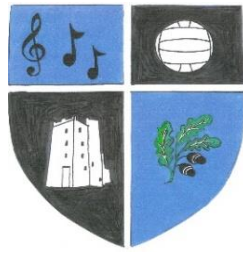


Scoil Chéile Chríost Rathmore N.S.

Newsletter December 2020



Website: www.rathmorens.ie Phone 045-862145

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Christmas Greetings

Dear Parents/Guardians

2020 has been a very challenging year for all of us. The arrival of the Covid-19 pandemic in Ireland and the subsequent closure of all schools on 13th March for the remainder of the school year was unprecedented in the history of Irish education. Many people in our community have been impacted by the spread of the coronavirus which resulted in illness or the loss of loved ones. As 2020 draws to a close, we remember family members and members of our school community who have passed away during the year and those who are sick or in hospital at this time.

We are thankful that Rathmore N.S. re-opened after a prolonged closure and that we were able to welcome the children into the school building once again. The school Board of Management, the Covid-19 Response Team and the teachers and staff of the school are all to be commended for their combined efforts in ensuring the school has remained open since 27th August last and that schooling continues to be provided, albeit with public health restrictions in place. We are proud of the children who have adapted so well to the new social distancing and hygiene protocols which were put in place and I am grateful to you their parents/guardians for your co-operation with the new health and safety protocols and the drop-off and collection arrangements.

It is a team effort in Scoil Chéile Chríost Rathmore N.S. and I want to acknowledge all our teaching staff, our special needs assistants, **Martina** our school secretary and **Paul** our school caretaker for their dedication and hard work throughout this school year. I also wish to thank the many parents/guardians who volunteer to assist with school activities when the call for help goes out from the school. Your support is very much appreciated, and we look forward to a time when we can invite parents/guardians back into our school building again.

May I take this opportunity to wish you and your family a very happy and peaceful Christmas and we look forward with hope to 2021. Take care and stay safe.

Nollaig Shona agus Athbhliain faoi mhaise dhaoibh go léir!

Lucy Travers

Principal Teacher

Parents Association Christmas Raffle 2020



Unfortunately, this year due to the public health restrictions, the *Parents Association* cannot hold their very popular annual *Christmas Fare*. which is their biggest fundraising event of the year. They have decided to hold a **Christmas Raffle** on Friday, 18th **December** in the school instead. They would really appreciate and ask you all for your support in making this school fundraiser a success. Donations of gifts or vouchers would be greatly received. A prize donation box will be placed in the school conservatory if you wish to donate a prize.

This has been a difficult year for all and especially people in retail, so the *Parents Association* have decided to spend some money on purchasing gift vouchers as raffle prizes from all the local shops and businesses that have continued to support Rathmore N.S. throughout the years.

As a thank you to them and for supporting local business, the school has kindly offered to facilitate the purchasing of raffle tickets and *Martina*, our school secretary has set up a payment on the Aladdin e-payment system. Tickets are priced at **€10** each and you can purchase as many as you like to be in with a chance to win one of our amazing prizes below:

- €100 Smyths Toys Voucher
- Richie Whelan Menswear Voucher
- Tuckmill Craft,
- Verenze Shoe Emporium,
- Stationery Store,
- Johnstown Garden Centre,
- K bowl Newbridge,
- Christmas Cake
- Large Hamper
- Plus, many more prizes will be updated regularly.

The Parents Association are asking that parents/guardians support our children and our school and to shop local and wish you all a joyful Christmas and best wishes for the New Year!

Please ensure that you buy your raffle tickets by 17th December as the Aladdin e-payment facility will be closed off on that date in advance of the raffle taking place on Friday, 18th December.

Pastoral Online Christmas Concert

Second Class pupils from schools in the local area have been invited to participate in a 'Pastoral Online Christmas Concert'. Well done to the pupils in both Second Classes who have been learning the carol 'The Little Drummer Boy'. The performance has been recorded and it will be forwarded to our local pastoral worker **Áine Egan** for inclusion in a Virtual Concert along with the recordings from pupils in the other schools. We have been advised that this concert will be accessible to the public to view on the website www.blessingtonparishes.com. Thanks to **Ms. Lancaster** and **Ms. Murphy** for co-ordinating the performances in both their Second Classes.

Junior Infants Enrolment 2021/2022 School Year

Please note that we have now published our **Annual School Admission Notice** in respect of admissions to **Junior Infants Classes** for the **2021/2022** school year on our school website. 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 all primary schools, our **School Admission Policy** has been ratified to incorporate these changes and is available to view on our school website at www.rathmorens.ie

Please note the dates which are applicable for admission to Junior Infants Classes in 2021/2022 school year. **The school will begin accepting completed Application Forms for Junior Infants 2021/22 on 6th January, 2021.** Failure to accept an offer, or to complete an Application Form, within the prescribed period outlined on the **Admission Notice** may result in the offer being withdrawn. Please contact **Martina** in the school office on **TEL: 045-862145** or by email on office@rathmorens.ie for an application form or it can also be downloaded from the school website.

