



Your monthly news from Sacred Heart National School Rath

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Sport

Bike Week

Parents' Association

Hot Lunches

Music Generation

Gaeilge

Willow's Walk

Book Fair

Incoming Junior Infants

End of Year Reports

Dates for Your Diary



Book Fair

Many thanks for your wonderful support of our recent Book Fair. Your generosity means that our school will receive books worth €1,555. This will allow us to supplement our school and class libraries. Thank you to Ms. Bergin for once again organising the book fair.

Incoming Junior Infants

We look forward to welcoming our new Junior Infant pupils to the school in the coming months. Parents are reminded that we will host a short induction for these boys and girls on Wednesday June 12th at 2:10pm. We look forward to meeting the next generation of Rath N.S. pupils.

Hot School Lunches

We launched our hot school lunches last week with the The Lunch Bag. Initial feedback is very positive. The lunches have been very well received and the vast majority of pupils seem to be enjoying them. As we are still very much in the initial stages, we remind you to pay particular attention to the tips / suggestions below:

- Please check your child’s order regularly. We advise all parents to do so each weekend until you and your child are satisfied with their choices. The menu does change occasionally as well. Changes to orders can be made up to 36 hours before meal time.
- The plastic lunch box needs to come to school each day. The brown box and all contents can be composted. We are very conscious of our environmental responsibilities so we ask for your cooperation in this regard.
- Children may wish to use their own cutlery. This is fine once the children bring them home and wash daily.
- Encourage your child to try new foods. It has been wonderful to see the children in the senior classes especially experiment with new food.
- If you have any technical issues or general queries, please contact schoolmeals@thelunchbag.ie

Cumann na mBunscol Hurling/ Camogie Finals

We are extremely proud of our school hurling and camogie teams who successfully reached their respective Cumann na mBunscol finals in O'Moore Park on Wednesday last. We had mixed fortunes on the day. Our camogie girls lost out to a late goal from a strong Raheen team whilst our Boys B fell short by 4 points to Timahoe. However, our Boys A team had a fantastic extra-time win against Scoil Bhríde, Portlaoise. The standard of hurling on display was exceptional and we're very proud of all our teams. To witness the effort and determination on display was heartening and all the coaches commented on how much the players had improved over a few months. Memories of a lifetime were made and it was a great experience for all our young players. Many thanks to Courtwood GAA for sponsoring food for the teams after the finals. We have more photos from the day on the school website.



Bike Week

It was great to see so many pupils cycling to school in recent weeks. Many thanks to parents for facilitating this. During Bike Week, our 5th & 6th Class pupils cycled as far as Vicarstown on the beautiful Barrow Blueway. There are more photos on the school website. Other classes also set up cycling activities in the school. Many thanks to Catriona and Laois Sports Partnership for delivering lessons to some of our novice cyclists also. We all look forward now to the Duathlon on June 21st.



Willow's Walk

In December 2023, two of our pupils and their families suffered an unbearable tragedy. Annabelle Allen from 6th class and Sam Reilly from 5th class lost their baby cousin Willow Trimble. Willow passed away unexpectedly leaving her family devastated and in a state of disbelief. In wake of this tragedy, a charity called First Light who provide support and counselling free of charge to families that have lost children unexpectedly have been providing support to Willow's family.

In Willows honour, the Trimble family has decided to do a charity walk on the 15th of June 2024 (link below) and all funds raised will be donated to First Light. In way of support to our pupils and their families, we have decided to do our very own walk on the 14th of June. Each student is welcome to join Annabelle and Sam on the walk and students who wish to make a small donation on the day are more than welcome to do so.

<https://gofund.me/c28adc19>

Music Generation Laois

On Friday last, we celebrated Music Day in Rath as all our wonderful tutors from Music Generation Laois joined us for the day. Each class got to perform in front of the school and they also got the opportunity to experiment with the different musical instruments on offer to our pupils through Music Generation Laois. Many thanks to Nuala, James, Siobhán, Dale, Eddie and all in Music Generation Laois. There are more photos on the school website.



Gaeilge

Meitheamh (June)

Seachtain 1 – Tiocfaidh mé...(I will come...)

Seachtain 2 – Gheobhaidh mé...(I will get)

Seachtain 3 – Táim ag tnúth le mo laethanta saoire.
(I'm looking forward to my holidays.)

Seachtaine 4 – Bain taitneamh as na laethanta saoire. (Enjoy the holidays.)



