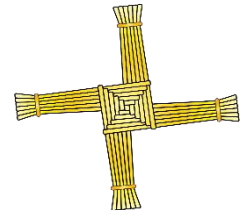
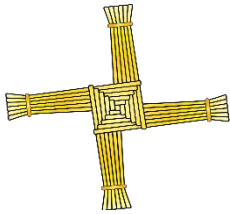


Nuachtlitir Feabhra 2025

Scoil Chéile Chríost Rathmore N.S.

Newsletter February 2025



Website: www.rathmorens.ie Phone 045-862145

Email: office.rathmorens@gmail.com

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

Safer Internet Day - 11th February 2025



webwise.ie



Dear Parents/Guardians,

February 11th marked the 21st anniversary of **Safer Internet Day**, which has become a landmark global event in more than 180 countries around the world. This year's celebrations are based around the theme, **Prepare / Protect / Thrive: Navigating Algorithms and Influencers** exploring young people's views on new and emerging technology and the changes they want to see online. This theme invites parents, schools, educators, young people, and all stakeholders to consider how algorithms and influencers shape young people's lives. In a world of endless online information, Safer Internet Day will explore ways to empower children to thrive, equipped with skills to navigate both the opportunities and challenges of these powerful online influences.

Children are spending more time online at a younger age and we have a responsibility as educators and as parents to ensure their safety through effective supervision, monitoring and safety awareness. The dedicated Safer Internet Day page has lots of ideas, activities, education resources and videos available on <https://www.webwise.ie/saferinternetday/>. All resources and more information can be accessed on the Webwise website at: <https://www.webwise.ie/category/parents/advice/>

Wishing you and your families a safe and enjoyable Mid-Term break!

Lucy Travers, Principal Teacher

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Junior Infants Enrolment 2025/2026 School Year

Offers of places in next year's Junior Infants classes to all successful applicants have now been issued. Parents/Guardians are asked to confirm acceptance of an offer of admission by **21st February** and return additional information and baptismal certs to our school Secretary **Martina** by **28th February**.

Life Credit Union Quiz 2025



Congratulations and well done to the children on our *Under 11* and *Under 13 School Teams* who both finished in Second Place in the *Life Credit Union Quiz* on Friday 7th February in Tougher's Restaurant in Naas. They did our school proud in what was a very close contest and produced our best school result in recent times.

Under 11s Team: **Éabha Malone, Cara Donnelly, Róisín O'Sullivan & Rory Magee**

Under 13s Team: **Alex Cusack, Aoife Finn, Nathan Gibson & Saoirse Donnelly.**

Thank you to teachers **Ms. Malone, Mr. Walsh, Mr. Bolton and Ms. Smyth** for their help with the organisation of both teams and accompanying them to the Quiz Finals.

Primary Maths Curriculum - Information For Parents

The *Department of Education (DES)* has published a new *Primary Maths Curriculum* for children in primary schools. All teachers in Rathmore N.S. completed continuous professional development on Monday 20th January when the school was closed for pupils.

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 *use of concrete materials*, more opportunities for pupils to *engage in Maths talk* and *problem-solving activities*. 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](#).

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Spirit of Rathmore Awards January 2025



Congratulations to the January *Spirit of Rathmore* Certificate Award winners nominated by their teachers for showing kindness and respect to others around the school and contributing to a happy and positive school culture in Rathmore N.S. in the spirit of our **Cineáltas Flag**.

January 2025		January 2025	
Junior Infants	<i>Lara Dunne & Éala Hyland</i>	Fourth Class	<i>Éabha Malone</i>
Senior Infants	<i>Zach Hodder</i>	Fourth/Fifth Class	<i>Jamie O'Connor</i>
First Class	<i>Luke Nicell & Annalise Farrell</i>	Fifth Class	<i>Harry Glynn</i>
Second Class	<i>Sadie Kidd</i>	Sixth Class	<i>Ruby Harding & Will Gillespie</i>
Second/Third Class	<i>Quinn Cleary</i>		
Third Class	<i>Poppy Prendergast</i>		

School Self Evaluation (SSE)

School Self Evaluation is a way for schools to look at what is working well, to build on their strengths and to work on ways of improving. The focus of our current SSE Plan is on the promotion of **Wellbeing** at whole school level, taking account of the data which was collected from the children, parents and staff during 2022/2023. From careful analysis of our data, it was agreed that the key area of Wellbeing on which we as a school would focus our School Improvement Plan is school *Culture and Environment*. Our agreed wellbeing targets are focused on promoting and including the student voice in our school, the promotion of pupil wellbeing in all school activities and supporting our teachers and staff to create an overall positive classroom and school environment in Rathmore N.S.



