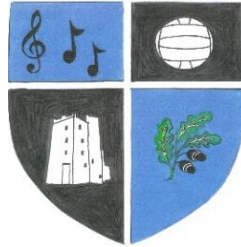


Nuachtlitir Samhain 2024

# *Scoil Chéile Chríost Rathmore N.S.*

## *Newsletter November 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)

### Parent/Teacher Meetings 2024-25

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Parent teacher meetings for Scoil Chéile Chríost Rathmore N.S. will be held on **Wednesday & Thursday, November 20th & 21st** for all classes (except both Junior Infants classes). The meetings will be conducted after school hours as advised by the Department of Education & Skills (DES). It is very important that you attend the meeting as it provides an opportunity for parents to discuss your child's progress this year. Please note that the **school will close 15 minutes early at 2.25 pm on Wednesday, 20th November in order to facilitate these meetings.**

*Meeting Times for all children in both Junior Infants Classes will be scheduled after Christmas during the month of January and parents/guardians will be notified of dates and appointment times by their child's class teacher in due course.*

**Meeting times:** Each parent will have an *average of 8-minutes* per meeting. If you have an issue that may need *more time* for discussion, please *arrange another appointment*. We ask you to be **punctual** and **not to delay** other parents unduly. **Support Teachers' Meetings:** All Support Teachers, *Ms. Lancaster, Ms. Parker/Ms. Hayden, Ms. Horan* will be in their rooms for their appointments.

**Waiting Areas:** Seats are provided outside each classroom.

We hope that you find the meetings are beneficial and we look forward to meeting you on the day.

Yours sincerely,

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Lucy Travers  
Principal Teacher

### Maths Week 2024



The 20th annual *Maths Week* Ireland took place from 12th-20th October 2024 and it is the biggest festival of its kind in the world. The overall aim is to engage in Maths activities which celebrate a positive image of Maths and boost pupil motivation. Maths Week is committed to the spirit of ‘**Maths for All**’ and to support children in becoming creative, resilient, cooperative problem solvers.

Special thanks to **Mr. Walsh** for co-ordinating *Maths Week* in our school. All classes took part in a variety of playful and active Maths activities such as outdoor Maths Trails, Estimation competitions using concrete materials which featured estimating the weight of one of the large pumpkins grown in the school garden and a digital Kahoot Team Maths Quiz for the Senior Classes. There was even an active teacher challenge which was won by **Ms. Behan!** Well done to both children and teachers for their efforts in promoting a positive image of Maths for all!

As advised, we are implementing the *Primary Maths Curriculum* in all classes in the school from September of this year and all teachers will be receiving further continuous professional development on 20<sup>th</sup> January 2025 when the school will close to pupils on that day.

### HSE Free Flu Vaccine For Children

The *Health Service Executive* (HSE) is advising parents that all children aged 2 to 17 will be offered the nasal flu vaccine for free. 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 surgery 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 Surgery or pharmacy. Please visit <https://www2.hse.ie/conditions/flu/childrens-flu-vaccine/> for all the information.

We have received notification from the HSE that the nasal flu vaccine will be administered to all children in Junior and Senior Infants on 28<sup>th</sup> November in the school. Consent Forms for parents/guardians have been sent home in advance.

## Nuachtlitir Samhain 2024

### Junior Infants Enrolment: School Year 2025-26

The *Education (Admissions to School) Act 2018* applies to school admissions from September 2021 in both primary and secondary schools. Please go to our school website [www.rathmorens.ie](http://www.rathmorens.ie) to see a copy 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 2025/26 school year when our Rathmore N.S. *Admission Notice* is published in early December. If you have a sibling who is due to start in Junior Infants in September 2025, 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 2025/26 school year, you might bring this information to their attention.

