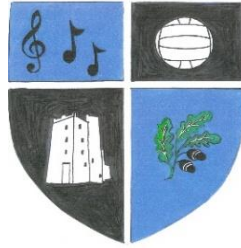


Nuachtlitir Eanair 2024

# *Scoil Chéile Chríost Rathmore N.S.*

## *Newsletter January 2024*



Website: [www.rathmorens.ie](http://www.rathmorens.ie) Phone 045-862145

Email: [office.rathmorens.ie](mailto:office.rathmorens.ie) Twitter: [@Rathmore School](https://twitter.com/RathmoreSchool)

Dear Parents/Guardians

### *Roll Out of School Hot Lunch Scheme in Primary Schools*

Welcome back to the new school term and wishing you and your families a very Happy New Year in 2024.

The Government announced in the October Budget that the Department of Social Protection (DSP) would be extending funding to provide **Hot School Meals** to all primary schools beginning with the first group of schools from April 2024.

I pleased to inform you that **Rathmore N.S.** has been included in the first round of primary schools who will be part of this fully funded Scheme. Each pupil in the school will receive a free nutritious hot lunch every day in school beginning in April 2024 from an approved hot lunch provider.

The Board of Management are currently in the process of finalising the administration of the **Hot School Meal** Scheme with the Department of Social Protection and Parents/Guardians will receive information and further details on how the Scheme will operate in the school in the near future.

Thank you for your co-operation.

*Lucy Travers*  
*Principal*

## Parent/Teacher Meetings For Junior Infants Classes

**Parent Teacher Meetings** for both Mr. Bolton's and Ms. A. Gleeson's Junior Infant classes will take place on **Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> & Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> January**. Appointment times have been released through the Aladdin Schools App.

Please note that you must be **registered** on the *Aladdin Connect App* to be able to book your child's Parent Teacher appointment time.

## Safer Internet Day 2024



2024  
Safer  
Internet  
Day

On Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> February, our school will be joining people in more than 180 countries around the world in celebrating **Safer internet Day 2024 (SID)** and helping to promote a safer and better internet for all, especially for children and young people.

The theme for this year is '*Tech in Our World*'. It is never too early to think about your chuil'd safety online.

**There is a wealth of information available for parents/guardians to support their child's online safety in collaboration with the work done in the school, and it is very important that children are always under parental supervision when online.**

[www.webwise.ie/saferinternetday](http://www.webwise.ie/saferinternetday) and <https://www.webwise.ie/parents/>

## Junior Infants Enrolment 2024/2025 School Year

The Board of Management have published our **Annual School Admission Notice** in respect of admissions to **Junior Infants Classes** for the 2024/2025 school year. Our **School Admission Policy** is available to view on our school website at [www.rathmorens.ie](http://www.rathmorens.ie)

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 began accepting completed **Application Forms** for Junior Infants 2023/24 on **8<sup>th</sup> January 2024** and enrolment will close **this Friday, 19<sup>th</sup> January, 2024.**

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. A completed **Application Form** must be submitted in the required time period even if you have submitted a completed Form of Inquiry earlier in the year.

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.

## School Attendance Campaign

Attendance is recorded daily by your child's class teacher using the online roll book on *Aladdin*. If your child is absent from school, you can update the reason for absence yourself using *Aladdin Connect* and/or inform your child's class teacher with a note in the school diary. A record is also maintained on *Aladdin* of children who are late to school or leave school early. Please contact **Martina**, our school secretary in the school office if you require assistance.

Every school is required by law to submit an Attendance Report twice yearly to TUSLA, the Child and Family Agency. There are two reporting periods in the year – September to December and January to June. We are required to submit a list of all pupils who have missed 20 school days for any reason and each absence should be explained.

The overall aim of school attendance and punctuality procedures is to ensure each child maximises their learning time in school and misses as little time as possible, unless of course, there is a valid reason such as illness and/or medical appointments. Educational Research shows that there is a direct link between school attendance and pupil progress in school. *Parents/Guardians are discouraged from taking their child/children out of school for other reasons during term time.*

The Department of Education and Skills (DES) recently launched a National School Attendance Campaign to improve school attendance in Ireland following a noticeable dip in attendance figures since the arrival of Covid-19.

## Reminder Additional School Closure 23<sup>rd</sup> January - Primary Maths Curriculum

A reminder that the Department of Education and Skills have notified us of an additional school closure this **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 and will re-open as usual on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> January.

## HSE Free Flu Vaccine For Children

The Health Service Executive (HSE) is asking parents of all children aged 2 to 17 to get the nasal spray flu vaccine. Children are twice as likely to get the flu as adults, so the HSE is offering the vaccine free of charge to all children in this age group. Parents can bring their children to get the vaccine from their GP or pharmacy. The flu spreads easily from person to person and can cause serious illness in children. A free appointment can be booked with your GP or pharmacist.

