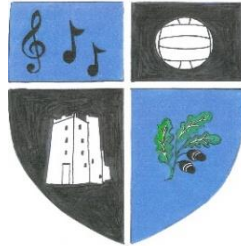


Scoil Chéile Chríost Rathmore N.S.

Newsletter November 2023



Website: www.rathmorens.ie Phone 045-862145

Email: office@rathmorens.ie

Twitter: [@Rathmore School](https://twitter.com/Rathmore_School)

Parent/Teacher Meetings 2023-24

Dear Parents/Guardians

Parent teacher meetings for Scoil Chéile Chríost Rathmore N.S. will be held on **Wednesday & Thursday, November 22nd & 23rd** for all classes (except Junior Infants). The meetings will be conducted after school hours as advised by the Department of Education & Skills (DES). It is very important that you attend the meeting as it provides an opportunity for parents to discuss your child's progress this year. It is well documented that parents who involve themselves in a positive way in their children's education, have a very positive impact on the quality of education received by their children. Please note that the school will close 15 minutes early at 2.25 pm on Wednesday, 22nd November in order to facilitate these meetings.

Meeting Times for all children in both Junior Infants Classes will be scheduled after Christmas during the month of January and parents/guardians will be notified of dates and appointment times by their child's class teacher in due course.

Meeting times: Each parent will have an *average of 8-minutes* per meeting. If you have an issue that may need *more time* for discussion, please *arrange another appointment*. We ask you to be **punctual** and **not to delay** other parents unduly. **Support Teachers' Meetings:** All Support Teachers, *Ms. Lancaster, Ms. Parker/Ms. Hayden, Ms. Murphy and Ms. Cox* will be in their rooms for their appointments.

Waiting Areas: Seats are provided outside each classroom.

We hope that you find the meetings are beneficial and we look forward to meeting you on the day.

Yours sincerely,

Lucy Travers
Principal Teacher

Nuachtlitir Samhain 2023

New School Board of Management 2023-2027 & Parent Nominees

The current Board of Management's term of office will come to an end on 30th November 2023 and a new Board of Management is required to be in place by the 1st of December 2023.

The ballot for the **Board of Management Parent Nominee - Father's Panel** is now getting underway. Thank you to parents **Philip Mallon** and **Sean O'Dowd** who have both put their names forward for selection from the **Father's Panel**. Please return completed ballot forms in the envelopes provided to the school Reception Office by **2.40pm on Friday, 17th November, 2023**.

School Library



We have a very well-resourced school Library which is operated each Friday by volunteer parents who are part of the *Library Committee*. A big thank you to all the parents who are members of our *School Library Committee* and welcome to the new parent volunteers who have come on board this year to help out on Friday mornings and support the school in fostering a love of reading among the children. Please contact a member of the *Library Committee* or the School Office if you can spare some time and would like to get involved.

School Attendance

Educational Research shows that there is a direct link between school attendance and pupil progress in school. 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.

School management is obliged by law to inform TUSLA when a pupil is absent for a total of 20 days in one school year. The whole idea is to miss as little time as possible, unless of course, there is a valid reason such as illness and/or medical appointments. Parents/Guardians are discouraged from taking their child/children out of school for other reasons during term time. Please inform your child's class teacher of the reason for an absence as this must be recorded on our Aladdin system and /or you can update Aladdin Connect yourself.

Maths Week 2023



The 19th annual *Maths Week* Ireland took place from 14th -22nd October 2023 and it is the biggest festival of its kind in the world. The overall aim is to engage in Maths activities which celebrate a positive image of *Maths For All*. Special thanks to **Mr. Walsh, Mr. Bolton, Mr. Collier and Ms. Broe** for organising *Maths Week* in our school. All classes took part in a variety of Maths activities such as outdoor Maths trails, estimation competitions, shape hunts, using the school Ipads for Maths games and a digital Quiz for the senior classes. There was also a fun estimation activity to coincide with the Rugby World Cup 2023 where each class estimated how far our caretaker **Paul O'Sullivan** could kick a rugby ball. **Mr. O'Brien's** Fourth Class were the winners and fair play to **Paul** for being a good sport! Well done to both children and teachers for their efforts in promoting a positive image of Maths for all!

HSE Free Flu Vaccine For Children

The *Health Service Executive* (HSE) is advising parents that all children aged 2 to 12 will be offered the nasal flu vaccine for free. 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 surgery 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 Surgery or pharmacy. Please visit <https://www2.hse.ie/conditions/flu/childrens-flu-vaccine/> for all the information.

We have received notification from the HSE that the nasal flu vaccine will be administered to all children in Senior Infants on Friday 1st December in the school. Consent Forms for parents/guardians will be sent home in advance.

