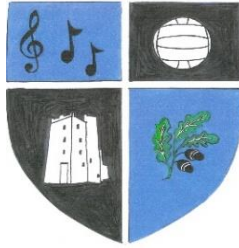


Scoil Chéile Chríost Rathmore N.S.

Newsletter May 2025



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Free Primary School Book Grant 2025/26

Dear Parents/Guardians

The Minister for Education Helen McEntee T.D. has announced funding to provide free schoolbooks, including workbooks and copybooks to primary school children, for the next 2025-2026 school year as part of the grant funded Free Primary School Books Scheme which was launched in 2023. This scheme will eliminate the cost to parents of providing these resources.

The funding is being provided directly to primary schools and special schools by the Department of Education and Skills (DES) with which to implement the scheme and schools will have responsibility for providing schoolbooks, workbooks and copybooks to all children and young people at the start of the new 2025/26 school year.

In keeping with the operation of our School Book Rental Scheme, all schoolbooks will remain the property of the school so that schoolbooks can be reused in future years. Schoolbooks will be provided on loan to all children in Rathmore N.S. for the duration of the 2025/26 school year and then must be returned to the school at the end of the school year. Lost or damaged books will have to be replaced by parents/guardians.

Parents are requested to remind their children to take care of their books and keep them in good condition during the year. It is not permitted to write on textbooks.

While this new free schoolbook scheme is a very welcome development for parents/guardians and will again reduce the total cost of each Class Book List for the 2025/2026 school year, there will be some related classroom resources/items that are not covered by the scheme which will still be payable to the school as in previous years. Further details will be communicated to parents in due course when all Class Booklists have been finalised for the 2025/26 school year.

A letter to Parents/Guardians from the Minister for Education **Helen McEntee T.D.** in connection with the announcement of the Free School Books Scheme has already been communicated to all parents/guardians on Aladdin, along with an Information Sheet.

Yours sincerely
Lucy Travers, Principal

Sacrament of First Holy Communion 2025



Congratulations to the children in **Ms. Shaw's/Ms. Murray's** and **Mr. O'Brien's** Second Classes who received the **Sacrament of First Holy Communion** in the Church of the Immaculate Conception, Eadestown on a sunny Saturday 17th May with Mass celebrated by **Fr. Micheál Comer**. Many thanks to both class teachers for preparing the children so well, to teachers **Ms. Larkin** and **Ms. Broe** for the musical accompaniment and for preparing the school Choir who sang beautifully, to SNA **Nora Lawler** for her assistance with the beautiful Communion Art display, to our school Secretary **Martina Lawler** for preparing the Communion Mass Booklet and to our caretaker **Paul O'Sullivan** for his assistance with the transport and display of the children's Art in the Church. Thank you also to the *Parish Pastoral Committee* for their preparatory work with the children in partnership with the school.

We are very appreciative of our **Parents Association** co-chaired by **Jane Byrne** and **Donna Mahony** and a group of parent volunteers who organised the **Communion Reception** in *Rathmore Community Hall* after the Mass for all the children and their families which was very much appreciated. Thank you to all the parents/guardians who generously donated home baking. We hope that everybody had a very happy family day of celebration in our Community.

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 this year.



Department of Education School Evaluation in English

Two Inspectors from the *Department of Education Inspectorate* recently carried out an Evaluation of English in the school. They were very impressed with the quality of teaching and learning in English in Rathmore N.S.

Their very positive oral feedback acknowledged the rich learning experiences provided by the teachers in our school in the form of engaging lessons across oral, reading and writing in English. Well done also to the children who were highly motivated and confident and displayed excellent manners. A very good level of competency in English was evident in all classes visited throughout the two-day inspection. The Board of Management has received a copy of the written Inspection report and has now submitted our school response. The final Inspection Report will then be uploaded to the Department of Education website by the Inspectorate and will be available to view by parents/guardians in due course.

Standardised Testing 2025

Standardised Testing in *English* and *Maths* usually takes place in primary schools each year during the month of May.

It is very important to note that all standardised test scores are a snapshot in time and may not accurately reflect all aspects of a pupil's learning and development.

Standardised test scores are used to complement other assessment tools used by teachers to build a picture of a child's achievement over time and should not be interpreted in isolation.

During daily classroom activity and interactions with children, teachers draw upon their professional judgement and knowledge of individual pupils and context to evaluate their progress and gain a comprehensive insight into their learning (through teacher observation, class-based tests, homework, project work, pupil conferencing and portfolios).

The new *Primary Curriculum Framework* and its key competencies embrace a 21st century skills approach to education allowing schools to equip children to take their place in society as confident rounded individuals rather than an over-emphasis on testing.

