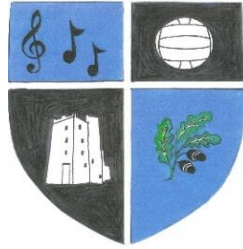


Scoil Chéile Chríost Rathmore N.S.

Newsletter October 2023



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Dear Parents/Guardians

I hope that you and your families are well and looking forward to the Halloween Mind-Term break. Each one of us has a duty to protect children from harm and the *Department of Education and Skills* (DES) has recently published the **Child Protection Procedures for Primary Schools (2023 Revised)** 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 already adopted these procedures as school policy during our September Board of Management Meeting. A copy of our *Child Safeguarding Statement* is available to view on the school website or a hard copy is also available to read in the school office. 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 (DDLDP)* is the **Deputy Principal, Caitriona Lancaster**. We appreciate your co-operation with the following procedures which are in place:

- A requirement for **all visitors** to Rathmore N.S. to report to the school *Reception Office* where they will be asked to sign-in and will receive a 'Visitor' badge.
- Parents/guardians are asked not to proceed directly to classrooms when collecting children early from school but to wait at Reception and their child will be escorted to meet them there. Our school Secretary **Martina** is always happy to assist you with any query.
- A reminder that all parents/guardians who are actively involved in any school activities such as the school Library, Tours, Matches and Sports Day activities **must be vetted**. All details on Diocesan Vetting requirements can be obtained from **Martina** in the School Office.

Hope you all have a very happy and safe Halloween! The school will re-open after the mid-term break on **Monday 6th November**.

Oíche Shamhna Shona daoibh !

Lucy Travers, Principal

Maths Week 2023



The 19th annual *Maths Week* Ireland takes place from 14th -22nd October 2023 and it is the biggest festival of its kind in the world. It celebrates a positive image of *Maths For All*.

In 2022, over 464,000 students and their teachers participated in Maths Week activities. Maths Week is committed to the idea of *Maths For All* and promotes a positive attitude towards Maths and seeks to celebrate Mathematics, boost motivation among the children and help to prepare them to become creative, resilient, cooperative problem solvers. We are looking forward to a very busy and fun-filled Maths Week in Rathmore N.S.

Special thanks to **Mr. Walsh** for co-ordinating *Maths Week* for all in our school.

Please see the website www.mathsweek.ie for lots of ideas and resources and follow the link to the Parents Zone at <https://www.mathsweek.ie/2023/parents/>

Primary Maths Curriculum Launched- Information For Parents

The Department of education has published a new *Primary Maths Curriculum* for children in primary schools. The teachers will receive continuous professional developing during this school year which will necessitate a school closure during the school year and will be notified as soon as we receive confirmation of a date.

The new Maths Curriculum does not change much of ‘what’ children learn, but it improves ‘how’ children learn Maths. This includes more learning through play and problem solving. It also provides more opportunities for children to be creative, take risks and be challenged. The new Maths Curriculum will be implemented during the 2024/25 school year.

You will find information about the new *Primary Mathematics Curriculum* [here](#).

Halloweén Witch Walk- Friday 27th October 2023



Friday, 27th October is the date for our annual “Witch Walk” (non-uniform day).

In keeping with our *Green Schools Recycling Aims*, children are encouraged to make some part/all of their dress-up outfit from homemade/recyclable materials rather than buying a commercially produced costume and *donate €2 on the day/€5 per family* towards Green Schools.

We look forward to seeing all the children’s costumes for this very special day!

Thanks to **Ms Shaw, Ms. Kenny and Ms. Z. Gleeson of the Green Schools Team** who are co-ordinating the event and we thank you for your co-operation and support.

Music Generation Kildare



Ms. Broe's Third Class, Ms. Shaw's 3rd/4th Class and Mr. O'Brien's 4th Class have been accepted to take part in **Music Generation Kildare** for the 2023/24 school year. *Music Generation Kildare* (MGK) is Ireland's National Music Education Programme initiated by *Music Network*, co-funded by Irish band U2, the *Ireland Funds* and the *Department of Education and Skills (DES)*. It is locally funded here in Kildare by *Kildare and Wicklow Education and Training Board* and *Kildare County Council*.

The children in these classes will participate in weekly music sessions on the **Ukulele** with a trained musician, to run for approximately 28 weeks during this school year. The instruments will be supplied on a rental basis. This presents a great opportunity for the children to learn to play the **Ukulele** and engage creatively in music education.

School Admissions & Junior Infants Enrolment 2024-25

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 have a sibling who is due to start in Junior Infants in September 2024, please contact Martina to request a Form of Enquiry. 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.

