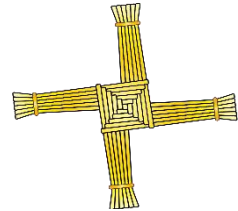
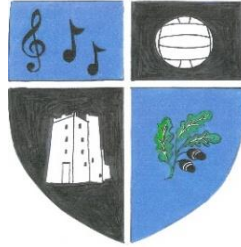
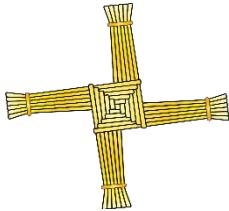


Scoil Chéile Chríost Rathmore N.S.

Newsletter February 2023



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Safer Internet Day- 7th February 2023



Dear Parents/Guardians,

Safer Internet Day (SID) took place on **Tuesday 7th February** and we joined more than 180 countries around the world in celebrating SID 2023 during that week to promote a safer and better internet for all, especially for children and young people. It is promoted in Ireland by the **PDST Technology in Education** and **Webwise**.

Children are spending more time online at a younger age and we have a responsibility as educators and as parents to ensure their safety through effective supervision, monitoring and safety awareness. The dedicated Safer Internet Day Hub has lots of ideas, activities, education resources and videos available at www.webwise.ie/saferinternetday. All resources and more information can be accessed on the Webwise Parents Hub at www.webwise.ie/parents.

As part of our school activities to promote online safety, a facilitator from the charity **Barnardos** came out to the school and delivered a workshop to 3rd-6th classes on Thursday 9th and Friday 10th February. A booklet produced by **Barnardos** which summarises the 4 rules (**STAR**) to using the internet in a safe and positive way and also contains tips for parents, will be sent home with the children in 3rd-6th classes in the coming days.

Lucy Travers
Principal Teacher

Junior Infants Enrolment 2023/2024 School Year

The school began accepting completed Application Forms for Junior Infants 2023/24 on **6th January 2023** and closed on **8th February, 2023**. Offers of places in next year's Junior Infants classes to all successful applicants will be issued out by **Friday 18th February**.

Please note that 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Form* to the school, within the prescribed period outlined on the *Admission Notice* may result in the offer being withdrawn.

Life Credit Union Quiz 2023

Well done to the children on our *Under 11* and *Under 13 School Teams* who represented Rathmore N.S. in the *Life Credit Union Quiz* on Friday 27th January in Tougher's Restaurant in Naas.

Under 11 Team: **Matthew O'Sullivan, Allana Coogans, Alex Cusack, Nathan Gibson**

Under 13 Team: **Isaac Curran, Oisín Carew, Emily Kinsella, Max Kinsella**

Thanks also to teachers **Ms. Malone** and **Ms. Shaw** who accompanied both teams to the quiz finals.



Equestrian Interschools Show Jumping Competition



Well done to pupils **Ava Jenkinson, Nina Smith, Gloria & Georgia Queally** who represented Rathmore N.S. in an Equestrian Interschools Primary School team competition in *Coilóg Equestrian Centre* on Sunday 12th February.

Heritage in Schools Workshop

The children in **Ms. Swanton's 2nd Class**, **Ms. Shaw's 2nd/3rd Class** and **Ms. Broe's 3rd Class** took part in a *Heritage in Schools* workshop on Friday 3rd February with expert **Patrick Hunt**.

Patrick is an architect turned sustainable garden designer and has been working in gardening and biodiversity education for six years. He has a wealth of experience educating children and adults in the wonders of nature and gardening. Patrick combined an active outdoor workshop and an insect hunt with a classroom presentation and the use of a microscope. The children were fully engaged with the workshop and found it fascinating!



No-Uniform Day Fundraiser

Thank you to everyone who supported the *No-Uniform Fundraiser* on Friday 3rd February following the tragic news of **Paul Doran's** accident in Australia. A fantastic total of **€1,139** euro was raised on the day and the money was transferred by Chairperson of our *Parents Association*, **Tom Kearney** to the *Go Fund Me* page Fundraiser which has been set up to support Paul's wife Simonne and the children. We extend our sincere sympathies to both the **Sheridan** and **Doran** families at this very difficult time. May Paul Rest in Peace.

Safety in the School Car Park: Message from the Board of Management

Parents /Guardians are reminded that reverse car parking is in operation in the school car park. Please exercise extreme caution at all times when entering and exiting the school car park. The school will open to receive pupils at **8.45am** 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 **9.00am** and pupils are expected to be on time. School will end each day at **2.40pm** (**1.40pm** for all Infants Classes).

Parents/Guardians should ensure that young children are in their care and supervised at all times while on the school premises at collection times. Please note that children who arrive late to the school after 9.00am or following attendance at appointments should enter through the front door of the school.

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 **2.40pm** (**1.40pm** for infants) if not collecting them in person themselves, as the school cannot accept responsibility for children after that time. Thank you for your co-operation. *Board of Management Rathmore N.S.*

Féile Bríde 2023

As part of the *Brigid 1500 celebrations*, Kildare County Council sent a pair of cross-pollinating apple trees to participating schools across the county to plant on the eve of St Brigid's Day **on Tuesday, 31st January**. Our *Green Schools Committee* co-ordinated by **Ms. Shaw** and **Ms. Roe** planted the two apple trees we received in our school garden.