Nuachtlitir Samhain 2023

Junior Infants Enrolment 2024/2025 School Year

As a result of the *Education (Admissions to School) Act 2018* which has now been enacted and applies to school admissions from September 2021 in both primary and secondary schools, our school *Admission Policy* has been updated to incorporate these changes. Please see our school website www.rathmorens.ie for an updated version of the *Rathmore N.S. Admission Policy*.

Parents/guardians and the school community will be advised of the enrolment period for Junior Infants for the 2024/25 school year when our *Rathmore N.S. Admission Notice* is published in December. If you know of any 'new parents' in the parish who wish to enrol their child in Junior Infants for the 2024/25 school year, you might bring this information to their attention.

Valleymount Cross Country Event 2023



The annual *Valleymount Cross County Athletics Event* took place during October. Rathmore N.S. entered 48 children divided into teams of 4 boys and 4 girls from each class level from 1st-6th classes. We finished up with 17 individual medal winners and 9 teams won team medals. Congratulations to all the children who attended trials in school and who qualified to participate in the competition. It was an amazing overall result for our school. Special thanks to **Ms. Malone** who co-ordinated and coached our school teams and to the **volunteer parents** who came along to mentor and support teams on the day.

Nuachtlitir Samhain 2023

Inter Schools Equestrian Competition



Our school team headed to the *Coilóg Equestrian Centre* to take part in the Interschools Competition on Sunday 29th October. They took part in team event where we were placed and it was all smiles for team (**Nina Smith, Saoirse Tracy, Ava Jenkinson, Jack McCann**)

The younger students took part in individual competitions and they all jumped really well. It was a great start to Halloween break! (**Sisters Saoirse & Neasa Brennan & Fiadh McCann**). Well done everybody on representing Rathmore N.S!

Cumann na mBunscol Champions 2023!



Congratulations to our Under 11s Girls Football Team and to their coaches **Ms. Shaw and Mr. O'Brien** who overcame Two Mile House N.S. to win the Cumann ns mBunscol Hurling Final in Moorefield GAA recently. It was a fantastic achievement and there was great team spirit shown amongst all the panel. Team Captain **Kaithlyn Smith** was presented with the Cup on the pitch following their win and each player was presented with an individual medal in school during our Hallowe'en Assembly by members of the Eadestown Senior Ladies Football team.

We also acknowledge teachers **Mr. Collier** and **Mr. Walsh** who coached our boys hurling team to a final v Scoil Mochua, Celbridge, **Mr. Bolton** who coached the boys football team to a final v Milltown N.S. and **Ms. Lancaster** and **Ms. Flynn** who coached our girls' camogie team for their blitz. Well done to all the children who took part in school training sessions and who represented our school on teams. You have done Rathmore N.S. proud!

Nuachtlitir Samhain 2023

Visit of Eadestown Senior LGFA Team & Cumann na mBunscol Medal Presentation.



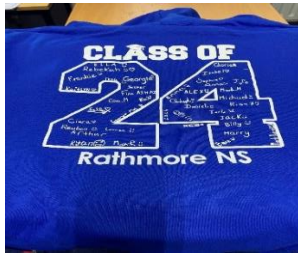
Congratulations to the **Eadestown Senior Ladies LGFA Team** and their **Manager Liam McLoughlin** who were crowned **Kildare LGFA Senior Football County Champions** on Friday 6th October in Hawkfield when they overcame Newbridge Sarsfields LGFA with a convincing win on a scoreline of 5-11 to 0-12. Team captain **Siobhán O'Sullivan** accepted the **Kieran Burke Cup** on behalf of the team. Twenty-four of the panel of 30 players attended Rathmore N.S! They have made history by winning four-in-a-row Senior County Titles and lifted the **Kieran Burke Cup** to great celebrations among their many supporters and the whole community.

The Kildare ladies have now won every trophy available to them in 2023, collecting a *Divison 3 League Title*, *Leinster Intermediate Championship Title* and of course the *All-Ireland Championship* with a win over Clare. Eadestown's **Grace Clifford** who is also a past pupil of Rathmore N.S. lifted the **Mary Quinn Cup** in Croke Park on 13th August as Captain of the Kildare Team.

