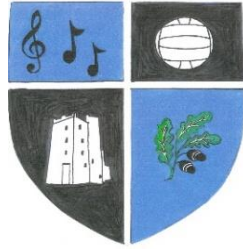


Nuachtlitir Deireadh Fómhair 2024

Scoil Chéile Chríost Rathmore N.S.

Newsletter October 2024



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Dear Parents/Guardians,

I hope that you and your families are well and looking forward to the Hallowe'en Mid-Term break. Each one of us has a duty to protect children from harm and the *Department of Education and Skills* (DES) has recently published the **Child Protection Procedures for Primary Schools (2023 Revised)** 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 already adopted these procedures as school policy. A copy of our *Child Safeguarding Statement* is available to view on the school website or a hard copy is also available to read in the school office. 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 (DDLp)* is the **Deputy Principal, Caitríona Lancaster**. We appreciate your co-operation with the following procedures which are in place:

- A requirement for **all visitors** to Rathmore N.S. to report to the school *Reception Office* where they will be asked to sign-in and will receive a **'Visitor'** badge.
- Parents/guardians are asked **not to proceed** directly to classrooms when collecting children early from school but to wait at Reception and their child will be escorted to meet them there. Our school Secretary **Martina** is always happy to assist you with any query.
- A reminder that all parents/guardians who are actively involved in any school activities such as the school Library, Tours, Matches and Sports Day activities **must be vetted**. All details on Diocesan Vetting requirements can be obtained from **Martina** in the School Office.

Hope you all have a very happy and safe Hallowe'en! The school will re-open after the mid-term break on **Monday 4th November**.

Oíche Shamhna Shona daoibh !

Lucy Travers, Principal

Maths Week 2024



The 19th annual *Maths Week* Ireland on the theme *Playful Maths* takes place from 12th -20th October 2024 and it is the biggest festival of its kind in the world. It celebrates a positive image of ***Maths For All***.

In 2022, over 480,000 students and their teachers participated in Maths Week activities. Maths Week is committed to the idea of ***Maths For All*** and promotes a positive attitude towards Maths and seeks to celebrate Mathematics, boost motivation among the children and help to prepare them to become creative, resilient, cooperative problem solvers. We are looking forward to a very busy and fun-filled Maths Week in Rathmore N.S.

Special thanks to **Mr. Walsh** and the Maths Team for co-ordinating *Maths Week* for all in our school. Please see the website www.mathsweek.ie for lots of ideas and resources and follow the link to the Parents Zone at <https://www.mathsweek.ie/2023/parents/>

ESB Power Outage – Tuesday 24th September



ESB Networks notified school management of a power outage on Tuesday 24th September to run from 9am until 5pm. The *Board of Management* ensured that the school remained open on the day by hiring a generator from *Allgen Ltd*. We are very grateful to **John Whelan** of *Allgen Ltd* who's grandchildren are enrolled in Junior Infants for responding to our urgent request. John set up the generator with the help of our school caretaker **Paul O'Sullivan** at the school on the evening before the planned power outage so that the school operated as normal on the day.

Be Winter Ready!



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.

School Attendance – Every Minute Counts!

Month	2023 / 2024	2024 / 2025
September	95.7%	96.4%

Every minute counts in school and the good news is that overall school attendance in Rathmore N.S. has improved during September of 2024 compared to the same month 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.

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. Educational Research shows that there is a direct link between school attendance and pupil progress in school. *Parents/Guardians are discouraged from taking their child/children out of school for other reasons during term time.*

Halloweén Witch Walk- Friday 25th October 2024



Friday, 25th October is the date for our annual “Witch Walk” (non-uniform day).

In keeping with our *Green Schools Recycling Aims*, children are encouraged to make some part/all of their dress-up outfit from sustainable/recyclable materials rather than buying a commercially produced costume and *donate €2 cash on the day/€5 per family* towards Green Schools.

We look forward to seeing all the children's costumes for this very special day!

Thanks to **Ms. A. Gleeson & Ms. Z. Gleeson** and the **Green Schools Team** who are co-ordinating the event and we thank you for your co-operation and support.

Newly Elected Student Council 2024/2025

Congratulations to the children who were elected by their peers to the Rathmore N.S. *Student Council*. We look forward to working with you during this school year and listening to your suggestions and opinions. Thanks to **Ms. Lancaster** and **Mr. Walsh** for liaising with the members of our *Student Council*.