These standardised test results will provide a snapshot of each child's progress, affirming areas of success and supporting the early identification of children who may need to be further supported in school with aspects of their learning in literacy and numeracy.

Assessment data is also used to help teachers prioritise areas of the Primary English Curriculum and Primary Maths Curriculum.

Please see the link below to *National Council for Curriculum and Assessment* (NCCA) website which provides information for parents/guardians pertaining to standardised assessment in primary schools and standardised test results in the context of the end of school report.

https://ncca.ie/media/1400/english_tip_sheet_sten.pdf

https://ncca.ie/media/1429/understanding-standardscores_eng.pdf

<https://ncca.ie/en/primary/reporting-and-transfer/>

KPMG Junior Juries Visit to School

Thank you to Ms. Lancaster who organised the KPMG visit to our school.



On Thursday the 10th of April **Claire Guy** from KPMG came to our class as part of KPMG's *Junior Juries*. She came in to talk to us about the book *Beanie The Bansheenie* by **Eoin Colfer** and illustrated by **Steve McCarthy**. She read us a little bit of the book asking us questions. We also designed book covers for *Beanie The Bansheenie*. Fast forward a month and a bit we made a video book review that **Ms Behan** sent to Junior Juries and then they asked if they could send our videos to **Eoin Colfer** and **Steve McCarthy** and of course we said 'Yes'! Hopefully we'll hear from Eoin and Steve soon.

by Evan Crumlish -3rd Class

Our World Awards 2025



Ms. Malone's 6th class were recently awarded for their participation in the **2025 Our World Awards**. Supported by Irish Aid, the [Our World Awards](#) celebrate young people who are passionate about making a difference. Through their individual and class projects, 6th class demonstrated a deep commitment to being global citizens—engaging with important global challenges and showing empathy for those in different circumstances. Their project work aligns with the values of Irish Aid and the UN Sustainable Development Goals. As a class, they recreated the Global Goals in a collaborative Art project. Other students worked individually and designed word searches, crosswords and Fact Files based on the Global Goals and Irish Aid countries. Well done to the 6th class students for their creativity and hard work.

Spirit of Rathmore April Awards

Congratulations to the April *Spirit of Rathmore* Certificate Award winners who have been nominated by their teachers for showing kindness and consideration to others around the school and contributing to a happy and positive school culture in Rathmore N.S. Well done and let's remember to Bí Cineálta!



April 2025		April 2025	
Junior Infants	Holly Anne Nicell	Fourth Class	Oliver Kelly
Senior Infants	Bobby Gilger	Fourth/Fifth Class	Mohammed Elgeweili
First Class	Eabha Savage & Matthew Kavanagh	Fifth Class	Chloe Sargent Oliveira
Second Class	Fionn Corcoran	Sixth Class	Mia tobin & Alex Cusack
Second/Third Class	Sofia Da Silva Moreira		
Third Class	Lucy Dowling		

Incoming Junior Infants Parent Information Evening 2025/2026

A *Parent Information Evening* for Parents/Guardians of all children starting in both our Junior Infant classes for the 2025/26 school year will take place in the school on **Wednesday 28th May at 7pm** in Room 8. Please contact our school Secretary, **Martina** in the School Office if you cannot attend on the night.



End of Year School Tours 2024/25



All classes are looking forward to going on their end of year School Tour. Information on each class tour is available on Aladdin 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

Thank You To Our Parents Association

A big 'Thank You' to our **Parents Association** who have funded a third Buddy Bench and two First Aid Benches for the school yard. The benches are made from recyclable materials, are bright and colourful and are waterproof. They also recently organised a 'Cash For Clobber' Fundraiser at the school which was very well supported. The sacks of clothes donated will be weighed and a price per kilo will be paid in exchange. Thank you to everyone who supported this fundraising initiative.



New Solar Panels Installed on the School Roof



A new set of solar panels have been installed on our school roof funded by a *Department of Education* Grant to harness the power of the sun which can generate up to 6kWp of onsite electricity. This *Schools Photovoltaic Programme* forms part of the response to meeting the 2030 and 2050 climate action targets for the school sector and is funded from the Climate Action Fund. This will help to reduce the cost of the school electricity bills.

A monitor has been installed on the wall outside **Ms. Travers's** Office which displays data including the amount of electricity being generated during the day and the equivalent cost savings. We are off to a good start already with the recent sunny weather!

Be Sun Smart!



