



RATHMICHAEL PARISH NATIONAL SCHOOL - NEWSLETTER - JANUARY 2023

Dear Parents,

Welcome back for the Spring Term. On behalf of myself and the staff, I would like to thank you for the many generous Christmas gifts which you gave us. It was very thoughtful of you and much appreciated.

Dates for your Diaries:

6th February – Bank Holiday for St. Brigid's Day. School will be closed for this day only.

13th – 17th February inclusive: Mid-term break (School will close for the week.)

Normal closing on 10th February with Swimming as usual.

2023/24 Holidays:

This is attached to this Newsletter. Please do not confuse the Holidays for 22/23 with this list. Please note that it is the prerogative of the incoming Principal to make alterations to this list.

21st February - Pancake Day (PTA). More information to follow nearer the date.

24th February – Adult Table Quiz in the School Hall. A separate note will follow. Tickets will be available from the Office from the start of February. Please note that there will also be a Family Table Quiz (children from 3rd to 6th Classes may take part). However, the date for this has yet to be confirmed.

2nd March – World Book Day – Children to dress up as a character from a book. More details to follow.

3rd March – Family Movie Night – PTA Event. More information to follow

8th March – 1st Aid Training for Parents, being co-ordinated by the PTA. This is an evening function in the School Hall. More information to follow.

15th March - School Action Day – Go Green for the Day. More information to follow near the date.

Advance Notice:

Open Day is scheduled for 14th June 2023 and **Sports' Day** will take place on **20th June 2023**, during Active Week.

External Additions to School/Grounds

Solar Panels: Solar Power is being installed on the roof of the school during February/March of this year. As a Green School, we are particularly delighted about this. The children will be able to view the panels from the Staffroom. Hopefully this will help to reduce our energy bills.

Outdoor Sheltered Classroom: Following the Board of Management survey of parents for needs in the school, we have put in for planning permission for an Outdoor

Sheltered Classroom. The notice for this will shortly be going up on the school gate. The sheltered classroom will be situated on our top yard by the fence. This will be invaluable for wet breaks, P.E. and events of all kinds.

School Policies

Please look at the website for updated school policies, relating to Anti-Bullying and Child Protection, Admissions, Parents as Partners in Education and Smart Devices. I would particularly like to draw your attention to the Smart Devices Policy. This not only includes mobile phones but also any smart device, such as watches, which are capable of being linked to the Internet and have the ability to record videos, sound and take photographs. Children may have received mobile phones and watches as Christmas presents. These devices cause disruption to classes and distraction to pupils. The school will not take any responsibility for their loss or damage. Filming/photographing/recording of others with or without consent and subsequent use of such material, is strictly prohibited in school and children found using them for these purposes will have the devices confiscated by the teacher and parents will be informed.

Installation of new Computers

Eight new computers have been installed in the Computer Room and those that have been replaced are being put in classrooms for pupils' use. My thanks to Mrs Crammond for all her help with this.

Christmas Jumper Day for Laura Lynn Foundation

It was lovely to see the children in their Christmas Jumpers on the last day of term. It certainly made the school feel very festive. Thank you also to everyone who donated money, either in cash or online. We raised €365 for Laura Lynn.

Fundraising for School

Thanks to everyone who has made donations to the school this year. We are extremely grateful for your generosity.

PTA Events

Thanks to everyone who contributes to and participates in the events organized by the PTA Committee. Money raised so far includes Sponsored Walk: over €1,700; Christmas Cards: over €900; Calendars: over €1,300; Christmas Trees: €850 and Art/Wine and Raffle: over €500. Money from these events has been used to buy Picnic Benches for the school yard and resources for classrooms/special educational needs. Thanks to the PTA for all its hard work in coordinating these events.

Carlingford Raffle

Thanks to everyone who bought tickets for the Carlingford Raffle and congratulations to the winners (we would be grateful to receive the empty hampers back please – that goes for the Art and Wine Raffle also). Over €600 was raised.

Revenue CHY Certs

Revenue Certs will be sent shortly to those families who donated €250 or more to the school in the 2022 calendar year and we would appreciate it if these could be returned to school at your earliest convenience. Usually families with more than one child in the school would qualify to receive these Certs, due to the amount of Voluntary

Contributions generated through the school bills. We are extremely grateful to those families who were in a position to make additional donations which we will include in our claim to the Revenue.

