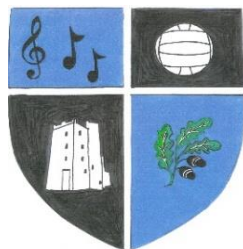


# *Scoil Chéile Chríost Rathmore N.S.*

## *Newsletter October 2022*



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Dear Parents/Guardians

I hope that you and your families are keeping safe and well and looking forward to the Hallowe'en Mind-Term break. Each one of us has a duty to protect children from harm and the *Department of Education and Skills* (DES) published the **Child Protection Procedures for Primary Schools in 2017** to give direction to school management and staff regarding the identification of and response to child protection concerns.

The *Board of Management of Scoil Chéile Chríost Rathmore N.S* has already adopted these procedures as school policy and a copy of our *Child Safeguarding Statement* is available to view on the school website or a hard copy is also available to read in the school office.

Please note that the *Designated Liaison Person (DLP)* in place for dealing with child protection concerns is the school **Principal, Lucy Travers** and the *Deputy Designated Liaison Person (DDLp)* is the **Deputy Principal, Caitríona Lancaster**. We appreciate your co-operation with the following procedures which are in place:

- A requirement for **all visitors** to Rathmore N.S. to report to the school *Reception Office* where they will be asked to sign-in and will receive a 'Visitor' badge.
- Parents/guardians are asked not to proceed directly to classrooms when collecting children early from school but to wait at Reception and their child will be escorted to meet them there. Our school Secretary **Martina** is always happy to assist you with any query.
- A reminder that all parents/guardians who are actively involved in any school activities such as the school Library, Tours, Matches and Sports Day activities must be vetted. All details on Diocesan Vetting requirements can be obtained from **Martina** in the School Office.

Hope you all have a very happy and safe Hallowe'en! The school will re-open after the mid-term break on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> November.

Oíche Shamhna Shona daoibh !

*Take Care, Lucy Travers, Principal*



The 17<sup>th</sup> annual *Maths Week* Ireland takes place from 15<sup>th</sup> -23<sup>rd</sup> October 2022 and it is the biggest festival of its kind in the world. It celebrates a positive image of *Maths For All*.

In 2021, over 386,000 students and their teachers participated in Maths Week activities despite the restrictions encountered as a result of Covid-19. Maths Week is committed to the idea of *Maths For All* and promotes a positive attitude towards Maths and helps to raise confidence and motivation among the children. We are looking forward to a very busy and fun-filled Maths Week in Rathmore N.S.

Special thanks to **Mr. Bolton** for co-ordinating *Maths Week* for all in our school.

Please see the website [www.mathsweek.ie](http://www.mathsweek.ie) for lots of ideas and resources and follow the link to the Parents Zone at <https://www.mathsweek.ie/2022/parents/>

### Visit of Eadestown Senior Ladies Kildare Senior LGFA County Champions 2022



Congratulations to the **Eadestown Senior Ladies LGFA Team and Manager Brian Willis** who were crowned Kildare County Champions on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> September in Hawkfield when they overcame Newbridge Sarsfields with a convincing win on a final score of 1-11 to 0-4. They have made history by winning three-in-a-row Senior County Titles and lifted the **Burke Cup** to great celebrations among their many supporters and the whole community.

We were honoured to welcome our past pupils, team captain **Rose Mernagh** and player **Grace Clifford**, back to visit us in Rathmore N.S. on Tuesday, 9<sup>th</sup> November with the Burke Cup on display. It was a very exciting and positive event and the children giving them a huge welcome when they visited all classes in the school. They were delighted with the warm reception they received from the children who made posters, waved flags and dressed in their Eadestown GAA colours. The team now go on to meet *Portlaoise* in the Leinster Club Quarter Final on *Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> October* and we send them our best wishes and support for continued success. Eadestown Abú!

Last Weekend also saw a back-to-back win for the *Naas Senior Men's Football Team* in the Kildare Senior Men's Final in played in St. Conleth's Park. Comhghairdeas and well done to all our local GAA Clubs on their recent success!

## Primary Language Curriculum

A new *Primary Language Curriculum* (PLC) for English and Irish was introduced by the Department of Education and Skills (DES) in all primary schools on a phased basis from September 2016.

