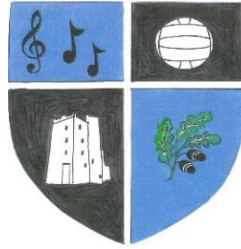


# *Scoil Chéile Chríost Rathmore N.S.*

## *Newsletter November 2022*



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### Parent/Teacher Meetings 2022-23

Dear Parents/Guardians

Parent teacher meetings for Scoil Chéile Chríost Rathmore N.S. will be held on **Wednesday & Thursday, November 23<sup>rd</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup>** for all classes (except Junior Infants and Sixth Class). The meetings will be conducted after school hours as advised by the Department of Education & Skills (DES). It is very important that you attend the meeting as it provides an opportunity for parents to discuss your child's progress this year. It is well documented that parents who involve themselves in a positive way in their children's education, have a very positive impact on the quality of education received by their children. Please note that the school will close 15 minutes early at 2.25 pm on Wednesday, 23<sup>rd</sup> November in order to facilitate these meetings.

**Meeting Times for all children in both Junior Infants Classes and in Sixth Class** *will be scheduled after Christmas during the month of January and parents/guardians will be notified of dates and appointment times by their child's class teacher in due course.*

**Meeting times:** Each parent will have an *average of 8-minutes* per meeting. If you have an issue that may need *more time* for discussion, please *arrange another appointment*. We ask you to **be punctual** and **not to delay** other parents unduly. **Support Teachers' Meetings:** All Support Teachers, **Ms. Lancaster, Ms. Parker/Ms. Hayden, Ms. Kenny and Ms. Cox** will be in their rooms for their appointments.

**Waiting Areas:** Seats are provided outside each classroom.

We hope that you find the meetings are beneficial and we look forward to meeting you on the day.

Yours sincerely,

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Lucy Travers  
Principal Teacher

School Library



We have a very well stocked school Library which is operated each Friday by volunteer parents who are part of the *Library Committee*. The Department of Education and Skills (DES) recently allocated a Library Grant to all primary schools to supplement the selection and quality of reading material available to children in school libraries to further promote reading among children. Thank you to **Lisa Sargent** and the *Library Committee* for assisting in the selection of some new books for Rathmore N.S. as recommended by Libraries Ireland. These have been scanned and covered with the help of **Martina** our school Secretary and will be included on the bookshelves shortly. Thanks also to our caretaker **Paul** who has increased the shelving space available for book display in the Library.

New Student Council 2022-23



Elections were recently held in 3<sup>rd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> classes to establish a new *Rathmore N.S. Student Council* to provide an opportunity for pupils to voice their opinions and offer suggestions in relation to many aspects of school life and to help organise school events. There was great interest shown from the children with a high standard of entries received from candidates following a presentation to each class on the role of a *Student Council*. Following a ballot in each of the senior classes, the following candidates were successful in being elected, having received the highest number of votes from their classmates.

6<sup>th</sup> Class Mr Walsh/Ms. Flynn: **Emily Kinsella & Ewan Delaney**

5<sup>th</sup> Class Mr Collier: **Billy Osbourne & Ciara Breen**

4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> Class Ms. Malone: **Alex Cusack & Iarla Walshe**

4<sup>th</sup> Class Ms. Behan: **Tommy O'Loughlin & Eoghan O'Brien**

3<sup>rd</sup> Class Ms. Broe: **Róisín O'Sullivan & Claude Hennessy**

3<sup>rd</sup> Class Ms. Shaw: **Nina Walshe**

Well done to all the children who were elected to this inaugural *Student Council*. There will be another opportunity next year for those children who may be disappointed this time round and they are encouraged to reapply next year. Thank you to **Ms. Lancaster, Mr. Walsh and Mr. Collier** for organising the elections this year leading to the formation of our *Student Council*.

