



Your monthly news from Sacred Heart National School Rath

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**Parent / Teacher Meetings**

Parent / Teacher meetings will take place the week beginning November 25th for each class. Parents / guardians will need to use our Aladdin app to book a face-to-face meeting. If you would prefer a phone call, please contact Amanda in the office and we will arrange a suitable time. Dates and time slots will issue next week. Parents who have already met with special education teachers to discuss individual plans don't need to book a slot, but this can be accommodated if necessary. We also remind parents/guardians to please book an appointment through the office to speak with or to arrange a meeting with a teacher. It is against school policy to approach a teacher directly before or after school without an appointment.

**Admissions 2025**

Admission applications for the Junior Infant Class and our special classes for the 2025/2026 school year opened on October 25th. The closing date for application forms is **November 15th**. Please inform any family members or neighbours if they've children ready to start school in September 2025. Enrolment forms are available from the school office or can be downloaded from the school website [www.rathns.ie](http://www.rathns.ie). Our Admissions Policy is also online. It is important that all prospective parents read the policy carefully beforehand.

**Swimming**

Swimming lessons In Portarlinton Leisure Centre commence this week for pupils in 2nd Class to 6th Class. There will be 5 weeks of lessons for each group.

**5th & 6th**

- Nov 4th
- Nov 11th
- Nov 18th
- Nov 25th
- Dec 2nd

**2nd / 3rd / 4th**

- Nov 6th
- Nov 13th
- Nov 20th
- Nov 27th
- Dec 4th



Many thanks once again to our Parents' Association who will cover the cost of the bus each day. This results in a significant saving for parents.

## **Halloween Hike**

Our annual Halloween Hike was held on October 25th. As always, it was a very enjoyable day. Well done to all the pupils, staff and parents for making such a great effort to dress up. Many thanks also to our Parents' Association for organising the refreshments and treats on the day, as well as helping to keep the roads and junctions safe for the children. We would also like to thank Seán and the Ward family for being such great hosts once again in The Fisherman's Inn. There are more photos to view on the school website.



## **The Lunch Bag**

We have had some requests from parents about the possibility of cancelling lunches on days when you know your child won't be in school. Previously this wasn't possible. However, The Lunch Bag have taken on board feedback from our school and others, and there is now a feature on the app that allows parents to cancel meals in advance.

1. Open the app.
2. In the top left hand corner you'll see 3 lines. Click this and then choose calendar.
3. You can flick between children if you've more than one child in the school.
4. Click on the dates you want to cancel the meals.

A short demonstration video is available to view on the school website. Remember, all orders or changes to orders must be completed at least 48 hours in advance. Hopefully this new feature will reduce food waste going forward.

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## **Uniforms**

We have noticed that more children are wearing an assortment of clothing items that do not align with our school uniform. Pupils who prefer to wear a tracksuit are asked to wear plain navy bottoms & jumpers each day, with a red polo neck shirt. Hoodies, zip tops, branded tops etc. are not permitted. We also remind parents to **please label jumpers** in particular. We have a large collection of unclaimed jumpers in the school at present.

## Maths Week

We celebrated Maths Week in the school recently. The school was a hive of activity all week as each class engaged in fun and imaginative Maths activities to celebrate Maths Week 2024. Many thanks to Ms. Conroy in particular for organising the week's activities.



## Gaeilge

Mí na Samhna (November)

Seachtain 1 - Tá brón orm (I'm sorry) / Brón orm cur isteach ort (sorry to disturb you)

Seachtain 2 - Cad a tharla? (what happened?)

Seachtain 3 - An bhfuil cead agam...? (Can I...?)

Seachtain 4 - Gabh mo leithscéal (excuse me)

Ceist coicíse: Conas atá an aimsir inniú? (how is the weather today?)

Cá bhfuil tú i do chónaí? (where do you live?)

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## Football

Our pitches were a hive of activity in recent weeks as we ran our two respective lunchtime football leagues. The Junior League was for pupils in 2nd, 3rd and 4th Classes, while the Senior League was for 5th and 6th Class pupils. The action concluded on finals day with medals presented to the winning teams and runners up at our recent Teacht le Chéile. Well done to our 6th Class pupils for the excellent job they did refereeing the matches and setting up the pitches each day. Thank you to Mr Walsh also for coaching our 1st Class pupils in recent weeks. We now look forward to our summer leagues in Term 3. More photos on the school website [www.rathns.ie](http://www.rathns.ie).



## Meet our Student Council



**Name:** Finbarr Murphy

**Class:** Rang 4

**Favourite Subject:** PE

**Hobbies:** Athletics and football

**What I like about our school:** I like the hot lunches, history lessons, PE and playing with my friends at break times.

**My priority for the Student Council:**

- new basketball nets
- a communication board for people who find it hard to speak
- table tennis for 4th, 5th & 6th Class



**Name:** Eve O'Connell

**Class:** Rang 2

**Favourite Subject:** Gaeilge

**Hobbies:** Tin whistle, dancing, art and reading

**What I like about our school:** I love our climbing wall and playing with my friends.

**My priority for the Student Council:** I love wildlife so I want to create nice habitats by planting more flowers around the school.

## Parents' Association Noticeboard

**AGM:** The AGM took place on Wednesday 9th October. The following members were elected: - Chairperson – Fiona Kelly, Vice-Chairperson May Kelly, Secretary – Enrica Roker, Vice Secretary - Mariana Lurescu, Treasurer – Deirdre Bell and Vice -Treasurer – Orla Fee, PRO – Elaine Brick.

Many thanks for the efforts of the outgoing committee, in particular Deirdre O'Grady who has stepped down after a busy 5 years as secretary.

Please see our Facebook page "Rath NS Parents Council (2024/2025)" for further information. You can also contact us on [chair.p.c.rathns@gmail.com](mailto:chair.p.c.rathns@gmail.com) or [sec.p.crathns@gmail.com](mailto:sec.p.crathns@gmail.com)

**Halloween Hike:** The annual Halloween hike took place on October 25th, staff and students all looking fantastic. Thanks to Sean and all at the Fisherman's Inn for hosting us on the morning, a stop which is enjoyed by all. A massive thanks to the parents and guardians who helped out on the day. Finally, many thanks to all who supported the event so generously, to date we've raised €2,336. Any remaining cards can be returned to Amanda.

**Split the Pot:** This year we will run Split the Pot for five weeks. The first draw will take place on Wednesday 20th of November. The children will bring home envelopes next week. We'll also offer an online payment options - details will be posted on FB page. The money raised will go towards supporting sporting activities, subsidising the cost of music/computer classes in the school and subsidising bus costs for swimming lessons, school tours etc. We are grateful for all your support.

**Calendar 2025:** We are currently working on calendar for 2025. Anyone wishing to purchase an advert please contact us, details above.

**Next meeting:** Date TBC – details will go out via Aladdin.