



MÁRTA 2025

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Your monthly news from Sacred Heart National School Rath

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Couch to 2K

On Sunday March 2nd, we hosted a 2k Fun Run in the school. It was the culmination of 5 weeks training for the pupils in each class. It was wonderful to see so many parents, past pupils and extended family members in attendance, with many putting on the running shoes themselves and completing the 2k. Many thanks to our Parents' Association for providing the refreshments afterwards. We'd also like to acknowledge the support we received from Laois Sports Partnership. We will continue to encourage the children to engage with regular exercise. Please visit the school website (rathns.ie) to view more photos from the day.

World Book Day

We will celebrate World Book Day on **Thursday, March 6th**. The children have the opportunity to bring one of their favourite books to life by dressing up as a character from the book. It's one of the days the children most look forward to each year. It is part of our continuing efforts to motivate and encourage the children to read. This year, our Student Council have suggested something different. They are asking pupils to consider dressing up as a famous historical character. Most well known figures from history have books written about them so we can link it back to World Book Day. This is a suggestion only and not something pupils have to do. The website <https://www.worldbookday.com/about-us/ireland/> contains a family section where you, as a parent, can source fun activities, reading recommendations, audiobooks, interactive games and lots more. It might be something you'd like to do this week with your child.



Márta 2025

Gaeilge / Seachtain na Gaeilge

Is féile Ghaeilge í Seachtain na Gaeilge, atá ar an gceiliúradh is mó dár dtéanga agus dár gcultúr dúchais a bhíonn ar siúl in Éirinn gach bliain. We in Rath N.S. will be celebrating it also in our school and we plan to engage the children in fun language activities. Beidh 'Lá Glas' againn chomh maith ar **Márta 14**. The boys and girls can wear anything green to celebrate Seachtain na Gaeilge agus Lá Fhéile Pádraig.

Márta (March)

Seachtain 1 – An ndearna tú? Rinne mé/ ní dhearna (did you do/make?)

Seachtain 2 – Ar chuala tú? Chuala / níor chuala (did you hear? I heard / didn't hear)

Seachtain 3 – Tá sceitimíní orm mar... (I'm excited because...)

Seachtain 4 – An bhfuil tú ceart go leor? (are you okay?)

Ceist coicíse: Cad iad na héadaí is fearr leat? (what clothes do you prefer?)

Cén sort clár teilifíse is fearr leat? (what type of TV programmes do you prefer?)

Sport

Football: After-school football coaching with Courtwood GAA continues on Fridays with pupils from 3rd - 6th Class. 1st and 2nd Class have football during school time on Fridays also. Many thanks to all the coaches and volunteers from Courtwood GAA for facilitating this.

Volleyball: Well done to our 6th Class pupils for competing so well in their recent blitz day in Portlaoise College. We congratulate our Mixed Team in particular who have qualified for the National Finals in Limerick on Friday March 7th. Go n-éirí leo! Thank you to Mr Walsh for coaching the boys and girls.

Tag Rugby: Tag rugby with Adam from Portarlinton RFC / Leinster Rugby commenced last week with pupils in 1st Class - 6th Class.

Hurling / Camogie: Hurling and camogie training continues as the children in 4th, 5th & 6th classes prepare for their respective Cumann na mBunscol competitions. Pupils in 3rd Class are welcome to train also.



Half-Day Closure March 28th

We remind you that the school will close at the earlier time of **12:30pm on Friday March 28th** to facilitate staff in-service on the new Bí Cineálta procedures. Bí Cineálta is the new Department of Education led procedures that aim to support school communities to prevent and address bullying behaviour. Our new Bí Cineálta Policy, when completed, will replace our current Anti-Bullying Policy.

Spellings

As we soon commence a new cycle of School Self-Evaluation, we'd like to remind you of the focus of our current cycle that commenced 12 months ago. As a school, we evaluated how we teach spellings and we implemented a School Improvement Plan arising from this. In Rath N.S. we follow Brendan Culligan's Programme. Each child gets a list of spellings specific to their spelling needs. It is based on ability, not age or class. The programme promotes a visual approach and ensures children have a positive experience of spelling. There is no Friday test.

