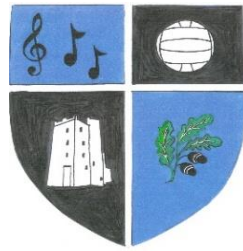


Scoil Chéile Chríost Rathmore N.S.

Newsletter April 2025



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Online Safety Webinar – Don't be Mean Behind Your Screen



Dear Parents/Guardians

Thank you to our **Parents Association** who organised and sponsored a very informative **Parent Talk** on Tuesday 25th March in the school as well as **Online Safety Talks** for all the children in 4th-6th classes with psychotherapist **Paula O'Connor**. Paula spoke on the night from her experience as a psychotherapist and former secondary school teacher and emphasised the importance of parents/guardians having regular discussions with their children about online safety. Paula was very well received by both parents and the students in the school and provided a follow-up handout which has been shared with the parents of the school.

The **Bí Cineálta** Procedures to Prevent and Address Bullying Behaviour for Primary and Post-Primary Schools were published in 2024 by the Department of Education and Skills (DES) following a review of the Anti-Bullying Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2013. They will come into effect from the start of the 2025/2026 school year and provide direction and guidance on measures to prevent and address bullying behaviour including cyberbullying in schools. Some of the key areas of change include:

- An updated definition of bullying behaviour based on **Cineáltas: Action Plan on Bullying (2022)**
- Increased partnership approach to preventing and addressing bullying behaviour
- Increased oversight
- A student-friendly version of the school's **Bí Cineálta** policy must also be developed.

A consultation process is underway with parents, students and staff of the school which will inform our new **Bí Cineálta** policy. Thank you for your co-operation.

Lucy Travers, Principal

New Board of Management Chairperson

We extend a warm welcome to local resident **Séamas Clare** who has been appointed as the new Chairperson of the Board of Management of Rathmore N.S., taking over from our current Chairperson **Gerry Martin**. We wish **Séamas** well as he transitions into the role. We are very grateful to **Gerry Martin** for his voluntary service to our local community and for his invaluable contribution to the management of the school during the last six years in his role as Chairperson.

Spirit Of Rathmore – March 2025 Awards

Congratulations to the March *Spirit of Rathmore* Certificate winners who have 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!



March 2025		March 2025	
Junior Infants	Amelia Magee & Bobby Gilger	Fourth Class	Ciarán Irving
Senior Infants	Art Butler	Fourth/Fifth Class	Matthew O'Sullivan
First Class	Jacob Fox & Ollie Dowling	Fifth Class	Dylan Healy
Second Class	Ellie O'Connor White	Sixth Class	Alex Jebb & Cathal Crowley
Second/Third Class	Oliver Galmarini		
Third Class	Jake Ward		

School Attendance Update March 2025



National School Attendance Campaign

2023/2024 2024/2025

March 94.8% 95.8%

Our school attendance for the month of **March 2025** has shown an improvement on the same month last year in 2024. Pupil attendance rates in Rathmore N.S. have improved since the beginning of the 2024/2025 school year with a **95.2%** attendance rate compared to **93.6%** for the 2023/2024 school year. Well done everybody and let's keep the good attendance rates going!

Ceremony of Light & Sacrament of Confirmation 2025



Well done to the pupils in our two 6th Classes who took part in the *Ceremony of Light* celebrated by **Fr. Comer** in Kilteel Church on Thursday 27th March. We appreciate the assistance of parents and other parish volunteers who helped with the teas/coffees for parents/guardians in Kilteel Hall after the ceremony, which was appreciated by all in attendance.

Both Sixth classes took part in a class Retreat in Rathmore Community Hall the following day during the school day which was organised by **Fr. Comer** and facilitated by **Mt. St. Anne's Retreat Centre** in Laois.

Congratulations to the children in both Sixth Classes who were confirmed last **Friday 4th April at 11am in the Church of the Immaculate Conception in Eadestown** by **Archbishop Dermot Farrell** along with **Fr. Comer**.

Thank you to class teachers **Ms. Malone** and **Mr. Walsh** for their hard work in school preparing the children, to **Ms. Larkin & Ms. Broe** for the music and Choir during the ceremony, to **Martina** our school Secretary and to **Paul** our school Caretaker for their in putting together the ceremony booklets and church displays. We are especially grateful to **SNA Nora Lawler** who shared her artistic talents with the children and co-ordinated the beautiful Confirmation Art display in the church.

Fun and Games on the Yard!



Our **Parents Association** responded to our request for some new construction activities for use by the children during breaks and by the children in the Infant classes. The new sets of magnetic tiles are proving to be a big hit with all the children and we have some budding architects and builders in the school!