### Valleymount Cross Country Event 2024



The annual *Valleymount Cross County Athletics Event* took place on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> October. Rathmore N.S. entered 48 children divided into teams of 4 boys and 4 girls from each class level from 1<sup>st</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> classes. We finished up with 13 individual medal winners and 40 teams won team medals. Congratulations to all the children who attended trials in school and who qualified to participate in the competition. It was an amazing overall result for our school. Special thanks to **Ms. Malone** who co-ordinated and coached our school teams and to the **volunteer parents** who came along to mentor and support teams on the day. Our school reporter **Danny Graham** was on hand to record the day's events!

## Nuachtlitir Samhain 2024



### TEAM TRIUMPH AT VALLEYMOUNT!

It is fair to say Rathmore had a successful day at Valleymount.

Led by Ms Malone and being cheered on by an enthusiastic crowd Rathmore nabbed a whopping 53 medals; 13 individuals and 40 team medals. It was breathtaking watching every pupil zoom across the cross-country track like a brand new Ferrari.

Speaking to some of the Rathmore runners after the race they gave a great sense of how they got on.

“It was a tough race. As you know I finished 8<sup>th</sup>-I am really proud though.”

“Buzzing after coming 3<sup>rd</sup>! Come on Rathmore!”

“Very happy after coming 5<sup>th</sup>- room for improvement though”

All athletes, including those that took part in trials in school should be very proud of their achievements. This will go down as another notable day for Rathmore school at Valleymount. Credit has to be given to Ms Malone and her team for making this possible. *By Danny Graham (4<sup>th</sup> Class)*

### Dare to Believe—Fifth Class Meet Olympian Noel Hendrick



On Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> of November 2024 Noel Hendrick, an Irish Olympian canoer came to visit our class. First, when he came in, he gave us a presentation about himself. We learned that he was born in 1997, which means he is only 26 years old. He decided that he wanted to get into the Olympics at the age of 14 after he went to the 2012 Olympics. At the age of 14 he decided to start training for the Olympics. When he was training for the Olympics he had a coach for the gym, for training, for food and even for sleep. After the presentation he let us pass around his paddles he used for the Olympics. It was AMAZING!

Then he took us out to do some drills on the yard. For the first drill we all stood in a circle and he told us to jump, run in, run out or spin around. For the second drill he split us into two groups of thirteen. He gave each group a homemade Olympic torch which we had to pass around as quick as possible. We played 5 rounds, then we got a picture with the whole class outside on the yard. After that we went back inside to ask him questions and get signatures. Everyone got signatures or jerseys and posters we made for him. Then he had to go. It was an exciting day in school. *By Róisín O’Sullivan (Mr. Bolton’s 5<sup>th</sup> Class)*

## Nuachtlitir Samhain 2024

### Spotlight on STEM – 6<sup>th</sup> Class Ms. Malone



So far in our journey with STEM this year, we have been learning about materials and change. We investigated the effects of liquids on nails. We used six chosen liquids and left the nails in the liquids for a week. We checked them each day and recorded the results after a week. Some of the liquids made the nails shinier and some made them darker. The one with the most change was the one soaked in milk as it gave the nail a matt appearance.

The other STEM project we did was Building Bridges. We learned about bridges and then got into groups and designed a bridge of our choosing. Some people made theirs out of LEGO, some made them out of wood. I really enjoyed doing these projects. *By Saoirse Donnelly (Ms. Malone's 6<sup>th</sup> Class)*



### Education For Sustainable Development & Paddy Madden Filming



The children in **Ms. Broe's Fourth Class** were invited to be part of Department of Education Filming with *Heritage in Schools* Expert **Paddy Madden** which consisted of outdoor learning about the importance of preserving our native hedgerows and how they support biodiversity.

**Rathmore N.S.** was chosen as we have one of the best examples of a native Irish hedgerow surrounding our school. The children represented a very positive image of Rathmore N.S. and fully engaged with the workshop. Paddy Madden was very impressed with their knowledge and enthusiasm for the subject. Well done everyone!