We encourage the children to:

- Use "Look, Cover, Say Write, Check" when learning spellings.
- We ask the children to examine the word in detail – how many letters, long/tall letters? Doubles? Vowel patterns? Known strings? Words within words? Then picture these features
- Use mnemonics: Because-Big elephants can always understand small elephants
- Play games: Hangman, make word searches, make pairs games with flash cards of their learning words, play Tic Tac Toe with their words

Last year we shared a short document with parents/guardians outlining our approach to teaching spellings. The document also contains some useful information and guidance for you to help your child at home. For your reference, we have uploaded the document again to the school website.

Sacraments

Rang 2 and Rang 6 are currently preparing for their respective sacraments in the coming weeks and months. We wish both groups the very best, particularly our 6th Class pupils who will be confirmed in the coming weeks. Please make note of the dates and times below:

Rang 2

First Confessions / Sacrament of Reconciliation - Wednesday April 9th at 7pm in Sacred Heart Church, Rath.

First Holy Communion - Saturday June 7th at 11:30am in Sacred Heart Church, Rath.

Rang 6

Service of Light / Reconciliation - Tuesday March 25th at 6:30pm in Sacred Heart Church, Rath.

Confirmation - Thursday March 27th at 2pm in Sacred Heart Church, Rath.

Quiz Teams

Our Quiz teams have been busy in recent weeks. Our u11 and u13 teams took part in the Portarlington Area Credit Union quiz on February 7th, with our u13 team coming in 1st place. This is a great achievement and they now progress to the next level of the competition. Pictured below are team members Seán, Michael, Alison and Clodagh.

On Tuesday last, four 6th class pupils represented the school at the annual Laois Cumann na mBunscol quiz. Almost 40 schools from across the county participated with Rath N.S. finishing in 3rd place. Well done Dylan, Michael, Senan and Seán.



Meet Our Student Council



Name: Oisín O'Connell

Class: Rang 2

Favourite Subject: Gaeilge

Hobbies: Hurling and Gaelic Football

What I like about our school: I like all the sports in the school.

My priority for the Student Council: My priority to get more sports equipment for the school.



Name: Danny Daly

Class: Rang 5

Favourite Subject: English

Hobbies: Gaelic football and basketball

What I like about our school: All the children and staff. I like the fun activities we do and the after-school football.

My priority for the Student Council: My priority is making the school a better place and keeping everyone happy.

Parents' Association Noticeboard

Bake Sale: Our Bake Sale was held on Friday, February 14th. A huge thank you to everyone who contributed baked goods – there was an amazing selection that the children absolutely loved. We also appreciate the help of those who assisted on the day. The event raised a total of €940! Míle buíochas for your continued support.

Confirmation: Confirmation will be held on Thursday, March 27th at 2pm. Following the ceremony, we will host a reception in the school hall for Rang a Sé, their families, and sponsors. If you are available to assist on the day, please inform a committee member. Your support would be greatly appreciated. We would like to take this opportunity to wish all the cailíní and buachaillí the best of luck as they continue their preparation for the sacrament of Confirmation. We hope you all have a wonderful day.

Dates for Your Diary

March 6th - World Book Day

March 14th - Lá Glas

March 25th - Service of Light (Rang 6)

March 27th - Confirmation

March 28th - Half-Day Closure for staff in-service. **12:30pm finish.**



New After-School Clubs



A new after school club will run every Monday starting on March 3rd. Lots of sports, games and activities from 3pm to 4pm for students from 3rd to 6th class. Please return completed forms as soon as possible. Any queries please contact Mr. Walsh.

A new after chess club will run every Tuesday for 6 weeks in Ms O'Connell's room, starting on March 4th. All abilities will be catered for. It is open for students from 3rd to 6th class. Please contact Ms. O'Connell for forms and payment details (smccormack@rathns.com).



This club is a great opportunity for your child to explore and develop their natural creativity through play, work as part of a team and enhance their STEM skills. It will run every Thursday from March 6th – April 10th (6-week block). The club is open to children from 1st Class – 6th Class. For an application form, details about payment or any further queries, please don't hesitate to contact Mr. Delaney by email – kdelaney@rathns.com.