All primary schools received a communication from the *Department of Education and Skills (DES)* 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 and **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 June 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.**

*School crested sunhats in the Rathmore school colours priced at €10 can now be purchased from our school uniform provider **Richie Whelan** in Naas.*

Please Note: There is a growing pile of lost property/items in the school. Parents/Guardians are welcome to come and claim lost items and are **requested to ensure that their child's name is clearly printed on all items of clothing.**

Cumann na mBunscol Cross Country 2025 in Rathcoffey GAA



On April 10th, 32 boys and girls from 5th and 6th class went to the Rathcoffey cross country race. **Ms. Malone** was our coach and had helped us train really hard for the big day.

The sun was shining and the weather was perfect. Everyone felt a mix of nerves and excitement before the race started. We were running 1200 metres, so it was tough, but we were ready for it.

We were so happy with how we did! **Senan Smith** came 6th and got an individual medal, and **Hugo O'Neill**, our team captain, came 7th. He also got a medal. The Boys' Team A were amazing and won gold – we even brought the trophy back to school!

The girls did brilliantly too and came 3rd. We were all very proud of our results. It was a great day and one we'll always remember! by **Ms. Malone's 6th Class**

Outdoor Planting and Learning In Our School Garden



Huge thanks and appreciation to **Brigid Judge, Sakoto Yoshimura, Julie Shiels, Michelle Smith Máire Lawler** and other green fingered volunteer parents who come in to work with the children to grow fruit and vegetables and maintain our beautiful school garden. They are taking advantage of the recent fine weather to help the children plant a selection of fruit and vegetables in our school garden plots. This presents a wonderful learning opportunity for the children to 'grow their own' and learn about food. We look forward to an Autumn harvest and some giant sunflowers! Well done everyone!

They would be delighted to welcome more volunteers if you can spare an hour or two each week. Please contact Martina in the school office at office@rathmorens.ie or telephone 045-862145 to get in touch with the group.

School Attendance Update



National School Attendance Campaign

Pupil attendance rates in Rathmore N.S. are up since the beginning of the 2024/2025 school year with a **94.9%** attendance rate compared to **93.6%** for the 2023/2024 school year. Well done everybody and let's keep it up for the rest of this school year!

The Minister for Education **Helen McEntee** T.D. has announced the launch of a School Attendance Campaign to begin next September to address the issue of rising pupil school absentee rates in both primary and secondary schools nationally.

The overall aim of school attendance and punctuality procedures is to ensure each child maximises their learning time and social development in school and misses as little time as possible, unless of course, there is a valid reason such as illness and/or medical appointments.

Schools are required to notify TUSLA of pupil absences of 20 days or more in each school year.

Parents/Guardians are discouraged from taking their child/children out of school for other reasons during term time.

Active Schools – Skip Around Europe Challenge



The active schools 'Skip Around Europe' challenge is proving to be a big hit! All classes have built a skipping break into their daily routines, across the 4 weeks of the challenge which will continue during breaktimes. Working together as a class, and as a school, our combined skips have allowed us to travel to the capital cities across Europe. Regular skipping has really supported healthy and active children on the yard and their skipping has seen a huge improvement also. Thank you to **Ms. Flynn**, **Mr. O'Brien** and the **Active Schools Team** for co-ordinating this initiative which is ensuring active and happy children during break and lunchtimes on the school yard. Thanks also to our caretaker **Paul O'Sullivan** for installing the skipping rope racks outside on the school yard.

Cumann na mBunscol Competitions



Thank you to teachers *Mr. Bolton, Mr. Walsh, Ms. Lancaster, Ms. Behan, Ms. Flynn & Mr. O'Brien* who give of their time to run lunchtime and after-school sports training with the children. Rathmore School Teams have been entered into the *Cumann na mBunscol Cill Dara* Boys Football, Girls Football, Boys Hurling and Girls Camogie competitions which are taking place throughout the county.

Best of luck to our Senior Girls Team coached by **Ms. Behan & Mr. O'Brien** who have reached the *Cumann na mBunscol* Final fixed for **Wednesday 28th May** at 2.30pm in Moorefield GAA.

Lifts and support for our girls' team on the day would be greatly appreciated.

Best wishes to all our teams and their coaches in upcoming matches. We look forward to sporting matches and plenty of Rathmore N.S. team spirit!

Co-Curricular Activities

Swimming lessons Swimming lessons for the children in **Ms. A. Gleeson's & Ms. Larkin's Junior Infants** classes began on **Wednesday 14th May**. 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

Communion/6th Class Photos: School Photographer County Photos here on **Tuesday 27th May**.

New Junior Infants Induction: **Wednesday 28th May** at 7pm in the school.

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**.

Sixth Class Graduation: **Friday 20th June** at 11 am in the P.E. Hall.

Summer Holidays commence on **Wednesday 25th June 2025** at 12.30pm.

NOTE: The school will re-open for the new school year 2025-2026 on **Thursday 28th August 2025**.