Parents' Association Noticeboard

Cumann na mBunscol

We would like to congratulate all the girls and boys who took part in the hurling and camogie Cumann na mBunscol matches. A huge comhghairdeas to the boys A team on their success, unfortunately it was not to be for boys B team and the girls camogie team. We are all extremely proud of all your hard work and commitment. Thank you to the staff for coaching the children and for helping them to develop their skills.

Duathlon

The duathlon will take place on Friday 21st June. It is lovely to be a part of the day and if you are available to help for approximately 2 hours, please contact Fiona on (086) 8339779 or via FB page.

Rang a Sé

We would like to wish Rang a Sé the very best of luck as they finish their primary education. We hope that they enjoyed their time in Rath NS and look forward to the new adventures that await them. We would also like to thank all the staff who helped them on their journey through primary school. We hope that they continue to grow and flourish during their secondary school years.

End of Year

As the school year draws to a close, we would like to thank each of you for your very generous support of the Association throughout the year. We have enjoyed all the different events and look forward to many more events next year with your continued help and support. We would like to thank Mr. Fitzgerald, Ms. Mc Cormack, Amanda, all the staff and the Board of Management for all your help, hard work, and great support. It is very much appreciated. We hope you all have a wonderful, happy and safe summer. Bainigí taitneamh as.

End of Year Reports / Standardised Tests

The end of year reports this year will be delivered via our Aladdin Connect app. We hope to send reports by June 20th.

The children in 1st Class to 6th Class have been completing standardised tests in literacy and numeracy in recent weeks. With the exception of 1st Class literacy, scores will be included in the end of year reports. Please understand that these standardised tests are only one of a number of ways that we monitor and measure a child's progress.

They are not an "end of year" test (in some schools they are carried out in Autumn). Standardised tests are not designed as to simply test topics covered by curriculum of a class level. Particularly in Maths, tests can contain questions which might be more suitable to a lower or a higher class level.

Results can be useful references for teachers and can be used to help identify if a child is experiencing difficulty in a certain area. A standardised test result may highlight an area that a child ordinarily seems to be comfortable with in class and/or at home – and may need to be monitored further in that area. In summary, standardised tests are only one of a wide range of assessment tools used by teachers and results should not be interpreted in isolation.

It is up to you, as a parent, to decide if you wish to discuss the exact result with your child. The school would **STRONGLY** advise against. If you wish to discuss with them, we advise that you only discuss results in general terms with pupils – rather than giving them a numeric value. Comments such as, "You should be very proud of your results" and, "Your hard work paid off", might be more appropriate with young children.

You must consider if it will cause undue worry or stress to your child to share a score every year – they may worry about 'going up' or 'going down' from year to year, when it is perfectly natural for results to do this.

They may interpret the results as 7/10, which is not the case, or may be unduly excited or disappointed by a result. It is up to you, as a parent, to decide how much information, if any to share with your child. If you do choose to share the results with your child, please remind them to keep the results to themselves, and not to share them with their classmates. Test results should **NOT** be a topic of conversation particularly in the Senior Classes, as it can cause a lot of undue pressure for children.

No matter the results, they have all worked hard across the year, and no doubt did their best and should be praised for doing so.

Rang 6

As this is the final newsletter of the school year, I'd like to thank each of you for your cooperation and support for the work that we do in school throughout the year. For those parents with their youngest child in 6th Class, we thank you sincerely for your contribution to our school community over the years. Our outgoing 6th Class are a credit to you and your families. We're very proud of each of them and we wish them all the very best as they commence the next chapter in their lives.



Feast of the Sacred Heart

This Friday June 7th is the Feast of the Sacred Heart. As we are The Sacred Heart National School, we will attend mass on Friday at 9:30am. Other members of the community are invited to join us on the day.

Dates for Your Diary

- June 5th - 6th Class trip to The Derries
- June 7th - Lá Spraoi / Feast of the Sacred Heart
- June 11th - Rounders Competition
- June 12th - Junior Infant Induction
- June 13th - 4th & 5th Class School Tour
- June 14th - Junior & Senior Infant Tour
- June 17th - 6th Class Tour
- June 20th - 2nd Class Tour
- June 21st - Duathlon
- June 24th - 5th & 6th Class History trip
- June 27th - End of term & half-day closure (12:30pm)



Fón: 057-8626270
Web: www.rathns.ie

E-mail: office@rathns.com
principal@rathns.com