Oscar Magee and **Ella Sullivan** who are members of the *Green Schools Committee* have written the piece below:

On Tuesday 31st of January, the Green Schools Committee planted two apple trees in our beautiful school garden. We received one male and one female apple tree from the 'Brigid 1500 School Planting Programme' to commemorate St Brigid on February 1st. With Paul's help Morgan, Harry and Johnny carefully planted our two apple trees beside the path inside the garden gate. The Green Schools Committee named the apple trees 'Paul' and 'Martina'!

The children in **Ms. Behan's** Fourth Class engaged in weaving traditional St. Brigid's crosses using reeds assisted by our caretaker Paul. All classes also joined in the *Brigid 1500 Pause for Peace* across the world at **12 mid-day on Wednesday 1st February**, starting in Australia and rolling around the globe.



School Library



We are very grateful to have a School Library which is run by our volunteer parents Library Committee. The children always look forward to their weekly visits to exchange their library books and it is a very positive activity to foster a love of reading among the children.

Nuachtlitir Feabhra 2023

The members of our **Student Council**, assisted by **Ms. Lancaster** and **Mr. Collier** have been surveying the children to find out their favourite authors and reading genres. This pupil feedback will help us to source popular titles which have been identified and requested by the children through donations and some additional purchases.

We are also looking forward to celebrating **World Book Day** which takes place on **Thursday 2nd March**. The children can come to school dressed as their favourite book character on that day! Money off book vouchers to the value of €1.50 will be distributed to all the classes in the school shortly.

Don't forget that **Ireland Reads** takes place on **February 25th**. It is an initiative of the Government of Ireland in association with Healthy Ireland and Public Libraries to celebrate and encourage reading. We can all make the pledge to squeeze in a read on that day by clicking on the website <https://www.irelandreads.ie/> for all the information.

If you have some spare time and would like to volunteer to help out in the Library on Friday mornings, please contact Martina in the school office TEL: 045-862145.

Co-Curricular Activities

Hurling coaching with **John Holmes** continues on Tuesdays in the PE Hall.

GAA coaching with **Rob Thompson**, takes place on Thursdays.

5th & 6th Boys Football Training with **Mr. Bolton** is taking place during lunch subject to weather.

Swimming lessons are underway in K Leisure Naas for the children in **Ms. Swanton's 2nd Class** and **Ms. Shaw's 2nd/3rd Class** on Wednesdays. Swimming Lessons for the children in **Ms. Murray's** and **Ms. Gleeson's First Class** will begin on **Wednesday 1st March**.

ESB Science Blast



The children in **Ms. Malone's 4th/5th Class** will be taking part in the *ESB Science Blast* in the RDS in Ballsbridge, Dublin on **27th February**. *ESB Science Blast* is a free non-competitive educational programme for primary schools (3rd to 6th Class), that involves the whole class investigating the Science behind a simple question and then showcasing their work.

'Will soaking apple slices in different liquids affect the speed at which they discolour?', is the question that has been investigated by **Ms. Malone's Class**. This will be a fantastic experience for the students. They will get to chat to their assigned judge about working as a Scientist and using the skills of predicting, investigating, experimenting and teamwork, and they will also get the opportunity to see other stands and engage in interactive activities on the day.

Green Schools Committee – Class Golden Bin Award



Hi! **Zara Moore** and **Jack Ryan** here from 2nd and 3rd class.

We want to tell you all about the new award we have in our school called the Golden Bin Award. We are both on the Green Schools Committee. Every class in the school has two children's representatives on the Committee. The Golden Bin Award is awarded every Friday to the class who puts their rubbish in the correct bins and has the least amount of waste in their pedal bin. We want to encourage all the children to bring their rubbish home because we want to cut down on the amount of litter and waste in our school.

We have hired Paul, our school caretaker to help us judge which class has the best bins and the final decision rests with him. He takes his job very seriously! The winners of the Golden Bin Award so far have been **Ms.**

Swanton's 2nd class, Ms. Shaw's 2nd and 3rd class (our class) and Ms. Roe's Junior Infant class. Well done to everyone so far and keep up the good work!

Let's all try to Reduce, Reuse and Recycle as much as we can.

Trócaire Lenten Campaign 2023

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, 22nd February 2023. Trócaire boxes will shortly be distributed to all classes. The Lent 2023 story will focus on Somalia and will use the story of one family to shine a light on the injustices and issues faced by communities around the world and how we can work together to make lasting change.

REMINDER

First Holy Communion: The 'Do This in Memory of Me Masses' in preparation for First Holy Communion continue on Sunday 12th March and Sunday 23rd April at 11.30am in the Church of the Immaculate Conception in Eadestown.

First Penance: Thursday 23rd February at 7.30pm in the Church of the Immaculate Conception Eadestown.

First Holy Communion 2023: Saturday 13th May at 11.00am in the Church of the Immaculate Conception in Eadestown.

Confirmation Preparation: Attendance at 7.30pm Mass on Saturday 25th February in the Church of the Immaculate Conception in Eadestown.

Ceremony of Light: Thursday 9th March at 7.30pm in Killeel Church.

Confirmation Nua Programme: Wednesday, 29th March and Wednesday 19th April at 7.30pm in Eadestown Church.

Confirmation 2023: Friday 26th May in the Church of the Immaculate Conception in Eadestown (time to be confirmed).

Nuachtlitir Feabhra 2023

Dates for your Diary

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 Valentine's Day on 14th February!