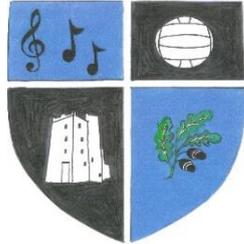


Nuachtlitir Nollaig 2022

Scoil Chéile Chríost Rathmore N.S.

Newsletter December 2022



Website: www.rathmorens.ie Phone 045-862145

Email: office@rathmorens.ie

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Christmas Greetings 2022

Dear Parents/Guardians

I hope that you and your families are looking forward to a more traditional Christmas celebration this year following two years of public health restrictions. We have had a wonderful Christmas Fair once again in Rathmore Community Hall on Friday 9th December and all credit is due to your children who were amazing! We are very appreciative of our **Parents Association**, chaired by **Tom Kearney**, who have worked so hard to get the Christmas Fair back on our Christmas Calendar of events and it has been a great success. As the year draws to a close, we remember family members and members of our school community who have passed away during 2022 and those in our school community and families who are sick or in hospital at this time.

The last few years have been challenging for schools and I want to acknowledge all our wonderful teaching staff, our special needs assistants, **Martina** our school Secretary and **Paul** our school Caretaker for their dedication and hard work throughout this school year. I also wish to thank the parents/guardians who volunteer to assist with school activities such as the school Library and the school Garden and can always be relied upon to help out when needed. It takes a team effort with both the school staff, the Board of Management chaired by **Gerry Martin** and parents working in partnership for the benefit of your children in the school.

May I take this opportunity to wish you and your family a very Happy and Peaceful Christmas and New Year!



Take Care and Stay Safe.

Nollaig Shona agus Athbhliain faoi mhaise dhaoibh go léir!

Lucy Travers

Principal Teacher

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Junior Infants Enrolment 2023/2024 School Year

Please note that we have now published our **Annual School Admission Notice** in respect of admissions to **Junior Infants Classes** for the **2023/2024** school year. As a result of the *Education (Admissions to School) Act 2018* which has been enacted and now applies to school admissions from September 2021 in all primary schools, our **School Admission Policy** has been ratified to incorporate these changes and is available to view on our school website at www.rathmorens.ie

It is very important to note the dates which are applicable for admission to **Junior Infants Classes for the 2023/2024 school year.**

The school will begin accepting completed Application Forms for Junior Infants 2023/24 on 6th January 2023 and will close on 8th February, 2023.

Failure to accept an offer, or to return a completed Application Form to the school, within the prescribed period outlined on the Admission Notice may result in the offer being withdrawn.

Please spread the word among our school community that enrolment for Junior Infants classes 2023/24 opens from 6th January.

Please contact **Martina**, our School Secretary in the school office on **TEL: 045-862145** or by email on office@rathmorens.ie for an **Application Form** or it can also be downloaded from the school website.

Christmas Fair & Christmas Raffle 2022



We had a most memorable return of the **Christmas Fair** in Rathmore Community Hall on Friday 9th December after an absence of two years. Our **Parents Association** pulled out all the stops to ensure that Rathmore Hall was set-up to look its best for our class performances and we had a packed hall with teas/coffees and a huge selection of home baking available to purchase despite the cold weather which did not manage to dampen the Christmas spirit which was in abundance. Huge thanks is due to all the parents who donated home baking to the *Tea/Coffee Stall* and those of you who generously donated prizes for the *Christmas Raffle*. All the funds raised will go towards providing resources for the children in the school.

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The teachers did a wonderful job putting together their class performances and the children were all amazing whether singing, dancing, playing musical instruments or acting. There is certainly no shortage of talent and creativity in Rathmore N.S!

Christmas Raffle: Thank you to everyone who has supported the *Parents Association Christmas Raffle* by buying tickets or donating prizes. The draw will take place in the school PE Hall on **Friday 16th December at 1pm**. Best of luck to everyone!