Sixth Class Hoodies



The boys and girls in **Mr. Collier's** Sixth Class were delighted when their specially designed school 'Hoodies' were delivered in person by 6th class, parent **Mairead Holland-Flynn** recently. A big 'thank you' to Mairead for volunteering to co-ordinate this project and thanks also to class teacher **Mr. Collier** for his assistance in ensuring the hoodie is unique to Rathmore N.S. as it incorporates our school crest and Sixth Class pupil signatures. The hoodies are proving to be very popular in 6th class and are a welcome boost to the children, especially in this very challenging year when the pupils will not have the same opportunities for leadership as our Sixth Classes in the past.

Charity No Uniform Christmas Jumper Fundraiser



There has been a tradition in the school that in lieu of parents/guardians giving presents to teachers at Christmas, a local charity is nominated by the teaching staff and parents/guardians are kindly requested to support it by making a donation of **€2 per child or €5 per family**. This year the chosen charity is the **Barretstown Camp** which is based in Kildare. **Barretstown** runs a residential camp for **children with serious illness**, offering a range of adventurous and challenging activities supported behind the scenes by free 24 hour on site medical attention and care. We will be having a No Uniform Christmas Jumper Day on **Tuesday 22nd December (half day)** and all proceeds raised on the day will be donated to **Barretstown Children's Charity**.

Sacramental Preparation

Congratulations to all the pupils in last year's **Mr. Collier's** Sixth Class who received the *Sacrament of Confirmation* in the Church of the Immaculate Conception, Eadestown, in three separate ceremonies on **Saturday 5th December**, while adhering to public health requirements regarding social distancing and sanitising protocols. Special thanks to **Fr. Comer**, to **Deirdre Comer**, organist and to **Katie Harney** and her mother **Áine** for the beautiful singing and guitar accompaniment.

Discover Primary Science Award



We have been awarded a *Discover Primary Science Award* for the 2019/20 school year having reached all the criteria. Thanks to former teacher **Niamh Brady** who co-ordinated our school application for the award during last year which we had signed off and submitted just before the lockdown last March! Thanks also to teachers and pupils who worked to achieve this award for Rathmore N.S. A plaque will be displayed in the school to acknowledge our award and participation

Department of Education and Skills School Inspection

We were visited by a *Department of Education and Skills (DES)* School District Inspector on Tuesday, 17th November, as part of the Inspectorate's role in advising and supporting schools on creating a safe learning and working environment for all. The inspection was carried out under the title of '*Supporting the Safe Provision of Schooling*' (SSPS) using a framework of checks. Level 1 Child Protection Monitoring was also carried out and we were found to be fully compliant.

I am happy to report that the inspector was most impressed with the work that has gone into the re-opening of *Scoil Chéile Chríost Rathmore N.S.* and ensuring the continuity of schooling so far this year. The Inspector commented on our beautiful school and well organised classrooms, well-behaved children and how, as a school staff we were going 'above and beyond' with our efforts to prevent the transmission of Covid-19 in the school and ensure the continuity of schooling.

A written copy of the inspector's record of evidence of the visit will be emailed to the Board of Management in due course. Well done to our school *Covid-19 Response Team*, to the teachers and school staff of Rathmore N.S. and to all involved in our school community in working as a collective to achieve a very positive report.

It is important that we continue to prevent the transmission of Covid-19 in our community by following the public health guidelines in relation to social distancing, hand hygiene and cough etiquette. Please remember not to send your child to school if they are unwell and to contact your GP if they are displaying any symptoms of Covid-19. Please do not congregate on the school plaza or grass areas at school collection times as we have a 'pick-up and go' policy in place. The wearing of a face covering by adults is required while on the school premises.

Co-Curricular Activities

Outdoor rugby coaching with **Mick Cahill** has now begun with the pupils in both *First* and *Second Classes* on **Wednesdays** and football coaching with our GAA coach **Dave O'Neill** has started on **Fridays** with all pupils in *Junior and Senior Infant classes*. Both coaches are adhering to all public health requirements while working with the school.

School Mass – Feast of The Immaculate Conception

Fr. Comer celebrated Mass for the *Feast of the Immaculate Conception* in Eadestown Church on **Tuesday, December 8th at 11.30 am**. As public health restrictions are still in place, the Mass was live streamed on the parish website www.easdestownparish.com and could be accessed by all classes in the school. Thanks to our board member **David Hickey** for facilitating the live stream. Special thanks also to class teachers **Eleanor Roe** and **Amy Gleeson** for providing the musical accompaniment.

Thank You!

Thanks to **Victoria Dowling**, mother of Fletcher in Second Class for a donation of disposable face masks to the school through her employer. Special thanks also to **Louise and John Traynor**, parents of Anna Louise in Senior Infants for a donation of art materials for use by the children in the school.

REMINDERS

Our **Christmas Jumper Day** takes place on **Friday, 18th December** when our outdoor Christmas Assembly will take place. The children can wear their **Christmas Jumpers** again on **Tuesday, 22nd December** when we will have a school 'No Uniform Day' to raise money for **Barretstown Camp**.



Dates for your Diary

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.



