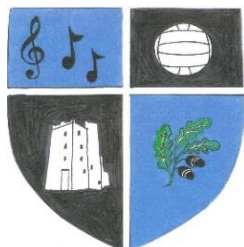


Scoil Chéile Chríost Rathmore N.S.

Newsletter May 2022



Website: www.rathmorens.ie Phone 045-862145

Email: office@rathmorens.ie

Twitter: [@Rathmore_School](https://twitter.com/Rathmore_School)

School Opening/Closing Times

Dear Parents/Guardians

Thank you for your co-operation with our return to the pre-Covid school opening and closing times after Easter. The children are to be commended for adapting so well to the new arrangements. Please remind your child to walk along the path when they enter through the Garden gate which is opened at **8.45am** to facilitate parents and children arriving by bus. As the school day starts at **9.00 am**, any children who arrive at the school after **9.00 am** should enter the school through the main front door.

Kind regards

Lucy Travers, Principal

All Parents/Guardians are asked to note the following:

*The school will open to receive pupils at **8.45 am** daily. No responsibility is accepted for pupils arriving on the school grounds before that time as there will be no supervision. Classes will commence each day at 9.00 am and pupils are expected to be on time. School will end each day at **2.40 pm** (**1.40 pm** for all Infants Classes).*

*Parents are requested to be punctual when collecting their children at home time or have arrangements in place to ensure their child is collected promptly at **2.40 pm** (**1.40 pm** for infants) if not collecting them in person themselves, as the school cannot accept responsibility for children after that time.*

Sacrament of First Holy Communion



Congratulations to the children in **Ms. Lancaster's** and **Mr. Cronin's** First Classes who received the **Sacrament of First Holy Communion** in the Church of the Immaculate Conception, Eadestown on Saturday 14th May with Mass celebrated by **Fr. Micheál Comer**. Many thanks to both class teachers for preparing the children so well, to teachers **Ms. Roe** and **Ms. Gleeson** for providing the music, to **Ms. Behan** as Minister of the Eucharist, to our Secretary **Martina Lawler** for co-ordinating the Mass Booklet and to our Caretaker **Paul O'Sullivan** for his help with the display of the children's Art in the Church. Thank you also to parents **Michelle Carew** and **Eileen Ambrose** for their work with the children as part of the parish Programme of Preparation. We were blessed with a sunny day and hope that all families had a very happy day of celebration.

Standardised Testing 2022

Standardised Testing in *English* and *Maths* usually takes place in primary schools each year during the month of May. This year the school has purchased the *New Drumcondra Primary Reading Test* which has replaced the older version of the test. You may see differences between your child's results on the new Test this year and their results on the old Drumcondra Test. The *New Drumcondra Test* was piloted in Spring 2017 and was standardised on a national sample of pupils in Spring 2018. Norms based on the 2018 reference groups were then established. So, if a child receives a score in the 'average range' on the *New Drumcondra Primary Reading test*, their score is 'average' relative to the national sample of pupils at their class level who took the test in 2018.

Due to the mismatch in achievement levels between the old and new reference groups, some changes in scores are expected nationally with the introduction of the new tests. A report on standardised testing by the Department of Education and Skills (2016) showed that the proportion of children receiving high STen scores (such as 8 to 10) on the older test had become much larger than in the original reference groups. Similarly, the proportion receiving low STen scores (such as 1 to 3) had become much smaller than that in the original reference groups. The Report is available to read from : <https://www.education.ie/en/Publications/Policy-Reports/Standardised-Achievement-Tests-An-Analysis-of-the-results-at-Primary-school-level-for-2011-12-and-2012-13.pdf>

However, it is very important to note that all standardised test scores are a snapshot in time and may not accurately reflect all aspects of a pupil's learning and development. Standardised test scores are used to complement other assessment tools used by teachers to build a picture of a child's achievement over time and should not be interpreted in isolation. During daily classroom activity and interactions with children, teachers draw upon their professional judgement and knowledge of individual pupils and context to evaluate their progress and gain a comprehensive insight into their

learning (through teacher observation, class-based tests, homework, project work and portfolios). These test results will provide a snapshot of each child's progress, affirming areas of success and supporting the early identification of children who may need to be further supported in school with aspects of their learning in literacy and numeracy and will support teachers in prioritising certain areas of the curriculum.