Visit <https://www.hse.ie/eng/health/immunisation/pubinfo/flu-vaccination/flu-vaccine-for-children/> for more information.

*The most important measure is to keep your child at home if he/she is unwell. While many children have a runny nose or a slight cough in the Winter season, if your child is feeling unwell, s/he should stay at home until the symptoms have finished. This will help prevent the spread to other children, families and staff.*

Spirit of Rathmore Awards – December 2023 Certificate Recipients



As part of our whole school approach to promote wellbeing, positive relationships and a positive school culture in Rathmore N.S. which values kindness, empathy and integrity, we recently launched the *Spirit of Rathmore Monthly Awards* to acknowledge and celebrate those children who have been nominated for some act of kindness they have shown in school. Well done to the deserving recipients for the month of December!

Junior Infants: *Sean Duggan, Oisín Corcoran & Erin Healy*

Senior Infants: *Johnny Osbourne & Tom O’Connell*

First Class: *Sláine Duke*

First/Second Class: *Molly Byrne*

Second Class: *Nessa Butler*

Third Class: *Alex Readman*

Third/Fourth Class: *Caolan Kim*

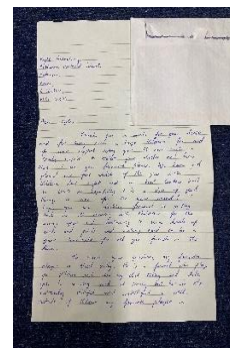
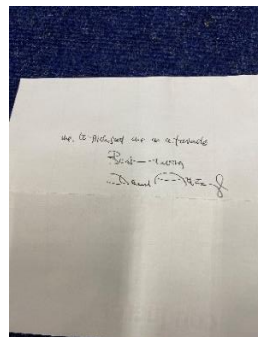
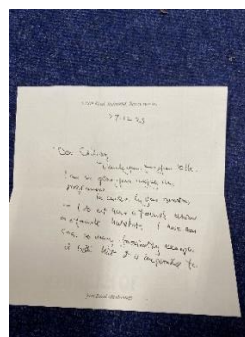
Fourth Class: *Ruby Grainger*

Fifth/Sixth Class: *Fionn Magee & Matthew Moore*

Fifth Class: *Kyle Fitzachary*

Sixth Class: *Rebekah Campbell*

Celebrity Letters in Third & Fifth Classes



The children in **Ms. Broe’s** Third Class and **Mr. Walsh’s** Fifth Class recently practised their letter writing skills by writing to some celebrities that they admire. *Grace Buckley, Louis Gillespie, Oliver Kelly, Tessa Prendergast, Cillian McConn and Eoghan O’Brien* were lucky to receive written replies and/or signed photographs in the post from their chosen celebrities. *Louis, Tessa and Oliver* received responses from none other than former Ireland International and Leinster rugby player **Johnny Sexton**. *Cillian* received

a reply from his hero broadcaster, biologist and natural historian **David Attenborough**, *Kyle Fitzachary* received a letter from Kildare GAA footballer **Kevin Feely**, *Eoghan O'Brien* received a signed photograph of the **Liverpool Football Team** and *Grace Buckley* received a reply from her hero, jockey **Rachel Blackmore**. Well done to all the children in both classes for their excellent letter writing!

## Ranganna Gaeilge/Irish Language Classes for Adults



We have been asked to let all parents/guardians know that there will be a series of **Irish language classes** in Naas for adults from 17th January for 8 weeks. There will be three levels – beginner, intermediate and advanced.

Tuilleadh Eolais | More Information and to book online:

[Book Free Ticket – Cúrsa 8 Seachtaine Gaeilge Ar Líne do tosaitheoirí- 8week Online Irish course for Beginners 17/01/ 2024 - 13/03/2024 – Zoom, Multiple dates and times \(tickettailor.com\)](#)

## Green Schools Update



Hi, we are **Ms Shaw's** 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> class and we want to give you some green schools updates! We are in the middle of working towards our 8<sup>th</sup> green schools' flag, Marine Environment, Litter, and Waste. Here are two new initiatives that we are working on in order to achieve this flag!

### 1: Plastic free Fridays

Every Friday we want to try and reduce the amount of plastic we use in our lunch boxes. It doesn't mean we have to give up our Friday treats (phew!) we can just take the plastic wrappers off them. Some ideas we have are.

- 1: Swap cling film for tinfoil/brown paper.
- 2: Use a reusable bottle.
- 3: Put your crisps/popcorn in an airtight container.

### 2: Collecting batteries.

Every class in the school now has a blue WEEE battery box because we are collecting used or old batteries. If you have any used batteries at home send them in to us!

Thanks for all your support!



## Sacramental Preparation

Children making their **Confirmation** are asked to attend the preparatory **Saturday Masses at 7.30pm** in Eadestown Church on **Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> January and Saturday 24<sup>h</sup> February**.

