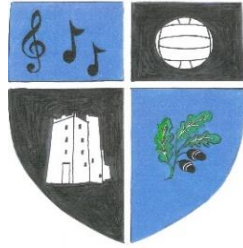


Nuachtlitir Márta 2025

Scoil Chéile Chríost Rathmore N.S.

Newsletter March 2025



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A Thuismitheoirí

Fáilte go **Seachtain na Gaeilge 2025**. Tugann sí deis iontach dúinn ar fad níos mó Gaeilge a labhairt. 'Seachtain na Gaeilge' gives us an opportunity to use our native language daily in school and at home. It's up to all of us to 'Bain úsáid as do chúpla focal', give it a go and have a positive attitude to Gaeilge. The theme for the National Festival this year is 'Funny Focail' and we are all invited to engage with the Irish language through humour and creativity.

We are having ceol, cluichí agus craic to celebrate our culture in school during '**Seachtain na Gaeilge**' or even '**Coicís na Gaeilge**'. There are a variety of fun activities and competitions planned to encourage greater use of our native language among the children such as a **Ciorcal Comhrá**, **Ciorcal Cartúin**, **Comórtas Seanfhocail**, (*Irish sayings competition*), **Comórtas Dathucháin** (*Colouring competition*) **Ceol agus Corpoideachas** and the singing of our national anthem '**Amhrán na bhFiann**', 'as Gaeilge'.

The daily '**Nuacht**' agus '**An Aimsir**' is being read aloud over the school intercom by the children in the senior classes. There will also be a '**Gaeilgeoir na Coicíse**' prize for pupils who make a big effort to speak 'as Gaeilge', culminating in our annual **Lá Glas agus Tionól (Assembly)** on **Friday 14th March** which will take place outside 'sa chlós'. Míle buíochas do **Mary Ryan** of **Kilteel Comhaltas** who has been teaching the tin whistle with some classes this year and is coming into the school to practise with the children who play a musical instrument for an Irish music performance on the day.

Friday, 14th March has been designated as "**Lá Glas**" when all children can wear green to school/dress in a St. Patrick's Day theme. Many thanks to all our teachers and staff for coming together to make it a special week to remember in Rathmore N.S. but especially to our Gaeilge Team of **Ms. Murphy (SET)**, **Ms. Doyle** (First Class) and **Mr. O'Brien** (Second Class) for co-ordinating the week of activities across the school.

La Fhéile Pádraig Sona Daoibh Go Léir!

Lucy Travers, Príomhoide



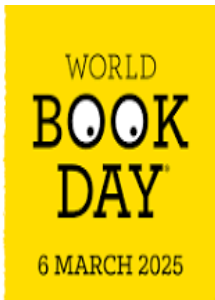
Spirit of Rathmore – February 2025 Certificate Awards

Congratulations to the deserving recipients of the *February Spirit of Rathmore* Certificates who were been nominated by their teachers. These awards acknowledge the value we place on the children showing kindness and respect to their peers and adults in our school community and contributing to a happy and positive school culture in Rathmore N.S. as proudly displayed in our *Cineáltas Flag*. Bí Cineálta!



February 2025		February 2025	
Junior Infants	<i>Layla Magee & Ruth Fox</i>	Fourth Class	<i>Lucy Harper</i>
Senior Infants	<i>Beatrice Mallon</i>	Fourth/Fifth Class	<i>Cara Donnelly</i>
First Class	<i>Penelope Byrne & Kealan Tyrrell</i>	Fifth Class	<i>Kate Noone</i>
Second Class	<i>Cillian Dermody</i>	Sixth Class	<i>Robyn Lawlor & Amelia O'Shaughnessy</i>
Second/Third Class	<i>Robyn O'Brien</i>		
Third Class	<i>Caitlín O'Sullivan</i>		

World Book Day 2025



Nuachtlitir Márta 2025



World Book Day was celebrated in all classes across the school on **Thursday 6th March**. The book '**The Day the Crayons Quit**' written by author **Oliver Jeffers** provided the theme for all the staff to dress up! There was a very popular lunchtime Book Club, book shares, storytelling, reading buddies activity in classrooms and fun literacy activities such as charades and designing book covers organised by the teachers for the children. It was wonderful to see all the children and staff dressing up as book characters to celebrate our love of books and reading and complete a lap of the track!

