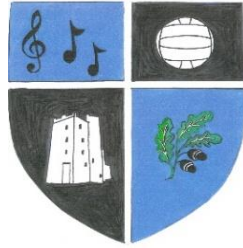


Scoil Chéile Chríost Rathmore N.S.

Newsletter April 2023



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Dear Parents/Guardians

New Free Schoolbook Scheme for the 2023/24 School Year

In recognition of the cost of preparing children and young people for the return to primary school each September, the current Minister for Education Norma Foley T.D. has recently announced funding to provide free schoolbooks, including workbooks and copybooks to primary school children, from September 2023.

This scheme will eliminate the cost to parents of providing these resources.

Funding is being provided directly to primary schools and special schools by the Department of Education and Skills to implement the scheme and schools will now have responsibility for providing schoolbooks, workbooks and copybooks to all children and young people at the start of the new school year.

In keeping with the operation of our current School Book Rental Scheme, all schoolbooks will remain the property of the school so that schoolbooks can be reused in future years. Schoolbooks will be provided on loan to all children in Rathmore N.S. for the duration of the 2023/24 school year and then must be returned to the school at the end of the school year. Lost or damaged books will have to be replaced by parents/guardians.

Parents are requested to remind their children to take care of their books and keep them in good condition during the year. It is not permitted to write on textbooks.

While this new free schoolbook scheme is a very welcome development for parents/guardians and will reduce the total cost of each Class Book List for the 2023/2024 school year, there will be some related classroom resources/items that are not covered by the scheme which will still be payable to the school as in previous years.

Further details will be communicated to parents in due course when all Class Booklists have been finalised for the 2023/24 school year.

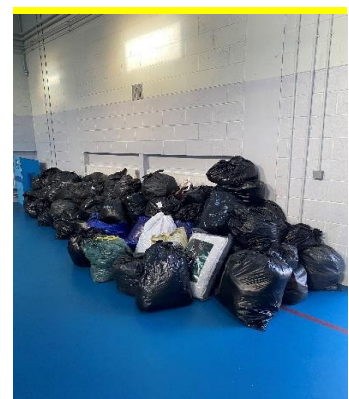
Lucy Travers
Principal

School Attendance

We would love to see your child in school every day as every minute counts! We understand however, that there may be occasions when your child may be absent for valid reasons. For these days, we would really appreciate if you could provide a reason for your child's absence. We are legally obligated to report all absences over 20 days to TUSLA, so it is important that we record all absence reasons on our roll system. *Aladdin Connect* is the easiest way to do this, or alternatively you can contact your child's class teacher via the school diary or email Martina in the school office.

To help you to keep track of your child's absences you will receive a notification through *Aladdin Connect* if they miss 15 & 20 days of school. If you have any queries or need to update your home contact details, please feel free to contact our school secretary Martina in the school office.

Cash For Clobber Clothes Collection – 22nd March 2023



Thank you to everyone in our school community who donated to our Parents Association *Cash For Clobber* Fundraiser recently. It was a great success with a huge number of bags of clothes donated on the collection day. We will let everyone know the final total raised by our **Parents Association** shortly. **Let's all try to Reduce, Reuse and Recycle as much as we can!**

School Bus Safety- Be Alert To Be Safe

As we begin the last term of this school year, I want to draw your attention to a bus safety message for all children who travel on a school bus. Bus Éireann's has written to schools concerning safety issues for children and has advised that, like any mode of transport, there are certain risk areas that need vigilance and appropriate action. **The time before a student boards the bus and immediately after they leave the bus is the time when most accidents occur.**

Bus Éireann has been informed of a number of accidents this school year, some of them resulting in serious injuries with students struck by oncoming vehicles as they cross the road. Accidents can occur when children cross the road in front of, or behind the school bus and when motorists fail to take appropriate care by reducing their speed when approaching a stopped school bus.

Every child should sit in their seat as quickly as possible on boarding the bus and put on their seat belt. It is important not to distract the bus driver. Parents/guardians are asked to remind their child to look both ways and make sure there are no oncoming vehicles when getting off the school bus. Thank you for your co-operation and best wishes for an enjoyable and safe school term ahead for all in our school community.

