



EANÁIR 2024

NUACHTLITIR



Your monthly news from Sacred Heart National School Rath

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Rath National School

OPEN DAY

13th January 2024

From 11am - 1pm

Enrolment Open January 8th

Enrolment 2024

Enrolment for the Junior Infant Class 2024/2025 opens today, 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. We also have some capacity in other classes. Enrolment forms are available from the school office or can be downloaded from the school website www.rathns.ie. Our Admissions Policy is also online. It is important that all prospective parents read the policy carefully beforehand.

To coincide with our enrolment process, the school will host an Open Day on Saturday January 13th between 11am and 1pm. It will give children and parents an opportunity to visit the school and speak with some of our staff and pupils.

There are some posters and fliers circulating on social media. We would appreciate it if you could share and help spread the word.

Parking

You should have received a letter from the board of management recently with regard to parking outside the school. To remind you, concerns have been expressed lately about some dangerous practices and the following requests have been made by the board of management, as the body responsible for health & safety:

- Please reverse into the spaces provided at the school wall. Reversing on to the road is quite dangerous.
- Please collect your child from the gate and escort them to your car. Children should not be left to walk across such a busy road unaccompanied.
- We ask you not to U-turn outside the school or playschool. Please use the church car park or the junction at the pump to turn around if necessary.
- There are lots of car parking spaces at the church. Please consider using the footpath inside the ditch. However, children will need to be accompanied from the gate at the end of the path to the car park.
- If you plan to stay and chat with others, please use parking spaces away from the school wall.

Cllr. PJ Kelly has also been engaging with Laois County Council with regard to putting safety measures in place and we will work with him on this matter. Please pass on this information to other adults responsible for collecting your children from school.

Santa's Visit

We were very fortunate that Santa took time out of his busy schedule to visit the school on December 22nd. Once again, we were grateful to Ciarán Reilly for providing the transport for Santa and there was great excitement to see Santa arrive by helicopter. Santa then greeted the children in his own grotto that had been brilliantly decorated by members of the Parents' Association. It was a wonderful day and thank you to everyone who helped facilitate it. There are more pictures on the school website.



Santa Dash

Well done once again to our Student Council for organising our annual Santa Dash last month. It was really well supported and they raised nearly €400 for SVP Portarlinton. There are more pictures on the school website.



Grandparents' Day

Grandparents Day is always celebrated in our school and we look forward to continuing the tradition this year. The grandparents of our Junior Infants and 6th Class pupils are invited to the school on Wednesday January 24th for a short prayer service and opportunity then to visit their grandchildren's classrooms. Those not fortunate enough to have grandparents in their lives are free to invite other family members.

There will be a cup of tea/coffee for our guests afterwards.

Those attending are asked to be in the church at 12pm.



Sport

Despite the wintery weather conditions, sporting activity has continued in Rath N.S. as follows:

- Pupils in 2nd Class to 6th Class recently completed a block of swimming lessons in Portarlinton Pool.
- Our 5th & 6th Class pupils ran a lunchtime basketball league. Many thanks to Mr Walsh for organising this. Pictures of the two teams in the finals are below.
- Our annual 6th Class table tennis league took place. It's always one of the highlights in the 6th Class calendar and it didn't disappoint this year. Thank you to Ms Phelan, Ms Bergin and Shirley for facilitating. Many thanks also to Courtwood GAA for sponsoring the prizes.
- Pupils from our ARC recently took part in a participation day in Maynooth organised by Special Olympics Leinster.

We look forward to more sporting activity in the months ahead. The pictures below reflect some of the activity in recent weeks.



Gaeilge

Eanair (January).

Seachtain 1 - 'Athbhliain faoi mhaise duit' (Happy New Year to you)

Seachtain 2 - '*An féidir leat? Is féidir liom / Ní féidir liom*' (Can you...? I can / I can't)

Seachtain 3 - '*Tóg go bog é*' (take it easy)

Ceist coicíse: *An mbeidh? Beidh / Ní bheidh* (will...? / It will / It won't)



Climbing Walls

Many thanks to our Parents' Association for sponsoring our two new traverse climbing walls. They're a wonderful addition to our school.



Parents' Association

We would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very happy and healthy New Year. Athbhliain faoi shéan is faoi mhaise daoibh go léir.

Split the Pot: Many thanks to all who supported our Christmas split the pots draw. Congratulations to all prize winners. A total of €1410 was raised from the draws.

Panto: We were delighted to sponsor the online Panto in the school and that we could provide refreshments for the occasion. A fun time was had by all as they enjoyed the panto.

Calendar: Once again, we were delighted with the success of the calendar. We would like to thank everyone who purchased one and to all the local businesses who placed an advertisement. It is one of our key fundraisers in the year so many thanks to all who supported it. A special word of thanks to Manguard Plus, our main sponsor. The calendar is a lovely keepsake of the school year.

Santa Visit: Santa took time out of his busy schedule to drop into Rath school on Dec 22nd, many thanks to Ciarán for ensuring his safe arrival. There were great cheers of delight when Santa emerged from the helicopter. Again this year Santa had a beautiful grotto in the library, we would like to say míle buíochas to Sinéad Gorman and her family for providing it and adding to the magic of the visit and to all those who worked in the background to make his visit a success. Santa had a word with all the children with some taking the opportunity to delight Santa with a sing song. It was a fantastic morning.

Next meeting: The next meeting will take place on Monday 15th January in the school at 8:00p.m. We would really love to see you there.