This was a team effort by all the staff and children in Rathmore N.S. to foster an interest in books and reading among the children. Special thanks to teachers **Ms. Lancaster, Ms. Parker, Ms. Hayden & Ms. Horan** for co-ordinating *World Book Day* in Rathmore N.S.

<https://www.worldbookday.com/>

Science Blast 2025 at the RDS with 4th/5th Class



Hi, my name is **Zara** and on Monday the 3rd March I went to the **ESB Science Blast** with my class. My class and I were working on our project since October, our question being '**How does the temperature of a tennis ball affect its bounce?**' So, after taking a vote to decide the question, we starting working. We took predictions from our class and then surveyed other classes and made graphs to show their answers. We then had to carry out

the experiment. We dropped each temperature ball from exactly one metre. The result was that the warm ball bounced the highest!

Then, as the *Science Blast* neared, we made posters to show all the work we did. Going to the *ESB Science Blast* was fun and interesting. There were some really cool projects and displays, such as 'How do you make really stretchy slime?' and 'Why don't flakes melt like other chocolate?' There were two scientists showing us loads of cool projects. I enjoyed looking at other projects and explaining to others. This was an amazing experience, and I would definitely do it again! By **Zara Moore**

Our class started working on our project for the *ESB Science Blast* on the 10th of October. First, we brainstormed ideas. Then we voted for our question which was, '*How does the temperature of a tennis ball affect the height of its bounce?*' I learned that when you heat up a tennis ball the gas molecules inside the ball move further apart as the temperature increases. As this happens, the energy of the molecules increases and bounce around more frantically increasing the pressure inside the ball leading to a higher bounce. The difference between the hot and cold tennis ball was 18.3cm. I enjoyed the RDS the most. By **Matthew O'Sullivan**

School Attendance Update



National School Attendance Campaign

Our school attendance for the months of **January** and **February 2025** has shown an improvement on the same months last year in 2024.

Month	2023 / 2024	2024/2025
January	93.1%	94.7%
February	93.8%	94.5%

Pupil attendance rates in Rathmore N.S. are up since the beginning of the 2024/2025 school year with a **95%** attendance rate compared to **93.6%** for the 2023/2024 school year. Well done everybody and let's keep it up!

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.*

School Calendar 2025/2026

The school **Calendar** for the **2025/26** School Year (next year) has been finalised and has been emailed out to all parents/guardians.

Trócaire Lenten Campaign 2025

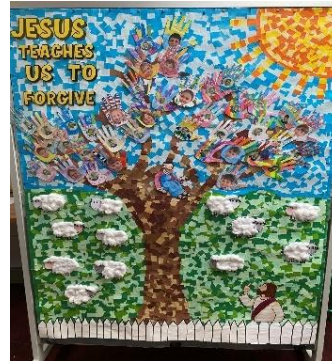
Trócaire
TOGETHER FOR A JUST WORLD



Lent began on **Ash Wednesday, 5th March 2025**. Trócaire boxes have been delivered to the school and have been distributed to all classes. This year on the Trócaire Box you will learn about Ilma and Julio's family of four children who live in a small rural village in one of Guatemala's poorest regions. Guatemala is among the top 10 most vulnerable countries in the world when it comes to climate disasters and emergencies. Many families like Ilma and Julio's are already struggling and are being pushed further into poverty by climate change.

You can support this family in so many ways to build a better future by supporting the **Trócaire Lenten Campaign** for 2025.

First Penance 2025 – Sacrament of Reconciliation



Congratulations to the boys and girls in **Mr. O'Brien's** and **Ms. Shaw's/Ms. Murray's** Second Classes who received the *Sacrament of First Penance* in Eadestown Church on Thursday 26th February with **Fr. Comer, Fr. Campbell and Fr. Kane**.

The children were a credit to their families and to the school. Huge thanks to both class teachers **Mr. O'Brien** and **Ms. Murray** for all their hard work in school preparing the children, to **Ms. Amy Gleeson** for providing the musical accompaniment, **SNA Nora Lawler** for assisting with the beautiful collaborative art display depicting the **Story of Zacchaeus**, to **Martina** our school Secretary and to **Paul** our school Caretaker for their help with putting together the ceremony booklets and church decoration.