Glasnevin Experience Tour



Three classes from Rathmore N.S. (6th Class, 5th Class & 4th/5th Class) with their teachers **Mr. Walsh, Mr. Collier and Ms. Malone** were invited to participate in the **Exploring Multiple Narratives Programme** which was funded by the *Department of Education and Skills (DES)* through their partnership with the **Experience Glasnevin**.

This Programme is part of a unique educational partnership between *Marino Institute of Education, Trinity College and Glasnevin Trust* which explores Irish History between 1912-1923 and involves both classroom and Experience Glasnevin components and is strongly linked to the SESE Primary Curriculum.

Each class group were facilitated on a separate visit for 3 hours along with free coach transport. This was a unique opportunity for the Senior Students in Rathmore N.S. and the feedback from the children and from some parents who contacted me afterwards has been hugely positive.

Ceremony of Light



Well done to the pupils in 6th Class who took part in the *Ceremony of Light* celebrated by **Fr. Comer** in Killeel Church on Thursday night 30th March. They were a credit to their families and to the school. Huge thanks to **Mr Walsh** and **Ms. Flynn** 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.



We are delighted to be the 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 **Ombudsman for Children, Dr. Niall Muldoon** and his team from the *Ombudsman for Children's Office (OCO)* visited Rathmore N.S. on Wednesday 19th of April and facilitated a workshop and question and answer session on Children's Rights with the children in **Mr. Collier's and Ms. Malone's 5th Classes**. He then visited the children and their teachers in 3rd-6th classes followed by a session with the members of our **Student Council** who told him about some of their work. They later escorted Dr. Muldoon and his colleagues on a tour of the school. He really enjoyed his visit to Rathmore N.S. and was very impressed with all the children and our beautiful school. As we are now an *Ambassador School*, his team will be returning to work with the 5th Class pupils in Rathmore N.S. during the month of May.

Pupil Medical Information and Updates

A *Medical Information Form* is completed by parents/guardians on admission of each child to the school. This confidential form also contains emergency contact numbers for parents/guardians. **It is vital that these numbers are also listed in your child's school diary and that parents/guardians and emergency contact details are kept up to date.** Changes to a pupil's contact details can also be updated by parents/guardians through the *Aladdin Connect App* or by contacting Martina in the school Office. It is very important that in the event of a child suffering from any form of allergy or from an illness requiring administration of medicines, A *Medication Administration Consent and Indemnity Form* must be fully completed and signed by parents/guardians. **Please note that in the interest of a child's medical welfare, the school must be kept informed of any changes/updates to a child's medical condition at the earliest opportunity by the child's parents/guardians.**

End of Year School Tours 2023/24



All Aboard!

All classes are looking forward to going on an end of year School Tour once again this year. Information on each class tour will be communicated to parents/guardians by your child's class teacher in due course. Parental permission and online payments through *Aladdin E-Payments* will open shortly.

Cumann na mBunscol Girls Mini-7s Gaelic Football Champions!

Congratulations to our Girls Football Team who were crowned champions in the final of the Cumann na mBunscol Chill Dara Mini-7s competition held in Moorefield GAA on 28th March. Special thanks to class teachers **Ms. Shaw** and **Ms. Behan** who coached them to success representing Rathmore N.S. and lift the Cup on the day. It will now go on display in our school trophy cabinet. Well done girls on a great achievement!



Hello! How Are You? Campaign



Thursday March 30th to mark child mental health day in Ireland, all the pupils in Rathmore N.S were encouraged to stop and ask each other and their teachers a very important question; ‘Hello, how are you?’. The ‘Hello’ campaign is about connection and engaging in open conversations about mental health. During kindness week the children learned how to ask, ‘How Are You?’ in a meaningful way and to actively listen for the response. The children learned how to ask this very meaningful question using the five **H.E.L.L.O** steps. Well done to all the children and teachers for taking part in this very important campaign.

