



Rathmichael Parish National School - December 2023

Please remember that the Christmas Assembly Service takes place tomorrow at 9.00 in Burton (School) Hall. Also tomorrow is Christmas Jumper Day for Heart Children Ireland

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Thanks to all pupils, parents and staff for your support in my first Autumn term in Rathmichael. It has been wonderful to start getting to know the children and to meet so many parents at events such as the Sponsored Walk and the Art and Wine. I look forward to seeing you at the Christmas Assembly Service tomorrow morning. To everyone I wish a Happy and Healthy Christmas and New Year.

Christmas Assembly Service:

This commences in the School Hall at 9.00 a.m. and parents are very welcome to attend. This should last approximately an hour.

End of Term:

School finishes at 12.30 p.m. tomorrow (Infants 12.25 p.m.). Please ensure that your child is collected on time.

Spring Term:

Spring Term will commence on **Monday 8th January for a full-day**, closing at normal time.

After School Games:

Games will restart on **Monday 8th January. Please sign up with Southside School Sports. This includes the Infant games from 1.30 p.m. to 2.30 p.m.** (Days for Games for each class should remain as per the Autumn Term - all details on the Southside School Sports website).

Swimming:

Swimming will recommence on **Friday 12th January** for **2nd and 5th Classes** only.

Milk:

Milk will commence from **Monday 15th January**. A note will go home on Monday 8th January.

GAA, P.E.:

Will all recommence during the week commencing 8th January.

Spanish:

Will recommence on Wednesday 10th January. This term Ms. Uhlar will be teaching in 3rd and 4th Classes.

Music:

Will recommence on Thursday 11th January.

Artzone:

Will recommence on Tuesday 9th January.

Chess:

This is a reminder that we hope to start Chess classes on Thursdays after school, in the New Year,

with Al Robinson. Please advise Trish if you would be interested in your child attending.

Christmas Jumper Day

Please remember that tomorrow is Christmas Jumper Day for Heart Children Ireland. If your child does not have a Christmas Jumper, then a red or green one or some tinsel will be fine - please do not go out especially and buy a jumper. Please either give your child €3 to bring in tomorrow or you may pay online to the PTA Account (using Heart Ireland and Surname as a reference if possible). Thank you to those parents who have already made online donations. All money raised will be sent on to Heart Ireland.

Voluntary Donations/Revenue

A limited number of grants are available to the school to cover electricity, gas, some maintenance and ancillary staff. However, in order for us to maintain the building and grounds to a good standard, we have to supplement this. It is through your Voluntary Donations and fund raising events, that we achieve this. I want to thank you for all your continued support in this way. I would also like to thank all those families who have made additional generous donations to the school. If any family wishes to make contributions prior to the 31st December deadline (for Charitable Donations for Revenue purposes), please contact Trish, in confidence.

Music and Spanish

My thanks to Naomi Clarkson and Ms Uhlar for their work with the children in Infants to 6th Classes (Music) and in 5th and 6th Classes (Spanish). They have both put a tremendous amount of effort and preparation into these classes and I am very grateful to them. Naomi and the class teachers have been working very hard with children in 3rd and 4th Classes in preparation for the Peace Proms Performance in 2024. My thanks to Naomi also for all her work with 5th and 6th Class pupils for the amazing Carol Service held in St. Anne's Church on Tuesday evening. It was wonderful to see children from the three schools singing together and a huge credit goes to Naomi for bringing everything together after only two practices with all the children. The children were so well behaved and we are very proud of them.

Choir and Carol Services

My thanks to those members of the Choir who sang at the Rathmichael Parish Carol Service. Thanks as always to Mrs. Lewis for all her work with the Choir. The Choir also performed for the clients of the Shankill Day Care Centre on 13th December and I was very impressed with them all.

Cycle Training for 6th Class

As in previous years, 6th Class will be receiving 7 weeks of training in cycling safety from the Cycling Safety School, starting in January. This training has proved invaluable in the past and the children learn vital cycle control skills, good road safety habits and the value of exercise. This is funded in part by Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council. A note will go home to 6th Class parents at the start of the new term.