New ICT Resources



We recently purchased a new set of 20 pupil laptops and charger trolley along with a set of pupil headphones and extra teacher laptops which were grant-funded through the *Department of Education Digital Strategy Grant* as part of our Digital School Plan. These new ICT resources have been set up and are now in use by the teachers and children and supplement the existing sets of pupil laptops and ipads available in the school. The Board of Management is committed to the continued development of pupils' digital literacy during their time in Rathmore N.S.

Cycle Safety Course



The children in **Mr. Walsh's** and **Ms. Malone's 6th Classes** who are taking part in a **Cycle Right Safety Programme** outdoors on the yard in association with *Cycling Ireland*. This Programme will run for 6 weeks and is grant aided through the *Green Schools Initiative/An Taisce*. This is a very worthwhile and enjoyable experience and promotes safe cycling by the children. The first workshop focused on the theory of safe cycling and the students are now taking part in practical safe cycling lessons outdoors on the school yard with their instructors every week. Thanks to **Mr. Walsh** for organising the Cycle Safety course.

Eason Kildare Spelling Bee 2025



Congratulations to **Nathan Gibson** in **Mr. Walsh's 6th Class** who has been selected to represent our school in the **Spelling Bee Kildare County Final** to be held on Tuesday 8th April in St. Brigid's N.S. Grey Abbey in Kildare Town. We wish Nathan all the best in the upcoming County Final and well done to all the students who took part in this hotly contested competition.

Seachtain na Gaeilge 2025 – Maith Sibh Go léir!



There was plenty of ceol, craic, cluichí, comhrá and damhsa during **Seachtain na Gaeilge**. Go raibh míle maith to our Gaeilge Team of **Ms. Murphy, Ms. Doyle and Mr. O'Brien**, who organised two weeks of events to celebrate our culture and our native language, culminating in **Lá Glas** on 14th Márta. We appreciate the musical contribution from **Mary Ryan** of *Kilteel Comhaltas* who led the school children in their performance which really added to the day. Maith sibh go léir!

Be Sun Smart!



All primary schools received a communication from the *Department of Education and Skills (DES)* which is attached regarding the importance of skin protection for children when playing and spending time outdoors in the sun, particularly from **April to September** when the UV index is high.

As part of the *HSE's National Cancer Control Programme*, in collaboration with *Healthy Ireland* and the implementation of the *Skin Cancer Prevention Plan 2023-2026*, schools are being asked to include a **wide brimmed hat** as part of the school uniform to reduce their exposure to UV radiation.

As we are likely to experience more days of sunshine as we move into April and the Summer term and with Class School Tours also taking place, it is **recommended that children have an appropriate hat in school for sunny days and have sun cream administered at home before school.**

We are currently liaising with our school uniform provider, **Richie Whelan** in Naas for the supply of crested bucket type sun hats in the school colours for purchase by parents/guardians and we will advise when these hats

can be purchased directly from them. See photo attached modelled by our caretaker Paul! Thank you for your co-operation.

Green Schools Flag – Marine Environment



We have just submitted our application for our 8th Green schools Flag under the theme of *Marine Environment*. Two representatives of *Kildare County Council* visited our school to see our progress and chat to some of the **Green Schools Committee** members. They were very impressed with all of our hard work, especially our weekly **Golden Bin initiative** and our **Marine Survey** results. A special thank you to teachers **Ms. A. Gleeson** and **Ms. Z. Gleeson** for co-ordinating our school application.

Active Schools Skip Around Europe Challenge



Our school is participating in the active schools challenge 'Skip Around Europe'. All classes will build a short skipping break into their daily routines, across the 4 weeks of the challenge. Working together as a class, and as a school, our combined skips will allow us to travel to many of the capital cities across Europe. After the first week many classes have already travelled to Greece, Turkey and Serbia! Thank you to **Ms. Flynn & Mr. O'Brien** and the **Active Schools Team** for co-ordinating this initiative.

Heritage in Schools – Pollinator Workshop with Edel Heeren

The children in **Ms. Doyle's** and **Ms. Flynn's** First Classes, **Mr. O'Brien's** Second Class and **Ms. Murray's** 2nd/3rd Class recently took part in a very engaging *Heritage in Schools Workshop* with expert **Edel Heeren**. They learned about our wild bees and honeybees and explored the role bees play in our natural heritage. Edel brought along an educational hive (no live bees!), bees in bug pots, pollen, a smoker and a beesuit and the children even got to taste some honey!