Please see the link below to *National Council for Curriculum and Assessment (NCCA)* website which provides information for parents/guardians pertaining to standardised assessment in primary schools.

https://ncca.ie/media/1400/english_tip_sheet_sten.pdf

https://ncca.ie/media/1429/understanding-standardscores_eng.pdf

Cash For Clobber



Do you have any unwanted clothes/shoes etc that you would like to recycle? The *Rathmore N.S. Parents Association* are running another *Cash for Clobber* Fundraiser shortly following a very successful collection last September. You can drop off all unwanted items of clothing (including shoes) at the school P.E. Hall in a sturdy black sack/s on **Monday and Tuesday 30th & 31st May before 10 am.** The recycled items will be collected, weighed and exchanged for a cash amount which will go towards funding school activities for the children. Thank you for your support!

Parents Association AGM

The *Annual General Meeting* of the Parents Association took place on 14th March in the school and the meeting was chaired by outgoing **Chairperson Sandra Courtney**. An update was provided to parents of the fundraising activities undertaken during the last school year and the current financial position. Committee members, **Sandra Courtney, Claire Sargent, Clodagh Eiliffe and Lisa Grainger** indicated that they wished to step down following their term of office. Expressions of interest were sought from parents to fill the vacant positions or join as Committee members to continue working in partnership with the school for the benefit of your children.

The *Board of Management of Rathmore N.S.* and the school staff would also like to extend our thanks and appreciation to Chairperson **Sandra Courtney** and all Committee members for their support and dedication in the running of school events and fundraising activities in Rathmore N.S. and it is very important that new parents now come forward to join the Committee and continue this important work.

Outgoing Committee members will be available to guide and assist should you need it.

The Committee typically meets once a month in the Garden room with a board member and school representative present. The Committee consists of *Chairperson, Vice Chair, Secretary, Vice Secretary, Treasurer, Vice Treasurer and four ordinary members.*

Please contact **Sandra Courtney (TEL: 086-2527474)** or **Claire Sargent (TEL: 086-2462824)** or the school for more information or to put your name forward to form a new Committee as soon as possible.

Irish Aid Awards Finalists



Congratulations to the children in **Ms. Shaw's 3rd/4th Class** who have received fantastic news that our school has won an *Our World Irish Aid Award* for their class collaborative video submission in the *Global Goal Getters* magazine. **Ms. Shaw** and a representative from the class have been invited to the National Final Ceremony in Farmleigh House in the Phoenix Park on 14th June. The National Final Ceremony is an opportunity to announce the Award Category Winners and to celebrate the creative projects that were submitted from schools nationwide.

Minister Colm Brophy will be in attendance showcasing the wonderful work of students across the country. What an honour for Rathmore N.S. and we wish Mr. Shaw's 3rd/4th class continued success!

Moving On Up Programme 2022

The children in **Mr. Collier's 6th Class** recently engaged in the 'Moving On Up' Programme to support their transition from primary to secondary school. This Programme is designed to reassure the children and provides information and supports to help them find their feet as they continue on their learning journey at second level. The Programme was facilitated by **Evan Costigan**, a guidance counsellor and psychologist who has worked with many other schools and colleges at all levels of the education system and the content included modules on *Making Friends, Social and Emotional Skills, Organisational Skills and Digital Well-being*.

Pupil Use of Mobile Phones

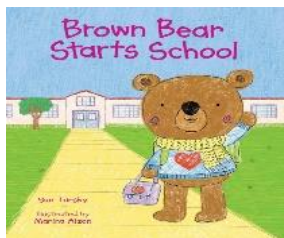


Please note that as per our *Acceptable Use Policy*, pupils are discouraged from bringing mobile phones to school but if necessary, mobile phones must be switched off during the school day and not used while on the school premises/grounds. Students are not permitted to use phones/smart watches as cameras under any circumstances in school, on school trips or during extra-curricular activities. The school will not be liable for the replacement of lost, stolen or damaged devices. Pupils who take unauthorised photos or recordings of other students or staff members will face disciplinary action as per the school's Code of Behaviour. The school incorporates this policy into the Code of Behaviour and will treat breaches as they would treat any other breach of the Code.

