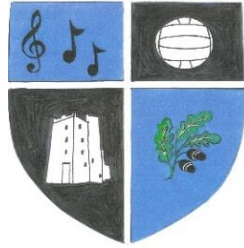


# *Scoil Chéile Chríost Rathmore N.S.*

## *Newsletter May 2023*



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### Sacrament of First Holy Communion 2023



Congratulations to the children in **Ms. Shaw's** and **Ms. Swanton's** Second Classes who received the **Sacrament of First Holy Communion** in the Church of the Immaculate Conception, Eadestown on Saturday 13th May with Mass celebrated by **Fr. Micheál Comer**. Many thanks to both class teachers for preparing the children so well, to teachers **Ms. Roe** and **Ms. Gleeson** for providing the music and overseeing the school Choir, to **SNA Nora Lawlor** for helping with the beautiful art display, our school secretary **Martina Lawler** for preparing the Mass Booklet and to our caretaker **Paul O'Sullivan** for his help with the display of the children's Art in the Church. Thank you also to parent **Tara Finn** for her hard work with the children as part of the parish pastoral programme of preparation.

We are very appreciative of our **Parents Association**, Chairperson **Tom Kearney** and **Geraldine Byrne** who organised refreshments in *Rathmore Community Hall* after the Mass for all the children and their families. Everybody commented on how well Rathmore Hall looked and credit is due to the *Rathmore Hall Committee* for their hard work on this project. We were blessed with sunshine and hope that everybody had a very happy day of celebration in our community.

Please note that professional photographer *County Photos* is booked to come to the school on **Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> June**.

## Standardised Testing 2023

Standardised Testing in *English* and *Maths* usually takes place in primary schools each year during the month of May.

It is very important to note that all standardised test scores are a snapshot in time and may not accurately reflect all aspects of a pupil's learning and development. Standardised test scores are used to complement other assessment tools used by teachers to build a picture of a child's achievement over time and should not be interpreted in isolation. During daily classroom activity and interactions with children, teachers draw upon their professional judgement and knowledge of individual pupils and context to evaluate their progress and gain a comprehensive insight into their learning (through teacher observation, class-based tests, homework, project work and portfolios).

The new *Primary Curriculum Framework* and its key competencies embrace a 21<sup>st</sup> century skills approach to education allowing schools to equip children to take their place in society as confident rounded individuals rather than an over-emphasis on testing.

These standardised test results will provide a *snapshot* of each child's progress, affirming areas of success and supporting the early identification of children who may need to be further supported in school with aspects of their learning in literacy and numeracy. Assessment data is also used to help teachers prioritise areas of the Primary English Curriculum and Maths Curriculum.

Please see the link below to *National Council for Curriculum and Assessment (NCCA)* website which provides information for parents/guardians pertaining to standardised assessment in primary schools and standardised test results in the context of the end of school report.

[https://ncca.ie/media/1400/english\\_tip\\_sheet\\_sten.pdf](https://ncca.ie/media/1400/english_tip_sheet_sten.pdf)

[https://ncca.ie/media/1429/understanding-standardscores\\_eng.pdf](https://ncca.ie/media/1429/understanding-standardscores_eng.pdf)

<https://ncca.ie/en/primary/reporting-and-transfer/>

## Parents Association Cash For Clobber Fundraiser



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 total of €872 raised! Well done everybody!

## Moving On Up Programme 2023



The children in **Mr. Walsh's 6<sup>th</sup> Class** recently engaged in the 'Moving On Up' Programme to support their transition from primary to secondary school. This Programme is designed to reassure the children and provides information and supports to help them find their feet as they continue on their learning journey at second level. The Programme was facilitated by **Evan Costigan**, a guidance counsellor and psychologist who has worked with many other schools and colleges at all levels of the

education system and the content included modules on *Making Friends, Social and Emotional Skills, Organisational Skills and Digital Well-being.*

