



NOLLAIG 2023

NUACHTLITIR



Your monthly news from Sacred Heart National School Rath

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Christmas 2023

As we enter December, talk of Christmas increases as we anticipate all the joy and happiness this season brings. I'm sure the teachers will organise lots of fun Christmas-themed activities, but we still have three school weeks ahead with lots of work to get through. Therefore, we ask the children not to wear Christmas jumpers until the final week commencing Monday December 18th.

Some pupils like to give the staff in their classroom a small gift at Christmas. I'd like to remind parents that there is absolutely no expectation or obligation to do so. Sometimes a nice hand-written card is the best method of showing appreciation and best wishes for the Christmas season.

Our Student Council will once again organise a 'Santa Dash' before Christmas. The money raised will be donated to St Vincent de Paul locally. It is essentially a fun run that will take place on the school grounds. The children can wear their Christmas jumpers and Santa hats. The event will take place on Thursday December 21st. We are not asking the children to sell sponsorship cards, but donations to SVP can be made on the day.

Our Parents' Association will again kindly sponsor the online school panto, 'Santa Live'. It was a big hit in recent years and we've no doubt the children will really enjoy it.

We will close for the Christmas holidays on Friday December 22nd at 12:30pm. We will reopen on Monday January 8th.

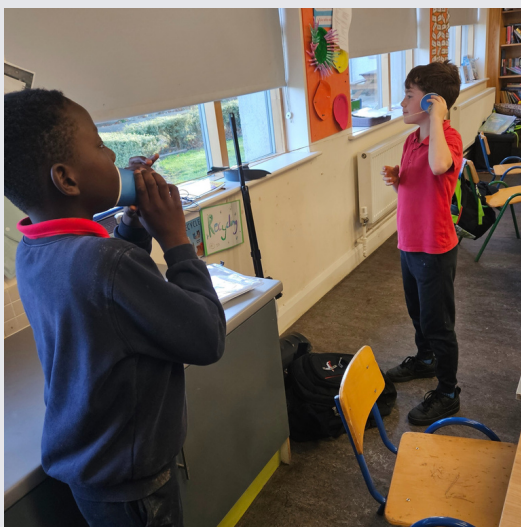
Early Drop Off & Morning Supervision

We'd like to remind you all that school starts at 9.20am with yard supervision commencing at 9am. We have noticed recently that we have a number of children on the yard before then. There are insurance and care implications arising from this, so we therefore ask you to ensure children are not on the school grounds before 9am.

Nollaig 2023

Science Week

We recently celebrated Science Week in the school. Each class engaged in science experiments and projects and there was lots of evidence of collaboration, innovation and scientific skills in operation. The pictures attached capture some of the great work that took place across the school. There are more photos to view on the school website.



Junior Infant Enrolment 2024

Enrolment for the Junior Infant Class 2024/2025 and for places in our special class for children with autism will open on Monday January 8th and will remain open until January 31st. Please inform any family members or neighbours if they've children ready to start school in September 2024. Enrolment forms will be available from the school office or can be downloaded from the school website www.rathns.ie. We cannot accept any applications before January 8th.

We plan to host an Open Day on Saturday January 12th so all prospective pupils, for Junior Infants or other classes, can visit our school and get a snapshot of what life is like in Rath N.S. Again, please feel free to spread the word!

Gaeilge

Mí na Nollag(December)

Seachtain 1 - Tá sceitimíní orm / Tá sceitimíní orm mar...

Seachtain 2 - Tá mé ag tnúth le....

Seachtain 3 - Nollaig Shona duit

Ceist coicíse: Cá bhfuil tú i do chonaí?



Rath National School
Ballybrittas

OPEN DAY
12th January 2024
From 11am - 1pm

Enrolment Open January 8th

Call : 057 862 6270

Football

Hard luck to our Girls A team who came up just short against Ratheniska in the final last week. We are so proud of the girls though for the manner in which they represented the school. Many thanks to Ms O'Connell and Joe for coaching the girls so well.