Parents/Guardians are advised to supervise their child's use of mobile phones outside of school hours and it is advisable that pupils avoid setting up or participating in class *Whatsapp* groups. Please note that the administrator of a *Whatsapp Group* is responsible for the content shared on the chat.

Incoming Junior Infants Parent Information Evening 2022

A *Parent Information Evening* for parents/guardians of all children starting in both our Junior Infant classes for the 2022/23 school year will take place in the school on **Thursday, 2nd June at 7pm.** Please contact our school Secretary, **Martina** in the School Office if you cannot attend on the night.



School Tours 2022



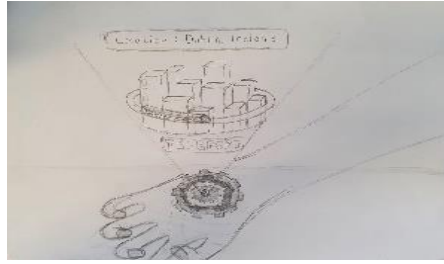
All Aboard!

All classes are looking forward to going on an end of year School Tour once again this year after a two year gap. Payment can now be made online through *Aladdin E-Payments*. Details of the Tours for each Class in the school and the dates for each tour are as follows:

Class Level	Date	Tour
Junior & Senior Infants	Monday 30 th May Sen. Infants Friday 10 th June Jun. Infants	K Bowl Entertainment Centre
First & Second Classes	Tuesday 31 st May	Lullymore Heritage & Discovery Park
Third and Fourth Classes	Friday 27 th May	Redhills Adventure Centre
Fifth Class	Thursday 2 nd June	Footee
Sixth Class	Thursday 9 th June	Clara Lara Fun Park

Wishing everyone a safe and enjoyable day out!

National Broadband



Congratulations to **Olivia Crumlish** in **Mr. Collier's 6th Class** who has been named County Winner for County Kildare in the *National Broadband Ireland (NBI) 'Imagine the Future'* Art Competition. NBI are the company rolling out the new high-speed fibre broadband network under the Government's National Broadband Plan. Olivia will be received a €50 book voucher and now goes forward to the National Final taking place in Barretstown Camp on 20th June where Ryan Tubridy will be attending as one of the judges. Well done to Olivia and we wish her every success in the final. Her very creative and futuristic entry can be seen above.

School Garden



There has been an increase in activity in the school garden these past two weeks as the weather and rising temperature makes it suitable for planting outdoors. It is wonderful to see the garden looking so well and to hear the sound of children's voices eagerly getting to work with their teachers and our garden volunteers **Brigid Judge, Sakoto Yoshimura, Lisa Sargent and Julie Shiels** who have given of their time to prepare the class beds for planting and engage in sowing a selection of potatoes, onions, peas, lettuces, broccoli and courgettes.

If you would like to lend a hand with any aspect of the garden, please contact **Martina** in the school office and she will put you in contact with the other members of the Garden Committees new volunteers are always very welcome!

