



BEALTAINÉ 2023

NUACHTLITIR



Your monthly news from Sacred Heart National School Rath

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Confirmation 2023

Sport

New School Book Scheme

Parents' Association

Gaeilge

Bike Week

2nd Class Hike

World Book Day

School Tours

Dates for Your Diary

Confirmation 2023



Pictured above are our 6th Class pupils who recently received the sacrament of Confirmation. It was a lovely day and the children were a credit to the school and their families. Many thanks to Fr Dooley, Fr O'Neill, Ms Bergin and our wonderful Parents' Choir led by Helen Mulhall. A lovely reception hosted by the Parents' Association followed the ceremony. There are more pictures on the school website www.rathns.ie

New Government Book Scheme

From September 2023, under a new scheme from the Department of Education, schoolbooks, workbooks and copybooks for children in primary schools will be provided to every child free of charge. There will be no charge to parents/guardians for this, as schools receive funding from Government to cover these costs.

There may be a requirement for parents to buy some additional items for children to use at school but back-to-school costs should be significantly decreased. Further details will follow in June. I have attached an information leaflet for parents that the Department of Education have asked us to share with you.

School Tours

Please make note of the following dates for your child's school tour. The class teachers will be in touch with further details in the coming weeks. We endeavor at all times to keep costs as low as possible.

June 9th - 1st Class & 3rd Class (Redhills Adventure, Kildare)

June 13th - 4th Class & 5th Class (Redhills Adventure, Kildare)

June 14th - Junior Infants & Senior Infants (Nore Valley Park, Kilkenny)

June 16th - 6th Class (Clara Lara Funpark, Wicklow)

June 19th - 2nd Class (Clara Lara Funpark, Wicklow)

Gaeilge / Seachtain na Gaeilge

Bhí neart spraoi againn ag ceiliúradh ár dteanga agus ár gcultúr dúchais le déanaí le linn Seachtain na Gaeilge. There are more photos on the school website.

Bealtaine (May)

Seachtain 1 - An bhfuil cead agam a fháil? (Can I get?)

Seachtain 2 - An bhfuil cead agam ... a úsáid? (Can I use?)

Seachtain 3 - An bhfuil tú ag imirt...? (Are you playing...?)

Seachtain 4 - Cé a bhuaigh? (Who won?)



Sport

Hurling / Camogie: Our school hurling and camogie teams have been competing in their respective Cumann na mBunscol competitions in recent weeks with good success along the way. All teams are still in contention for finals day in O'Moore Park. Go n-éirí leo.

Football: After school football coaching with Courtwood GAA will resume shortly. We also plan to run our annual summer lunch-time football leagues for pupils in 1st Class - 6th Class. Pictured below are Seán Malone and Dáire O'Connell, who were recently selected from county trials to represent Laois at half-time in the Laois Wexford game. Well done lads.

Tag Rugby: 5th & 6th Class recently attended a very enjoyable blitz in Portarlinton. Many thanks to Paidi Mahon for organising.

Rounders: Ms Phelan has begun coaching sessions with our 5th & 6th Class pupils every Tuesday afternoon.



Bike Week Challenge

Laois County Council have invited 5 schools in Laois to take part in a 'build up bike miles challenge' for the month of May to coincide with Bike Week 2023. Pupils are asked to record the number of kilometres they cycle throughout May. The total number of kilometres cycled by the pupils is then divided by the number of pupils in the school. The winning school will receive a cash prize of €500. A record sheet will be sent home with each child today.

World Book Day

We celebrated World Book Day on March 2nd. The children were invited to dress up as a character from one of their favourite books. It was great fun.

We were also delighted to welcome local author, John Whelan (aka Johnny Renko), to speak with our senior classes. He read extracts from his latest book, 'The Last Beekeeper', and spoke about the writing process. It was a very enjoyable and engaging experience for the pupils. More photos from the day are on the school website.



Song Singing Project - Rang 2 & Rang 3

In recent months, our pupils in 2nd Class and 3rd Class have been engaged in an exciting project with Music Generation Laois. Alongside our regular tutor Nuala Kelly, MGL commissioned two composers, Lorna McLaughlin and Sarah Murphy, to create a suite of songs for and with children in 3 Laois Primary Schools. The childrens' voices and ideas were central to the development of these new songs.

This emphasis is on the developmental phase of the composition, so as to give the commissioned artists the time to authentically engage with children and develop their ideas and songs in a really collaborative way. Working with children, the composers have used musical games, percussion, singing and improvisation to explore themes relevant to the commission.

The composers have weaved together the children's ideas, themes, motifs and melodies and created a new suite of songs.

'Bicycles, Boomerangs and Blue Macaws' is the official title of the Children's Song Writing Project and we're excited to announce that the premiere performance will take place in **The Malthouse Stradbally on June 1st at 1pm**. Parents are welcome to the performance. We will have further details nearer the time.



Music Generation Laois/Laoise

2nd Class Spring Hike

Ms McCormack led 2nd Class on a hike along the traditional mass path down to the Derries recently. They covered almost 14km in total on the day. Great fun was had by all and what a great way to exercise and explore our wonderful locality. More pictures available on the school website.



Parents' Association Noticeboard

Confirmation

We would like to congratulate Rang a Sé on receiving the sacrament of Confirmation in March. A big thank you to Ms. Bergin for preparing the children for the sacrament. Sincere thanks also to Fr. Dooley, Fr. O' Neill, and Fr. Kavanagh and to the Parents' choir for adding to a beautiful ceremony. A very big thank you to everyone who helped out on the day, it was very much appreciated.

Church Gate Collection

Thank you to everyone who supported the Church Gate Collection on Easter Sunday and to Olivia Kirwan for her assistance. We collected €290 which will go towards the outdoor classroom and equipment. Míle buíochas.

Communion

We would like to wish rang a dó the best as they continue to prepare for their First Holy Communion. We are grateful to their teacher Ms. McCormack and Aisling Byrne for preparing the children for this special occasion. Guímíd gach ráth oraibh.

First Holy Communion Reception - Volunteers Wanted

First Holy Communion will take place on Saturday 27th May- we will be delighted to assist the school in hosting a reception for the children and their families in the school hall, after the ceremony concludes. If you are available to assist with refreshments on the day, please contact Áine – (087) 6350365.

Next meeting

The next meeting will take on Monday 15th May at 8pm in the school hall. We would love to see you there.

Dates for Your Diary

May 12th - Half-Day Closure for staff in-service

May 15th - Parents' Association Meeting

May 27th - First Communion (Rang 2)



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