Bobby Fitzgerald	3 rd Class	Joe Jackson	5 th Class
Olivia Sullivan	3 rd Class	Zara Moore	5 th Class
Patrick O'Dowd	3 rd Class	Saoirse Tracy	5 th Class
Zoe Norton	3 rd Class	Fionn Magee	6 th Class
Danny Graham	4 th Class	Chris Jebb	6 th Class
Fia Causevic	4 th Class	Amelia O'Shaughnessy	6 th Class
Cara Donnelly	4 th Class	Nina Smith	6 th Class

Music Generation Kildare



Ms. Malone's and Mr. Walsh's Sixth Classes are taking part in **Music Generation Kildare** for the 2024/25 school year. *Music Generation Kildare (MGK)* is Ireland's National Music Education Programme initiated by *Music Network*, co-funded by Irish band *U2*, the *Ireland Funds* and the *Department of Education and Skills (DES)*. It is locally funded here in Kildare by *Kildare and Wicklow Education and Training Board* and *Kildare County Council*.

The children in these classes will participate in weekly music sessions on the **Ukulele** with a trained musician, to run for approximately 28 weeks during this school year. The instruments will be supplied on a rental basis. This presents a great opportunity for the children to learn to play the **Ukulele** and engage creatively in Music education.

School Admissions & 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 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 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.

Annual Parent/Teacher Meetings 2024

Annual face-to-face **Parent/Teacher Meetings** for the 2024/25 school year will take place after-school on **Wednesday 20th November and Thursday 21st November 2024** for Senior Infants to Sixth Classes.

Please note that the school will close 15 minutes early (2.25pm) on Wednesday 20th November only to facilitate the meetings.

All bus companies will be notified in advance. Meeting appointment times for parents/guardians will be released on **Aladdin Connect** in advance of the meetings.

Please note that Parent/Teacher Meetings for children in both **Ms. Larkin's and Ms. A. Gleeson's Junior Infant Classes** will take place later in the New Year and parents/guardians will be notified in due course of exact dates and times.

Sixth Class Hoodies



A big 'thank you' to parent **Claire Sargent** who volunteered to co-ordinate the purchasing of the Sixth Class Rathmore N.S. hoodies this year which have now been delivered to the school. There was excitement in both Sixth Classes when each student received their personalised hoodie and the Class of 2025 are now wearing them with pride!

Teacher Supply Shortage

There is a continued national teacher supply shortage in Irish primary schools with many schools unable to fill advertised teacher vacancies for this 2024/25 school year and school management bodies and teacher unions have been calling on the Minister of Education to put further alleviation measures in place. Primary schools are also experiencing an acute shortage of available substitute teachers to cover teacher absences where sub cover is provided by the DES. This problem is affecting schools in both the Dublin and commuter counties including Kildare and has been compounded by the cost of rental accommodation.

Fortunately, all advertised teacher vacancies in Rathmore NS were filled by the Board of Management for the 2024-25 school year following a recruitment process during the Summer holidays. However, in common with other schools in Kildare and despite our best efforts, we have been experiencing difficulties in sourcing substitute teachers. We hope that the Department of Education will put further measures in place to support school Management at this challenging time.

New Buddy Benches For the School Yard



There was great excitement when **Paul**, our School Caretaker took delivery of 2 new **Buddy Benches** last week and positioned them on the school yard. The **Buddy Benches** are sturdy and colourful and are made from recycled plastic in keeping with our sustainability policy. They provide a safe space to sit and chat and make new friends and are a welcome addition to the school yard. We are very grateful to our **Parents Association** for funding the benches and to parent **Jane Byrne** for organising the purchase and delivery to the school. The feedback from the children has been excellent so far too!

Cyberbreak 2024- A 24-hour Digital Break



We have signed up to *Cyberbreak* organised by *CyberSafeKids*, Ireland's online safety charity which is running its annual *Cyberbreak* from **5pm on Friday 18th October until 5pm, Saturday 19th October 2024**. This 24-hour digital break encourages all children and adults to switch off their smart devices (phones, tablets, laptops, computers, gaming consoles, etc) and disconnect from the online world to spend some offline time with family and friends. *CyberSafeKids* have given everyone some Top Tips to ensure a healthy digital balance for children:

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1. Don't use your smart devices during mealtimes
2. Never use smart devices in your bedroom alone.
3. No screen time 2 hours before bed.
4. Make sure to spend time offline every day doing fun activities.
5. Talk to a trusted adult if you see or hear something upsetting online.
6. Encourage your parents to spend less time on their phones!
7. Be kind online.

Go Phone Free Initiative Opt-In Form



A hard copy of a *Letter* and *Charter* from the **Rathmore N.S. Parents Association** regarding the voluntary **Go Phone Free Initiative** was recently sent home in your eldest child's schoolbag.

Parents/Guardians were requested to discuss the *Charter* with their child/children at home which could be signed and retained at home.

