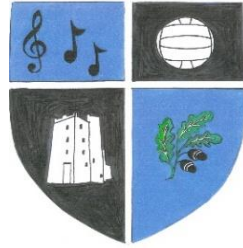


Nuachtlitir Márta 2024

Scoil Chéile Chríost Rathmore N.S.

Newsletter March 2024



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Seachtain na Gaeilge & Lá Fhéile Pádraig 2024

A Thuismitheoirí

Fáilte go *Seachtain na Gaeilge 2024*. Tugann sí deis iontach dúinn ar fad níos mó Gaeilge a labhairt. 'Seachtain na Gaeilge' gives us an opportunity to use our native language daily in school. 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 our native language.

We are having ceol, cluichí agus craic to celebrate our culture in school during '*Seachtain na Gaeilge*'. There are a variety of fun activities and competitions planned 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*' is being 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 *Lá Glas agus Tionól* (*Assembly*) on *Friday 15th March* which will take place outside sa chlós. Míle buíochas do *Mary Ryan* of *Kilteel Comhaltas* who has given of her time to come into the school and practise with the children for an Irish music performance on the day.

Friday, 15th March has been designated as "*Lá Glas*" when all children can wear green to school/dress in a St. Patrick's Day theme. Many thanks to all our teachers and staff for coming together to make it a special week to remember in Rathmore N.S. but especially to our Gaeilge Team of *Aoife Malone* (5th / 6th Class), *Ms. Doyle* (Sen Infants) and *Mr. O'Brien* (4th Class) for co-ordinating the week of activities across the school.

La Fhéile Pádraig Sona Daoibh Go Léir!

Lucy Travers
Príomhoide



Spirit Of Rathmore – February Awards

A big well done to the February deserving winners of the *Spirit of Rathmore* awards who have been nominated by their teachers. These awards acknowledge the value we place on the children showing kindness and respect to their peers and adults in our school community and contributing to a happy and positive school culture in Rathmore N.S. as proudly displayed in our *Cineáltas Flag*. Bí Cineálta!



Junior Infants: **Jamie Guinan & Harry Jones**

Senior Infants: **Sam O'Neill & Charlie Hill**

First Class: **Dáire Hyland**

First/Second Class: **James Corcoran Doyle**

Second Class: **Bobby Fitzgerald**

Third Class: **Emilia Nolan**

Third/Fourth Class: **Danny Fox**

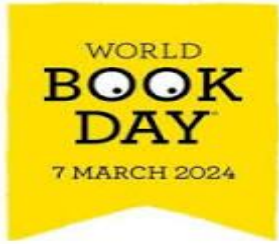
Fourth Class: **Harry Glynn**

Fifth/Sixth Class: **Alex Cusack**

Fifth Class: **Cathal Crowley**

Sixth Class: **Arthur Robinson**

World Book Day 2024



World Book Day was celebrated in all classes across the school on **Thursday 7th March**. The 'Where's Wally' book by author *Martin Handford* provided the theme for all the staff to dress up! There were reading and literacy fun 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 team effort by all the staff and children in Rathmore N.S. to foster an interest in books and reading among the children. Special thanks to teachers **Ms. Lancaster, Ms. Parker, Ms. Hayden & Ms. Horan** for co-ordinating *World Book Day* in Rathmore N.S.

New Wellbeing Books in our School Library



Our School Library is a fantastic resource thanks to the combined efforts of our *Parents Library Committee* and the creative talents of our school children and staff. We are always adding new titles to our book collection through a combination of book donations from parents and new purchases. As part of our whole school commitment to Wellbeing, **Ms. Shaw** and the Wellbeing Team have recently invested in some new books which explore the topic of Wellbeing in a child-appropriate manner. Special thanks also to our Special Needs Assistants, **Rita, Brenda** and **Nora** and to **Martina** our school Secretary for their assistance with scanning and re-organising the books to best effect in the Library.

