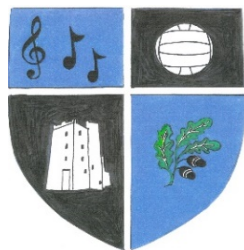


Scoil Chéile Chríost Rathmore N.S.

Newsletter December 2019



Website: www.rathmorens.ie Phone 045-862145

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Christmas Greetings

Dear Parents/Guardians

The annual **Christmas Fair** will take place on **Thursday 12th December in Rathmore Community Hall**. This highly anticipated event is the culmination of much planning, school practices and preparation by members of the **Parents Association** chaired by **Sandra Courtney** and all the teachers in Rathmore N.S. who have been rehearsing with the children in their classes and putting the finishing touches to their performances on stage.

Special thanks to parent and board member **Conor Flynn** for organising the music and lighting production which is always very professional. The **Timetable** of each class performance has already been sent out to parents and has also been uploaded to the school website by our board member **David Hickey**.

Thanks also to you the parents/guardians who support this fundraising event in such numbers each year. We look forward to welcoming you all on the day and guarantee that you will be fully entertained. Please remember to exercise caution when entering and exiting the car parks and use the designated car parking areas only. Please note that while parents/guardians are permitted to take photographs of their children for their own private use, under Data Protection legislation they shouldn't share images of other children in a public forum i.e. on social media platforms. All the class performances will be recorded by a member of the Parents Association.

As another year 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.

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 all their hard work throughout the year. I also wish to thank the many parents and volunteers who help with school activities. Your support is very much appreciated.

May I take this opportunity to wish you and your family a very happy and peaceful Christmas and good health in 2020. Nollaig shona dhaoibh go léir!

Lucy Travers

Principal Teacher

New Board of Management 2019-2023

A new four-year term of office has now begun for the eight-member Board of Management. We would like to take this opportunity to thank all the members of the out-going Board for their valuable contribution to the management of Scoil Chéile Chríost Rathmore N.S. which is done on a voluntary basis. We would like to acknowledge former Board members **Nuala Wall** and **Siobhán Jennings** who have now stepped down from their roles.

We welcome the members of the new Board of Management and we wish them well.

Chairperson: **Mr. Gerry Martin**

Secretary: **Ms. Lucy Travers**

Staff Nominee: **Ms. Caitríona Lancaster**

Parent Representatives: **Denise Nichol and Conor Flynn**

Community Representatives: **David Hickey and Joan Noone**

Patron's Representatives: **Fr. Michael Comer**

Charity 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 **St. Vincent De Paul**. We will be having a Non-uniform Christmas Jumper Day on **Friday 20th December** and all proceeds raised on the day will be shared between the Naas and Blessington branches of the **St. Vincent De Paul**.

Every School Day Counts Initiative



We took part in this initiative during the month of November to promote school attendance and raise awareness among pupils, parents and the school community of why it is so important to be present in school. A challenge was set for pupils to be present for **20 days in November** (unless they were unwell or had a medical appointment). Our best week for attendance i.e. the *lowest* amount of absent days across the school was during the week of 18-22 November when there was a total of 23 *children* absent. The *lowest day* of pupil absences recorded was reached on two occasions – Wednesday 13th November and Tuesday 19th November with only *two children* absent on both days in the school! Well done to everyone for taking part and to parents/guardians and teachers for highlighting the importance of school attendance.

Junior Infants Enrolment 2020/2021 School Year

Please note that enrolment for Junior Infants classes for the 2020/2021 school year is now taking place. Please contact **Martina** in the school office for a [Form of Enquiry](#) or it can also be downloaded from the school website. The form must be handed into the school or posted by **Friday 21st February 2020**. Thanks to our active Parents Association for distributing school brochures to local playschools and creches and for sponsoring a sign to be erected advising of enrolment.

Primary Debating Festival

A debating team composed of pupils from **Mr. Collier's 6th class** and **Ms. Malone's 5th class** are participating in the 2019/2020 **Primary Schools' Debating Festival** celebrating the power of language. We hosted a debate against the Convent of Mercy Primary School in Naas supporting the motion "*Primary school students should be banned from owning a mobile phone*".

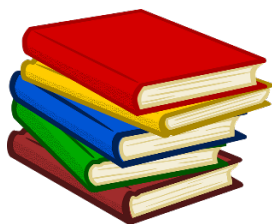
Well done to pupils **Ruth Croke (6th class)**, **Adam Sargent (5th class)** and **William Noone (6th class)** who spoke on behalf of Rathmore N.S. during the debate and thanks to their teachers **Mr. Collier** and **Ms. Malone** for preparing them so well. They were judged on such criteria as the use of persuasive language, evidence of teamwork and collaboration, use of rebuttals, organisation and clarity and relevance of arguments. Special thanks to our guest adjudicators, **John Holmes** and Naas drama teacher **Moll Fullam**.

