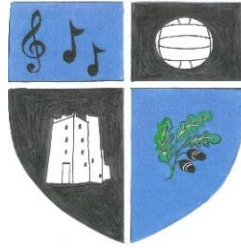


Scoil Chéile Chríost Rathmore N.S.

Newsletter March 2023



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Seachtain na Gaeilge & Lá Fhéile Pádraig

A Thuismitheoirí

Fáilte go **Seachtain na Gaeilge 2023**. Tugann sí deis iontach dúinn ar fad níos mó Gaeilge a labhairt. 'Seachtain na Gaeilge' gives us a great opportunity to use our native language. It's really important to 'Bain úsáid as do chúpla focal' and display a positive attitude to Gaeilge. The theme for the Festival this year is 'possibilities' and we are all asked to look at the possibilities with Irish and all the wonderful things we have because of the Language.

We will be having lots of 'craic' and Irish cultural events in our school during '**Seachtain na Gaeilge**'. There will be a variety of fun activities and competitions to encourage greater use of our native language among the children such as a **Comórtas Seanfhocail**, (*Irish sayings competition*), **Comórtas Dathucháin** (*Colouring competition*) **Ceolchoirm** and the singing of our national anthem '**Amhrán na bhFiann**', 'as Gaeilge'.

The daily '**Nuacht**' agus '**An Aimsir**' will be read aloud over the school intercom by the children. There will also be a '**Gaeilgeoir na Seachtaine**' prize for pupils who make a big effort to speak 'as Gaeilge', culminating in our annual **Tionól** (*Assembly*) on **Thursday 16th March** which will take place outside in the school yard.

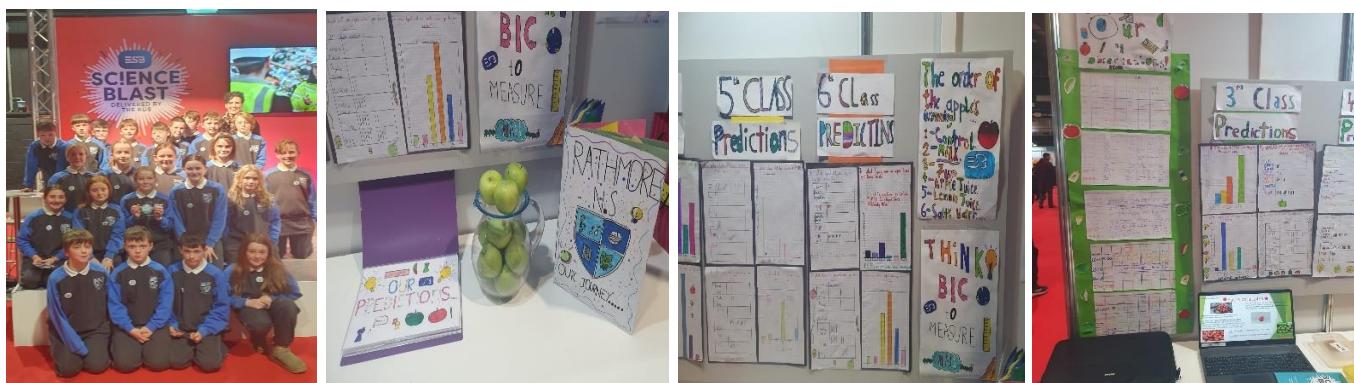
Thursday, 16th March has been designated as "**Lá Glas**" when all children are asked to wear green to school and dress in a St. Patrick's Day theme. Many thanks to all our teachers and staff for getting involved but especially to our Gaeilge Team of **Aoife Malone** (5th Class), **Ms. Swanton** (2nd Class) and **Ms. Doyle** (Sen Infants) for co-ordinating the week of activities across the school.

La Fhéile Pádraig Sona Daoibh Go Léir!

Lucy Travers
Príomhoide



ESB Science Blast



On Monday 27th February, **Ms. Malone's** 4th/ 5th class travelled to the RDS in Ballsbridge in Dublin to showcase their project at the *ESB Science Blast*. *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. Joining 4,000 other primary school pupils, the class were extremely excited to display their research and findings through bar charts, posters, powerpoints and scrapbooks.