### Maths Week 2022



The 17<sup>th</sup> annual Maths Week Ireland took place from 15<sup>th</sup> -23rd October 2022 and it is the biggest festival of its kind in the world. Special thanks to **Mr. Bolton** for co-ordinating Maths Week in our school. All classes took part in a variety of Maths activities such as outdoor Maths trails, estimation competitions, shape hunts, creating Maths posters using the school iPads for Maths games and a giant digital Quiz in the school PE hall for the senior classes. There was also a fun estimation activity where our caretaker **Paul O'Sullivan** completed a lap of the school track and each class estimated how long he would take him. Well done to both children and teachers for their efforts in promoting a positive image of Maths for all!

### HSE Free Flu Vaccine For Children

The *Health Service Executive* (HSE) is advising parents of all children aged 2 to 17 to get the nasal spray flu vaccine. Children are twice as likely to get the flu as adults, so the HSE is offering the vaccine free of charge to all children in this age group. Parents can bring their children to get the vaccine from their GP or pharmacy. The flu spreads easily from person to person and can cause serious illness in children. A free appointment can be booked with your GP or pharmacist. Visit

<https://www2.hse.ie/conditions/flu/childrens-flu-vaccine/> for information.

### Junior Infants Enrolment 2023/2024 School Year

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.

Valleymount Cross Country Event 2022



We had a very enjoyable and successful outing to the Cross County Event in Valleymount on 18<sup>th</sup> October with 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 on a beautiful Autumn day. We finished up with 16 individual medal winners and 9 teams out of 12 won team medals - 7 gold medals, 1 silver medal and 1 bronze medal. Congratulations to all the children who attended trials in school and who qualified to participate in the competition. It was an amazing overall result for our school. Special thanks to **Ms. Malone** who co-ordinated and coached our school teams helped by **Ms. Swanton** and to the parents who came along to mentor and support teams on the day.

Cumann na mBunscol Hurling Champions 2022!



Congratulations to our Under 11s Hurling Team and to their coaches **Mr. Collier** and **Mr. Walsh** to overcame Cooleragh to win the Cumann ns mBunscol Hurling Final in the Kildare GAA Centre of Excellence in Hawkfield on Tuesday, 25<sup>th</sup> October. It was a fantastic achievement and there was great team spirit shown amongst all the panel. Team captain, **Senan Boran** was presented with the Cup on the pitch following their win and each player will shortly be presented with an individual medal in school by past pupils and county hurlers **Cian and Rian Boran**. Thank you to the parents/guardians and to **Fr Comer** who came along to support the boys. We also acknowledge teachers **Ms. Shaw** and **Ms. Behan** who coached our girls football team, **Mr. Bolton** who coached the boys football team and **Ms. Lancaster** and **Ms. Flynn** who coached the girls' camogie team. Well done to all the children who took part in school training sessions and who represented our school on teams.



### Sixth Class Hoodies



A big 'thank you' to parents **Ger Vallely** and **Aoife O'Sullivan** for volunteering to co-ordinate the purchasing of the Sixth Class Rathmore N.S. hoodies this year which have now been delivered to the school. There was huge excitement in Sixth Class when each student received their personalised hoodie and they are now wearing them with pride!

### Drumming Workshop



The children in both **Ms. Doyle's** and **Ms. Carpenter's** Senior Infant classes and **Mr. Walsh's**/**Ms. Flynn's** Sixth Class took part in a very creative drumming workshop with **Eddie O'Neill** recently. It was certainly a big hit with the children and rhythmic drum beats could be heard all around the school! Thanks to **Ms. Gleeson** for organising this workshop as part of the *Creative Schools Initiative*.

### Bobby's Banaranama



We had a memorable day in the school on Friday, 28<sup>th</sup> October when we held our Rathmore N.S. *Bobby's Banaranama Fundraiser* coordinated by **Mr. Bolton** to support First Class pupil **Bobby Smith** and his family as they prepare to travel to St. Louis in America in January for his operation. There was a wide selection of Superhero costumes on display among the children, teachers and staff and we welcomed Bobby's parents **Stephen** and **Zoe** along with guests former Kildare footballers **Johnny Doyle** and **Emmet Bolton**, former Republic of Ireland Soccer player **Niall Quinn**, **Amy O'Neill** and **Denise Tierney** of the Eadestown Ladies Kildare Champions LGFA team, horse trainer **Ted Walsh** with his daughter former jockey **Katie Walsh** to the school to join us on our walk.