Féile Bríde 2025



Féile Bríde was celebrated across County Kildare and in the school with the Feast of St. Brigid taking place on Saturday 1st February. The children learned about the life of St. Brigid and engaged in a range of Art activities including making the traditional St. Brigid Day crosses in honour of St. Brigid, patron of County Kildare. Three copies of a book, '*The Life and Times of St. Brigid*' were received by the school from Kildare County Council.

Safety in the School Car Park: Message from the Borad of Management

Please exercise caution at all times when entering and exiting the school car park.

Parents /Guardians are reminded that **reverse car parking** is in operation in the school car park.

Drivers are asked to 1. Turn only on the roundabout and 2. Let children out of parked cars on the **footpath** and *not* on the driveway.

The school opens to receive pupils at **8.45am** daily. No responsibility is accepted for pupils arriving on the school grounds before that time as there is no supervision. Classes commence each day at **9.00am** and pupils are expected to be on time. **Please note that children who arrive late to the school after 9.00am or following attendance at appointments should enter through the front door of the school.**

Parents are requested to be punctual when collecting their children at home time or have arrangements in place to ensure their child is collected promptly at **2.40pm** (1.40pm for infants) if not collecting them in person themselves, as the school cannot accept responsibility for children after that time. **Parents/Guardians should ensure that young children in their care are supervised at all times while on the school premises** Thank you for your co-operation with these safety measures.

Board of Management Rathmore N.S.

Congratulations!



Congratulations to **Ayla Heffernan** in **Ms. Larkin's** Junior Infants Class who recently won the All Ireland Twirling Competition and was awarded a Cup and a gold Medal. Well done Ayla!

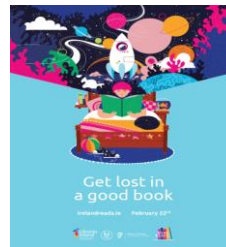
School Library



We have an excellent School Library which is run by our volunteer parents *Library Committee* and has a wide range of books available which are regularly updated with new titles.

The children always look forward to their weekly Friday visits to exchange their library books and it is a very positive activity to foster a love of reading and books among the children.

We are also looking forward to celebrating **World Book Day 2025** which takes place on **Thursday 6th March**. Money off book vouchers to the value of €1.50 will be distributed to all the classes in the school shortly. *If you have some spare time and would like to volunteer to help out in the Library on Friday mornings you would be very welcome to join the Library Committee. Please contact Martina in the school office TEL: 045-862145 to arrange Garda Vetting.*



Ireland Reads is back for February 2025!

Irish libraries, Children's Books Ireland, Age Friendly Ireland, Adult Literacy for Life, NALA, booksellers and others are partnering once again to get the whole country reading this month in the lead up to Ireland Reads Day on **Saturday, 22nd of February**.

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They are asking everyone to pledge to 'Get lost in a good book' during February or on Ireland Reads Day itself, **February 22nd**- whether that's reading a book, a newspaper, a comic - whatever works grabs your interest!

Here's how you can get involved. Visit www.irelandreads.ie, where you can:

Get some reading inspiration - simply enter the type of book you like best, how long you have available to read each day and the website will suggest a book and tell you how long it will take to read it. Visit your library during February or on Ireland Reads Day. All over the country, libraries will be holding events and activities in support of Ireland Reads. Libraries have lots planned for all ages during February and on Saturday, February 22nd for *Ireland Reads Day*.

Science & Sustainability Week 2025



We started off preparing for the Science Fair by getting into groups and deciding what experiments to do. The next few days we spent deciding who would bring in what we needed for our projects. We designed colourful and factual posters for our stand. We enjoyed designing and creating our projects. We had great fun discussing in our groups what our display would look like. We knew we would need an investigation that would interest children and adults of all ages as we would be presenting to them.