School Bus Safety & School Bus Ticket Applications for 2025/26

A message has been sent out from the school with information on the application process for school bus tickets with Bus Éireann for the 2025/26 school year. Applications can be made through the Bus Éireann portal at <https://www.buseireann.ie/schooltransport>. *Please note that the closing date for online applications is Friday 25th April 2025.*

April is Autism Awareness Month



April is Autism Awareness month and the children in 5th and 6th classes participated in an interactive presentation from the Autism charity **AsI Am** featuring CEO Adam Harris in partnership with **Microsoft Dream Space Live** on Tuesday 1st April with the aim to support students to gain a deeper understanding of what it means to be autistic, the diversity within the community, building inclusive and supportive school environments which embrace neurodiversity and challenging myths and misconceptions about Autism. **World Autism Day** took place on Wednesday 2nd April.

End of Year School Tours 2025



All classes are looking forward to going on an end of year School Tour.

Information on each class tour will be communicated to parents/guardians by your child's class teacher. Parental permission and online payments through Aladdin E-Payments.

Class Level		Date
Junior & Senior Infants	Kidspace, Rathcoole	Thursday 19 th June
First Class Tour	Let's Go, Kilcullen	Thursday 22 nd May
Second Class Second/Third Class	Let's Go, Kilcullen	Friday 23 rd May
Third Class Fourth Class	Fort Lucan	Monday 16 th June
Fifth Class Fourth/Fifth Class	Clara Lara	Monday 23 rd June
Sixth Classes	Hidden Valley Resort, Rathnew	Thursday 29 th May

Sacramental Preparation Programme

First Holy Communion 2025:

The Sacrament of **First Holy Communion** will be celebrated on **Saturday 17th May** at **11.00am** in the Church of the Immaculate Conception in Eadestown followed by a reception in Rathmore Community Hall.

We are looking forward to the celebration of this special Sacrament in our parish community and we appreciate the preparation that has been undertaken by **Fr. Comer**, the **Parish Preparation Team** and class teachers, **Mr. O'Brien & Ms. Murray/Ms. Shaw**

Please Note that Professional Photographers, County Photos will be here in the school on **Tuesday 27th May** to take photos of the children who have received the Sacraments of **First Holy Communion** and **Confirmation**.



Cumann na mBunscol Competitions 2025



Rathmore NS Boys Claim Historic Victory in Kildare Mini 7's Hurling Tournament

The Rathmore N.S. Boys Hurling Team coached by **Mr. Walsh** achieved a historic victory in the Kildare Mini 7's hurling tournament on Thursday, March 27th. Having topped their group in the qualifying tournament the previous week at Eadestown GAA, the Rathmore boys earned a spot in the final round of games, held at Éire Óg Corra Choill GAA grounds.

In the opening match of the final tournament, Rathmore faced a strong Gael Scoil Uí Fhiaich team from Maynooth. With just one minute remaining, Rathmore were leading, but their opponents scored a late goal to secure a 2-point win. Despite the disappointment of the narrow loss, the Rathmore boys quickly bounced back as they faced last year's champions, Gael Scoil Nás na Ríogh, in Round 2. Displaying resilience, Rathmore came out strong, scoring two early goals and securing their first win of the day. Their confidence surged as they next played Rathangan N.S., where they delivered an excellent performance in a dominant victory. This win set up a thrilling final game against St. Corban's B.N.S., where the stakes were high in a winner-takes-all showdown.

The Rathmore boys began the game with impressive determination and skill, quickly establishing an early lead that they never gave up. While St. Corban's did threaten the Rathmore goal on several occasions, the Rathmore goalkeeper and defence remained resolute. Rathmore dominated the midfield, and their forwards proved too much for the Corban's defence to handle. As the final whistle blew, the Rathmore boys celebrated their victory, proudly bringing the trophy back to Rathmore N.S. for the first time!

Well played also to our girls football and camogie teams and boys football teams and coaches **Mr. O'Brien** and **Ms. Behan** (Girls Football) **Ms. Lancaster** and **Ms. Flynn** (Camogie) and **Mr. Bolton** (Football) who took part in the recent Cumann na mBunscol Mini 7s competitions in the county. We send best wishes to our **Cross-Country Team** and coach **Ms. Malone** who will compete in the *Cumann na mBunscol Cross Country Championship* in Rathcoffey GAA on Thursday 10th April.

Thank You!



Congratulations and thank you to **Hugh** and **Ger Magee** on recently celebrating 40 years in business in the iconic *The Stationary Store* in Naas. On Friday 14th March, the staff of the shop held an event to mark this milestone by giving away some prizes and Rathmore N.S. was the lucky recipient of a new laminator which was presented to **Ms. Travers** by their two sons **Fionn** and **Rory** and will be put to very good use in the school.

Co-Curricular Activities

Swimming lessons Swimming lessons for the children in **Ms. Z. Gleeson's Senior Infants** began 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 **Fridays** 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

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 you all a very Happy Easter! Beannachtaí na Cásca oraibh!