School Mass

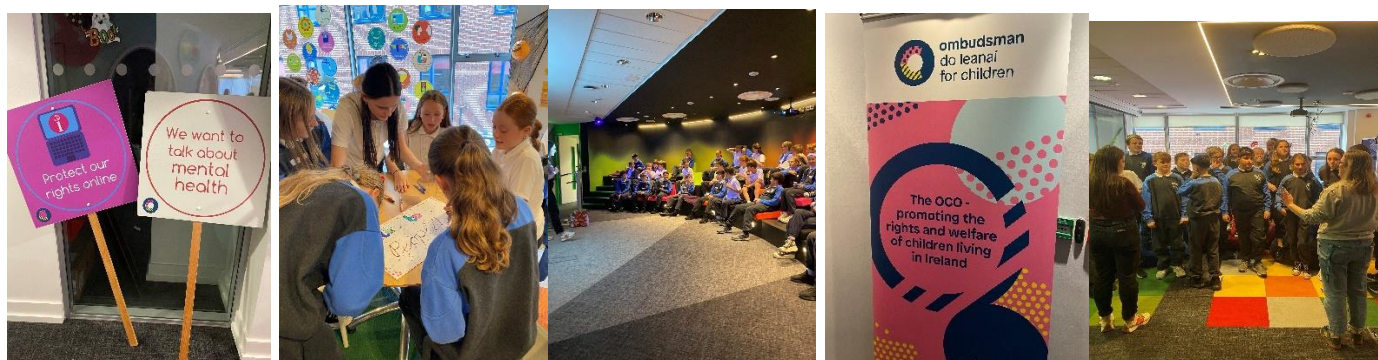
A school Mass to mark the opening of the 2023/24 school year was celebrated by **Fr. Comer** in the *Church of the Immaculate Conception*, Eadestown, on Friday, 29th September and was livestreamed through the parish webcam to all the classes in the school. Thanks to our readers from 6th Classes, and their parents for providing transport to the Church and to teachers **Ms. A. Gleeson** and **Ms. Larkin** for providing the musical accompaniment in the Church which really added to the Mass.

Sixth Class Visit to Ombudsman for Children's (OCO) Office



As part of our school's participation as a partner school in the *Ombudsman for Children Office Schools Ambassador Programme*, the children in **Mr. Collier's** and **Ms. Malone's Sixth Classes** were invited to visit the *OCO Office* in Dublin on **Tuesday 10th October** during the school day. This date coincided with World Mental Health Day 2023 and the children took part in a discussion and a workshop based on the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and in particular the right to health services. They followed up their visit with a stop off at the Phoenix Park where they had time to eat their lunch and have some fun in the sun! Many thanks to the staff of the Ombudsman's Office for hosting our students.

Both Sixth classes have also been invited to attend the Helix Theatre in DCU on **7th November** to participate in the *OCO Child Talks Event* to mark *World Children's Day 2023*. Completed Parent Consent Forms must be returned to the school office.



Teacher Supply Shortage

It has been reported in the media by school management bodies and the teacher unions that there is a national teacher supply shortage in Irish primary schools with many schools unable to fill advertised teacher vacancies for this 2023/24 school year. The teacher shortage has been acknowledged by the Department of Education and Skills (DES) and we await an update regarding any further alleviation measures. There is also an acute shortage of available substitute teachers to cover teacher absences where sub cover is provided by the DES. This problem is affecting schools in both the Dublin and Kildare areas and has been compounded by the cost of rental accommodation.

Fortunately, all advertised teacher vacancies in Rathmore NS were filled by the Board of Management for the 2023-24 school year following a recruitment process during the Summer holidays. However, in common with other schools in Kildare and despite our best efforts, we have been experiencing difficulties in sourcing substitute teachers. We hope that the Department of Education will put further measures in place to support school Management at this challenging time.

Intel Science Competition 2023

The *Intel Mini Scientist* is a competition for senior primary school students and allows students to discover Science in fun ways through project-based learning. The competition invites students to create Science projects, either as an individual or in a team of up to 4 members in the form of a workbook and a poster display that can be exhibited in our school.

Intel judges endeavour to visit schools to see their projects, chat to students and ultimately select a winning project to go forward to the next phase of the competition. The children in **Mr Walsh's 5th Class, Ms. Malone's 5th/6th Class and Mr. Collier's 6th Class** have been working hard on their Science projects. We have been informed that judging will take place in Rathmore N.S. on **Thursday 9th November** during the school day.

mini scientist



Visit of Piper – Liam O'Flynn Festival



Uilleann Piper **Sorcha Ní Scolaí** visited the school on Friday 6th October as part of the *Féile Liam O'Flynn Festival* which celebrates the legendary Uilleann piper born in Kill, Co. Kildare. Sorcha visited three classrooms and spoke with the children about learning to play music and shared her own love of playing the uilleann pipes. She was joined by some of the children who are part of *Kilteel Comhaltas*. As part of the *Féile Liam O'Flynn Festival*, an Uilleann Pipes Scholarship is being offered to those under 18 years of age. Email feileliamoflynn@gmail.com if you are someone you know is interested in applying. Special thanks to **Mary Ryan** of *Kilteel Comhaltas* for organising this special visit.

School Photographer



County Photos, (professional school photographers) will be coming to the school on **Thursday, 19th September** to take photos of the children in both **Mr Bolton's and Ms. A. Gleeson's Junior Infants Classes**. Details will be sent to Parents/Guardians vis Aladdin.