Fr Comer also arranged for the distribution of blessed ashes in the school for **Ash Wednesday, 4th March** which marks the start of the religious season of **Lent**.

Maith Sibh!



Well done to **Grace Gillespie** in **Ms. Z. Gleeson's** Senior Infants who recently brought in one of her beautiful paintings and shared her creativity with the school.

Huge thanks also to **Tom** and **Jemma Grant** who have kindly donated a signed rugby ball which they received when they met with the members of the Irish rugby team recently in the Aviva Stadium with their children **TJ** (2nd Class) and **Conor** (1st Class). We are delighted to have received the gift of a rugby ball signed by this year's Triple Crown winners and we send our best wishes to the Irish Team in their next encounters with France and Italy in the last two matches of the Six Nations Rugby Competition. C'mon Ireland! Go n-éiri an t-ádh libh!

Incredible Edibles Programme



Ms. Flynn's First class have been busy engaging in the *Incredible Edibles Programme* which is supported by Agriaware. They followed up planting the vegetable seeds by writing about the steps they took as part of procedural writing.

We received a grow box that included crops and seeds for us to grow. On Thursday the 27th of February **Ms. Flynn's** first class planted some onions, potatoes and two strawberry plants in the green house. We were very lucky to have **Sakoto Murphy** to guide us when we were planting our crops.

Senan Butler, Éabha Savage, Éala Causevic and Faye Cleary worked with Sakoto Murphy to plant pole bean, lettuce, turnip and carrot seeds in our window box. We are keeping a close eye on our plants each day and making sure they have enough sun and water. We are looking forward to watching our crops grow over the next few months!

Sacramental Preparation Programme 2024/2025



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

The first part of the Parish Preparation *Nua Programme* for all children receiving the **Sacrament of Confirmation** took place on Wednesday **12th February** in the Church of the Immaculate Conception, Eadestown and the second part will take place on Wednesday **12th March.**

The **Ceremony of Light** will take place on **Thursday 27th 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 Sixth Class students 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** took place on **Thursday 27th February** 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.

REMINDERS

UNIFORMS: Please note that the school uniform is inter-changeable and pupils can wear either the uniform or school tracksuit to school but may only wear the school shorts for sports training or during the Summer Term/fine weather. All children in 6th class are required to wear the full school uniform for Confirmation. 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.

Note: If any parent has some spare tracksuit bottoms which they no longer use, we would be delighted to receive them in the school to have as spares.

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,**

Swimming, Library, School Garden, Matches 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 Martina, our school Secretary in the School Office.

Cumann na mBunscol Mini-7s Competitions

We are in the midst of a busy few weeks in Rathmore N.S. on the sporting front, with school teams taking part in the *Cumann na mBunscol* Mini 7's Boys and Girls Football, Hurling, Camogie and Cross-Country Competitions. We send best wishes to all the children taking part in these sports events and thank you to their teacher coaches **Mr. Bolton, Ms. Behan, Mr. O'Brien, Mr. Walsh, Ms. Lancaster, Ms. Flynn** and **Ms. Malone**. Go néirí an t-ádh libh!

Co-Curricular Activities

Swimming lessons Swimming lessons for the children in **Ms. Z. Gleeson's Senior Infants** will begin on **Wednesday 26th March**. Payment can now be made on Aladdin e-payments.

Hurling coaching with **John Holmes** continues on **Tuesdays** in the PE Hall.

GAA coaching with **Rob Thompson**, takes place on **Thursdays**.

Boys Football Training with **Mr. Bolton & Mr. O'Brien** is taking place during lunchtime on **Mondays** weather permitting.

Girls Football Training with **Ms. Behan** and **Mr O'Brien** is taking place during lunchtime on **Tuesdays**, weather permitting.

5th & 6th Boys Hurling Training with **Mr. Walsh** is taking place during lunchtimes on **Wednesdays** and after school on **Tuesdays**, weather permitting.

Camogie Training with **Ms. Lancaster** and **Ms. Flynn** is taking place during lunchtime on **Thursdays**, weather permitting. **Boots, gum shields and shin guards must be worn for football/hurling/camogie training.**

Dates for your Diary

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.