Axiom Space AX-2 Mission



Sixth Class have been invited to take part in a live link-up between **Axiom Space** astronaut **John Shoffner** as part of **Axiom Mission 2 (AX-2)** to the International Space Station (ISS) in May which has been kindly organised through **Sorrell Klatzko** (parent to Max, Morgan and Robyn).

John Shoffner has a particular interest in sharing his love of STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Maths) activities and he has organised a **Space Art Competition** to coincide with the space mission with the theme “*What would it look like if we lived in space?*”. The winners in each age category will be announced by John from the International Space Station (ISS) during the Mission! Wouldn't it be amazing if a pupil from Rathmore N.S. was announced from space as a winner!

Plans are underway since last October to enable Rathmore N.S. connect with John and the other astronauts during their 10 day mission. As you will appreciate, this presents a significant challenge technically and is primarily dependent on a successful launch to the Space Station on 8th May flying on a Space X Dragon. I have been in contact with John's publicist in the US and our Sixth Class pupils have already submitted some questions that they would like to ask the astronauts during the live link-up about living in space to NASA for approval. The countdown has begun! You can follow the AX2 mission on twitter using the handle @Axiom_Space.

Cycle Safety Course



The children in **Mr. Walsh's 6th Class** are taking part in a **Bike Safety Programme** outdoors on the yard in association with *Cycling Ireland*. This Programme will run for 6 weeks and is grant aided through the *Green Schools Initiative/An Taisce*. This is a very worthwhile and enjoyable experience and promotes safe cycling by the children. The first workshop held this week focused on the theory of safe cycling and next week the children will take part in their first practical safe cycling lesson outdoors in the school yard with their two instructors. Thanks to their teacher **Mr. Walsh** for organising the Cycle Safety course.

School Garden



Ms. Gleeson's First Class have got the new Term off to a great start with some outdoor learning in the school garden. They took advantage of the sunny dry weather conditions to plant out their pea seedlings which they grew from seeds in small pots into a garden bed. Let's hope the seedlings continue to grow and flourish!

Thanks to **Sakoto Yoshimura**, **Lisa Sargent** and **Julie Shiels** and other volunteer parents who come in to work with the children to grow fruit and vegetables and maintain our beautiful school garden.

They would be delighted to welcome more volunteers if you can spare an hour or two each week.

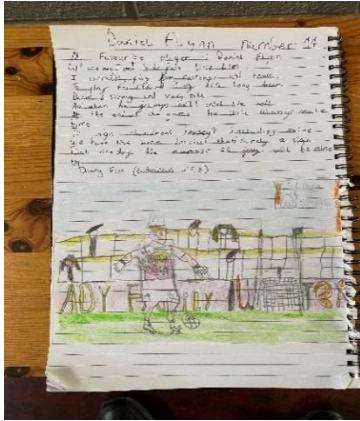
Please contact Martina in the school office at office@rathmorens.ie or telephone 045-862145 to get in touch with the group.

Cumann na mBunscol Cross Country Event in Rathcoffey GAA 30th March



On Thursday March 30th, 32 boys and girls from 4th, 5th and 6th class competed in the *Cumann na mBunscol Cross Country Championship* in Rathcoffey GAA. There was rain, there was sun and an abundance of determination and high spirits as our Rathmore athletes took to the start line. There were over 120 students in both the boys' and the girls' race, leading to fierce competition. Our teams gave 100% effort and performed really well, with several students finishing in the top 20. Thanks to **Ms. Malone**, their coach who was extremely proud of each team on the day. We look forward to facing the challenge again next year.

Kildare Mascot- Sunday 26th March



Congratulations to 2nd Class pupil **Danny Fox** who was selected to be the Kildare Senior GAA team mascot in their last match in St. Conleth's Park in Newbridge recently against Meath before the redevelopment works got underway. Danny wrote a lovely poem about his favourite Kildare football player **Daniel Flynn** who wears the number **14** Kildare jersey and has the same initials! He was rewarded with a meet-up with his star player and Danny received a signed Kildare jersey on the day.

Sacramental Preparation Programme

First Holy Communion:

Do This In Memory Mass on 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 at 11am 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 both Senior Infants Class

Dates for your Diary

Additional School Closure: 28th April 2023 In-service Training For Staff.

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