they work keep asking, does that make sense to you? Why? Why not? and discourage guessing.
6. Praise children by rewarding effort not by telling them they are smart.
7. Always have a positive outlook on Maths.
8. Never time children or encourage faster work.
9. Give children maths puzzles.
10. Play games! (For young children any board game with a dice will help.)

Safety and Car Parking

Please be punctual in collecting and dropping off your children. Children are not allowed to access the school building before **8.45am** each day when the bell rings and the doors are opened at each class level Zone. **If children arrive early to school, they should wait with their parent in their car until 8.45am and avoid congregating on the school plaza before 8.45am in order to observe physical distancing requirements.** Please do not leave your child unattended as we cannot take any responsibility for their safety outside of these times.

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, they become the **responsibility of parents/guardians.**

Kildare County Council have advised that the flashing traffic panels on approach to Rathmore N.S. are damaged and beyond repair. They have ordered two new periodic speed limit signs and once the signs are delivered, they will be installed asap.

Halloweén Witch Walk

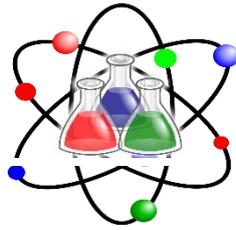


The *Green Schools Committee* will hold their annual “**Witch Walk**” (non-uniform day) on **Friday 23rd October 2020**. On this day all children are invited to dress up in a Halloween Theme coming to school. Weather permitting, a short walk around the school grounds will take place for each class in their seasonal outfits while maintaining social distancing guidelines.

In keeping with our *Green Schools Recycling Aims*, children are encouraged to make some part/all of their dress-up outfit from homemade/recyclable materials rather than buying a commercially produced costume and **donate €2 on the day.** Some simple suggestions may include old clothes, old costumes, recyclable materials and using cardboard boxes.

We encourage parents/guardians to assist your child to take part in what we hope will be an enjoyable and fun-filled experience for all. We know everyone will make a big effort and we look forward to seeing your costumes, so be creative!

Tephra Bag Citizen Science Experiment



Our school and the children in **Mr. Collier's** 6th class and **Ms. Malone's** 5th class are taking 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 to collect and analyse the data collected by 5th and 6th class pupils and write up a report of their results which we will be able to read.

Online Safety with Barnardos

Now more than ever, it is really important that we monitor our children's screen time and equip them with the skills to navigate the internet safely. The children's charity **Barnardos** have developed short videos in collaboration with Google which aim to help parents with online safety issues such as, Screen Time and Digital Wellbeing, How to Help Your Child During Covid-19, Parental Controls and How to Encourage Critical Thinking Online. They are also developing free webinars for parents on the topic of online safety which will be available to view later in October. Please click on the link below to access the short online safety videos.

<https://www.barnardos.ie/learning-development/training/online-safety-programme/for-parents>

School Attendance

This year our top priority is everyone's health and wellbeing. While it is accepted that there is a direct link between school attendance and pupil progress, we must make some exceptions this year. Thank you all for erring on the side of caution – keeping children home who are unwell, getting advice from your GP in relation to the symptoms of COVID-19 and observing the guidelines in relation to social distancing and isolation. This will mean our school attendance figures are likely to be lower than usual. However, if we manage to keep the school open and keep each other well, we are doing the right thing. The school is obliged by law to inform TUSLA when a pupil is absent for a total of 20 days in one school year. The whole idea is to miss as little time as possible. Please inform your child's class teacher of the reason for the absence as this is recorded on our Aladdin system. Please note that if the absence is COVID-19 related, this will be indicated to TUSLA.

New Admissions Policy

As a result of the Education (Admissions to School) Act 2018 which has now been enacted and applies to school admissions from September 2021 in both primary and secondary schools, our school Admission Policy has been updated to incorporate these changes. Please see our school website www.rathmorens.ie for an updated version of the *Admission Policy*. Parents/guardians and the school community will be advised of the enrolment period for Junior Infants for the 2021/22 school year when our Rathmore N.S. *Admission Notice* is published in due course.

School Library

Due to Covid-19 restrictions, we have been unable to provide our usual weekly School Library Service which is operated by **Terri Delaney** and a voluntary *Library Committee* of parents/guardians. We appreciate the work that they have put in to develop our excellent school library. This year, class teachers have instead put together a Class Library of books which are appropriate to the reading age and interests of the children in their particular class level. Please continue to encourage your child to read regularly and take the opportunity to read daily *with* younger children which greatly improves their reading fluency. The *Children's Books of Ireland* website also produce up to 15 recommended reading list of books for children under a selection of headings. Please follow the link to access their website <https://childrensbooksireland.ie/our-publications/>

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 webinars which may be of interest to you.

REMINDERS

Please ensure that your child has a light, rain-jacket or coat for school and remember to check that all items of school clothing are clearly labelled with your child's name.

Dates for your Diary

Hallowe'en break commences on **Monday, 26th October to Friday 30th October 2020**

Christmas Holidays: **Tuesday 22nd Dec at 12.30pm** and school re-opens on **Wednesday 6th Jan 2021**.

Mid-term break: School closed on **Thursday 18th and Friday 19th February 2021**.

St. Patrick's Day: School closed **on Wednesday 17th March 2021**.

Easter Break: Starts at 12.30 pm on **Friday 26th March 2021** and school re-opens on **Monday, 12th April 2021**.

May Bank Holiday: School closed from **Friday 30th April until Wednesday 5th May 2021**.

June Bank Holiday: School closed from **Friday 4th June until Wednesday 9th June 2021**.

Summer holidays commence on Fri **25th June, 2021 at 12.30pm**.

