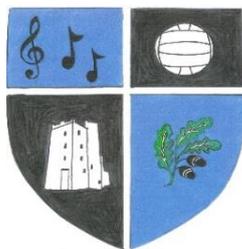


# *Scoil Chéile Chríost Rathmore N.S.*

## *Newsletter June 2022*



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### End of 2021/22 School Year

Dear Parents/Guardians

As the school year draws to a close and we look forward to the Summer holidays, on behalf of the Rathmore N.S. Board of Management. I would like to thank you for your co-operation and support to ensure the school operated successfully despite some of the challenges presented by the Covid-19 during this school year.

Well done to all the children in Rathmore who have all been fantastic throughout the year. All **Class Booklists** for 2022/23 school year have been emailed via Aladdin to school parents/guardians in each class level. Copies will also be available to download from the school website on [www.rathmorens.ie](http://www.rathmorens.ie). You will receive a notification through Aladdin when you can begin to pay your child's **School Fees** for the new academic year. The **School Calendar** for 2022/23 has also been agreed and is displayed on the school website.

Sadly, I also wish to inform you that **Ms. Claire Power and Ms. Margaret Maher** will both be retiring as teachers in Rathmore N.S. this Friday, 24<sup>th</sup> June, 2022, the day of the Summer holidays. **Ms. Power** has been a teacher in the school since 1993 and has completed 29 years of teaching service here with us. **Ms. Maher** joined the teaching staff of the school in 2003 and has been teaching here for over 19 years. Both **Ms. Power** and **Ms. Maher** are hugely respected and dedicated teachers who will be greatly missed by the teachers and staff, the children of the school and all in our school community. They are both caring and compassionate teachers who have each made a valuable contribution to all aspects of school life during their time in Rathmore N.S.

I know that you will join with me and all their colleagues and staff in Rathmore N.S. in wishing them a long, happy and healthy retirement. We won't be letting them go without giving them an appropriate send-off as they enjoy the next chapter of their lives.

I also want to take this opportunity to say 'Slán' to second class teacher **Mr. Conor Cronin** who is taking a career break and returning to his home county of Cork and we thank him for his contribution to Rathmore N.S. during the last 5 years. We also send our best wishes to special education teacher **Aideen Murphy** who is taking maternity leave from the end of August but who will be returning to us in the Spring.

I want to acknowledge the dedication of all our teachers, special needs assistants (**Louise, Rita and Nora**) and our Caretaker **Paul O'Sullivan** and School Secretary **Martina Lawler** who work to ensure each child in the school is cared for and supported to learn and reach their full potential in a well maintained and safe environment.

We have been very fortunate to have a very supportive **Parents' Association Committee** chaired by **Sandra Courtney** for many years. We are now seeking some new members to form a new **Committee** to build on their work, in partnership with the school when we begin the new 2022/23 school year. Thanks also to our parent volunteers who are members of our **Library Committee** and ensured the school Library re-opened successfully before Easter and to the school **Garden Committee** who have maintained our beautiful garden all year and worked with the children in their class plots. We appreciate the work of hurling coach **John Holmes**, GAA coach **Rob Thompson** and rugby coach **Michael Cahill** who have worked with the children all year.

It has been another busy year and I hope that you and your families get the opportunity to rest and recharge over the Summer and we look forward to welcoming your child back to Rathmore N.S. on Thursday, 31<sup>st</sup> August for the start of the 2022/23 school year.

**Take Care and Stay Safe**

**Lucy Travers,**

**Principal Teacher**

#### Teachers For The 2022/23 School Year

Please note that teacher recruitment will be taking place during the Summer holidays and some class teachers have yet to be appointed for the new 2022/23 school year. Parents/Guardians will be advised as soon as the recruitment process is finalised by the Board of Management.

Class Level 2022/23	Teacher 2022/23
Junior Infants 1	Ms. Roe
Junior Infants 2	Mr. Bolton
Senior Infants 1	To Be Advised (TBA)
Senior Infants 2	TBA
First Class 1	TBA
First Class 2	Ms. Gleeson
Second Class	Ms. Swanton
Second/Third Class	Ms. Shaw
Third Class	TBA
Fourth Class	Ms. Orlaigh Behan
Fourth/Fifth Class	Ms. Aoife Malone
Fifth Class	Mr. Matthew Collier
Sixth Class	Mr. Shane Walsh

**Special Education Team:** Caitriona Lancaster, Siobhán Parker/Carole Mooney, Aideen Murphy and new teacher appointment.