## Nuachtlitir Samhain 2024

### New Parents Association 2024/2025

A meeting was held in October in the School Library to form a new **Parents Association**. There was a good turnout on the night with positive contributions from all those present. The following parents agreed to take on positions and we look forward to working together for the benefit of all the children enrolled in our school.

*Co- Chairperson:* **Jane Byrne & Donna Mahony**

*Secretary:* **Dolores Kavanagh**

*Treasurer:* **Eimear Duggan**

*Assistant Treasurer:* **Sinéad Moore**

*Public Relations Officer:* **Mary Gillespie**

*Committee Members:* **Tom Kearney, Sandra Dowling, Niamh McGrath, Charlie Corcoran, Tom Grant, Sadie Downes and Claire Kavanagh.**

### A Spooky School Library



Our school Library had a very spooky feel on the Friday of Mid-Term break! We have a very well-resourced school Library which is operated each Friday by volunteer parents who are part of the *Library Committee*. A big thank you to all the parents who are members of our *School Library Committee* and welcome to the new parent volunteers who have come on board this year to help out on Friday mornings and support the school in fostering a love of reading among the children. Please contact a member of the *Library Committee* or the School Office if you can spare some time and would like to get involved.

### Lost Property

There is an increasing pile of lost property in the school **Lost Property Basket**- anything from school sweatshirts, to jackets to drink bottles and football boots. It would be a big help in matching up lost items with their owners if all items of clothing were clearly labelled. Thank you for your co-operation.



## Nuachtlitir Samhain 2024

### School Attendance – Every Minute Counts!

Month	2023 / 2024	2024 / 2025
September	95.7%	96.4%
October	95.1%	95.9%

Every minute counts in school and the good news is that overall school attendance in Rathmore N.S. has **improved** during **September** and **October** of 2024 compared to the same months in 2023. 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. You will receive a letter from the school to advise you if your child has reached 15 and 20 days absence during this school year.

Theatre in DCU on **Wednesday 20th November**.

### Parents Association Go Phone Free Initiative – Parents Opt-In Results



Many thanks to all parents/guardians who took the time to fill out the **Go Phone Free Opt-In Form**. The percentage in each class refers to those parents who have opted in to the Go Phone Free Initiative to go smartphone free and social media free for the duration of primary school *with the option to renew your decision every year*.

A special word of thanks to the **Parents Association** and to **Aisling Treacy** for leading this voluntary Initiative in our school. Our hope is that we can come together as parents and protect our children for as long as possible from the potential harm caused by smartphones and social media and let our kids be kids for as long as we can.

Junior Infants	97.5%	3 <sup>rd</sup> Class	98%
Senior Infants	93%	4 <sup>th</sup> Class	93%
1 <sup>st</sup> Class	95%	5 <sup>th</sup> Class	51%
2 <sup>nd</sup> Class	97%	6 <sup>th</sup> Class	56%

## Nuachtlitir Samhain 2024

### Cumann na mBunscol Camogie Champions 2024!



Congratulations to our Under 11s Girls Camogie Team and to their coaches **Ms. Lancaster** and **Ms. Flynn** who overcame Scoil Bhríde N.S., Kilcullen to win the *Cumann na mBunscol* Camogie Final in Le Chéile GAA in Caragh recently. It was a fantastic achievement and there was great team spirit shown amongst all the panel. Team Captain **Helen Nolan** was presented with the Cup on the pitch following their win and each player was presented with an individual medal in school during our Hallowe'en Assembly by **Gráinne Kenneally** (Captain) and **Ruth Sargent** of the Eadestown Senior Ladies Football team.

We also acknowledge teachers **Mr. Walsh** who coached our boys hurling team, **Mr. Bolton** & **Mr. O'Brien** who coached the boys football team, **Ms Behan** and **Mr. O'Brien** who coached the girls football team and **Ms. Lancaster** and **Ms. Flynn** who coached our girls' camogie team. Well done to all the children who took part in school training sessions and who represented our school on teams. You have done Rathmore N.S. proud!