Their project, 'Will soaking apple slices in different liquids affect the speed at which they discolour?' was well received with excellent feedback from their assigned judge. The day was full of interactive activities and a fun show. Many thanks to parents **Mairéad Flynn** and **Lesley Ann Ryan** for accompanying the class on the day. A great day of fun and Science was had by all!

World Book Day 2023



World Book Day was celebrated in all classes across the school on Thursday 2nd March. The 'Mr. Men' books by author Roger Hargreaves provided the theme for all the teachers to dress up as one of the book characters! There were plenty of reading and literacy activities organised by the teachers for the children, such as designing World Book Day posters, quizzes, scavenger hunts in the library, extra library reading visits, class buddy reading activities and completing a World Book Day lap around the school track. It was wonderful to see all the children and staff dressing up as book characters.

This was a real collaborative team effort by all the staff and children in Rathmore N.S. and will certainly encourage an interest in books and reading among the children. Special thanks to teachers **Ms. Lancaster**, **Ms. Parker**, **Ms. Hayden**, **Ms. Carpenter** and **Ms. Cox** for co-ordinating *World Book Day* in Rathmore N.S.

Our School Library Gets a World Book Day Makeover!



Our School Library is looking its best at the moment, thanks to the combined efforts of our *Parents Library Committee* and the creative talents of our school children and staff. Special thanks also to Special Needs Assistants **Nora Lawler** for co-ordinating the new very attractive and child-friendly art displays on the walls and to **Brenda Boylan** and transition year student **Muireann Coomey** for their assistance with scanning and re-organising the books to best effect in the Library. Many hands make light work!

Cash For Clobber Clothes Collection – 22nd March 2023



A reminder that our active **Parents Association** are running another ‘**Cash For Clobber**’ Fundraiser on **Wednesday 22nd March** at the school. You can drop off all unwanted clothing (including shoes) in strong plastic bags at the school PE Hall on Wednesday morning and afternoon.

The recycled items will be collected, weighed and exchanged for a cash amount which will go towards funding resources for your child in the school. Thank you for your support!

Let’s all try to Reduce, Reuse and Recycle as much as we can!

Glasnevin Experience Tour



I am pleased to advise you that the *Department of Education and Skills (DES)* have agreed to continue their partnership with **Experience Glasnevin** and three classes from Rathmore N.S. (6th Class, 5th Class & 4th/5th Class) have been invited to participate in the **Exploring Multiple Narratives Programme**.

This Programme is part of a unique educational partnership between *Marino Institute of Education, Trinity College and Glasnevin Trust*. It explores Irish History between 1912-1923 and involves both classroom and Experience Glasnevin components and is strongly linked to the SESE Primary Curriculum. Through on-site engagement, inquiry-based learning, accessibility to sources, it is hoped to positively and significantly support the teaching and learning of History.

Each class group will be facilitated on a separate visit for 3 hours from 10am to 1pm with a 30 minute break included. Transport will be provided by Dualway coaches and there is no cost involved to parents/guardians or to the school.

This is a unique opportunity for the Senior Students in Rathmore N.S. and we look forward to a very interesting and engaging visit. **Our 6th Class will visit on Monday 27th March, 4th/5th Class will visit on Tuesday 28th March and 5th Class will visit on Wednesday 29th March.**

OCO Schools Ambassador Programme



We are delighted to be the only partner school in Kildare selected to take part in the *Ombudsman for Children Office Schools Ambassador Programme* to ensure that children's voices are heard on issues that affect them. The team from the *Ombudsman for Children's Office (OCO)* would like to visit Rathmore N.S. during the month of April to give a workshop on Children's Rights and the work they do and to introduce the **Ombudsman for Children, Dr. Niall Muldoon**. We look forward to **welcoming Dr. Niall Muldoon** and his team to Rathmore N.S. soon.

Green Schools Update



Hello, It's **Jack Ryan** and **Zara Moore** from 2nd and 3rd Class with a green school's update! As part of our Water Flag, we have been working on our own individual posters about water pollution. The whole school made a big effort and **Ms. Roe, Ms. Kenny** and **Ms. Shaw** were really impressed with all the amazing Artwork. Thank you, **Ms. Kenny**, for posting our fabulous posters to the green school's judges! Also, we have been listening and watching some great stories online @ global goals book club. We would like to say a big 'Well done' to **Ms. Murray's** First Class on winning the **Golden Bin** last week. In our class we have started planning and sowing our garden plot for the *Woodies Budding Gardener's* competition. Everyday **Ms. Shaw** will select a head gardener to track our progress. Thank you to everyone for continuing to reuse, reduce and recycle!