## Active Schools



Every Friday at the start of big break the active school's playground leaders from 2<sup>nd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> class set up the three Active Zones on the school yard. Every week the activities rotate between the active zones. As Active Leaders our job is to make sure everyone is playing safely with the sport equipment and to also make sure everyone feels included. Every week the active school's playground leaders swap to give other children a chance to be an Active Leader. *By the active leaders in 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> class*

## Ombudsman For Children (OCO ) Schools Ambassador Programme

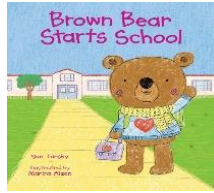


We are delighted to have been invited to be the partner school in Kildare as part of the *Ombudsman for Children Office Schools Ambassador Programme* to ensure that children's voices are heard on issues that affect them. The team from the *Ombudsman for Children's Office (OCO)* returned to Rathmore N.S. on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> May to facilitate another workshop on *Children's Rights* with the boys and girls in **Mr. Collier's and Ms. Malone's 5<sup>th</sup> Classes**. They discussed the posters that the children had created based on The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC). The UNCRC is a list of rights that every child and young person under the age of 18 has. All children should be able to experience these rights as they are growing up. The OCO is guided by the UNCRC. The children have been invited to visit the OCO Office in Dublin next year and to the *Child Talks* Event in The Helix Theatre on 7<sup>th</sup> November.



### Incoming Junior Infants Parent Information Evening 2023/2024

A *Parent Information Evening* for parents/guardians of all children starting in both our Junior Infant classes for the 2022/23 school year will take place in the school on **Thursday, 1st June at 7pm**. Please contact our school Secretary, **Martina** in the School Office if you cannot attend on the night.



### End of Year School Tours 2023/24



All classes are looking forward to going on an end of year School Tour.

Information on each class tour will be communicated to parents/guardians by your child's class teacher. Parental permission and online payments through *Aladdin E-Payments*.

Class Level	Date	Tour
Junior & Senior Infants	15 <sup>th</sup> May	Caragh Open Farm
Second Class Second/Third Class Third Class	29 <sup>th</sup> May	Redhills Adventure
First Class Tour	8 <sup>th</sup> June	Lullymore Heritage & Discovery Park
Fourth Class Fourth/Fifth Class Fifth Class	9 <sup>th</sup> June	Clara Lara Fun Park
Sixth Class	19 <sup>th</sup> June	Clara Lara Fun Park

### Cumann na mBunscol



Thank you to teachers **Mr. Bolton, Mr. Walsh, Mr. Collier, Ms. Lancaster, Ms. Shaw, Ms Behan and Ms. Flynn** who give of their time to run lunchtime and after-school sports training with the children. Rathmore School Teams are entered into the *Cumann na mBunscol Cill Dara* Boys Football, Girls Football, Boys Hurling and Camogie competitions which took place in GAA Clubs throughout the county.

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 28<sup>th</sup> March. Special thanks to class teachers **Ms. Shaw** and **Ms. Behan** who coached them to success representing Rathmore N.S. and they lifted the Cup on the day. It has been engraved with Rathmore N.S. and is on display in our school trophy cabinet. Well done girls on a great achievement!

The girls playing again in the *Cumann na mBunscol* Semi-Final v Straffan N.S. next Tuesday in Eadestown GAA.

Best of luck to our Senior Boys Team coached by **Mr. Bolton** who have reached the *Cumann na mBunscol* Final fixed for next **Tuesday, 23<sup>rd</sup> May** at **2.10pm** in Moorefield GAA.

Lifts and support for our boy's team on the day would be greatly appreciated. Best wishes to all our teams and their coaches in upcoming competitions. We look forward to sporting matches and plenty of Rathmore N.S. team spirit!



### Cycle Safety Course



The children in **Mr. Walsh's 6<sup>th</sup> Class** continue to take part in a **Bike Safety Programme** outdoors on the yard in association with *Cycling Ireland*. This Programme is running for 6 sessions and is grant aided through the *Green Schools Initiative/An Taisce*. This programme promotes safe cycling by the children and they are all really enjoying the experience.

