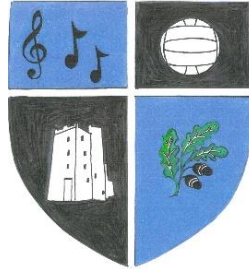


# *Scoil Chéile Chríost Rathmore N.S.*

## *Newsletter September 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)

*Welcome back* everyone to another school year of learning and fun in **Rathmore N.S.** I would also like to extend a warm welcome back to our teachers and special needs assistants who will be working with your child this year.

A special welcome to our two new Junior Infant Classes who have started on their educational pathway. They have got off to a great start with their teachers **Ms. Larkin** and **Ms. A. Gleeson**. We hope that each child has a wonderful experience with us and continues to flourish and reach their full potential under the care of our dedicated team here in **Rathmore N.S.** We look forward to working together as partners in your child's primary education during this academic year.

Thank you also to **Paul O'Sullivan**, our school Caretaker who has been working to prepare the school for re-opening after the Summer holidays and to **Martina Lawler**, our School Secretary for all the administrative support she provides throughout the year.

Wishing everyone in our school community a happy and safe year ahead.

*Kind regards,*

*Lucy Travers, School Principal*

### Safety in the School Car Park

A big thank you to all parents/guardians for co-operating with our car parking arrangements to ensure the safety of all.

*Children should not enter the school building before the Garden Gate is opened to receive pupils arriving by bus from 8.45am as there is no supervision in place. The school day begins at 9.00am and ends at 2.40pm (1.40pm for Infant Classes)*

#### Late pupils should enter through the main school entrance door at Zone A.

Please do not leave your child unattended on the school premises as we cannot take any responsibility for their safety outside of school hours.

- Please remember to park **in reverse** in a designated parking bay and stand beside your car to await collection of your child.
- **No parking** is permitted on the **roundabout or along the school driveway** outside of the marked spaces. This facilitates cars to enter and leave the school car park and also provides the necessary space for buses to enter and leave safely.
- You are welcome to use the overflow car park to the rear of **Rathmore Community Hall** if necessary.
- Please be **vigilant at all times**, as young children are liable to run behind cars if they are not properly supervised. Once children are collected, they then become the **responsibility of parents/guardians**.

### School Contact Details

Please note our school email address is [office@rathmorens.ie](mailto:office@rathmorens.ie).

The school Reception Office telephone number is: **045-862145**.

You can follow us on **Twitter/X** using the handle **@RathmoreSchool**

### 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 Lawler**, our school secretary can be contacted in the school office at **045-862145** for any 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 so that they can be updated on our Aladdin system.

## HSE Back To School Advice

The Department of Education and Skills (DES) have issued some information to schools as the new year commences regarding back-to-school advice and a letter from Dr. Abilgail Collins, *HSE National Clinical Lead, Child Public Health* was sent to parents via Aladdin. The key messages are as follows:

1. **Ease anxieties and worries. Check-in with your child about how they are feeling about school. It is normal for children to feel worried or anxious around this time.**

2. **If your child is unwell, keep them at home.** Many children might have a runny nose or a slight cough as the seasons change. However, if a child is **feeling unwell**, they should be at home. For example, if your child:

- Has a fever (a temperature of 38 degrees or higher)
- Is low in energy
- Has diarrhoea or vomiting
- Cough and sore throat

They should stay at home until those symptoms have finished. A HSE poster has been emailed to parents with advice on when it is safe to return to school.

3. **Get bedtime back.** Try to ensure bedtime is early enough to allow for a good night's sleep.
4. **Remind kids of the basics.** We will be continuing to **maintain our now established hygiene routines** in school in relation to handwashing.
  - Children will be reminded to **adhere to good respiratory etiquette** by covering a cough and sneezing into their elbow. It is advisable that each child has a small packet of tissues which can be kept in their bag for their personal use in school.
  - Good **ventilation** will continue to be maintained in all classrooms.
5. **Vaccination:** Making sure your child is up to date on all recommended vaccinations.

## Support For Parents

The *National Adult Literacy Association (NALA)* has developed the website [www.helpmykidlearn.ie](http://www.helpmykidlearn.ie). This brings together relevant information for parents and the wider community to support children's Literacy and Numeracy development in primary school. You can click on the link below to access the website and the support material is grouped according to age bands.

[Help My Kid Learn](http://www.helpmykidlearn.ie)

## Primary Maths Curriculum Launched- Information For Parents

The Department of Education and Skills (DES) has published a new *Primary Maths Curriculum* for children in primary schools and we have received notification of an additional school closure on **Monday 20th January 2025** to facilitate teacher continuous professional development for the new *Primary Maths Curriculum* which is being implemented in all primary schools from the start of the 2024/2025 school year. The school will be required to close to pupils on that day and will re-open as normal on Tuesday 21st January 2025. The new Primary 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 *Primary Maths Curriculum* is being implemented during the 2024/25 school year.