We were delighted to welcome Eadestown players **Ruth Sargent**, **Gráinne Kenneally** and **Sara Carroll** to visit the school with both the **Kieran Burke** and **All Ireland Mary Quinn Cups** on Thursday 26th October. The school held a special Assembly in the PE Hall to honour the team's success which included past pupils **Ruth Sargent** and **Sara Carroll**. There was huge excitement among the pupils who dressed in their Eadestown GAA colours in a show of their support to the team and Eadestown GAA Club. Congratulations to Second Class pupil **Saoirse Brennan** and Fourth Class pupil **Cormac Lawler** who were recent prize winners in the Eadestown GAA Art Competition held to support the Senior Ladies team. As the Rathmore under 11 Girls Football Team coached **Ms. Shaw** and **Mr. O'Brien** had won the *Cumann na mBunscol LGFA* schools competition the week before, the very special guests were on hand to present each girl on the school panel with their medals and spoke to the children with a very positive message about the benefits of playing sport. Well done girls and continued success. Eadestown Abú!

Nuachtlitir Samhain 2023

Sixth Class Hoodies



A big 'thank you' to parents **Carmel Doyle** and **Orla Mescal** who volunteered to co-ordinate the purchasing of the Sixth Class Rathmore N.S. hoodies this year which have now been delivered to the school. There was excitement in both Sixth Classes when each student received their personalised hoodie and the Class of 2024 are now wearing them with pride!

Heritage in Schools Workshop



The children in **Ms. Flynn's** First Class, **Ms. Kenny's** First/Second Class and **Ms. Larkin's** Second Classes recently took part in a biodiversity workshop with *Heritage in Schools* Expert **Patrick Hunt** which consisted of outdoor learning about the native plants and trees growing in our school environs and a classroom presentation and plant identification presentation which were both very well received by the children.

Mindful Tuesdays – Every Tuesday!

Mindful Tuesday is a very successful and popular **Wellbeing Initiative** in the school where the children are not assigned formal homework. Parents/guardians are instead encouraged to have a *technology-free* evening and engage in relaxing and mindful activities that enhance our wellbeing, such as reading a book for pleasure, playing a family board game, baking/cooking together, going for a walk, playing/listening to music, having a family meal and a chat, engaging in art activities, gardening, cycling or playing sports. The choice is endless! Following consultation with our **Parents Association** in September, it was agreed that **Mindful Tuesday** would be extended to now include every Tuesday. This initiative will form part of our whole school approach to Wellbeing.

Nuachtlitir Samhain 2023

Intel Mini-Scientist Competition 2023

There was a focus on STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) in school last Thursday with **Mr. Collier's Sixth Class, Ms. Malone's Fifth/Sixth Class** and **Mr. Walsh's Fifth Class** exhibiting their collaborative projects as part of the judging process in the *Intel Mini-Scientist Competition 2023*. Two judges from Intel visited the school at 11am to spend time visiting and assessing each project on display and speaking with the team members on working scientifically. They were very impressed with the high standard of the projects, the excellent presentations and the enthusiasm for STEM which was in abundance. It was evident that a lot of work has gone into these projects and credit is due to the children and to their teachers for guiding and supporting them along the way.

While all the children will shortly receive a wristband and Intel pen as a souvenir for entering, after much deliberation one project was chosen as the overall winner from Rathmore N.S. and will go forward to a regional final. Congratulations to the winning group composed of Sixth Class pupils **Michael Crumlish, Jack Doyle, Oisín Lawler and Daniel Curtin**. We have also received a specially designed plaque which will be displayed in the school to record our school's participation in the *Intel Mini-Scientist Competition 2023*.

All classes in the school had an opportunity to visit the projects on display in the PE Hall with their teachers and later it was the turn of parents/guardians to visit. Fr. Micheál Comer also took time out to visit the PE Hall and listen to the children explain their Science projects and he was equally impressed with them. Well done to all the children who participated and to their teachers!



Credit Union Competition Winner!



Congratulations to pupil **Ailbhe Carew** in **Ms. Shaw's** Fourth Class who won First Prize in her age category for her interpretation of the theme 'My Community and Me' in this year's *Life Credit Union Art Competition*. Ailbhe was presented with her prize on Tuesday 24th October in a ceremony in the Maudlins Hotel in Naas.