We have noticed that there is strong demand from the children for some particular book titles/authors and we are requesting if parents/guardians may have some copies of these books which they no longer need and would like to donate to the school Library. The popular books/authors are listed below and can be dropped into the school office.

Popular Book Titles/Authors

Dog Man, Any books by author *David Walliams*, *Cat Kid*, *Bunny v Monkey*, *Investi Gators*, *Minecraft*, *Pokemon*, *Storey Treehouse* e.g. *The 39 Storey Treehouse*, *Football Legends*, *Tom Gates*, *Guinness Book of Records/Ripleys Believe It or Not*, *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* and *The Hunger Games*.

New Hot School Lunch Programme



As previously advised, the Government announced in the October 2023 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 in Term 3 of the 2023/2024 school year. **Rathmore N.S.** has been included in the first round of primary schools who will be part of this fully funded Scheme. This service will begin on a date to be confirmed by the lunch provider after the Easter holidays in Term 3.

Hot lunch provider, *The Lunch Bag* has been chosen to provide the hot meals to the children in **Rathmore N.S.** and two separate documents from *The Lunch Bag* were recently shared with parents/guardians providing information on the hot lunch ordering process, how the service will operate in the school, along with information on the variety of menu options available.

School Attendance Update



**National School
Attendance
Campaign**

Our school attendance for the month of **February 2024** has shown an improvement on the same month in 2023 with an attendance figure of **93.7%** compared to **90.8%** for the same month in 2023. Overall pupil attendance rates in Rathmore N.S. are up since the beginning of the 2023/2024 school year with a **93.8%** attendance rate compared to **92.7%** for the 2022/2023 school year. Well done everybody and let's keep it up!

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.*

School Calendar 2024/2025

The school **Calendar** for the 2024/25 School Year (next year) has been finalised and has been emailed out to all parents/guardians.

The Big Sing 2024



The Big Sing is an inclusive celebration of joyous music drawing from popular music, family Disney hits as well as ceol as Gaeilge, alongside a chosen focus on another musical heritage. The show is centred around the children themselves performing all together and provides an opportunity for primary school children aged 8-12 to perform in the *National Stadium*, alongside celebrity performers and young cultural leaders. The show aims to provide a platform for children, who may not otherwise have experienced the joy of performing in front of a live audience in a large professional venue.

Ms. A. Gleeson has been busy rehearsing with the children in her after-school choir on Mondays during this school year and they will join with other schools in performing in the *National Stadium, Dublin* on the evening of **April 15th** next. All details of the event and ticket have been emailed out to parents/guardians of the children taking part.

OCO Schools Ambassador Programme



We were delighted to have been 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)* came back for a visit with our Sixth Classes in February when they discussed whether there is a need for new Children's Rights and even composed a rap to finish! The team will return before the end of this school year accompanied by the **Ombudsman for Children, Dr. Niall Muldoon** to present Certificates to the children acknowledging their participation in this programme. We look forward to **welcoming Dr. Niall Muldoon** back to Rathmore N.S. again soon.

Trócaire Lenten Campaign 2024



Lent began on **Ash Wednesday, 14th February 2024**. Trócaire boxes have been delivered to the school and have been distributed to all classes. This year Malita and her family (picture Patricia and Patrick, age 12) are suffering every day in Malawi from the extreme effects of climate change, facing severe flooding and burning dry spells within a single season. You can support this family in so many ways to build a better future by supporting the **Trócaire Lenten Campaign** for 2024.

First Penance



Congratulations to the boys and girls in **Ms. Larkin's** and **Ms. Kenny's** Second Classes who received the *Sacrament of First Penance* in Eadestown Church on Thursday 22nd February with **Fr. Comer, Fr. Behan** and **Fr. Campbell**.

The children who were a credit to their families and to the school. Huge thanks to both class teachers **Ms. Larkin** and **Ms. Kenny** for all their hard work in school preparing the children, to **SNA Nora** for assisting with the collaborative art display, to **Martina** our school Secretary and to **Paul** our school Caretaker for their help with the ceremony booklets and church decoration.