### Visit of Eadestown Senior LGFA Team & Cumann na mBunscol Camogie Medal Presentation.



Congratulations to the **Eadestown Senior Ladies LGFA Team** and their Manager **Des Murnagh** who were crowned **Kildare LGFA Senior Football County Champions** on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> October in Hawkfield when they overcame St. Laurence's LGFA with a convincing win on a scoreline of 5-11 to 0-12. Team captain **Gráinne Kenneally** accepted the **Kieran Burke Cup** on behalf of the team. They have made history by winning five-in-a-row Senior County Titles and lifted the **Kieran Burke Cup** to great celebrations among their many supporters and the whole community.



### Nuachtlitir Samhain 2024

We were delighted to welcome Eadestown players **Ruth Sargent**, **Gráinne Kenneally (Captain)** to visit the school with the **Kieran Burke** Cup on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> October. The school held a special Assembly in the PE Hall to honour the team's success. There was huge excitement among the pupils who dressed in their Eadestown GAA colours in a show of their support to the team and Eadestown GAA Club. As the Rathmore under 11 Girls Camogie Team coached by **Ms. Lancaster** and **Ms. Flynn** had won the *Cumann na mBunscol* LGFA schools competition the week before, the very special guests were on hand to present each girl on the school panel with their medals and spoke to the children with a very positive message about the benefits of playing sport. Well done girls and continued success. Eadestown Abú!

### Visit From Naas Community Garda



On 22nd of October our school were very lucky to welcome a garda named *Deirdre Davoren* to our school. She told us that she is a community Garda and she discussed with us about what her job involved. She went around to each class and everyone had lots of interesting questions. My class for example was interested by her pepper spray, metal baton and hand cuffs. It was a very interesting day and I can't wait for the next one!

*By Bobby Fitzgerald (Ms. Behan's 3<sup>rd</sup> Class)*

### Heritage in Schools Willow Weaving Workshop



We were very grateful to receive a free visit from Heritage in Schools Artist **Beth Murphy** to work with the children in **Ms. Behan's** Third Class and **Ms. Murray's** 2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> Class on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> November. Beth is a self-employed Arts facilitator, working in schools since 2005 promoting heritage craft while connecting students and teachers with their natural environment showing them how the earth can provide the materials necessary to weave wonderful creations.

## Nuachtlitir Samhain 2024



On Monday the 4th of November a lady called Elizabeth came to Ms. Behan's 3rd class and Ms. Murray's 2nd and 3rd class. She taught us how to weave! We all had a ball making lovely giraffes, reindeer and horses. I had the absolute best time making them! I think I speak on behalf of all of us when I say it was the best time. Everyone really enjoyed making them. We now have them hung up in our classrooms and we will bring them home for Christmas. I hope she comes back soon! **By Bobby Fitzgerald** (Ms. Behan's 3<sup>rd</sup> Class).

### Credit Union Competition Winners!



Congratulations to pupils **Joshua Jebb** (2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> Class), **Mason Pender** (2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> Class), **Aaron Cahill** (2<sup>nd</sup> Class) and **Ailbhe Carew** (4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> Class), who all won prizes in their age category for their interpretation of the theme 'The Joys of Life' in this year's Life Credit Union Art Competition. All the school prize winners were presented with prizes on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> November in a ceremony in the Maudlins Hotel in Naas. Well done to all who entered this year's competition!

### Ombudsman For Children's Office (OCO) Child Talks Event 2024



*Child Talks* is an annual event from the Ombudsman for Children's Office to mark World Children's Day. Now in its seventh year, *Child Talks* gives young people a platform to share their views and experiences on issues that are important to them. It will be hosted by Mark Langtry head of Science at Explorium – The National Science Centre, who is also known as *The Science Guy*. The theme of this year's event is 'Tomorrow Starts With Us' with topics such as single-parent families, young carers, growing up as a neurodivergent child in rural Ireland, girls in sport, and the experiences of a young person of colour. There will also be a mix of musical and magical entertainment. The Ombudsman for Children's Office has invited both our Sixth Classes to their *Child Talks* Event in the Helix on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> November during the school day.