Physical Activities/Artzone

My thanks to Steve Davis of Shankill GAA (Junior Infants to 6th Classes) for all his work with the children over the course of the term. We look forward to welcoming him back in the New Year.

My thanks as always to Ryan of Southside School Sports for taking our PE classes with such enthusiasm every Tuesday. Also to all the Southside coaches for After School Games. Please keep an eye on the Southside School Sports website for the dates of next term's Games. It is currently open for bookings.

Our first term of Artzone has gone extremely well and the children attending it have all enjoyed the

classes immensely. My thanks to Sheila from Artzone. We look forward to welcoming her back in the New Year. Due to the success of the classes and in order to facilitate more children taking part, Ms. Hayes has agreed to stay and assist and I am very grateful to her for this.

Matches

During the month, the Boys' Hockey Team had an excellent win over Kilternan NS, as did the Girls Hockey team over Kildare Place NS. The School Football team beat Kill O'The Grange, 5-3 in a pre-Christmas friendly. Well done to all our players.

Achievements

Congratulations to Anna C who is part of the cast of Liberty Panto's Christmas production of "Rapunzel". 5th and 6th Class pupils went to the Panto on Wednesday, to support her and everyone agreed that she was amazing! All the very best for the rest of the Panto run. My thanks to the parents who accompanied the classes.

Congratulations also to Marius E who recently sang for the Park Art Group in Dun Laoghaire as part of their Christmas celebrations.

We are very proud of Grisha's hard work in giving a new lease of life to our reindeer. You can see the fruits of his labours in the front foyer of school – well done Grisha.

Trips out of School

Junior Infants to 2nd Class went to see "Sleeping Beauty" in the dlr Mill Theatre on 8th December. My thanks to all the parents who accompanied us on the trip.

The Sportsmanship Awards for December are as follows:

Junior Infants	Harry C
Senior Infants	Kai
1 st Class	David M
2 nd Class	Sofia Cam
3 rd Class	Chloe P
4 th Class	Mary-Kate B
5 th Class	Jonah RB
6 th Class	Jonah C

December Handwriting Competition

Well done to all the children for making such a huge effort with their handwriting. In particular congratulations to our winners and most improved:

Class	Best		Most Improved	
	Boy	Girl	Boy	Girl
Jun Infs	Thom	Hannah	Ethan	Cadhla
Sen Infs	Peter	Marilia	Matthew	Isabella
1 st Class	Adam	Sena	Arthur	Esmé
2 nd Class	Erik	Anna	David	Alice
3 rd Class	Reuben	Alanna	Ewan/Ethan	Faina
4 th Class	Joshua	Kate	Jacob	Mary-Kate
5 th Class	Jamie H	Lucy	Adam	Honor
6 th Class	Antoni	Lainey	Marius	Olivia

Wellbeing

This month's theme has been Acts of Kindness and Good Manners and the children have been

learning about the importance of giving to others and about good manners generally.

Medicines

A number of children have been sent into school with Strepsils. We would request that these and other similar medications are kept at home to be administered by parents. Children who are under the weather should not be sent into school until they have recovered.

PTA Events/Fundraisers

Thank you to everyone who has so generously supported recent fundraising initiatives.

Hot Chocolate/Popcorn

The PTA Committee will be distributing hot chocolate and popcorn to the children tomorrow. All known allergies have been communicated to the Committee. My thanks to the PTA and volunteers for this end of term treat.

Christmas Trees – thanks to everyone who purchased a Christmas Tree voucher. €700 was raised towards PTA funds. Thanks also to the supplier, Porter's Christmas Trees. Thanks to the PTA Committee and to Ms. Sue Melbourne for her help.

Art and Wine Evening

Thank you to parents and staff who attended the Art and Wine Evening. I am sure that you will all agree that the children's art was amazing – they made a great effort with it. My thanks to the teachers for all their hard work with this. Money is still coming in for the artwork - if you have not already done so, the art is available to purchase for €3 (either in cash or online to the PTA account). Thank you for all the donations of raffle prizes and congratulations to the winners on the night. Thank you to the PTA for making it such an enjoyable evening.

Please keep an eye out for PTA Events in the New Year.

I would once again like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very Happy Christmas and New Year from all the staff.

Naomi Rousseau, Principal
21st December 2023