



# MEÁN FÓMHAIR 2024

# NUACHTLITIR



Your monthly news from Sacred Heart National School Rath

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## **Fáilte Ar Ais**

Fáilte romhaibh ar ais tar éis an samhradh. Tá sé iontach a bheith ar ais arís. Welcome to the 2024/2025 school year, one which we hope will be enjoyable and productive for all. It was wonderful to welcome a new class of Junior Infants last week. They have settled in so well and we look forward to tracking their development in the weeks and months to come.

We'd like to remind you all that the school starts at 9.20am. **No child should be on the school grounds before 9am** as we are not insured before then.

We encourage you to use the church car park and path from the school if possible, in the morning and afternoon, in an effort to alleviate traffic congestion outside the school. Parking at the rear of the hall / playschool is reserved for staff only. We have 27 staff members using that car park each day so all available spots are required.





## **Football**

The children in the senior classrooms are very excited about Cumann na mBunscol Football competitions commencing next week. Once again, we will field two boys teams and two girls teams. Preparations have begun already agus táimid ag tnúth go mór leis na cluichí. Parents are welcome to attend home games but we ask you to enter through the gate near the church. Go n-éirí an t-ádh leis na foirne ar fad.

We'd like to give a special mention to our 6th Class pupil Seán Slattery also. Seán was selected to represent Laois at the half-time game on All-Ireland Final day in Croke Park. He was the only Laois pupil chosen to do so. Well done Seán.



## **Student Council**



Our current Student Council's term will soon come to an end. They have been fantastic representatives of our school and we are very grateful for all their hard work throughout the year. A new Student Council will be elected by their peers before the end of the month. I'm sure they'll continue to provide an opportunity for pupils to voice their opinions and offer suggestions in relation to many aspects of school life. Pictured below are members of our outgoing Student Council for the 2023/2024 school year.

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## **Return to School Costs**

Back to school costs this summer were once again helped significantly due to the introduction of the new free schoolbook scheme. However, there was a reduction in the rate per pupil granted to schools. Therefore, in order to cover the significant costs associated with books, copies, stationery, art supplies, photocopying, extra-curricular activities etc., we will be asking for payments ranging between €30 and €45 depending on the class and the activities they're engaged in. The costs associated with the computer classes and whole-class music lessons are heavily subsidised by the Parents' Association and we thank them sincerely for this. The school financial year commenced on September 1st. Therefore, the payments above for the 2024/2025 school year are payable through the month of September. You will be provided with a link to Aladdin online payments. Cheque or cash payments are acceptable, but we encourage all parents/guardians to avail of our online payment option if possible. Please contact Amanda ([office@rathns.com](mailto:office@rathns.com) / 0578626270) if you require assistance.

## Hot School Lunches

As we are still very much in the initial stages of hot lunches in the school, 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 48 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 experiment with new food.
- If you have any technical issues or general queries, please contact [schoolmeals@thelunchbag.ie](mailto:schoolmeals@thelunchbag.ie)

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## Gaeilge

Bain triail as beagán Gaeilge sa bhaile. We place an emphasis on spoken and informal Irish across the school – both inside and outside the classroom. We want to instil an awareness among the children that Gaeilge is a living language. This in turn helps to create a positive outlook among pupils towards Gaeilge. It would be great if the children could hear you speak 'cúpla focal' at home. Each month, we will pick a number of phrases to work on - in school and at home. Bain triail as agus bain taitneamh as chomh maith!



### Méan Fómhair (September)

Seachtain 1 – Dia duit (hello) / Móra duit ar maidin (good morning)

Seachtain 2 – Slán (bye) / Feicfidh mé thú ar ball (see you soon)

Seachtain 3 – Conas atá tú? (how are you?) / Tá mé go hiontach (I'm great)

Seachtain 4 – Go raibh maith agat (thank you). Tá fáilte romhat (you're welcome).

Ceist coicíse: Déan cur síos ort féin... (describe yourself), Cén dath atá ar do shúile? Tá súile .. agam. (what colour are your eyes? I have .... eyes.)

Cén dath atá ar do chuid gruaige? Tá gruaig ...orm. (what colour have do you have? I have .... hair.)

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## Mobile Phones

If you decide that your child is mature enough to deal with the consequences and responsibilities that come with owning a phone, we would advise you to monitor their usage closely. We would also strongly advise pupils to avoid large group chats, as per advice from outside experts and our own experiences. As mobile phones are not permitted on school grounds, children's online activity outside school hours is beyond our control. Should issues arise, we ask you in the first instance to have a family plan to deal with it. We have found in recent years that more and more out of school online behaviour is creeping into the school which negatively impacts teaching and learning, not to mention the effects on friendships.

If you would like some support on this topic, we would suggest you visit the [webwise.ie](http://webwise.ie) site which contains lots of excellent advice and resources for parents.



## **Code of Behaviour**

In recent years, we have implemented our new Code of Behaviour across the school. The feedback from staff, pupils and parents is that it's a very fair and clear document, and it allows the pupils to learn in a safe environment. Our traffic light system is predicated on our four basic school rules:

1. I have respect for people and for property.
2. I do my best in class and allow others to do the same.
3. I behave in a proper manner around the school.
4. I play safely and fairly.

At the beginning of another school year, we will familiarise the children with the rules once more and how our code of behaviour operates. Copies are available to download from the website. Our overarching aim is to promote positive behaviour and respect for one another.

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## **School Closure September 25th**

The school will close for the day on Wednesday September 25th to facilitate staff in-service on the new Primary Mathematics Curriculum.

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## **Parents' Association Noticeboard**

### Fáilte

We would like to welcome everyone back to school, a very special welcome to the new Naíonáin Bheaga. We hope everyone has settled in and is looking forward to an enjoyable and productive year.

### Junior Infants Meet & Greet

We had a lovely evening on Tuesday 26th August when Junior Infants visited the school and spent some time getting to know each other. Thank you to all the parents and guardians for bringing the children along on the evening.

Thank you also to all those who helped organise the event and refreshments and Laois Libraries and St Pauls GAA who also popped in.

### Facebook

The Parents' Association have a Facebook page, Rath NS Parents Council (2024/2025). The page is used to share information about events the PA organises and other events in the area that might be of interest to the school community.

### Meeting

The first meeting of the year will take place on Monday 9th of September 8:30 pm in the school. All parents and guardians are invited to attend and we'd really love to see you involved. It is a wonderful opportunity to meet other parents and guardians in the school. Your help and new ideas are always more than welcome.

### AGM

We will hold our AGM in early October.