Naas Lions Club Poster Competition Winners



Congratulations to **Kate Doyle** and **Luke Foley**, both pupils in **Ms. Malone's 5th class** who were recently announced as winners in the *Naas Lions Club International Art Competition*. Their winning posters designs were based on the theme of "Journey to Peace". They each will receive a one-for-all voucher worth €15 and even better our school will receive a cheque for €100!

School Visit of Local Author



Local author **Audrey Moore** made a special visit to Rathmore N.S. on Wednesday 4th December to give a reading of two of her children's books, "**Ping and Po-Li**" and "**Ping and Po-Li Rainforest Adventure**" to the children from Junior Infants to Second Classes. There was even a guest appearance from panda Ping himself, much to the delight of all the boys and girls! Thanks to Senior Infant teacher **Niamh**

Brady for organising the visit. It was a fantastic experience for the children to meet a real author, learn about the writing process and see the characters come to life. It is a great way to encourage reading and foster a love of books among children. Audrey has kindly donated a copy of her book to our school library.

Sacramental Preparation

Well done to all the pupils in **Mr. Collier's 6th class** who were enrolled for the Sacrament of Confirmation on Sunday 1st December. The boys and girls in 6th class will also be taking part in a **Class Retreat** organised by the *Mount St. Anne's Retreat Team* in Rathmore Hall on **Friday, 17th January**.

Confession for all pupils in 3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th classes will take place on **Wednesday 18th December** in the school hall with Fr. Comer and another visiting priest.

The preparation programme for all children receiving the **Sacrament of Confirmation** "*You Shall be My Witnessess*", will take place over **two nights during January/February 2020** in Eadestown Church. Parents/guardians will be notified of the exact dates in due course.

Green Schools



The **Green Schools Committee** are constantly looking at ways to reduce waste and promote energy conservation among our school community. As part of our school **Green Code** they have been monitoring the amount of bin waste generated in the school. We are currently being charged a fixed price per lift for each of the three bins – the green waste bin, the blue recycling bin and the brown organic waste bin. These charges have increased recently, and, in line with our Green Code we are encouraging both children and staff to *bring their lunch box waste home for recycling*. This will reduce the overall amount of waste that is being generated for disposal in school and the associated bin charges.

We are also encouraging the children to use *less packaging* and *reduce single use plastic items* in their lunches in order to minimise the amount of waste generated as we work towards our next Green flag – *Global Citizenship Marine Environment*. Thank you for your continued support for our Green Schools initiative. Remember to *reduce, reuse, recycle!*

GAA 5 Star Award



Our newly assigned GAA coach, **Dave O'Neill** has began coaching on Thursdays with the first group of classes. This initiative aims to support and recognise primary schools that provide pupils with 60 minutes of moderate to vigorous Gaelic Games activity per week in a manner that ensures all children will experience fun, friendship, fairness and ultimately improve their fitness. Recognition as a "GAA 5 Star Centre" is awarded to primary schools that undertake to deliver a programme of Gaelic Games activity that is appropriate and meets the developmental needs of children within the school over the school year. Thanks to Senior Infants Class teacher **Mr. Bolton** who is co-ordinating this initiative in our school.

Co-Curricular Activities

Swimming for all pupils in 1st and 2nd classes began on **Wednesday 11th December** and runs for six weeks in the Killashee Leisure Centre, Naas.

Hurling with John Holmes will begin with pupils in both **Junior Infant** classes on **Tuesdays** beginning **Tuesday 10th December**.

School Mass – Feast of The Immaculate Conception

Fr. Comer will celebrate Mass for the *Feast of the Immaculate Conception* in our school P.E. Hall on **Monday December 9th at 11.30 am**. This Mass replaces the 9.30 am daily parish Mass in Eadestown church and all are welcome to attend. Special thanks to class teachers **Eleanor Roe** and **Amy Gleeson** for preparing the school choir made up of pupils in 4th and 5th classes.

REMINDER

Junior Infant Vaccinations: Parents/Guardians are reminded that vaccinations for all pupils in **Ms. Roche's** and **Ms. Roe's Junior Infant Classes** will take place on **Monday 16th December**.

Dates for your Diary

The annual **Christmas Fair** will take place on **Thursday 12th December** in Rathmore Hall.

Christmas Holidays: Friday, 20th Dec at 12.30pm and school re-opens on Mon 6th Jan 2020.

Mid-term break: School closed on Thursday 20th and Friday 21st February 2020.

St. Patrick's Day: School closed from Friday 13th March until Wednesday 18th March 2020.

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 29th May until Wednesday 3rd June 2020.

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