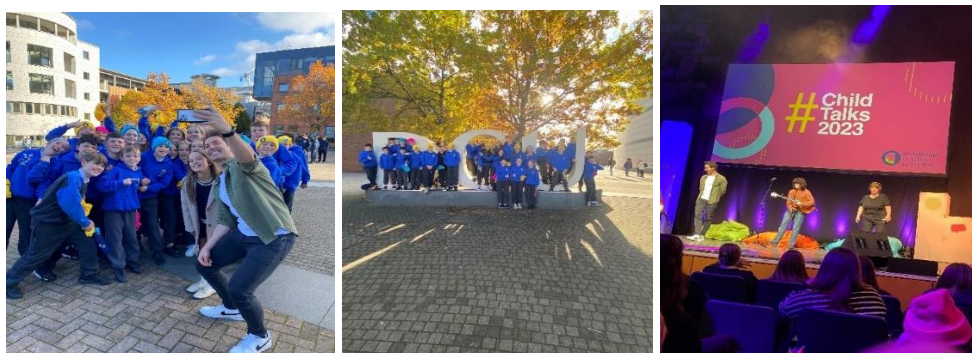
Nuachtlitir Samhain 2023

Annual Green Schools Hallowe'en Witch Walk 2023

We were lucky with dry and bright weather conditions for our annual *Green Schools Hallowe'en Witch Walk* which took place on Friday 27th October in the school. There was a wide variety of costumes on display and well done to those children who made a big effort to incorporate recycled items in their outfits. Thank you to teachers **Ms. Shaw, Ms. Kenny, Ms. Z. Gleeson** and the *Green Schools Committee*. A final total of €240.10 was raised which will go towards funding *Green Schools Resources*.



Ombudsman For Children's Office (OCO) Child Talks Event



As part of the annual World Children's Day celebrations, the Ombudsman for Children's Office invited our Sixth Classes to their *Child Talks* Event in the Helix Theatre in DCU on **Tuesday 7th November**. The theme for *Child Talks 2023* was '*The Ireland I want to live in ...*' which featured a mix of child speakers telling stories that were personal to them and some musical entertainment. As you can see, we even met a few celebrities on the day also such as **Mark Langtry** from RTE's *Science Blast*, a special performance from **Alisha Weir**, star of *Matilda The Movie* and music from **Michael Moloney** of *The Late Late Toy Show*.

Garda Vetting Requirements

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, Library, School Garden, Matches, Swimming, PA Christmas Fair** etc 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 our school Secretary **Martina** in the School Office.

Nuachtlitir Samhain 2023

Student Council 2023-24



Elections were recently held in 3rd-6th classes to welcome some new members to the *Rathmore N.S. Student Council* to replace outgoing members. The aim of the *Student Council* is to provide an opportunity for pupils to voice their opinions and offer suggestions in relation to many aspects of school life and to help organise school events. Thank you to **Ms. Lancaster & Mr. Walsh** for liaising with the *Student Council*. The members for 2023/24 are as follows:

6th Class Mr Collier: **Billy Osbourn & Ciara Breen**

5th/ 6th Class Ms. Malone: **Alex Cusack & Iarla Walshe**

5th Class Mr Walsh: **Tommy O'Loughlin & Eoghan O'Brien**

4th Class Mr O'Brien: **Róisín O'Sullivan & Claude Hennessy**

3rd /4th Class Ms. Shaw: **Saoirse Brennan & Nina Walshe**

3rd Class Ms. Broe: **Tristan Muir & Eabha Malone**

Christmas 2023 Events



A reminder that the very popular *Christmas Fair* is back again this year and will take place on **Friday 15th December** in Rathmore Community Hall. The **Parents Association** are now in full planning mode with a Committee led by Chairperson, **Tom Kearney**. They are organising a **Monster Christmas Raffle** and they would appreciate donations of raffle prizes. Prizes can also be dropped to the school.

Performer **Konor Halpin** will be bringing his **Christmas Circus Skills Show** to the school for all the classes on **7th December**. A small fee of €2 per child is payable.

A **Christmas Carol Service** will be held in **Eadestown Church** on **Wednesday night 20th December** featuring our **Rathmore School Choir** conducted by **Ms. A. Gleeson** and **Ms. Larkin**. More details to follow nearer the date. All welcome to attend and get into the real spirit of Christmas!

A little Elf has also told me that there may also be a *Special Visitor* with the initials **S.C** is coming to the school on **Tuesday 19th December!** The children can wear their **Christmas Jumpers** to school on **Friday 15th December, Tuesday 19th December and Friday 22nd December.**

Nuachtlitir Samhain 2023

Swimming Lessons

Swimming Lessons for the pupils in **Ms. Broe's** Third Class and **Ms. Shaw's** Third/Fourth Class will begin on **Wednesday 22nd November** for 5 weeks in K Leisure in Naas. Payments can now be made on *Aladdin E-Payments*.

Sacramental Preparation

Sunday 26th Nov 11.30am Church of the Immaculate Conception Eadestown: **Do This In Memory Mass.**

Sunday 17th Dec 11.30am Church of The Immaculate Conception Eadestown: **Do This In Memory Mass.**

Dates for your Diary

Parent/Teacher Meetings (Senior Infants -6th Class): Wednesday 22nd and Thursday 23rd November.

Feast of The Immaculate Conception: Friday 8th December. Fr Comer will celebrate Mass in school.

Christmas Fair: Friday 15th December in Rathmore Community Hall.

Christmas Carol Service: Wednesday 20th December in Eadestown Church.

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

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

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

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.