Visit of Eadestown Senior Ladies Kildare Senior LGFA County Champions 2023

Congratulations to the **Eadestown Senior Ladies LGFA Team and Manager Liam McLoughlin** who were crowned **Kildare County Champions** on Friday 6th October in Hawkfield when they overcame Newbridge Sarsfields with a convincing win. They have made history by winning four-in-a-row Senior County Titles and lifted the **Burke Cup** to great celebrations among their many supporters and the whole community. We are looking forward to welcoming some members of the winning team to visit our school with both the Burke and All Ireland Cups on **Thursday 26th October**. The team now go on to meet the Offaly Champions Naomh Ciarán in the Leinster LGFA Senior Club Quarter Final on **Sunday 22nd October** and we send them our best wishes and support for continued success.

Eadestown Abú!



Green Schools National Tree Day/ Lá a gCrann



Hello! It's **Zara, Bobby, Robert and Jack** from the Green Schools Committee. Here is the latest news from the Green Team! On Friday the 13th of October the Green Schools Committee planted a Hazel tree sapling in our school garden. **Thomas O'Brien** and **Robyn Higgins** helped **Paul** our school caretaker to dig the hole and plant the Hazel Sapling. Rathmore N.S. were kindly gifted the Hazel tree from SPAR in partnership with the Tree Council of Ireland as part of National Tree Day 2023. We look forward to watching our newest tree grow! The **Hazel** tree is very common in Ireland and the hazelnuts are ripe by August and provide nuts for squirrels during the cold winter months.

We are also collecting **used batteries** as part of the Laura Lynn Foundation. If you have any batteries lying around at home, bring them in, we have plenty of blue battery WEEE boxes for them!

Our **Witch Walk** is taking place on **Friday the 27th of October**, don't forget to try and make some of your costume from recyclable materials or you can even reuse an old costume you have lying around at home! Until next month! Slán!

Schools Equestrian Competition

Well done to all our pupils who represented the school in a recent schools equestrian competition. On Sunday 1st October our school team headed to the *Coilóg Equestrian Centre* to take part in an Equestrian Interschools Ireland (EII) competition. Team Rathmore N.S. represented by **Nina Smith, Ava Jenkinson, Gloria & Georgia Queally** were placed third in the primary schools team event. **Ava Jenkinson** took part in the individual event 75cm where she came in 4th place. **Saoirse Tracey** took part in individual event 55cm where she also came in 4th place. We also had great support from **Sebastian Smith & Mary Kate Buckley** on the day.



Sports Update



GAA coaching with **Rob Thompson, Games Development Officer** has resumed on Thursdays.

Hurling coaching with **John Holmes** takes place on Tuesdays.

Rugby coaching with **Michael Cahill** has been taken place on Fridays.

Well done to our **Boys U11 Footballers** coached by **Mr. Bolton** and **Mr. O'Brien** who have qualified for the final on **Tuesday 17th October v Milltown N.S. at 2.50pm on pitch 1 in Moorefield GAA.**

Congratulations to our **Girls U11s Football Team** and their coaches **Ms. Shaw** and **Mr. O'Brien** who have qualified for the *Cumann na mBunscol* finals on **Wednesday 18th October at 2.10pm** in Moorefield GAA

Congratulations to our **Boys Senior Hurling Team** coached by **Mr. Collier** and **Mr. Walsh** who have qualified for the *Cumann na mBunscol* Semi-Finals in Moorefield GAA at **2.10pm on Thursday 19th October.**

We wish all the teams representing Rathmore N.S. the very best of luck in all their upcoming matches! Thank you to all the parents/guardians who have offered to provide lifts to Finals in Moorefield GAA on **Tuesday 17^h October, Wednesday 18th October and Thursday 19th October.**

Please note that a €5 parking fee is payable at the gate.

Valleymount Cross Country 2023



We entered 48 children divided into teams of 4 boys and 4 girls from each class level from 1st-6th classes in the Cross-Country Athletics event in *Valleymount N.S* on **Tuesday 17th October** and we had a very enjoyable and successful competition. A total of **17 individual medals and 9 team medals** were awarded to the children from Rathmore N.S. Thank you to **Ms. Malone** co-ordinated and coached our school teams and we are very appreciative of the parents who have volunteered to help out with teams on the day. Congratulations to all the athletes representing Rathmore N.S. in *Valleymount* who wore the specially commissioned Rathmore N.S. athletics singlets which were kindly funded by the Parents Association.

REMINDER:

Be Winter Ready: 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. As Winter has arrived and the days are getting colder, it is advisable that children put away their shorts and dress for the cold weather outdoors on the school yard by wearing **the school track suit bottoms from now on.**

Inhalers:

If your child has asthma and needs to use an inhaler in school, please remember to send in an in-date inhaler which is clearly labelled. This will be kept in our medical press in the school if needed.

Dates for your Diary

Hallowe'en break commences on **Monday, 30th October to Friday 3rd November 2023.**

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

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.

Nuachtlitir Deireadh Fómhair 2023

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.