Cill Dara Le Gaeilge

Cill Dara le Gaeilge is delighted to announce a new series of Irish classes for parents/guardians under our scheme, "Tús Maith"! This scheme, is a package of resources and services designed to support parents/guardians who wish to speak Irish with their children. They will provide eight Irish language classes for parents/guardians with young children (up to second class). The classes will be available over Zoom and each class will last one hour. There will be two levels available, more information is available below.



Leibhéal 1 20:00-21:00: Tosaitheoirí | Complete beginners:

Oiriúnach do dhaoine nach ndearna staidéar ar an nGaeilge riamh, ar fáil ar Zoom. Beidh na ranganna ar siúl ar na dátaí seo:

Suitable for people who have never studied Irish, available on Zoom. The classes will take place on the following dates:

- 20:00-21:00 05/03/2024
- 20:00-21:00 12/03/2024
- 20:00-21:00 19/03/2024
- 20:00-21:00 09/04/2024
- 20:00-21:00 16/04/2024
- 20:00-21:00 23/04/2024
- 20:00-21:00 30/04/2024
- 20:00-21:00 07/05/2024

Cláraigh Anseo [Register Here: Buy tickets for Cill Dara le Gaeilge \(tickettailor.com\)](#)

Sacramental Preparation Programme

First Holy Communion 2024: The 'Do This in Memory of Me' Masses in preparation for **First Holy Communion** continue on **Sunday 14th April** at 11.30am in the Church of the Immaculate Conception in Eadestown. The Sacrament of **First Holy Communion** will be celebrated on **Saturday 18th May** at 11.00am in the Church of the Immaculate Conception in Eadestown.

Confirmation:

Ceremony Of Light: Thursday 11th April at 7.30pm in **Kilteel Church**.

Confirmation 2024: Friday 19th April at 11 o'clock in the Church of the Immaculate Conception in Eadestown.

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**.



REMINDERS

UNIFORMS: Please note that the school uniform is inter-changeable and pupils can wear either the uniform or school tracksuit to school but may only wear the school shorts for sports training or during the Summer Term/fine weather. All children in 6th class are required to wear the full school uniform for Confirmation. 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.

Cumann na mBunscol Mini-7s Competitions

It's been a busy few weeks in Rathmore N.S. on the sporting front with school teams taking part in the Mini 7's Boys and Girls Football, Hurling, Camogie and Cross Country Competitions. A big well done to all the children taking part and to teachers **Mr. Bolton, Mr. Collier, Mr. O'Brien, Mr. Walsh, Ms. Lancaster, Ms. Flynn and Ms. Malone.**



Co-Curricular Activities

Swimming lessons Swimming lessons for the children in **Ms. Kenny's First/Second Class** and **Ms. Flynn's First Class** began on **Wednesday 28th February**. Payment can be made on Aladdin epayments.

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

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

Senior Boys Football Training with **Mr. Bolton & Mr. O'Brien** is taking place during lunchtime on **Wednesdays and Fridays** weather permitting.

Under 10 Boys Football training with **Mr. Bolton & Mr. O'Brien** is taking place during lunchtime on **Mondays**, weather permitting.

Girls Football Training with **Mr O'Brien** is taking place during lunchtime on **Tuesdays**, weather permitting.

5th & 6th Boys Hurling Training with **Mr. Collier** is taking place during lunchtimes and after school on **Thursdays**, weather permitting.

Camogie Training with **Ms. Lancaster** and **Ms. Flynn** is taking place during lunchtime on **Wednesdays**, weather permitting. **Boots, gum shields and shin guards must be worn for football/hurlin/camogie training.**

Dates for your Diary

St. Patrick's Day: School closed on Monday 18th March 2024.

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

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

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

Summer Holidays commence on Thursday 27th June 2024 at 12.30pm.

