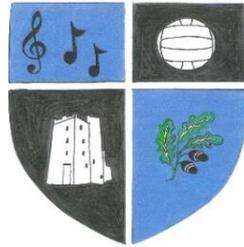


Nuachtlitir Eanair 2025

# *Scoil Chéile Chríost Rathmore N.S.*

## *Newsletter January 2025*



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/Rathmore_School)

Dear Parents/Guardians

Welcome back to the new school term and wishing you and your families a very Happy New Year in 2025!

### ***Child Safeguarding Statement- Board of Management Annual Review.***

Each one of us has a duty to protect children from harm and the Department of Education and Skills (DES) has published the ***Child Protection Procedures for Primary Schools (revised 2023)*** 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 adopted these procedures as school policy. 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, Caitríona Lancaster.***

The Board of Management recently completed an annual review of our Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment during their December meeting. A copy of our school's Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment are on display in the school reception area and parents/guardians are welcome to read through a hard copy of the documents in the school office or read the documents on the school website.

Note also that the Department of Education and Skills (DES) requires all primary schools to implement the ***Stay Safe Programme*** in all classes. This is a personal safety skills programme for primary schools and is part of the Social, Personal and Health Education (SPHE) Curriculum. The ***Stay Safe Programme*** is being taught in every class during the months of January and February and a letter was sent out to parents/guardians with a link to information on the content for each class level.

Thank you for your co-operation.

Lucy Travers  
Principal

## School Attendance

Good news! Our whole school attendance for Term 1 has improved compared to the same period during 2023/2024 as seen in the table below. Attendance is recorded daily by your child's class teacher using the online roll book on Aladdin. If your child is absent from school, you can update the reason for absence yourself using Aladdin Connect and/or inform your child's class teacher with a note in the school diary. A record is also maintained on Aladdin of children who are late to school or leave school early. Please contact **Martina**, our school secretary in the school office if you require assistance.

Every school is required by law to submit an Attendance Report twice yearly to TUSLA, the Child and Family Agency. There are two reporting periods in the year – September to December and January to June. We are required to submit a list of all pupils who have missed 20 school days for any reason and each absence should be explained. 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. Parents/Guardians are discouraged from taking their child/children out of school for other reasons during term time.

Month	2023 / 2024	2024 / 2025
August	97.6%	<b>98.7%</b>
September	95.7%	<b>96.4%</b>
October	95.1%	<b>95.9%</b>
November	93.4%	<b>94.2%</b>
December	90.7%	<b>93.4%</b>

Thank you for your co-operation.

*Lucy Travers*  
*Principal*

## Parent/Teacher Meetings For Junior Infants Classes

Parent Teacher Meetings for both Ms. Larkin's and Ms. A. Gleeson's Junior Infant classes will take place on **Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> & Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> January**. Appointment times have been released through the Aladdin Schools App.

Please note that you must be **registered** on the Aladdin Connect App to be able to book your child's Parent Teacher appointment time.

## Safer Internet Day 2025



2025

Safer Internet Day

On Tuesday 11th February, our school will be joining people in more than 180 countries around the world in celebrating **Safer Internet Day 2025 (SID)** and helping to promote a safer and better internet for all, especially for children and young people. Safer Internet Day (SID) is an EU wide initiative to promote a safer internet for all users, especially young people. It is promoted in Ireland by Oide Technology in Education and Webwise.

The theme for this year is *'Together For A Better Internet'*. It is never too early to think about your child safety online.

There is a wealth of information available on Webwise for parents/guardians to support their child's online safety in collaboration with the work done in the school, and it is very important that children are always under parental supervision when online.

<https://www.webwise.ie/teachers/resources/#parents>

## Junior Infants Enrolment 2025/2026 School Year

Please note that we have now published our **Annual School Admission Notice** in respect of admissions to **Junior Infants Classes** for the **2025/2026** school year.