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

### School Attendance

We would love to see your child in school every day to ensure that they reach their full potential. We understand however, that there may be occasions when your child may be absent for valid reasons. For these days, please provide a reason for your child's absence. We are legally obligated to report all absences over 20 days to TUSLA, so it is important that we record all **absence reasons** on our roll system. You can do this using the *Aladdin Connect* App, or alternatively you can contact your child's class teacher via the *School Diary* or email Martina in the school office at [office@rathmorens.ie](mailto:office@rathmorens.ie). To help you to keep track of your child's absences you will receive a notification through *Aladdin Connect* if they miss 15 & 20 days of school.

If you have any queries or need to update your home contact details, please feel free to contact our school secretary **Martina** in the school office on **TEL: 045-862145**.

**Please complete the details in the front two pages of your child's Homework Diary so that we have all your up-to-date details, especially your PHONE and EMAIL ADDRESS.**

### FUSE Anti-Bullying and Online Safety Programme

We welcome the invitation to 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> classes in Rathmore N.S. to take part in the *FUSE Anti-Bullying and Online Safety Programme*, supported by the *Department of Education and Skills* and developed by the *DCU Anti-Bullying Centre*. *FUSE* is referenced in [Cineáltas: Action Plan on Bullying](#) which acknowledges the importance of evidence-based, age-appropriate and culturally relevant anti-bullying programmes such as *FUSE*.

*FUSE* is the first research-based Anti-Bullying and Online Safety Programme designed to comply with UNESCO's Whole Education Approach to tackle bullying and online safety issues in schools. It is based on 25 years of research on bullying prevention and intervention and is designed to support the wider SPHE/RSE/Wellbeing curricula in schools. *FUSE* consists of a suite of student-led workshops and resources delivered by teachers in classroom settings.

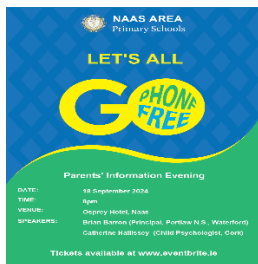
At the heart of *FUSE* is the aim of building capacity in schools to tackle bullying and online safety issues and to empower children and adolescents to understand their own behaviour, be able to recognise bullying and online safety risks and be confident in how to report and seek support when they need it. More information on this programme, including support and resources can be accessed in the Parent Hub at <https://antibullyingcentre.ie/fuse/parent-hub/>



## Reminder re Pupil Use of Mobile Phones in School

Please note that as per our current school *Acceptable Use Policy*, pupils are discouraged from bringing mobile phones to school but, if necessary for home-school communication, mobile phones must be switched off during the school day and **not used** while on the school premises/grounds. Students are not permitted to use phones/smart watches as cameras under any circumstances in school, on school trips or during extra-curricular activities. The school will not be liable for the replacement of lost, stolen or damaged devices. Pupils who take unauthorised photos or recordings of other students or staff members will face disciplinary action as per the school's Code of Behaviour. The school incorporates this policy into the Code of Behaviour and will treat breaches as they would treat any other breach of the Code.

Parents/Guardians are advised to supervise their child's use of mobile phones outside of school hours and it is advisable that pupils avoid setting up or participating in class *Whatsapp* groups. Please note that the administrator of a *Whatsapp Group* is responsible for the content shared on the chat. Please see the government funded website [www.webwise.ie](http://www.webwise.ie) for free education resources, advice, explainer guides to support you and your child with online safety.



### **FREE from smartphones, FREE from social media, FREE to be kids.**

There is an ever-increasing body of evidenced-based research which has highlighted the detrimental effects of smartphone and social media use on the brain, especially on the developing young brains of children under the age of 14.

Our **Rathmore N.S. Parents Association**, in conjunction with our school management and teachers have announced that they, together with eleven other primary schools in Naas will soon launch a voluntary **Go Phone Free** initiative which offers parents/guardians a tool to help address concerns about their children having access to a smartphone and social media.

**A Parents Information Evening is taking place at 8pm in the Osprey Hotel on 18<sup>th</sup> September.** Tickets are free of charge but must be booked online as capacity will be limited. **The link to book tickets was sent out on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> September at 10am** with a request that parents book one ticket only per household and only parents of children in 1st-6<sup>th</sup> classes attend. <https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/go-phone-free-parents-information-evening-tickets-1006826403877?utm-campaign=social&utm-content=attendeeshare&utm-medium=discovery&utm-source=wa&utm-term=listing>



No smartphones while in primary school.



