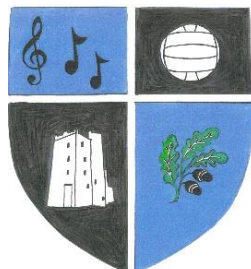


Scoil Chéile Chríost Rathmore N.S.

Newsletter September 2022



Website: www.rathmorens.ie Phone 045-862145

E-mail: office@rathmorens.ie

Twitter: [@Rathmore School](https://twitter.com/RathmoreSchool)

Welcome back everyone to another school year in **Rathmore N.S.** The teachers and staff are all delighted to be back in school and it is lovely to see happy children returning to their classrooms and meeting up with their friends once again after the summer break. I would also like to extend a warm welcome back to our teachers, special needs assistants and staff of Rathmore N.S. who will be working with your child this year. We are delighted to welcome new teachers, **Ms. Broe**, who is teaching Third Class, **Ms. Murray** who is teaching First Class 1, **Ms. Carpenter** who is teaching **Senior Infants 1** and **Ms. Kenny** and **Ms. Flynn** who are working as part of our Support Team.

A special welcome to our new Junior Infant little boys and girls. They have got off to a great start with their teachers **Mr. Bolton** and **Ms. Roe**. We hope that each child has a wonderful experience with us this year and continues to flourish under the care of our dedicated team here in **Rathmore N.S.** We look forward to working together as partners in your child's education during this academic year.

Thanks also to **Paul O'Sullivan**, our School Caretaker who has been working to prepare the school for re-opening after the Summer holidays and to **Martina Lawler**, our School Secretary for all the administrative support she provides throughout the year. Wishing everyone in our school community a happy and safe year ahead.

Kind regards,

Lucy Travers, School Principal

Please complete the details in the front two pages of your child's Homework Diary so that we have all your up-to-date details, especially your PHONE and EMAIL ADDRESS.

Punctuality and Safety in Car Parks

A big thank you to all parents/guardians who have been co-operating with our car parking arrangements.

Children should not enter the school building before the Garden Gate is opened to receive pupils arriving by bus from **8.45am** as there is no supervision in place. The school day begins at **9.00am** and ends at **2.40pm (1.40pm for Infant Classes)**

Late pupils should enter through the main school entrance door at Zone A.

Please do not leave your child unattended on the school premises as we cannot take any responsibility for their safety outside of school hours.

- Please remember to park **in reverse** in a designated parking bay and stand beside your car to await collection of your child.
- **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 busses to enter and leave safely.
- You are welcome to use the overflow car park to the rear of the **Community Hall** if necessary.
- Please be **vigilant at all times**, as young children are liable to run behind cars if they are not properly supervised. Once children are collected, they then become the **responsibility of parents/guardians**.

School Contact Details

Please note our school email address is office@rathmorens.ie. The school Reception Office telephone number is: Telephone **045-862145**.

Home/School Communication: Rathmore N.S. Homework Diary

The **Rathmore N.S. Homework Diary** is the main channel of communication between home and school and the teachers check it daily for any messages written in it by parents/guardians for their attention. **Martina Lawler**, our school secretary can be contacted in the school office at **045-862145** for any message or through the school office email address office@rathmorens.ie

We kindly request that you do not contact your child's class teacher directly by email unless absolutely necessary. Teachers will do their best to respond to your query within school hours up to 4pm daily.

It is important that all parents/guardians ensure that their contact details are up to date.

Please contact **Martina** to advise of any changes to your home address, telephone number or email so that they can be updated on our Aladdin system.

Support For Parents

The *National Adult Literacy Association (NALA)* has developed the website www.helpmykidlearn.ie. This brings together relevant information for parents and the wider community to support children's Literacy and Numeracy development in primary school. You can click on the link below to access the website and the support material is grouped according to age bands.

[Help My Kid Learn](http://www.helpmykidlearn.ie)

Reminder re Pupil Use of Mobile Phones in School



Please note that as per our school *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.