## Sixth Class Graduation- Class of 2022



Our **Sixth Class Graduation Mass** was celebrated by Fr. Comer in the school P.E. Hall on Tuesday, **21st June at 11.30 am**. Thanks to **Mr. Collier**, their class teacher for preparing the children so well. Special thanks to teachers **Ms. Roe** and the **Choir** for the beautiful singing and musical accompaniment, to **Ms. Maher** for serving as Minister of the Eucharist, to **Mary Clifford** for preparing the altar and to **Brigid Judge** for supplying the floral arrangements and organising the tree planting ceremony, to **Martina Lawler**, our school Secretary for co-ordinating the Mass Booklet and to **Paul O'Sullivan**, our school Caretaker for preparing the school hall for the ceremony and refreshments afterwards.

Last **Friday 17<sup>th</sup> June**, all the children were also treated to a hot lunch treat prepared by our caretaker and 'chef' **Paul** helped by our school secretary **Martina!**

We congratulate the **Class of 2022** and wish them well as they leave Rathmore N.S. to begin the next stage of their education.

Slán go fóill and go n-éirí an t-ádh libh go léir!

## Our World Irish Aid Awards 2022



On Tuesday the 14<sup>th</sup> of June, **Max Robinson, Adam Hodder and Morgan Kinsella** from 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> class had the honour of attending the 'Our World Irish Aid' awards in Farmleigh House with **Ms Shaw**

and Max's mum **Kerry**. Unfortunately, we couldn't bring all 24 children, so it was Adam, Max and Morgan who were the lucky three that were randomly selected to attend the award ceremony. Back in February all the children in the class decided they wanted to make a stop motion video to highlight the work that Irish Aid do to help people in developing countries. Part of the assignment was to integrate some of the 17 sustainable development goals. The final result was a sweet and thought provoking stop motion video which was deemed good enough to be selected as a finalist, for the 'Our World Irish Aid' awards.

In May the class found out that their project was shortlisted as a finalist. Out of 400 entries the children's stop motion video made it to the last 15! An outstanding achievement from the class. Our day out in Farmleigh House will be one that the three children will certainly remember! A big thank you to **Kerry Robinson** who came with us on the day. We arrived at 11:30 and straight away were brought inside and told to help ourselves to delicious food! There were games set up for the children to play and even ice cream cones available, which of course the children and Ms. Shaw tasted! Max, Morgan, and Adam were asked to give an interview and talk about their project. They all were very comfortable in front of the camera and took the interview in their stride! Once the interviews were over and the ice cream was eaten, we attended an eventful presentation; the children met Minister Colm Brophy and had their picture taken with him. We didn't walk away empty handed however, the children's project won an 'Activity Award'! Morgan, Adam, and Max represented the class and accepted the award from **Minister Colm Brophy**. It was a brilliant day out and the children in 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> class showed excellent teamwork to create such a creative stop motion video! Well done to **Ms. Shaw** and everyone in 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> class!

### New Pupil Laptops



As part of the DES *Digital Strategy for Schools to 2027*, the Board of Management have recently invested in 20 new pupil laptops. The laptops have been configured and are already being used by the children and their teachers in the senior classes to integrate digital technology into teaching and learning. The new laptops supplement the 2 sets of pupil ipads which were purchased last year through a combination of Department of Education and Skills (DES) funding and two very successful fundraising efforts organised by the *Parents Association*.

### Parents Association Cash For Clobber Fundraiser



The **Parents Association** ran another successful *Cash for Clobber* Fundraiser recently which raised a total of €216. Thank you to everybody who contributed to the collection

## Active School Flag 2022



Congratulations to all the students and staff at Rathmore N.S for playing their part in renewing our Active School Flag. The process was started in September 2019 after **Mr. Bolton, Ms. Malone and Ms. Shaw** attended the Active School Flag training.

Due to Covid restrictions and two tough lockdowns, the school faced many challenges in fulfilling the necessary criteria, but we didn't let that stop us! Through hard work and lots of creative thinking, the Active School Committee and coordinators got everyone in Rathmore active on a daily basis.