It is very important to note the dates which are applicable for admission to **Junior Infants Classes for the 2025/2026 school year.**

The school began accepting completed Application Forms for places in Junior Infants 2025/26 on 6<sup>th</sup> January 2025 and will close on 7<sup>th</sup> February 2025.

Failure to accept an offer, or to return a completed Application Form to the school, within the prescribed period outlined on the Admission Notice may result in the offer being withdrawn.

Please spread the word among our school community that enrolment for Junior Infants classes 2025/26 has opened from 6<sup>th</sup> January.

Please contact **Martina**, our School Secretary in the school office on **TEL: 045-862145** or by email on [office@rathmorens.ie](mailto:office@rathmorens.ie) for an **Application Form** or it can also be downloaded from the school website.

## Reminder Additional School Closure 20th January – CPD Primary Maths Curriculum

A reminder that the *Department of Education and Skills* have notified us of an additional school closure this **Monday 20<sup>th</sup> January 2025** to facilitate teacher continuous professional development for the new *Primary Maths Curriculum* which is being implemented in schools during the 2024/25 school year. The school will be closed to pupils on that day and will re-open as usual on Tuesday 21st January.

### HSE Free Flu Vaccine For Children

The Health Service Executive (HSE) is asking parents of all children aged 2 to 17 to get the nasal spray flu vaccine. 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 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 or pharmacist.

Visit <https://www.hse.ie/eng/health/immunisation/pubinfo/flu-vaccination/flu-vaccine-for-children/> for more information.

*The most important measure is to keep your child at home if he/she is unwell. While many children have a runny nose or a slight cough in the Winter season, if your child is feeling unwell, s/he should stay at home until the symptoms have finished. This will help prevent the spread to other children, families and staff.*

### HSE Vision Screening For Junior Infants

Vision screening for both **Ms. A. Gleeson's** and **Ms. Larkin's** Junior Infants classes will take place in the school on **Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> February**. Please remember to return **Consent Forms** to the school office before **Friday 24<sup>th</sup> January**.

### Spirit of Rathmore Awards – December 2024 Certificate Recipients



It is very important that we all feel safe and happy in our school. The Minister for Education and Skills, **Norma Foley** launched the *Cineáltas: Action Plan on Bullying 2023-2027* last year to prevent and address bullying in all its forms. Our children and young people are placed at the very heart of *Cineáltas* and this action plan aims to enhance the work that we already do to ensure that all children who attend our schools are kept safe from harm and that the wellbeing of our children is at the forefront of everything we do.

The plan takes a whole education approach to addressing bullying and emphasises prevention, providing support to every school community, improving oversight and awareness and working together as a community with a renewed sense of partnership and *Cineáltas* towards each other. Note that the school will close for a half-day on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> February to facilitate school staff to work on our revised *Cineáltas* school policy.

Congratulations to the December *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.

<b>December 2024</b>	
Junior Infants	<b>James O'Connell &amp; Theo Smith</b>
Senior Infants	<b>Grace Gillespie</b>
First Class	<b>Faye Cleary &amp; Johnny Osbourne</b>
Second Class	<b>Tomás Dermody</b>
Second/Third Class	<b>Molly Byrne</b>
Third Class	<b>Evan Crumlish</b>
Fourth Class	<b>Adam Topp</b>
Fourth/Fifth Class	<b>Ailbhe Carew</b>
Fifth Class	<b>Cian Butler</b>
Sixth Class	<b>Hugo O'Neill</b>
Sixth Class	<b>Adam Hodder</b>

**Sixth Class Trip To Punchestown Racecourse**

**PUNCHESTOWN**



On January 13<sup>th</sup>, Ms. Malone and Mr. Walsh's 6<sup>th</sup> classes went on a school trip to Punchestown racecourse. Firstly, we met with track manager, Sean. We walked part of the course and compared fences, hurdles, cross country fences and Ruby's Double. We asked questions and learned interesting facts.

After that, an expert talked to us about the equipment that racehorses have, horse welfare in general and the typical horse race. Some of us got to try on famous racing silks including 3 time Cheltenham Gold Cup winning horse 'Best Mate's' colours.