School Mass



Fr Michael Comer will celebrate Mass in the **Church of the Immaculate Conception, Eadestown** on **Friday 23rd September at 11.30am** to mark the beginning of a new school year and all classes in the school will be able to join in online via the zoom platform. All Parents/Guardians are invited to attend the Mass in person in the Church. Special thanks to teachers **Ms. Roe** and **Ms. Gleeson** for providing the singing and musical accompaniment.

Fr Comer has now confirmed a date for the celebration of **First Holy Communion** on **Saturday 13th May, 2023** and we await confirmation from the Dublin Archdiocese of a date for the celebration of the **Sacrament of Confirmation**.

Healthy Lunches



We have a *Healthy Eating Policy* in the school and parents are encouraged to support this healthy eating initiative. Children are permitted to include one treat in their lunch box on Fridays. We will be having a '**Healthy Eating Week**' across the school during the week of **26th September** which will provide a great opportunity to foster healthy eating habits in our children and remind us of some of the healthy foods to pack in your child's school lunch box. 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 in the school.

Covid-19 Guidelines

The Department of Education and Skills have issued some information to schools as the new year commences regarding COVID-19. The key messages are as follows:

- **Please keep your child at home if he/she is unwell.** The best way to keep viruses out of school is to stay at home until symptoms have substantially resolved for 48 hours or contact your GP for further advice if necessary.
- We will be continuing to **maintain our now established hygiene routines** in school in relation to handwashing.
- Children will be reminded to **adhere to good respiratory etiquette** by covering a cough and sneezing into their elbow. It is advisable that each child has a small packet of tissues which can be kept in their bag for their personal use in school.
- Good **ventilation** will continue to be maintained in all classrooms.

School Photographer



County Photos, (professional school photographers) will be coming to the school on **Thursday 29th September** to take photos of the children in both **Junior Infants Classes** this year's **Sixth Class**. Details will be sent home in your child's school bag shortly.

Remote Learning Contingency Plan

As part of our contingency planning in the event of an unplanned school closure, teachers will use the *Seesaw Platform* to continue learning remotely. You should shortly receive the Login details for *Seesaw* from your child's class teacher.

Mindful Tuesdays

A very successful and popular **Wellbeing Initiative** was rolled out across the school last year where all children were given a night off homework. Parents/guardians were encouraged to have a *technology-free* evening and engage in relaxing and mindful activities that enhance our wellbeing, such as playing a family board game together, baking/cooking together, reading a book, going for a walk, play/listen to music, having a family meal and chat, engaging in art activities, gardening, cycling or playing sports. The choice is endless!

We will continue with this successful initiative during this school year which takes place on the **second and last Tuesday** of each month.

School Expenses

Thank you to all parents/guardians who have paid their school expenses using the *Aladdin E-payments* cashless payment facility. The school expenses cover your child's stationary supplies, book rental, art and craft, digital licences and photocopying costs in school. We appreciate that the return to school increases the financial burden on parents and if you have any difficulty, please talk to **Martina** our school secretary or to **Ms. Travers**, the Principal.

Co-Curricular Activities

Swimming for all pupils beginning with the children in **Mr. Walsh's 6th Class** began last **Wednesday 7th September** in K-Leisure in Naas.

Hurling with **John Holmes** for *3rd and 5th* classes began on **Tuesday 13th September**.

GAA coaching with **Rob Thompson** begins on **Thursday 15th September**.

Bobby's Wish to Walk Fundraiser

There has been a fantastic response from our school community to the '**Bobby's Wish To Walk**' fundraising appeal. His parents are very grateful for your donations to the GoFundMe page and your

generous support of the many fundraising events that have been organised so far to support Bobby and his family when they travel to America in the Spring.

School Library



Our children love their weekly Friday trips to our fantastic School Library which helps to foster a love of reading among children. Special thanks to **Lisa Sargent** and our parent library volunteers who give of their free time each week to provide this service. They have recently completed a general re-organisation of the books and we hope to add to our library book collection during this school year. If you can spare some time on a Friday to help out, please contact **Martina** in the school office and we can include you on the **Library Weekly Rota**.