The Parish Preparation Nua programme for all children receiving the **Sacrament of Confirmation** will continue on **Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> February and Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> February** in the Church of the Immaculate Conception, Eadestown.

The **Ceremony of Light** will take place on **Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> April at 7.30pm in Killeel Church** and the children will receive the **Sacrament of Confirmation on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> April in Eadestown Church at 11 o'clock**.

The boys and girls in 6<sup>th</sup> class will also be taking part in a **Class Retreat** organised by the *Mount St. Anne's Retreat Team* in *Rathmore Community Hall* on **Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2024** during the school day. **Payment of €5 to cover the cost of the Retreat can now be paid on Aladdin Epayments.**

**First Penance** for all children making their **First Holy Communion this year** will take place on **Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> February at 7.30pm** in Eadestown Church. The next preparation Mass will take place on **Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> February at 11.30am** in Eadestown Church. The children will receive the **Sacrament of First Holy Communion on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> May at 11.00am**.

We are looking forward to the celebration of these special Sacraments in our parish in the months ahead and we appreciate the preparation that is undertaken by **Fr. Comer** and the Parish Preparation Team and the class teachers, and **Ms. Malone, Mr. Collier, Ms. Larkin & Ms. Kenny**.



Please ensure your child's **Baptismal Certificate** has been given to **Martina** in the School Office for all children in both **Second and Sixth Classes** who will be receiving the **Sacraments of First Holy Communion or Confirmation** this year.

## Credit Union Schools Quiz 2024



Congratulations to the following children who have been selected to represent **Rathmore N.S** in the *Credit Union Schools Quiz 2024* which will be held on **Friday 26<sup>th</sup> January** in **Tougher's, Newbridge**.

Under 11s Team: **Aoife Goode, Robyn Lawler, Matthew O'Sullivan, Róisín O'Sullivan**

Under 13s Team: **Billy Osbourne, Will Gillespie, Tom O'Loughlin, Gloria Queally**

We wish both teams the best of luck in the Quiz and thank you to teachers **Aoife Malone, Shane Walsh, Matthew Collier and William O'Brien** for their help with the organisation of both teams.



Catholic Schools Week takes place during the week 21st-27th January 2024.

The theme for Catholic Schools week this year is: **Catholic Schools: Communities of Service.**

Each of us belongs to a community. This might be our local GAA club, our village or our town. Catholics also belong to a special community of faith. We see this in our parish when people come together to pray to and worship God at Mass, to support each other in sad times and to celebrate important moments in life together, Jesus showed us what it means to serve others, especially those on the margins of society. Every Catholic School is called to be a community that serves, inviting students to use their gifts and talents at the service of others.

In our schools we model love, kindness and care towards ourselves, others God and creation. In this way Catholic Schools are Communities of Service. This Catholic Schools week, we celebrate and recognise the unique contribution our schools make at the service of our pupils, our communities and our Church.

As part of Catholic schools week, Mass will be broadcast on the RTÉ news channel on Monday morning at 10:30 am on 22nd January from Ardfinnan Co Tipperary and will have students from Ardfinnan National School. The RTÉ news channel can be found on the RTÉ player and online. Students teachers, staff and parents are welcome to join as we begin Catholic schools week across the country.

Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> February is **St. Brigid's Day, Féile Bríde 1500**. St. Brigid has a special connection with County Kildare, and we recently received a gift of a set of Books about the life of **St. Brigid** from *Kildare County Council*. There are many events being celebrated throughout County Kildare and you can get all the information by clicking on the website: <https://brigid1500.ie/>

### Home/School Communication: Rathmore N.S. Homework Diary

The **Rathmore N.S. Homework Diary** is the main channel of communication between home and school and the teachers check it daily for any messages written in it by parents/guardians for their attention. **Martina**, our school secretary can be contacted in the school office at **045-862145** for any urgent message or through the school office email address [office@rathmorens.ie](mailto:office@rathmorens.ie) .

We kindly request that you do not contact your child's class teacher directly by email unless absolutely necessary. Teachers will do their best to respond to your query within school hours up to **4pm** daily. It is important that all parents/guardians ensure that their contact details are up to date.

Please contact **Martina** to advise of any changes to your home address, telephone number or email.

You can also follow the school on Twitter/X using the [@RathmoreSchool](#) handle.

## Co-Curricular Activities

**Ukulele classes** with musician **William Troy of Music Generation Kildare** continue on Mondays for 3<sup>rd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> classes.

**Gaelic Football** coaching with **Rob Thompson**, has resumed on Thursdays from 11<sup>th</sup> January co-ordinated by **Mr. Bolton**.

**Hurling** coaching with **John Holmes** resumed on 17<sup>th</sup> January.

**Swimming Lessons** for pupils in **Ms. Larkin's 2<sup>nd</sup> Class** began on **Wednesday, 17<sup>th</sup> January** leaving the school at 10.50am. Payment for swimming lessons can be made on *Aladdin E-payments*.

## Dates for your Diary

**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.**