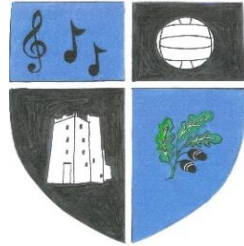


# *Scoil Chéile Chríost Rathmore N.S.*

## *Newsletter December 2023*



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### Christmas Greetings 2023

Dear Parents/Guardians

The annual *Christmas Fair* will take place on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December in Rathmore Community Hall. This highly anticipated event is the culmination of much planning, school practices and preparation by members of our *Parents Association* chaired by *Tom Kearney* and all the class teachers in Rathmore N.S. who have been rehearsing with the children and putting the finishing touches to their performances.

Special thanks to parent *Trevor Gyves* for organising the music and the sound. The *Timetable* of each class performance has already been sent out to parents/guardians on Aladdin.

Thanks also to you the parents/guardians who support this fundraising event in such numbers each year. We look forward to welcoming you all on the day and promise that you will be fully entertained. Please remember to exercise caution when entering and exiting the car parks and use the designated car parking areas only.

Please note that while parents/guardians are permitted to take photographs of their children for their own private use, under Data Protection legislation they shouldn't share images of other children in a public forum i.e. on social media platforms.

As the year draws to a close, we can take some time out to remember family members and members of our school community who have passed away during 2023 and those in our school community and families who are sick or in hospital at this time.

We are blessed in Rathmore N.S. to have wonderful teaching staff and special needs assistants. Huge thanks to *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 the assistance of parent/guardians working in partnership to provide the best school experience for every child in Rathmore N.S. May I take this opportunity to wish you and your family a Peaceful Christmas and a very Happy New Year!

*Nollaig Shona agus Athbhliain faoi mhaise dhaoibh go léir!*

*Lucy Travers*

*Principal Teacher*

## Nuachtlitir Nollaig 2023

### Junior Infants Enrolment 2024/2025 School Year

Please note that we have now published our **Annual School Admission Notice** in respect of admissions to **Junior Infants Classes** for the 2024/2025 school year.

It is very important to note the dates which are applicable for admission to **Junior Infants Classes for the 2024/2025 school year.**

The school will begin accepting completed Application Forms for places in Junior Infants 2024/25 on 8<sup>th</sup> January 2024 and will close on 19th January 2024.

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 2024/25 opens from 8<sup>th</sup> January.

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

### New Board of Management 2023-2027

A new four-year term of office has now begun for the eight-member Board of Management. We would like to take this opportunity to thank all the members of the out-going Board for their valuable contribution to the management of Scoil Chéile Chríost Rathmore N.S. which is done on a voluntary basis. We would like to acknowledge former Board members **Glenn Malone** and **Caitríona Lancaster** who have now completed their term of office and we welcome parent nominee **Seán O'Dowd** and teacher nominee **Shane Walsh** to the new board which will run from 2023-2027 and wish them well.

Chairperson: **Mr. Gerry Martin**

Secretary: **Ms. Lucy Travers**

Staff Nominee: **Mr Shane Walsh**

Parent Representatives: **Anita McLoughlin & Seán O'Dowd**

Community Representatives: **Denise Nichol and Joan Noone**

Patron's Representative: **Fr. Micheál Comer**

### Child Safeguarding Statement– Board of Management Annual Review

Each one of us has a duty to protect children from harm and the *Department of Education and Skills* (DES) has published the **Child Protection Procedures for Primary Schools (revised 2023)** to give direction to school management and staff regarding the identification of and response to child protection concerns.

The *Board of Management of Scoil Chéile Chríost Rathmore N.S* has adopted these procedures as school policy. Please note that the *Designated Liaison Person (DLP)* in place for dealing with child protection concerns is the school **Principal, Lucy Travers** and the *Deputy Designated Liaison Person (DDLp)* is the **Deputy Principal, Caitríona Lancaster.**

The *Board of Management* has recently completed an annual review of our *Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment*. A copy of our school's *Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment* are on

### Nuachtlitir Nollaig 2023

display in the school reception area and parents/guardians are welcome to read through a hard copy of the documents in the school office or read the documents on the school website.

#### Additional School Closure- Primary Maths Curriculum

I wish to advise that the *Department of Education and Skills* have notified us of an additional school closure on **Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2024** to facilitate teacher continuous professional development for the new *Primary Maths Curriculum* which will be implemented in schools during the 2024/25 school year. The school will be closed to pupils on that day.

#### Parents Association Christmas Fair & Christmas Raffle 2023



Our **Parents Association** have pulled out all the stops to ensure that Rathmore Hall will be set-up to look its best for our class performances and there will be teas/coffees and a selection of home baking available to purchase. Huge thanks to all the parents who are donating home baking to the *Tea/Coffee Stall* and those of you who have generously donated prizes for the *Christmas Raffle*. All the funds raised will go towards providing resources for the children in the school.

**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 **Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> 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 are 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.**

#### St. Vincent De Paul Christmas Food Appeal



The children of Rathmore N.S. and their families are invited to donate non-perishable food (cereals, tinned foods, pasta, pasta sauce etc) for local families in need throughout the year.

Food donations can be dropped into the school until **Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> December** or into Eadestown/Kilteel Churches until Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> December.

Please contact **Susan Madden on 087-7797867** if you have any questions.

## Nuachtlitir Nollaig 2023

### School Mass – Feast of the Immaculate Conception 8<sup>th</sup> December 2023



Fr. Micheál Comer celebrated Mass for the *Feast of the Immaculate Conception* in Eadestown Church on Friday, December 8<sup>th</sup> at 11.30am in the school hall. 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 and to all those who attended.