Soon after, we headed into the parade ring and learned about the famous horse racing trophies. We met professional jockey, Jody Mc Evoy, outside the weigh room. He talked to us about life as a jockey and answered all our questions. He said he has raced in over 4,000 races which is a lot!

After we finished our lunch and drank complimentary hot chocolate, we raced to the parade ring to see the horses. Jody was racing on horse no.8 called 'Powerful'. We got to watch the first race which was a beginner's chase won by number 3, Castleheath, with Emmet Walsh on board. It was very exciting.

Finally, we met Rachel Blackmore and got her autograph. It is not everyday you meet a Gold Cup and Grand National winning jockey. Everyone was very excited to meet her. It was then time to board the bus and head back to school. We all thoroughly enjoyed our trip to Punchestown Racecourse.

Written by **Tommy O' Loughlin, Hugo O' Neill, Nina Smith and Sophia Elliffe.**

## Science, Technology, Engineering Maths (STEM)



Mr Bolton's 5<sup>th</sup> class took part in their own mini **Science Fair** recently. The class worked in groups to brainstorm their own Science experiment. Over the month they perfected their experiments and presented them to the rest of the class.

"We experimented with dancing corn and it went pretty well." **Thomas Breen.**

"Me, **Senán, Alex and Daithí** made a volcano out of kitchen materials and it was class." **Harry Glynn.**

"We experimented making a lava lamp. It was very interesting." **Róisín O'Sullivan.**

"Our Science project was constructing a bridge that could go up and down. It was hard to make."

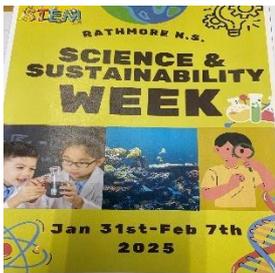
**Claude Hennessy.** "We made a citrus explosion with different citrus fruits. It was exciting and cool but there wasn't much exploding." **Adam O'Dowd.**

"We experimented with turning milk into plastic. It was really good. Most of the time it was hard but it was a good project." **Colm Flynn.**

Our Science project was called Oobleck. We used different ingredients to try to make Oobleck. It got so messy but it was so much fun to do it with my friends." **Saoirse Tracy.**

**A Date for your Diary:** We will be having a **Science & Sustainability Week** in Rathmore N.S. from Jan 31<sup>st</sup> – Feb 7<sup>th</sup> 2025 with a showcase of Science Experiments planned in the PE Hall by 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> classes and a visiting Science Workshop. We are also working towards our 8<sup>th</sup> **Green Flag, Marine Environment** and the **Green Schools Committee** are organising a '**Blue Day**' during Science and Sustainability Week with Art and Marine themed activities planned for the children.

Thank you to teachers **Ms. Malone** and **Ms. A. Gleeson** for organising **Science and Sustainability Week** in our school.



## Sacramental Preparation

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

The Parish Preparation Nua programme for all children receiving the **Sacrament of Confirmation** will continue on **Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> February** and **Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> February** in the Church of the Immaculate Conception, Eadestown.

The **Ceremony of Light** will take place on **Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> March** at 7.30pm in **Kilteel Church** and the children will receive the **Sacrament of Confirmation** on **Friday 4<sup>th</sup> April** in **Eadestown Church** at 11 o'clock.

Nuachtlitir Eanair 2025

The boys and girls in 6<sup>th</sup> class will also be taking part in a **Class Retreat** organised by the *Mount St. Anne's Retreat Team* in *Rathmore Community Hall* on **Friday 24<sup>th</sup> January 2025** during the school day. **Payment of €5 to cover the cost of the Retreat can now be paid on Aladdin Epayments.**

**First Penance** for all children making their **First Holy Communion** this year will take place on **Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> February** at 7.30pm in Eadestown Church. The next preparation Mass will take place on **Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> January** at 11.30am in Eadestown Church. The children will receive the **Sacrament of First Holy Communion** on **Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> 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.