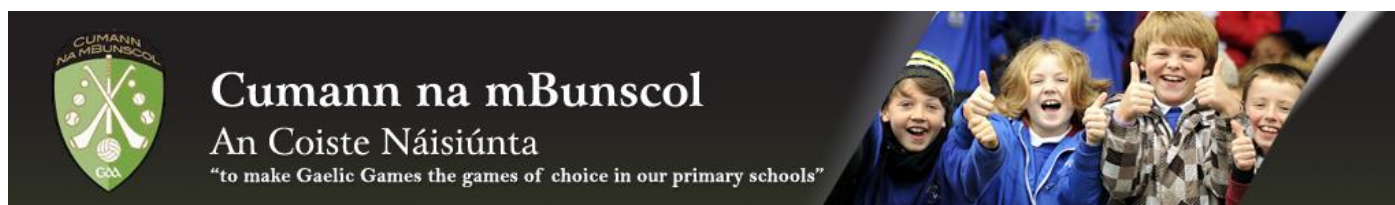
Creative Schools Initiative



Scoileanna Ildánacha  Creative Schools

Some beautiful new art installations made from recyclable materials have gone on display in the School Garden as part of our involvement with the *Creative Schools Initiative*. Well done to all the children and to our teachers and staff who came together creatively to complete this project. Particular mention is due to our Caretaker **Paul O'Sullivan** who has given a much-needed coat of paint to the pergola and garden fence and to **SNA Nora Lawler** who shared her creative skills with the children on the design and creation of the art pieces and windchimes made almost exclusively from recycled plastic bottle tops! A selection of Artists will also be coming to the school to work with the children in the months ahead and thanks to **Ms. Gleeson** for co-ordinating the visits. Don't forget that *Cruinniú na nÓg*, Ireland's National day of free creativity is taking place across Ireland on Saturday 11th June and delivered in partnership with Local Authorities. See www.gov.ie/cruinniunanog for information and details of free events and workshops in your area.

Cumann na mBunscol Gaelic Football and Hurling Blitz



Thank you to teachers **Mr. Bolton**, **Ms. Behan**, **Mr. Collier**, **Mr. Cronin**, **Ms. Doyle**, **Ms. Lancaster**, **Ms. Shaw** and **Mr. Walsh** who give of their time to run lunchtime and after-school sports training with the children. Rathmore School Teams were entered into the recent *Cumann na mBunscol* Boys Football, Girls Football, Boys Hurling and Camogie Blitzes which took place in GAA Clubs throughout the county. Well done to all the children who represented the school in a welcome return to team sports and competitions once again.

Please note that all after school training for the above has now finished up for the remainder of this school year.

Co-Curricular Activities

Hurling coaching with **John Holmes** takes place on **Tuesdays**. GAA coaching with **Rob Thompson** continues with the Junior Classes on **Thursdays**.

We are very grateful to both coaches for the work that they put in to develop Gaelic football and hurling skills among the children which also contributes to each child's overall physical development.

History of Rathmore N.S. – Visit of Past Principal and Deputy Principal



Ms. Lancaster and Ms. Shaw recently extended an invitation to former Rathmore N.S. Principal **Paddy Walsh** and former Deputy Principal **John O’Friel** to visit their classes and give a talk on the history of Rathmore N.S. The children were very interested to learn about the development of the school down through the years and what it was like to be a pupil in those days and they appreciate the beautiful school and facilities that we have today. We extend our thanks to both Paddy and John for taking time out to share their stories of school life with the children in both classes.

School Book Rental Scheme

We operate a Book Rental Scheme in the school to alleviate some of the costs to parents/guardians. This scheme is part funded by the *Department of Education and Skills* (DES). Under the terms of the Book Rental Scheme in operation in our school, rental books should be returned at the end of the school year in good condition and suitable for use by other students in the school. Lost or damaged/torn books must be replaced at the parent’s expense.



REMINDERS

Please ensure all items of clothing belonging to your child are **clearly labelled**. The children like to take off their sweatshirts in school on warm days and it can be difficult to match sweatshirts with children after each break! Some clothes labels need to be rewritten as they fade over time.

Please ensure your child brings a **light rain jacket to school** as we try to go outside for breaks and lunchtimes as often as possible. Thank you for your co-operation.

Jersey Day - No Uniform Day- Thursday 26th May

We are running a ‘No Uniform Jersey Day’ on **Thursday 26th May** to go towards funding activities for the children. Your child can wear any county/club/sports jersey to school on that day. **Please donate €2 per child or €5 per family in cash on the day to your child’s teacher.**

Thank you for your support.

School Calendar Dates for your Diary

June Bank Holiday: School closed from **Friday 3rd June and re-opens on Thursday 9th June 2022.**
Summer holidays commence on Fri **24th June 2022 at 12.30pm.**