### Cineáltas (Kindness) Action Plan on Bullying 2023-2027

It is very important that we all feel safe and happy in our school. The Minister for Education and Skills, **Norma Foley** recently launched *Cineáltas: Action Plan on Bullying 2023-2027* to prevent and address bullying in all its forms. Our children and young people are placed at the very heart of *Cineáltas* and this action plan aims to enhance the work that we already do to ensure that all children who attend our schools are kept safe from harm and that the wellbeing of our children is at the forefront of everything we do. The plan takes a whole education approach to addressing bullying and emphasises prevention, providing support to every school community, improving oversight and awareness and working together as a community with a renewed sense of partnership and *Cineáltas* towards each other.

We have received a **Cineáltas Flag** and **Cineáltas** poster to acknowledge the good work that we are doing to prevent and address bullying and to promote kindness, respect, empathy, inclusion, diversity and wellbeing in our school. The **Cineáltas Flag** will serve as a visible national symbol of our school community's shared commitment to be kind and to work together to prevent and address bullying. As part of the implementation of *Cineáltas*, the *Department of Education and Skills* (DES) will be publishing updated **Bí Cineáltas** procedures for schools to prevent and address bullying in the coming months with training being made available for all school staff, parents and board of management members. The members of our **Student Council** have raised the **Cineáltas Flag** in the school and will be working with **Ms. Travers, Ms. Lancaster and Mr. Walsh** to raise awareness among all the children in the school. As part of our whole school approach to promote positive relationships and a positive school culture in Rathmore N.S. which values kindness, empathy and integrity, we are launching the *Spirit of Rathmore Monthly Award* Certificates which will acknowledge and celebrate those children who have been nominated by their class teachers for some act of kindness they have shown in school.



## Nuachtlitir Nollaig 2023

### Circus Skills Christmas Show with Konor Halpin



The children were entertained by **Konor Halpin** and his Christmas Circus Skills Show in the PE Hall on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> December. Konor's show combined circus skills, magic tricks and puppetry and he involved the children throughout his performances.

### Christmas Dazzling Doors in Rathmore!



Rathmore N.S. is looking very festive indeed both inside and outside with decorated classrooms, our beautiful Christmas Tree, Crib and Santa Grotto and a festive School Library and School Garden which

## Nuachtlitir Nollaig 2023

were decorated by our parents Library and Garden Committees. Well done to all the pupils and teachers for creating such dazzling classroom doors this Christmas! Have you spotted **Mr. & Mrs Grinch** in there too?

Thank you to **Martina** and **Paul**, to our SNAs **Louise, Rita, Brenda and Nora** for helping to decorate the school and create these amazing Christmas doors and to **Ms. Shaw** for co-ordinating the fun competition for the best Junior Class and Senior Dazzling Christmas Classroom Door. It will be a very difficult decision!

### Sacramental Preparation

**Confirmation 2024:** Congratulations to all the pupils in **Mr. Collier's** and **Ms. Malone's 6<sup>th</sup>** classes who were enrolled for the *Sacrament of Confirmation* on Saturday 2nd December.

The next Confirmation preparation Mass will take place on **Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> January at 7.30pm in Eadestown Church.**

The boys and girls in 6<sup>th</sup> class will also be taking part in a **Class Retreat** during the school day organised by the *Mount St. Anne's Retreat Team* in Rathmore Community Hall in **February 2024.**

**First Holy Communion 2024:** The next '*Do This In Memory*' Mass will take place on **Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> January at 11.30am in Eadestown Church.**

### REMINDERS

The children can wear their Christmas Jumper/Christmas clothes into school on **Friday 15<sup>th</sup> for the Christmas Fair.** Our **Christmas Jumper/No Uniform Day** takes place on **Tuesday, 19th 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!

Our **Student Council** has chosen the charity **UNICEF** for our Christmas Jumper/No Uniform Christmas Charity this year. A donation of **€2 per child/€5 per family in cash** or whatever you would like to contribute would be appreciated on the day.

The children can wear their **Christmas Jumpers/Christmas clothes** again on **Wednesday, 22nd December** when we finish up at 12.30pm for the Christmas Holidays.



### Co-Curricular Activities

**Swimming** for all pupils in **Ms. Shaw's 3<sup>rd</sup>/4th Class** and **Ms. Broe's 3rd Class** continues on **December 13<sup>th</sup>** and **Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> January** in K-Leisure in Naas. **Ms. Larkin's 2nd Class** will begin swimming lessons in K Leisure Naas on **Wednesday January 17<sup>th</sup>.**

**Hurling skills** coaching with **John Holmes** continues with timetabled classes on **Tuesdays.**

**Gaelic Football** coaching with **Rob Thompson Games Development Officer** with Kildare GAA continues on **Thursdays.** A big thank you to both coaches for their coaching involvement with the children in the school throughout the year.

## Nuachtlitir Nollaig 2023

### Dates for your Diary

Christmas Fair: Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December in Rathmore Community Hall.

Christmas Carol Service: Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> December in Eadestown Church at 7.30pm

Christmas Holidays: Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> Dec at 12.30pm and school re-opens on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> Jan 2024.

Additional School Closure Teacher Professional Development: Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2024

St. Brigid's Day Bank Holiday: School closed on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> February 2024.

Mid-term break: School closed on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> and Friday 16<sup>th</sup> February 2024.

St. Patrick's Day: School closed on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> March 2024.

Easter Break: Starts at 12.30 pm on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2024 and school re-opens on Monday, 8<sup>th</sup> April 2024.

May Bank Holiday: School closed on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup>, Monday 6<sup>th</sup> & Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> May 2024 and re-opens on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> May 2024.

June Bank Holiday: School closed on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> June, Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> June and Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> June re-opens on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> June 2024.

Summer Holidays commence on Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> June 2024 at 12.30pm.



*Happy Christmas and Best Wishes for 2024 from everyone in Rathmore N.S!*