Influenza Vaccination Campaign 2023/24

Please note that the **nasal flu vaccine** is now available in Ireland for children aged 2-17. The flu vaccine and administration are free for everyone aged 2 to 17 years through the HSE vaccination programme. Participating GP practices and Pharmacies will be giving the vaccine. It is a safe, easy and pain free way to help protect children against flu this winter. The flu vaccine will also help reduce the spread of flu to others such as siblings, parents, teachers and grandparents. For children aged 2-17 they can get the flu vaccine at the same time as the COVID-19 vaccine if they have not yet had it. Please see the HSE flu website for more information: <https://www.hse.ie/flu>.

Please remember to follow the HSE advice and not to send your child to school if they are unwell.

Kildare County Council Environment Competition Winner



We received some great news recently when fourth class pupil **Cian Browne** was announced as the winner of a schools poster competition run by Kildare Council Council to front an anti-dog fouling initiative in Kildare. Cian's winning design has now been turned into printed signs that will be made available to community groups throughout County Kildare to install at key locations to raise awareness at local level.

Cian who was a pupil in Ms. Shaw's 3rd Class when he entered the competition, was presented with his prize in the school by **Councillor Fintan Brett**, Cathaoirleach of Kildare CC. Councillor Brett congratulated Cian on his eye-catching design, stating that, '*we need a range of different approaches to dealing with the ongoing problem of dog fouling. Cian's sign really catches the eye and will encourage dog owners to do the right thing. It is great to see our young people using their talents to address local environmental issues*'. Also in attendance was **Dara Wyer**, Kildare CC's Environment Awareness Officer.

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Cian received a prize of a book token to the value of €100 but our school will also receive a bursary from Kildare CC towards encouraging wildlife in our school garden and environs.

School Mass – Feast of the Immaculate Conception



Fr. Comer celebrated Mass for the *Feast of the Immaculate Conception* in Eadestown Church on **Tuesday, December 8th at 11.30 am**. The Mass was live streamed using the parish webcam on the parish website www.eadestownparish.com and all classes in the school joined in online. We are now in the liturgical season of **Advent** and have begun our preparations to celebrate the birth of Jesus on Christmas Day. Special thanks to **Brigid Judge** for making a beautiful **Advent Wreath** for the school.

Sacramental Preparation

Confirmation 2023: Congratulations to all the pupils in **Mr. Walsh's/Ms. Flynn's 6th class** who were enrolled for the *Sacrament of Confirmation* on Sunday 1st December. The next Confirmation preparation Mass will take place on **Saturday 28th January at 7.30pm in Eadestown Church**.

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 Community Hall on **Friday 24th March 2023**.

First Holy Communion 2023: The next 'Do This In Memory' Mass will take place on **Sunday 22nd January at 11.30am in Eadestown Church**.

Christmas Pantomime- Hansel & Gretel

As a treat for the children this year we have booked the *Hansel & Gretel Online Panto* from "*The Helix*" Theatre in Dublin.

Class teachers will be able to stream the Panto at a suitable time for their class from Wednesday 14th December.

We are looking forward to some fun and laughter!



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REMINDERS

Our **Christmas Jumper Day** takes place on **Friday, 16th December** when we are expecting a Very Special Visitor to the school who goes by the initials **SC!**

Special thanks to our **Parents Association** who are sponsoring a treat for every child in the school!

The children can wear their **Christmas Jumpers** again on **Wednesday, 21st December** when we finish up at 12.30pm for the **Christmas Holidays**.



Co-Curricular Activities

Swimming for all pupils in **Ms. Shaw's 2nd/3rd Class** and **Ms. Swanton's 2nd Class** will begin on **Wednesday 11th January** and runs for six weeks in K-Leisure in Naas and a **payment of €50 is required on Aladdin E-Payments**.

Hurling skills coaching with **John Holmes** continues with pupils on **Tuesdays**.

Gaelic Football coaching with **Rob Holmes Games Development Officer** with Kildare GAA continues on **Thursdays**.

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 6th February & Tuesday 7th 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 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



Happy Christmas and Best Wishes for 2023 from everyone in Rathmore N.S!