## Nuachtlitir Samhain 2022

We were blessed with a beautiful sunny day and all the children finished their Superhero Walk by forming a guard of honour to welcome Bobby back to the PE Hall. We were listened to Bobby's First Class sing the song 'Sing' accompanied by **Ms. Gleeson** on keyboard, followed by a whole school performance of the song 'Count on Me' led by **Ms Swanton** and 5<sup>th</sup> class pupil **Mark Byrne** on guitar. It was a super day in Rathmore and will be remembered fondly for the sense of goodwill shown by everyone coming together in a show of support. A total of **€1,281.10** was raised by the children which has been given to Bobby's parents as part of their *Bobby's Wish to Walk* Fundraising Campaign. Both **Stephen** and **Zoe Smith** would like to pass on their sincere gratitude for your generosity and support.

### Credit Union Competition Winner!

Congratulations to First Class pupil **Adam O'Dowd** in Ms. Murray's First Class who won First Prize for his age category in the Life Credit Union colouring competition!



### Wedding Bells!



Congratulations to **Ms. Shaw** who recently got married to her fiancé **Ciarán Dunne**. We wish them a long and happy married life together.

### Christmas Events



A reminder that the very popular *Christmas Fair* is back again this year and will take place on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> December in Rathmore Hall. The **Parents Association** are now in full planning mode with a new Committee led by Chairperson, **Tom Kearney**. They are organising a **Monster Christmas Raffle** and they would appreciate donations of raffle prizes. Prizes can be dropped to the school where there is a **Donation Box** in the porch. The children will also have an opportunity to watch the Helix Christmas Pantomime 'Hansel and Gretel' online with their class from December 14<sup>th</sup>. A small fee of €2 will be payable through Aladdin E-payments. A little elf has also told me that there may also be a special *Visitor* coming to the school on **Friday 16<sup>th</sup> December!**

### Be Winter Ready!

As we move into the Winter season, the Department of Education and Skills (DES) has issued advice to schools regarding severe weather alerts. In recent years Met Éireann has introduced colour coded weather warnings as follows:

**Status Yellow – be aware**

**Status Orange – be prepared**

**Status Red – take action**

Note that **Bus Eireann** will not operate school buses affected by a Status Red weather warning, or travel into an affected area for the duration of the warning. The decision to close a school rests with the school Board of Management taking into consideration the full guidance and direction available from the principal response agencies, especially An Garda Síochána. Any decision to close is taken in the interest of child safety, having assessed the local risks and having consulted as appropriate with school transport operators.

**Parents/Guardians should ensure that they have downloaded the Aladdin App on their phone in order to receive communication from the school.**

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 Requirements

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 our school Secretary Martina** in the School Office.

### Sacramental Preparation

**Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> Dec 7.30pm** Church of the Immaculate Conception Eadestown: **Confirmation Enrolment Mass.**

**Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> Nov 11.30am** Church of The Immaculate Conception Eadestown: **Do This In Memory Mass.**

### St Vincent de Paul Christmas Food Appeal

**The local branch of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul is organising a Christmas FOOD APPEAL on Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> November in Eadestown Church.** Donations of FOOD items are welcome to help local families in need this Christmas season. All donations will go to the SVP branches in Blessington & Naas. They welcome **NON-PERISHABLE FOODSTUFFS** (Pasta, pasta sauce, rice, tinned vegetables, tinned fish, crackers, biscuits etc.) There are donation boxes at the Church. Your support is very much appreciated.

## Nuachtlitir Samhain 2022

### Dates for your Diary

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.