### School Garden



Thanks to **Brigid Judge, Sakoto Yoshimura, 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 took advantage of the recent fine weather to help the children plant a selection of vegetables in our garden plots. 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](mailto:office@rathmorens.ie) or telephone 045-862145 to get in touch with the group.



## Creative Schools Week



Scoileanna  
Ildánacha Creative  
Schools

Some beautiful examples of creative projects are currently on display around the school as part of *Creative Schools Week* which was held recently. Well done to all our teachers for getting involved and tapping into the children's creativity which is in abundance!

Don't forget that *Cruinniú na nÓg*, Ireland's National day of free creativity is taking place across Ireland on Saturday 10th June and delivered in partnership with Local Authorities. See [www.gov.ie/cruinniunanog](http://www.gov.ie/cruinniunanog) for information and details of free events and workshops in your area where you can unleash your creative spirit!

## Axiom Space AX-2 Mission



The launch date of **May 21<sup>st</sup>** for the **Axiom Space Mission** and our live link-up with astronaut **John Shoffner** as part of **Axiom Mission 2 (AX-2)** to the International Space Station (ISS) which has been kindly organised through **Sorrell Klatzko** (parent to Max, Morgan and Robyn) is fast approaching!

During their eight-day mission, the private astronauts of *Axiom Space's Axiom Mission 2* will run activities from student outreach to scientific experiments. *Axiom Mission 2*, will carry crew members for the second private astronaut mission to the international space station (ISS), including Commander **Peggy Whitson**, Pilot **John Shoffner**, and Mission Specialists **Ali Alqarni** and **Rayyanah Barnawi** representing the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Lift-off is scheduled for **5:37 pm EDT on Sunday May 21<sup>st</sup>** from *Launch Complex 39A at NASA's Kennedy Space Center in Florida*. The crew will travel to the orbiting outpost aboard the **SpaceX Dragon** spacecraft, named *Freedom*, after launching on the company's **Falcon 9 rocket**.

Subject to a successful launch on **May 21<sup>st</sup>**, **John Shoffner** has very kindly agreed to set up a live interaction with the children in Sixth Class on **Wednesday May 24<sup>th</sup> at 1.30pm**. John will conduct

some fun scientific demonstrations from space during the live link-up. The children were invited to submit questions for approval by NASA that they would like to ask John directly during their mission to the ISS.

We are very excited and honoured that **Rathmore N.S.** is the only Irish school invited to participate in this live link-up and **Ms. Travers** has been in regular contact with John's team and publicist in the U.S., as part of the planning process since Autumn of 2022. Sixth Class teacher, **Mr. Walsh** and **Ms. Travers** have already participated in a demo run of the event last week as part of the technical checks required. As you can imagine, there is a huge amount of planning and preparation to enable this live link-up to happen. It is a fantastic way to ignite the children's interest and encourage their participation in STEAM activities and shape their future career pathways.'

What an exciting addition to the end of the school year for the children of **Rathmore National School**, particularly the 6th class before they embark on their secondary school journey.

Thank you so much to **Janine and John Schoffner** and to parent **Sorrel Klatzko** for facilitating this once in a lifetime experience!

**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! You can follow the AX2 mission on twitter using the handle @Axiom\_Space.

### Sacramental Preparation Programme

**Confirmation 2023: Friday 26<sup>th</sup> May at 11am** in the *Church of the Immaculate Conception* in Eadestown (time to be confirmed). Professional photographers *County Photos* are booked to come to the school on **Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> June**.

All children who received the **Sacrament of First Holy Communion** are invited to attend Mass in Eadestown Church on **Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> June at 11.30am**, the Feast of Corpus Christi.

### Co-Curricular Activities

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

Tag Rugby with **Michael Cahill** has begun outside on **Tuesdays**.

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

5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> Boys Football Training with **Mr. Bolton** is taking place during lunchtime on **Wednesdays**.

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

5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> Boys Hurling Training with **Mr. Collier & Mr. Walsh** 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.**

3<sup>rd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> 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 **Junior Infants Classes**.

Dates for your Diary

**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

The **Sixth Class Graduation Mass** for children and their parents/guardians will take place in the school P.E. Hall on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> June at 11.30am.