Pupil Use of Mobile Phones



Please note that as per our *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.

This topic is very much in the news and parents/guardians are advised to be vigilant and supervise their child's use of mobile phones outside of school hours. Children should 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 group chat.

School Garden



It gives us all a sense of hope and positivity when Spring arrives in the School Garden after the long Winter. The snowdrops, daffodils and crocuses are in bloom. Our parents *Gardening Committee* have already been working in the garden to prepare the beds for the new planting season. Special thanks to **Sakoto Yoshimura** and **Julie Shiels** and other volunteer parents who come in to the school during their free time to maintain our beautiful school garden and work with the children to grow their own fruit and vegetables.

They would be delighted to welcome more volunteers if you can spare an hour or two on a Tuesday morning. Contact Martina in the school office at office@rathmorens.ie or telephone 045-862145 to get in touch with the group.

Trócaire Lenten Campaign 2023



Lent began on **Ash Wednesday, 22nd February 2023** and *Trócaire* (the Irish word for compassion) Boxes have been distributed to all classes. The **Lent 2023** story focuses 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 support Ambiyo, her husband Mahat, and their eight young children ranging in age from 14 years to two weeks' old who have been living in an Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) camp outside Luuq in Gedo Region, southern Somalia, since March 2022.

First Penance & Ceremony of Light

Congratulations to the boys and girls in **Ms. Shaw's** and **Ms. Swanton's** Second Classes who received the *Sacrament of First Penance* in Eadestown Church on Thursday 9th February with **Fr. Comer** and **Fr. Behan**.

Well done to all the children who were a credit to their families and to the school. Huge thanks to the class teachers for all their hard work in school preparing the children, to **Ms. Roe** for the musical accompaniment during the ceremony, to **Martina** our school Secretary and to **Paul** our school Caretaker for their help with the ceremony booklets and church decoration.

Children Sharing Hope Ecumenical Prayer Service for The Earthquake Victims in Turkey/Syria

To express our solidarity with the children who are suffering because of the recent earthquake in Turkey and Syria, **Fr. Comer** is holding a short ecumenical service for all our children next Wednesday evening, **15th March in Eadestown Church at 7.30 pm.**

During the service the children will be given the opportunity to make a token contribution of €2 to the Emergency Appeal. Hopefully, they will be able to give this from their Lenten fasting from sweets and chocolate. It would be their personal gift to the earthquake appeal. We will be singing songs the children already know.

All pupils in the school are invited and encouraged to attend this special Prayer Service on 15th March at 7.30pm in Eadestown Church in a show of solidarity with the people of Turkey and Syria.

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, Swimming, Library, School Garden, Matches** 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 **Martina**, our school Secretary in the School Office.

Sacramental Preparation Programme

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

Confirmation:

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).

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 lunchtime on **Wednesdays**.

3rd & 4th Boys Football training with Ms. Bolton is taking place during lunchtime on **Fridays**.

5th & 6th Boys Hurling Training with **Mr. Collier** is taking place during lunchtime on **Mondays and after-school on Tuesdays**.

Girls Football Training with **Ms. Shaw & Ms. Behan** is taking place during lunchtime on **Tuesdays**.

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

3rd-6th Camogie Training with **Ms. Lancaster & Ms. Flynn** is taking place during lunchtime on **Thursdays**. **Shin-guards, boots, track suit bottoms/shorts and socks must be worn.**

Swimming lessons are now underway in K Leisure Naas for the children in **Ms. Murray's** and **Ms. Gleeson's** First Classes.

Congratulations to our Girls Football Team and their coaches **Ms. Shaw & Ms. Behan** for winning their Football Final against Kill as part of the *Mini-7s Football Blitz* in Two Mile House on Wednesday 8th March.

Good luck to the boys and their coach **Mr. Bolton** in the Boys **Mini-7s Football Blitz** which takes place in Kill GAA on Monday 13th March next. *Go n-éirí an t-ádh libh!*

Dates for your Diary

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