Workshops/Classes/Projects/Quizzes

6th Class Cycle Training: this commenced on Thursday 19th January, with an in-class instruction session and the children are looking forward to taking their bikes on to the astro pitch on Thursdays for practical training.

Core Credit Union Quiz: four children from 6th Class will represent the school at this quiz, on the evening of 30th January – the very best of luck to them.

Scooter/Bike Workshops: these have been arranged for next Thursday and Friday for pupils in 1st, 2nd (Scooters) and 5th (Bikes). A note will go home on Monday via email to the classes concerned.

Write a Book: 4th Class is involved in writing individual books in a Blackrock Education Centre initiative and some very creative work is being produced.

Launch of Hedgerow Toolkit for Schools: 2nd Class pupils and the Green School Committee represented the school at the launch of this DLRCC initiative in Shanganagh Park, on Wednesday and thoroughly enjoyed the accompanying workshop. Thank you to those parents who were available to accompany them.

Music (all Classes) and Spanish (this term 3rd and 4th Classes): these have restarted for the term.

Library Visit: Senior Infants and 3rd Class went in their buddy pairings, to visit the Library. They learned how the Library works and were read stories. The children really enjoyed this. Such visits may be planned for other classes through the term, depending on availability of dates.

Shanganagh Development Discussion: representatives from DLRCC came in to talk to 6th Class about the proposed development of the Park and to get their input.

Junior Achievement: each year, the school takes part in this programme in which people from the business world come in to help the children to make the connection between what they are learning in school and the world of work. The programme in 5th Class has concluded and another volunteer has started in 3rd Class.

Physical Activities

P.E., GAA and Touch Rugby have all returned for the new term. The rugby coach is concluding sessions with 3rd and 4th Classes and will commence with Junior and Senior Infants in February. The sessions are all tailored to the particular age groups.

Thank you to all the pupils in 1st to 6th Classes who submitted artwork for the Design a Jersey Competition. Shankill GAA Club was very impressed with the quality of our entries. The winning entry will be advised shortly as will the four runners-up.

Cricket has started for a four-week period for 5th and 6th Classes.

Swimming: this has resumed for 1st to 4th Classes. Their last swim will be on 3rd March and 3rd and 6th Classes will commence the first of their 10 sessions on 10th March.

Hockey League Matches: these have been organised by Southside School Sports for the Boys' and the Girls' teams and the Football League should commence shortly. The Boy's Hockey team recently drew 0-0 with Rathdown Boys in a closely fought

match and lost another close game 3-1 to DSP, while the Girls lost 3-1 to The Harold National School in a tight encounter.

Pupils from all classes have been running laps of the school, to try to run enough kilometres to reach a variety of European capitals. 6th Class students are announcing the amount of laps run each week.

Please note that Aaron (Oreo) Brown will be running his Sports' Camp in the school grounds during February mid-term. If you would like your child to participate please sign up online: aaronscamp2019@gmail.com.

The Sportsmanship Awards for January will be advised in the February Newsletter.

Teaching Practice/American Student Teacher

We are delighted to be able to facilitate student teachers this year and teaching practice will take place during this term. We will also be welcoming Chloe Troutman, an American Student Teacher, who will be with us during February and March.

Green School/Flag

We are continuing to work towards our Travel Flag while also being committed to other environmental issues. We welcomed the Climate Justice Candle into school this week which was on display in the Concourse and was discussed at Assembly, to highlight the importance of Climate Justice and how resources must be shared between countries to redress the imbalance between developed and developing nations and to promote equality in the use of these resources.

5th and 2nd Classes took part in an environment programme, The Globe Ireland Rainfall Observation Project. 5th Class tracked rainfall using rain gauges and identified areas in the school where rain gathers. They worked in groups to present their ideas on how to make the school more "spongy" to soak up the rainfall. 2nd Class gathered rainwater data from the gauges. The children thoroughly enjoyed participating in this very relevant, informative project.

Warm Clothing

Hopefully with the advent of Spring, the weather will continue to warm up. Children should however, remember to bring their named, coats with them to school each day. If they wish they may supplement the uniform with other layers. However, if they choose to wear the Oodies, these must only be worn in the classroom and not outside in place of coats.

Wellbeing

The theme for January is Fresh Beginnings and Resolutions and the children are all working on topics related to this.

Happy New Year to everyone and I very much look forward to what will be my final term in Rathmichael.

Caroline Senior, Principal
27th January 2023