Our playground leaders led our Active Zones on the yard at break times. Our school motto was "**Get off your chair and get some air**". And indeed, we did. By using our school track, we got '*Paul to Paris*' and '*Martina to Madrid*'. It is with great pride that we will raise our **Active School Flag** when it arrives. Well done to all involved, keep up the great work!

Well done to all the teachers and children of Rathmore who have collaborated to ensure we were awarded the Active Flag.

**Don't forget to 'Get Off Your Chair and Get Some Air!'**

## Tree Planting Ceremony & School Garden



A **Tree Planting Ceremony** to mark the Graduation of the children in **Mr. Collier's** Sixth Class took place in the school on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> June. The Holly tree was supplied as a parting gift to the pupils by *Yellow Furze Nurseries*. We look forward to the tree taking root and growing tall on the grounds of Rathmore N.S. in the years ahead. It will serve as a reminder of our *Sixth Class of 2022*.

Our school garden is now in full bloom and it is a wonderful resource for all the children in the school. Special thanks to our garden volunteers **Brigid Judge, Sakoto Yoshimura, Julie Shiels, Lisa Sargent** and **Elizabeth O'Reilly** for their dedication throughout the year. The school garden is looking particularly beautiful at the moment and wouldn't be out of place in the recent *Bloom Garden Exhibition!*

## Blue Star Programme 2022



This year, Rathmore N.S. successfully completed the **Blue Star programme**. The Blue Star Programme challenges primary school pupils around the country to get creative in how they learn and think about Europe. The idea is simple: to foster better understanding and knowledge of Europe and how it affects the lives of Irish citizens among Irish primary pupils in a curriculum friendly manner.

The pupils in Rathmore N.S. learned about different European cultures and the EU using story and creative activities. Much of the pupil's artwork throughout the school represents the different European artists that were explored throughout the year. Students engaged in a range of different projects to showcase their learning in a fun way. Our children explored the Normans, the Greeks, the Romans, the Irish Famine, Irish tourist attractions and the World Wars, to name a few. 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> got the opportunity to learn French and 5<sup>th</sup> class took part in a range of Kahoot quizzes as the programme came to a close, to test their knowledge of Europe and the E.U and secure our completion of the programme. Thank you to **Ms. Malone** for co-ordinating the Blue Star Programme in our school.

## Naas Library Summer Stars Programme



### Summer Stars National Reading Adventure 2022

Summer Stars is the public library national free summer reading programme for children that runs from the 13th of June until 31st August 2022.

All children throughout the country are invited to join the adventure and to enjoy the fun and pleasure of reading and writing over the summer.

Summer Stars is non-competitive and every child who reads even one book/ ebook is regarded as having completed the programme – and it's all **completely free!**

*"The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you'll go."* Dr. Seuss

## Activities for Summer Stars 2022:

1. Summer Stars BorrowBox: Browse, borrow, read and listen to the Summer Stars collection of children's e-books and e-audio books through the library's BorrowBox app. This is free for all members to use from anywhere, anytime. Non-members can join online for free at <https://www.librariesireland.ie/join-your-library>.
2. Storytime: Summer Stars storytime will be delivered by library staff every Friday morning in Naas Community Library.
3. Books: Naas Community Library is open so do visit to stock up on your summer reads and register for Summer Stars!
4. Reading cards and reviews: Children can track their reading progress with reading cards which can be marked each time a book is read, online or in print form. These are available from the library or for download and print here [Summer Stars | Libraries Ireland](#).
5. Check with Naas Community Library's social media and website for upcoming Summer Stars events and activities!

## Parenting Support



I would like to draw your attention to a valuable resource for parents and teachers called [parentingsupport.ie](http://parentingsupport.ie) which provides information on parenting supports and services in County Kildare and Wicklow including:

- Details of upcoming parenting courses and talks in your area (mostly free)
- Information on local services and organisations that support parents
- Downloadable booklets and leaflets on a range of different topics relevant to parents

It is a multi-agency initiative of the Kildare West Wicklow Parenting Forum of which Kildare Library Service is a member. The full website address is: <https://www.parentingsupport.ie/> where you will find more information.

## REMINDERS

Please remind your child to bring home all items of their clothing before the school closes for the holidays on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> June at 12.30pm. Thank you for your co-operation.

## Dates for your Diary

Summer holidays commence on Fri 24th June 2021 at 12.30pm and school buses are running.

The school will re-open for the 2022/23 school year on Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> August for all classes.