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We were nervous at the beginning of the day as we were setting up but as soon as we met our first visitors we were settled and ready for action. It was exciting to share our work with our brothers, sisters and parents. We were really grateful that our parents could come and see our work. By the end of the day, we were all exhausted but really proud of ourselves and our hard work and determination to succeed.

Ms. Malone's 6th class

Well done to all our students, teachers and staff for coming together to organise a very engaging, stimulating and creative **Science & Sustainability Week** in our school and a special thanks to **Ms. Malone** and **Ms. Gleeson** for co-ordinating the week of activities. **Ms. Symth's** 4th/5th class are working on a class Science project investigating if the temperature affects the bounce of a tennis ball for inclusion in the **ESB Science Blast** which is taking place in the RDS on Monday 3rd March.

Trip To Dutch Bowl In the Netherlands by Patrick and Adam O'Dowd

Well done to **Adam** (5th Class) and **Patrick O'Dowd** (2nd/3rd Class) who recently travelled to Amsterdam to represent Ireland in a Tennis Tournament.



We drove to Dublin Airport on Friday the 31st January. We boarded our flight to Amsterdam. When we landed we took a train to Amsterdam central where our Dad picked us up and we walked to our hotel in Amsterdam. The next morning we took a train to the countryside near Aalten where we stayed for the week. In the evening, we went to the opening ceremony where we held the Irish flag.

On Sunday Morning, Adam had a match. He won one and lost one. Patrick had one match and he won one and lost one. Patrick played one match and won. The next few days we played lots. Overall, we won some and lost some. Two of our Irish friends won. On Saturday, we watched professional tennis. It was great to see. Overall, Adam came 7th and Patrick came 9th in our own age groups. It was great representing Ireland. We also learned lots and will improve more.

Sacramental Preparation



Children making their **Confirmation** are asked to attend the preparatory **Sunday Masses** at 7.30pm in Eadestown Church on **Sunday 9th March 2025** at 11.30am.

The Parish Preparation *Nua Programme* for all children receiving the **Sacrament of Confirmation** took place on **Wednesday 12th February** and will continue on **Wednesday 26th February** in the Church of the Immaculate Conception, Eadestown. The **Ceremony of Light** will take place on **Thursday 27th**

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March at 7.30pm in **Kilteel Church** and the children will receive the **Sacrament of Confirmation** on **Friday 4th April** in **Eadestown Church** at 11 o'clock.

The boys and girls in 6th class will also be taking part in the rescheduled **Class Retreat** organised by the *Mount St. Anne's Retreat Team* in *Rathmore Community Hall* on **Friday 28th March** during the school day. **First Penance** for all children making their **First Holy Communion** this year will take place on **Thursday 27th February** at 7.30pm in Eadestown Church. The next preparation Mass will take place on **Sunday 26th January** at 11.30am in Eadestown Church. The children will receive the **Sacrament of First Holy Communion** on **Saturday 17th May** at 11.00am in Eadestown Church.

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. Walsh, Mr. O'Brien & Ms. Murray/Ms. Shaw**.

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.

Co-Curricular Activities

Ukulele classes with musician **William Troy** of **Music Generation Kildare** continue on Mondays for both **Ms. Malone's** and **Mr. Walsh's** 6th classes.

Gaelic Football coaching with **Rob Thompson** takes place on Thursdays co-ordinated by **Mr. Bolton**.

Hurling coaching with **John Holmes** takes place on Tuesdays co-ordinated by **Mr. Walsh**.

Swimming Lessons for pupils in **Ms. Doyle's** and **Ms. Flynn's** Second Classes began on **Wednesday 12th February**. Payment for swimming lessons can be made on *Aladdin E-payments*.

Dates for your Diary

NOTE: Half-Day Closure: 12.30pm on **Wednesday 19th February 2025**.

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

St. Patrick's Day: School closed **on Monday 17th & Tuesday 18th March 2025**.

Sixth Class Retreat in **Rathmore Community Hall** on **Friday 28th March 2025**.

Confirmation: **Friday 4th April at 11 o'clock in Eadestown Church**.

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

May Bank Holiday: School closed on **Monday 5th May 2025 and re-opens on Tuesday 6th May 2025**.

First Holy Communion: **Saturday 17th May at 11 o'clock in Eadestown Church**.

June Bank Holiday: School closed on **Friday 30th May, 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**.



Wishing everyone a very *Happy St. Valentine's Day* on **Friday 14th February 2025!**

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