Friendship Week



“Friends are the family we choose ourselves” and so it is in the third week of September each year, the pupils of Rathmore N.S. become one big family. The emphasis is placed on the promotion of positive relationships and the important role that friendship can play. Friendship Week gives us the opportunity to celebrate this at the very start of the year so that we can begin as we mean to go on. During the week the pupils, staff and parents are encouraged and afforded the opportunity to forge new friendships and renew and strengthen old ones.

School Garden



We have a beautiful school garden for the children to enjoy and experience outdoor learning. Thanks to our green fingered Garden Volunteers **Brigid Judge, Sakoto Yoshimura, Lisa Sargent, Julie Shiels and Elizabeth O'Reilly** for giving of their time and expertise. The children really enjoy having their

own class plots and engaging in seasonal planting activities. It is a very positive activity which also promotes wellbeing among children and adults.

If you have some expertise in gardening or are interested in getting involved with planting and maintenance of our school garden, we would love to hear from you! Please get in touch with **Martina** in the school office.

Sixth Class Hoodies – Class of 2023



A big ‘thank you’ to parent **Ger Vallely** and **Aoife O’Sullivan** and for volunteering to co-ordinate the purchasing of the Sixth Class Rathmore N.S. hoodies this year. Thanks also to class teacher **Mr. Walsh** 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 have been very popular and this year’s Sixth Class are looking forward to receiving and wearing them in school. The hoodies cost €35 and this payment can be made through Aladdin e-payments. The deadline for ordering the hoodies is **24th September**.

Schools Sports Training 2022/23

Thank you to all our teachers who give of their time to run lunchtime and after-school sports training, subject to weather conditions on the day. **A text message, via Aladdin will be sent out to parents/guardians in the event that a training session after-school is cancelled**

The timetable of sports training is listed below. Boys Football training takes place with Mr. Bolton. Girls’ Football training takes place with Ms. Shaw & Ms. Behan. Boys Hurling training takes place with Mr. Collier.

Boots and gum shields must be worn for all football and hurling training.

Camogie training is taking place with Ms. Lancaster and Ms. Flynn.

Shin-guards, boots, track suit bottoms/shorts and socks must be worn.

Please note that all after-school training finishes at 3.30pm and children should be collected promptly. Thank you for your co-operation.

Day	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
12.25pm		Girls Football		Boys Football	
2.40pm		Boys Hurling		Girls Camogie	

REMINDERS

UNIFORMS: Please note that the school uniform is inter-changeable and pupils can wear either the uniform or school tracksuit to school. However, all children in 6th class are required to wear the full school uniform for Confirmation. Your class teacher will advise on what days P.E. is taking place when your child should wear the school tracksuit. 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.

GARDA VETTING: As part of **Child Protection Guidelines**, it is a requirement that all parents helping out with school activities are **Garda-vetted**. This process is confidential and once the initial application is submitted by the school, the process is online for the applicant. Therefore, parents/guardians who may become involved in school activities such as **Sports Days, Tours, Library, School Garden, Matches, Swimming** or who wish to help out with children in the school must first be *vetted*. All details on Diocesan Vetting requirements can be obtained from the School Office.

Dates for your Diary

Hallowe'en break commences on Monday, 31st October to Friday 4th November 2022

Christmas Holidays: Wednesday 21st Dec at 12.30pm and school re-opens on Thursday 5th Jan 2023.

St. Brigid's Day: School closed on Monday 6th February 2023.

Mid-term break: School closed on Thursday 16th and Friday 17th February 2023.

St. Patrick's Day: School closed on Friday 17th March 2023.

Easter Break: Starts at 12.30 pm on Friday 31st March 2023 and school re-opens on Monday, 17th April 2023.

May Bank Holiday: School closed on Monday 1st, Tuesday 2nd and Wednesday 3rd May 2023 and re-opens on Thursday 4th May 2023.

June Bank Holiday: School closed on Monday 5th June and Tuesday 6th June and re-opens on Wednesday 7th June 2023.

Summer holidays commence on Wednesday 28th June 2023 at 12.30pm.