**St Vincent de Paul Christmas Food Drive & Christmas Jumper No Uniform Day 2024**

Thank you to everyone who contributed so generously to the very successful Christmas Food Drive in aid of the **St. Vincent de Paul** and to the Christmas Jumper No-Uniform Day which raised a total of **€453** for the **Jack & Jill Foundation** which will provide 24 hours nursing care in the home to a very sick child. Well done to all the children and our **Student Council** coordinated by **Ms. Lancaster** who organised both collections in the school. Thank you also to Susan Madden who organised the collection of



## Christmas Fair School Raffle Fundraiser 2024



A big thank you to all the members of our hardworking and enthusiastic **Parents Association**, co-chaired by **Jane Byrne** and **Donna Mahony** who raised a total of **€6,300** after expenses were deducted for the very successful **Christmas Fair and Raffle**.

The funds raised will be used by the **Parents Association** to fund school activities and resources for your children. Well done everybody!

## Credit Union Schools Quiz 2025



Congratulations to the following children who have been selected to represent **Rathmore N.S** in the *Credit Union Schools Quiz 2025* which will be held on **Friday 7<sup>th</sup> February 2025** in **Tougher's**, Naas.

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

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

We wish both teams the best of luck in the Quiz and thank you to teachers **Ms. Malone, Mr. Walsh, Mr. Bolton, Ms. Broe and Ms. Smyth** for their help with the organisation of both teams.

Catholic Schools Week 2025 & St. Brigid's Day 1<sup>st</sup> February 2025



Catholic Schools Week takes place during the week 19<sup>th</sup>-25<sup>th</sup> January 2025.

The theme for Catholic Schools week this year is: **Catholic Schools: Alive in Christ!**

*Christ is alive! He is our hope, and in a wonderful way he brings youth to our world, and everything he touches becomes young, new, full of life. The very first words, then, that I would like to say to every young Christian are these: Christ is alive and he wants you to be alive!" – Pope Francis, Christus Vivit, Section 1.*

Reflecting on the theme, Catholic schools will explore what it means to be fully alive as a human being – living life to the full in Christ. Sensitive to the age appropriateness of the various classes and years, the theme will explore how we exist for one another in Christ, building from the wellbeing of the individual, extending the notion of true wellbeing to others, to our families and communities, and to The Other, in God. The theme will mediate on hope, the true purpose and meaning of human life, and, in the more senior years, on true freedom.

Saturday, 1<sup>st</sup> February is **St. Brigid's Day, Féile Bríde 1500**. St. Brigid has a special connection with County Kildare, and we recently received a gift of a set of Books about the life of **St. Brigid** from *Kildare County Council*. There are many events being celebrated throughout County Kildare and you can get all the information by clicking on the website: <https://brigid1500.ie/>

**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**, our school secretary can be contacted in the school office at **045-862145** for any urgent 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. You can also follow the school on Twitter/X using the [@RathmoreSchool](https://twitter.com/RathmoreSchool) handle.

## Co-Curricular Activities

Ukulele classes with musician **William Troy of Music Generation Kildare** continue on Mondays for both 6<sup>th</sup> classes.

Gaelic Football coaching with **Rob Thompson**, has resumed on Thursdays from 9<sup>th</sup> January co-ordinated by **Mr. Bolton**.

Hurling coaching with **John Holmes** resumed on 14<sup>th</sup> January.

Swimming Lessons for pupils in 2<sup>nd</sup> Class and 2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> classes began on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> January leaving the school at 10.50am. Payment for swimming lessons can be made on *Aladdin E-payments*.

## Dates for your Diary

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

*Junior Infant Parent/Teacher Meetings after School on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> & Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> January.*

*Sixth Class Retreat in Rathmore Community Hall on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> January 2025.*

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

June Bank Holiday: School closed on *Friday 30<sup>th</sup> May, Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> June and Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> June and school re-opens on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> June 2025.*

Summer holidays commence on Wednesday *25<sup>th</sup> June 2025 at 12.30pm.*