## Nuachtlitir Samhain 2024

### Morning Yard Supervision

Now, that the school year is well underway, in order to promote independence we would encourage parents/guardians not to delay waiting on the school yard when your child has been dropped to their class line during daily morning supervision from 8.45am until 9am. Thank you for your co-operation.

### Spirit of Rathmore Certificates- October 2024

Congratulations to the October *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>October 2024</b>	
Junior Infants	<b>Noah Mahony &amp; Jacob Sargent Dempsey</b>
Senior Infants	<b>Beaux Denvir</b>
First Class	<b>Ayla Cooke &amp; Sam O'Neill</b>
Second Class	<b>T.J. Grant</b>
Second/Third Class	<b>Robert Burke</b>
Third Class	<b>Tom Lawler</b>
Fourth Class	<b>Isabella Ryan Long</b>
Fourth/Fifth Class	<b>Neasa Brennan</b>
Fifth Class	<b>Charlie Ashe</b>
Sixth Class	<b>Brendan Dowling</b>
Sixth Class	<b>Ava Jenkinson</b>

### Annual Green Schools Hallowe'en Witch Walk 2024

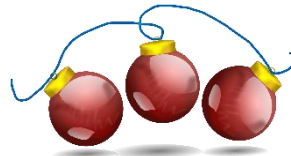


## Nuachtlitir Samhain 2024



We were lucky with dry and bright weather conditions for our annual *Green Schools Hallowe'en Witch Walk* which took place on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> October in the school. There was a wide variety of creative costumes on display and a special mention to those children who made a big effort to incorporate recycled items in their outfits. Thank you to teachers **Ms. A. Gleeson & Ms. Z. Gleeson** and the *Green Schools Committee*. A final total of € 190 was raised which will go towards funding *Green Schools Resources* for our school.

### Christmas 2024 Events



A reminder that the very popular *Christmas Fair* is back again this year and will take place on **Friday 13<sup>th</sup> December** in Rathmore Community Hall. The **Parents Association** are now in full planning mode with a Committee led by new Co-Chairpersons **Jane Byrne** and **Donna Mahony**. They are organising a **Monster Christmas Raffle** and they would appreciate donations of raffle prizes. Prizes can also be dropped to the school. A little robin has also told me that there may also be a *Special Visitor* with the initials **S.C** coming to the school on **Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> December!** The children can wear their **Christmas Jumpers** to school on **Friday 13<sup>th</sup> December, Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> December, Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> December (Charity Non-Uniform Day) and Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December (Half-Day)**

## Nuachtlitir Samhain 2024

### Swimming Lessons

Swimming Lessons for the pupils in **Ms. Behan's** Third Class and **Ms. Broe's** Fourth Class will begin on **Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> November** for 5 weeks in K Leisure in Naas. Payments can now be made on *Aladdin E-Payments*.

### Garda Vetting Requirements

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, PA Christmas Fair** etc 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 our school Secretary

### 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

### Sacramental Preparation

**Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> Nov 11.30am** Church of the Immaculate Conception Eadestown: **Do This In Memory Mass For First Holy Communion.**

**Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> Dec 11.30am** Church of the Immaculate Conception Eadestown. **You Shall be My Witness Mass for Confirmation.**

**Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> Dec 11.30am** Church of The Immaculate Conception Eadestown: **Do This In Memory Mass for First Holy Communion.**

### Dates for your Diary

Sixth Class Trip to Child Talks in The Helix, DCU on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> November 2024.

Annual Parent/Teacher Meetings: Wednesday and Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup> November 2024.

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

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

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.

### Nuachtlitir Samhain 2024

***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.