No social media while in primary school.

16+

Respect the age rating on video games

### School Expenses

Thank you to all parents/guardians who have paid their school expenses using the *Aladdin E-payments* cashless payment facility. The school expenses cover your child's art and craft supplies, digital licences and photocopying costs in school. We appreciate that the return to school increases the financial burden on parents and if you have any difficulty, please talk to **Martina** our school secretary or to **Ms. Travers**, the Principal.

### School Mass



**Fr Michael Comer** will celebrate Mass in the school P.E. Hall on **Friday 20th September at 11.30am** to mark the beginning of a new school year. All Parents/Guardians are invited to attend the Mass in person if available. Special thanks to teachers **Ms. Larkin** and **Ms. Gleeson** who will provide the singing and musical accompaniment.

Note that **Fr Comer** has now confirmed the date for the celebration of **First Holy Communion** as **Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> May, 2025** at 11 o'clock and **Friday 4<sup>th</sup> April 2025** at 11 o'clock for the celebration of the **Sacrament of Confirmation**.

### Mindful Tuesdays



This very successful and popular **Wellbeing Initiative** is continuing for the coming year across the school. Parents/guardians are encouraged to have a *technology-free* evening and engage in relaxing and mindful activities that promote wellbeing, such as playing a family board game together, baking/cooking together, reading a book, going for a walk, play/listen to music, having a family meal and chat, engaging in art activities, gardening, cycling or playing sports.

This Wellbeing Initiative takes place every **Tuesday** during the school year and I'm sure your child will remind you!

## Healthy Lunches & Nut-Free Zone



We have a *Healthy Eating Policy* in the school and parents are encouraged to support this healthy eating initiative. Children are permitted to include one small treat in their lunch box on Fridays

The month of September provides a great opportunity to foster healthy eating habits in our children and remind us of some of the healthy foods to pack in your child's school lunch box. We are also encouraging the children to use *less packaging* and *reduce single use plastic items* in their lunches in order to minimise the amount of waste generated in the school. Please click on the link below for more tips and suggestions for healthy lunch boxes.

<https://www.safefood.net/Healthy-Eating/How-to-plan-family-meals/Healthy-lunch-ideas>

In order to minimise the risk of a pupil with an allergy to nuts to a potential allergic reaction requiring medical intervention, as a school, we are now a **Nut-Free Zone** for children and staff. We are asking the co-operation of parents/guardians with this health and safety measure.

**Please do not send nuts or food products containing nuts in your child's lunch box** and please remind your child not to swap food items in their lunch boxes with other children in their class.

## School Photographer



County Photos, (professional school photographers) will be coming to the school on **Friday 27<sup>th</sup> September** to take photos of the children in both **Junior Infants Classes**.

## Laura Lynn Fundraiser – Thank you!



Thank you everyone who supported **Caitlin O'Sullivan** in **Ms. Behan's** Third Class with her recent **Laura's Locks** Fundraiser in aid of the **Laura Lynn Foundation** which raised a total of **€500** euro.

## School Library



It was wonderful to have our School Library back up and running on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> September. The children get so excited for their weekly Friday Library visit which helps to foster a love of reading and books. Special thanks to **Lisa Sargent**, **Donna O'Mahony** and our parent Library volunteers who have reorganised the Library during the Summer holidays and give of their free time each week to provide this service. If you can spare some time on a Friday to help out, please contact **Martina** in the school office on TEL: 045-862145 or email [office@rathmorens.ie](mailto:office@rathmorens.ie) and we can include you on the **Library Weekly Rota**.

## Co-Curricular Activities

Swimming for all pupils in **Mr. Walsh's 6** and **Ms. Malone's 6<sup>th</sup>** classes began last **Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> September** in K-Leisure in Naas.

Hurling coaching with **John Holmes** for timetabled classes began on **Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> September** for **Ms. Smyth's 4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> Class** and **Mr. Bolton's 5<sup>th</sup> class**.

GAA coaching with GDO **Rob Thompson** begins on **Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> September** for timetabled classes.

## Friendship Week 2025



*Friendship Week* will take place across the school during the week of **23<sup>rd</sup> September**. The emphasis is placed on the promotion of positive relationships and the important role that friendship can play in our lives. *Friendship Week* gives us the opportunity to celebrate this at the very start of the year so that we can begin as we mean to go on. During the week the pupils, staff and parents are encouraged and afforded the opportunity to forge new friendships and renew and strengthen old ones. *Friendship Week* is also an important Anti-Bullying preventative initiative.