A cycle of professional development for teachers commenced from September 2019 but this delivery was disrupted due to the arrival of the Covid-19 pandemic. This Programme of Professional Development for teachers continues during the 2022-23 school year. **Please be advised that our whole-staff seminar of professional support will take place on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> February 2023 and Rathmore N.S. will remain closed on that day for pupils only.**

A further half-day closure is scheduled to take place during Term 3 of 2023 and parents/guardians will be notified of the exact dates as soon as the details become available.

## Bobby's Banarama /Halloweén Witch Walk



**Friday, 28<sup>th</sup> October** this year will be a very special and fun filled day in Rathmore N.S. as we wish Senior Infants pupil **Bobby Smith** the best of luck with his operation in America. Our annual “**Witch Walk**” (non-uniform day) on **Friday 28<sup>th</sup> October 2022** has been renamed ‘**Bobby’s Banarama**’. Bobby loves **Superheroes**, so the children can dress up as their own favourite superhero or as anything they like on the day.

In keeping with our *Green Schools Recycling Aims*, children are encouraged to make some part/all of their dress-up outfit from homemade/recyclable materials rather than buying a commercially produced costume and **donate €2 on the day/€5 per family** towards helping Bobby and his family.

We look forward to seeing all the children’s costumes for this very special day!

Thanks to **Mr. Bolton** who is co-ordinating the event and we thank you for your co-operation and support.

## Creative Schools



The children in **Ms. Gleeson’s** and **Ms. Murray’s** First Classes recently took part in an outdoor eco-printing workshop with artist **Angelina Foster** which was hands-on and creative and involved making leaf prints using leaves gathered from the school grounds. Thank you to **Ms. Gleeson** for organising the workshop.

## School Garden

We are so grateful to the members of our volunteer school *Garden Committee* who have resumed working outside in the school garden. **Paul O'Sullivan**, our school caretaker recently used the harvested vegetables to make some vegetable soup for the children in **Mr. Walsh's Sixth Class** as is the tradition in the school which was delicious! It is also a valuable learning experience for the children to see how we can grow our own food.

New members of the *Garden Committee* are always welcome and no particular expertise is required. Please contact **Martina**, our school **Secretary** in the School Office if you would like to get in contact with the other members of the Committee and join in volunteering.



## Election of New Parents Association

A meeting was held on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> October in the School Library to form a new Parents Association. There was a great turnout on the night with positive contributions from all those present. The following parents agreed to take on positions and we look forward to working together.

*Chairperson:* **Tom Kearney**

*Vice-Chairperson:* **Mary Gillespie**

*Treasurer:* **Niamh McGrath**

*Vice-Treasurer:* **Aoife O'Sullivan**

*Secretary:* **Dolores Kavanagh**

*Vice-Secretary:* **Jane Byrne**

*Committee Members:* **Sandra Dowling, Geraldine Byrne, Charlie Corcoran, Tom Grant, Ger Vallely, and Claire Kavanagh.**

## Visit of Piper – Liam O'Flynn Festival

Uilleann Piper **Brian Hughes** visited the school on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> October as part of the *Féile Liam O'Flynn Festival* which celebrates the legendary Uilleann piper born in Kill, Co. Kildare. He spoke with the children about learning to play music and shared his own love of playing the uilleann pipes. As part of the *Féile Liam O'Flynn Festival*, an Uilleann Pipes Scholarship is being offered to those under 18 years of age. Email [feileliamoflynn@gmail.com](mailto:feileliamoflynn@gmail.com) if you are someone you know is interested in applying.





## School Admissions & Junior Infants Enrolment 2023-24

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 both primary and secondary schools, our school Admission Policy has been updated to incorporate these changes. Please see our school website [www.rathmorens.ie](http://www.rathmorens.ie) for an updated version of the *Rathmore N.S. Admission Policy*.

Parents/guardians and the school community will be advised of the enrolment period for Junior Infants for the **2023/24** school year when our *Rathmore N.S. Admission Notice* is published in December. If you know of any 'new parents' in the parish who wish to enrol their child in Junior Infants for the **2023/24** school year, you might bring this information to their attention.

## Covid-19 Public Health Guidelines

Please continue to adhere to Public Health Guidelines in relation to Covid-19 and preventing the spread of infection. 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 are continuing to **maintain our now established hygiene routines** in school in relation to handwashing/sanitisation.
- Children are 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** continues to be maintained in all classrooms.