Please see the link to the **Opt-In Form** below. This can be completed up to **25th October** and only one form to be completed per family is required. https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdas3kSdK5_LoKj8LQJPCfVSmtetz6tt-uhF3d2_9ZJmBfCuXA/viewform?usp=sf_link

New School Year Mass



A school Mass to mark the opening of the 2024/25 school year was celebrated by **Fr. Comer** in the school PE hall on Friday, 20th September last. Thank you to our readers from both 6th Classes and to teachers **Ms. A. Gleeson** and **Ms. Larkin** for leading our school Choir who sang beautifully. Thank you also to **Mary Clifford** for preparing the altar, to **Brigid Judge** for supplying the floral arrangements, to **Martina Lawler**, our school Secretary for co-ordinating the Mass Booklet and to **Paul O'Sullivan**, our school Caretaker for preparing the school hall for the Mass. **Fr Comer** also blessed the children's sets of Rosary beads which he distributed in the school in Eadestown Church on Monday 4th October, the *Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary* and classes joined in via the parish webcam. October is traditionally observed as Mission Month in the Catholic Church.

Dare to Believe—Meet an Olympian Visit



Proud title sponsor



Sponsored by the **International Olympic Committee Solidarity Fund** and **Permanent TSB**, the **Olympic Federation of Ireland** schools programme, **Dare to Believe** aims to inspire the young people of Ireland to ‘*Dare to Believe*’ in themselves through an interactive curriculum that explores the **Olympic Values** and includes **visits with Team Ireland Olympic and Paralympic role models** that bring the values to life.

Mr. Bolton’s 5th Class applied to the programme and were notified that their application was successful and an Olympian would be visiting Rathmore N.S. The application process included putting together a video and writing a letter about their class. Well done!

They were very excited to receive the news that Kildare man and Irish *Olympian* **Noel Hendrick** who competes in the *Canoe Slalom* and completed in the Paris 2024 Olympics would be coming to the school. Noel will be visiting **Mr. Bolton’s** 5th class from 9.30am to 10.30 am on November 7th and will be playing games with the class as well as telling them his story and answering any questions they may have.

National Tree Day/ Lá a gCrann 2024



On Thursday 3rd October some of our Junior Infants planted a Hawthorn tree sapling in our school garden helped by **Paul** our school caretaker. Rathmore N.S. were kindly gifted the Hawthorn tree from SPAR in partnership with the Tree Council of Ireland as part of National Tree Day 2024. We look forward to watching our newest tree grow!

We are also collecting **used batteries** as part of the Laura Lynn Foundation. If you have any batteries lying around at home, bring them in, we have plenty of blue battery WEEE boxes for them! Our **Witch Walk** is taking place on **Friday the 25th of October**, don’t forget to try and make a sustainable costume from recyclable materials or you can even reuse an old costume you have lying around at home!

Spirit of Rathmore Certificates- September 2024

Congratulations to the September *Spirit of Rathmore* Certificate Award winners who have been 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. We are proud of you all!



September 2024	
Junior Infants	Sofia-Rose Casey & Robin Quinlan
Senior Infants	Jake Aherne
First Class	Charlie Hill & Chloe Prendergast
Second Class	Cara Doyle
Second/Third Class	Ruby Gilger
Third Class	Saoirse Brennan
Fourth Class	Louis Gillespie
Fourth/Fifth Class	Jack Ryan
Fifth Class	Mo Foley
Sixth Class	Katie McCarville
Sixth Class	Mary Kate Buckley

Sports Update



GAA coaching with **Rob Thompson**, Games Development Officer has resumed on Thursdays.

Hurling coaching with **John Holmes** takes place on Tuesdays.

Congratulations to our Girls Camogie Team and coaches **Ms. Lancaster** and **Ms. Flynn** who have qualified for the *Cumann na mBunscol* Finals in Moorefield GAA on **Thursday 17th October at 3.30pm pm**. More details to follow shortly.

Valleymount Cross Country 2024

We are looking forward to the taking part in the Valleymount Cross-Country Athletics event on **Tuesday 15th October**. Thank you to **Ms. Malone** who is co-ordinating the event for our school and who has coached our school teams and we are very appreciative of the parents who have volunteered to help out with teams on the day. Best of luck to all the athletes representing Rathmore N.S. in *Valleymount* who will be wearing the specially commissioned Rathmore N.S. athletics singlets which were kindly funded by the **Parents Association** last year.

Dates for your Diary

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

Junior Infant Hearing Tests: Wednesday 6th November 2024 in the school.

Junior Infants MMR Vaccinations: Thursday 7th November 2024 in the school.

Sixth Class Trip to Child Talks in The Helix, DCU on Thursday 20th November 2024.

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

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

NOTE: Additional School Closure Primary Maths Curriculum CPD: Monday 20th January 2025

Sixth Class Retreat in Rathmore Community Hall on Friday 24th January 2025.

St. Brigid's Day Bank Holiday: School closed on Monday 3rd 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.

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.

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