Our lunchtime football leagues recently concluded also. Boys and girls from 2nd Class through to 6th Class took part in two separate leagues and we were treated to lots of great football along the way. It was nice to see the improvement in the boys and girls, plus the enjoyment they got from taking part. We're already looking forward to our summer leagues when 1st Class will also get the opportunity to play. In the meantime, please encourage your children to practice and join our local club if they haven't already done so. Below are photos from the girls final in O'Moore Park and our lunchtime league finals. There are more photos on the website.



RSV/Bronchiolitis Infections

The HSE have asked schools to share the message below:

We often see a large increase in infections in winter. We are currently seeing a significant increase in the RSV virus (<https://www2.hse.ie/conditions/rsv/>), a common winter viral infection which is of particular concern for babies.

Symptoms of viral infections, including RSV typically include:

- runny or blocked nose
- mild fever
- cough
- lethargy (tiredness)

Most children with viral infections, including RSV can safely be cared for at home. More information can be found at <https://www2.hse.ie/conditions/colds-coughs-children/>. However, in babies and young children, (particularly those under 5 years), bronchiolitis can cause more significant difficulties in breathing and feeding. Babies and young children are more likely to need hospital care.

The most important measure is for your child to stay home from school and activities if your child is unwell. Many children might have a runny nose or a slight cough in winter season and still feel well. However, if a child is feeling unwell they should stay at home and away from school and activities until their symptoms have finished and they are feeling well.

Children who are unwell with one infection are more likely to get another infection, and may become more significantly unwell. Therefore staying at home will protect your child from other viruses while they are unwell, which may well also be circulating.

Further, Children with symptoms are more likely to spread infections. Staying home when unwell will help prevent spread to other children, families and staff. This is important particularly in primary schools where other children in their class may have younger siblings and babies at home.

Table Tennis & Basketball

As the football season concluded, pupils in 6th Class commenced table tennis sessions with Ms Phelan. It's a winter activity our 6th Class pupils look forward to each year. Many thanks to Ms Phelan, Ms Bergin and Shirley for facilitating. 5th & 6th Class pupils have also begun a lunchtime basketball league with Mr Walsh. They're learning a whole new skillset with both sports and it's great to see them all so active.



New Board of Management 2023-2027

A new school board of management has now been constituted for the 2023-2027 term. Many thanks to those members of our school community and wider local community for volunteering their time to serve our school over the next four years.

Tom Blanche (Chairperson)
Fr Eugen Tamas (Patron's Nominee)
Tommy Fitzgerald (Secretary)
Mairéad McCormack (Teachers' Nominee)
Áine O'Connell (Parents' Nominee)
Vincent O'Connell (Parents' Nominee)
Oonagh Carroll (Community Nominee)
Brian Nolan (Community Nominee)

Parents' Association Noticeboard

Split the Pot: We are running our Christmas Split the Pot for the 5 weeks to Dec 20th. Congratulations to Amy Quinn winner of Week 1 and Fiona Courtney winner of Week 2. Many thanks to all who entered. Envelopes are available from the school, Donoher's Service Station, Village Coffee and Íosa Linn. We also have an online ticket option via idonate. Keep an eye on our Facebook page "Rath NS Parents Council (2023/2024)" for weekly link. Best of luck to all.

School Calendar: Our school calendar will be on sale in Mid-December, always a family favourite. Exact date will be confirmed via Aladdin.

Santa's Visit: Santa has it in his diary and checked it twice! He'll be dropping in to visit all the boys and girls in Rath on 22nd of December. We look forward to a fun filled morning.

Beannachtaí na Nollag: We would like to thank the school community for their support during the year. Many thanks to Mr. Fitzgerald, Ms. McCormack and all of the staff for their hard work, it is very much appreciated. Thank you also to our Board of Management. Wishing everyone a wonderful Christmas, hopefully Santa calls. Nollaig Shona agus Athbhliain faoi Mhaise Daoibh.

Next meeting: Monday Dec 4th at 8pm in the school. All are most welcome to attend.