## School Garden



We have a beautiful school garden for the children to enjoy and experience outdoor learning. We appreciate our regular Garden volunteers **Sakoto Yoshimura,, Julie Shiels and Brigid Judge** for giving of their time and gardening expertise. The children really enjoy having their own class plots and engaging in seasonal planting activities which promotes their wellbeing. As you can see from the photos, the School Garden is packed full of healthy home-grown vegetable produce which is ready to be harvested by the children.

*If you have some expertise in gardening or are interested in getting involved with planting and maintenance of our school garden, we would love to hear from you! Please get in touch with **Martina** in the school office.*

## Sixth Class Hoodies – Rathmore N.S. Class of 2025



A big ‘thank you’ to parent **Claire Sargent** for volunteering to co-ordinate the purchasing of the Sixth Class Rathmore N.S. hoodies this year. Thanks also to class teachers **Mr. Walsh and Ms. Malone** for their assistance in ensuring the hoodie is unique to Rathmore N.S. as it incorporates our school crest and Sixth Class pupil signatures. The hoodies have proven to be a big hit and this year’s Sixth Class are looking forward to receiving and wearing them in school. The hoodies cost €35 and this payment can be made through Aladdin e-payments. The deadline for ordering and payment for the hoodies was **Tuesday 10th September.**

**Bake Sale Student Council & Sixth Class Fundraiser June 2024**



Well done to our *Student Council* and last year's Sixth Classes assisted by **Ms. Lancaster, Mr. Walsh** and **Mr. Collier** for organising the **Bake Sale Fundraiser** in the school PE Hall last June in aid of the children of Gaza. A fantastic total of **€2,136.78** was raised on the day for this very worthy cause and thank you to all the children and parents who supported it so generously.

**Schools Sports Training 2024/25**

We appreciate all our teachers who give of their time for sports training, subject to weather conditions on the day.

**Boys Football** training takes place during lunchtime on **Mondays** with **Mr. Bolton and Mr. O'Brien**.  
**Girls' Football** training takes place during lunchtime on **Tuesdays** with **Ms. Behan & Mr. O'Brien**.  
**Boys Hurling** training takes place with **Mr. Walsh** after school on **Tuesdays** and during lunchtimes on **Wednesdays**.

**Camogie training** takes place afterschool on **Thursdays** with **Ms. Lancaster** and **Ms. Flynn**.

Boots and gum shields must be worn for all football training.

Mr. Walsh is requesting that the boys bring their hurling gear into school **every day**.

Shin-guards, boots, track suit bottoms/shorts and socks must be worn for hurling/camogie training.

<u>Day</u>	<u>Monday</u>	<u>Tuesday</u>	<u>Wednesday</u>	<u>Thursday</u>	<u>Friday</u>
<b>12.25-12.50pm</b> Lunch	Boys Football	Girls Football	Boys Hurling		
<b>2.40-3.45pm</b>		Boys Hurling		Girls Camogie	

## REMINDERS

**UNIFORMS:** Please note that the school uniform is inter-changeable and pupils can wear either the uniform or school tracksuit to school. However, all children in 6<sup>th</sup> class who intend receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation are required to wear the full school uniform for Confirmation. Your class teacher will advise on what days P.E. is taking place when your child should wear the school tracksuit. 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, Library, School Garden, Matches, Swimming** 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 the School Office.**

## Local Secondary School Open Nights

Please note the following upcoming First Year *Open Nights* for children in Sixth Class taking place in local secondary schools:

St. Mary's College Naas: Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> September from 5pm to 7pm.

Naas Community College: Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> October. Ticket only event. Book at [www.naascc.ie](http://www.naascc.ie)

Piper's Hill College: Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> October from 5pm-7pm

Christian Brothers (CBS) Naas: Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> October from 5pm to 7pm.

## Dates for your Diary

Hallowe'en Mid-Term break commences on Monday, 28th October to Friday 1<sup>st</sup> November 2024.

Christmas Holidays: Start on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December at 12.30pm and school re-opens on Monday 6th January 2025.

***NOTE: Additional School Closure Primary Maths Curriculum CPD: Monday 20<sup>th</sup> January 2025***

St. Brigid's Day Bank Holiday: School closed on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2025.

Mid-term break: School closed on Thursday 20th and Friday 21st February 2025.

St. Patrick's Day: School closed on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> & Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> March 2025.

Easter Break: Starts at 12.30 pm on Friday 11th April 2025 and school re-opens on Monday, 28<sup>th</sup> April 2025.

May Bank Holiday: School closed on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> May 2025 and re-opens on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> May 2025.

June Bank Holiday: School closed on Monday 2nd June and Tuesday 3rd June and school re-opens on Wednesday 4th June 2025.

Summer holidays commence on Wednesday 25th June 2025 at 12.30pm.