## Teacher Supply Shortage

It has been reported in the media by school management bodies and the teacher unions that there is a national teacher supply shortage in Irish primary schools with many schools unable to fill advertised teacher vacancies for this school year. The teacher shortage has been communicated to the Department of Education and Skills (DES) and we await an update re alleviation measures. There is also an acute shortage of available substitute teachers to cover teacher absences where sub cover is provided by the DES. This problem is affecting schools in both the Dublin and Kildare areas and has been compounded by the cost of rental accommodation and rising fuel costs.

Fortunately, all advertised teacher vacancies in Rathmore NS were filled by the Board of Management for the 2022-23 school year following a recruitment process. However, in common with other schools in Kildare and despite our best efforts, we have been experiencing difficulties in sourcing substitute teachers. Please note that in the event that a substitute teacher cannot be recruited to cover a teacher absence on a day where substitute cover is provided by the Department of Education, a class may have to be split. We hope that the Department of Education will put measures in place to support school Management at this challenging time.

## School Mass

A school Mass to mark the opening of the 2022/23 school year was celebrated by **Fr. Comer** in the Church of the Immaculate Conception, Eadestown, on Friday, 23<sup>rd</sup> September and was livestreamed through the parish webcam to all the classes in the school. Thanks to our readers from 6<sup>th</sup> class, **Oisín Malone, Oisín Carew, Oscar Magee and Dylan Lawlor** and their parents for providing transport to the Church and to teachers **Ms. Gleeson** and **Ms. Roe** for the musical accompaniment in the Church which really added to the Mass.

## Schools Equestrian Competition



We had a fantastic outing on Sunday at Coilóg Equestrian where we had 6 children: Gloria Queally, Georgia Queally, Nina Smith, Saoirse Tracey, Ava Jenkinson and Jack McCann taking part in Equestrian Interschools Team Competitions. Out of 11 primary school teams we had one team finishing in 4<sup>th</sup> place and second team finished 7<sup>th</sup>. ( In order to mix the children we had them randomly picked and they truly enjoyed it). Ava Jenkinson also took part in individual competition where she won the 55cm class and came 4<sup>th</sup> in 75cm.

## Sports Update

GAA coaching with **Rob Thompson, Games Development Officer** has resumed on Thursdays in the school. Hurling coaching with **John Holmes** takes place on Tuesdays.

Congratulations to our **Girls U11s Football Team** and their coaches **Ms. Shaw** and **Ms. Behan** who have qualified for the Cumann na mBunscol finals on **Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> October at 3pm** in Moorefield GAA.

Well done to our **Boys U11 Footballers** coached by **Mr. Bolton** have also qualified for the final on **Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> October at 2pm** in Moorefield GAA.

**Please note that Parents/Guardians will be needed to provide lifts to both Finals in Moorefield GAA on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> October. More details to follow.**

Congratulations to our **Boys Senior Hurling Team** coached by **Mr. Collier** who have qualified for the Cumann na mBunscol Semi-Finals against Ardcloagh next Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> October. We wish all the teams representing Rathmore NS the very best of luck in all their upcoming matches!

## Valleymount Cross Country 2022

We have 48 children divided into teams of 4 boys and 4 girls from each class level from 1<sup>st</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> classes taking part in the Cross-Country Athletics event in Valleymount on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> October and we look forward to an enjoyable and successful competition. Thank you to **Ms. Malone** who has co-ordinated and coached our school teams helped by **Ms. Swanton** and to the parents who have volunteered to help out with teams on the day. Best wishes to all the athletes representing Rathmore N.S. in Valleymount!

### REMINDER:

Be Winter Ready: 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. As Winter has arrived and the days are getting colder, it is advisable that children put away their shorts and dress for the cold weather outdoors on the school yard by wearing the school track suit bottoms from now on.

### Inhalers:

If your child has asthma and needs to use an inhaler in school, please remember to send in an in-date inhaler which is clearly labelled. This will be kept in our medical press in the school if needed.

### Dates for your Diary

Hallowe'en break commences on Monday, 31st October to Friday 4<sup>th</sup> 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 6<sup>th</sup> February & Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> February (Teacher Professional Development) 2023.

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

St. Patrick's Day: School closed on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> March 2023.

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

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

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

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