



**RATHMICHAEL PARISH NATIONAL SCHOOL  
NEWSLETTER - FEBRUARY 2024**

Dear Parents,

**Dates for your Diaries:**

**1<sup>st</sup> March: Adult Table Quiz at 7.30 p.m. in Burton (School) Hall** – there are still tickets available so if you are interested in taking part, please email Trish – if possible please put a table of four together. Tickets cost €40 for a table of four. There will be some amazing raffle prizes on offer. If you are not in a position to attend but would like to buy raffle tickets, please email Trish and they will be sent home with your child (cost €5 for three strips of tickets and €2 for on strip).

**7<sup>th</sup> March: World Book Day – Children to dress up as a character from a book.** This is being co-ordinated by Ms Armstrong to promote greater interest in books and reading generally. See below for more information.

**11<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> March – Setanta Book Fair Week** – parents will be able to come into school to choose books for their children. Please see attached note.

**11<sup>th</sup> March to 22<sup>nd</sup> March – Seachtain na Gaeilge** – this is being co-ordinated by Mrs Harte and the children will be participating in lots of fun activities as Gaeilge. Please see my note of 22<sup>nd</sup> February for more details.

**Monday 18<sup>th</sup> March: School will be closed in lieu of St Patrick's Day.**

**Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> March – Shine a Light for Peace Campaign** – see note below. **This is also the last day of Spring Term: School will close at 12.30 p.m. (Infants 12.25 p.m.)**

**Monday 8<sup>th</sup> April - first day of Summer Term: A normal school day.**

**Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> April – Liberty Recycling will collect all bagged clothes** – more information re dropping bags into school, to follow.

**Advance Notice – PTA Bake Sale Friday 19<sup>th</sup> April and Friday 10<sup>th</sup> May – Hawaiian themed social evening for parents in Old Conna Golf Club**

**Assemblies**

At our weekly assemblies, we have begun a piece on neurodiversity - recognising and celebrating our unique brains, how we can help others and understanding that everyone belongs. This week, we focused on dyslexia. The link to the video the children watched is on the cover email.

**Voluntary Contribution Appeal 2023/2024 School Year**

Please see note that has been circulated separately. Please contact Trish if you are in a position to make such a donation this year and she will arrange to set up payments through the Aladdin App. Revenue CHY Certs have been given to those families who

were in a position to donate €250 or more in 2023 and we would appreciate it if these could be returned at the earliest convenience.

### **Workshops/Presentations**

- On Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> February, workshops were given to 3<sup>rd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> Classes by CyberSafeKids Ireland and in conjunction with this a Zoom parents' session was held on 7<sup>th</sup> February. These sessions proved to be very interesting and informative for parents and children alike.
- 6<sup>th</sup> February was Safer Internet Day and the children took part in related quizzes and worked on important topics such as bullying, internet usage and staying safe online. My thanks to Mrs Crammond for coordinating this.
- The Chairman of Fields of Life in Ireland gave a presentation to our Assembly on 7<sup>th</sup> February so that pupils would appreciate the importance of the support given to Caleb and Mercy in Uganda through our 50c Days.

### **World Book Day – Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March**

We are looking forward to celebrating World Book Day on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March. As already advised, pupils are encouraged to dress up as their favourite book character on that day. Classes will participate in webinar's meeting authors, and many more in-class activities. All pupils have received a World book Day book token which can be exchanged for specific World Book Day books, or put towards any selected books at your local book shop. Looking forward to bringing books to life next week as we celebrate World Book Day. Happy Reading!

### **Fundraising Initiatives**

Pancake Day for Heart Children Ireland – my thanks to the PTA Committee and helpers for providing pancakes for the whole school on 9<sup>th</sup> February. Thank you to everyone who donated to this. We raised just over €500 for Heart Children Ireland.

### **Shine A Light for Peace Fundraising Appeal - Friday, 22<sup>nd</sup> March**

Instead of our uniforms, children are invited to wear bright colours and bring in a donation of €3 or more in the Shine a Light for Peace Campaign.

The Diocese of Jerusalem has a hospital called Al Ahli Arab Hospital in Gaza City. Like lots of other hospitals in Gaza it has been damaged by war. The Dublin Glendalough Diocese are raising money to fix the hospital and its cancer unit. They also want to raise money to help provide a centre which will help boys and girls who have been injured in war and who have been traumatised by what has happened in the war. To date, the Dublin Glendalough Diocese has raised half of its €250,000 target in its Lent Appeal. The Diocese has asked schools to help.

Donations in cash preferable, but payments can also via PTA Account with a Shine a Light for Peace Reference.

### **Liberty Recycling – Collection date – 22<sup>nd</sup> April**

As last year, we will be supporting Liberty Recycling (a clothes recycling social enterprise and charity assisting those affected by drug and alcohol abuse). The school will receive an amount of money per filled bag (€3 per 8kg bag). Please gather any unwanted clothing items over the Easter Holidays and put them into bags. The following acceptable items include: clothes, shoes, towels, curtains,

handbags, purses and bed clothes (i.e. duvet covers, pillow slips, bed sheets). They do not accept: duvets, pillows, carpets/rugs, soft toys, hard toys or household waste.

### **Music – Peace Proms**

Our 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Classes were very excited to participate in the Peace Proms Concert on 4<sup>th</sup> February in the RDS, which was a sold out event featuring 2,000 children from a whole range of primary schools. It was an amazing night, one of the highlights of which was the appearance of Alisha Weir, from “Mathilda the Musical”. The children were thrilled that she joined them on stage. This performance was the culmination of a lot of hard work by Naomi Clarkson, our Music Teacher, the class teachers and the children. They sang their hearts out and brought so much energy to the event. It was an evening which they and all of us who were privileged to be there, will remember for a long time to come.

### **Sports' and Creative Activities**

**Hockey League Matches** – the Girls’ team prepared for their upcoming semi-final match with a friendly game against a quality Loreto Beaufort Primary School side. Although they lost, it was an excellent challenge for them and will stand them in good stead for their semi-final. A Girls’ team from 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Class will be playing St Andrew’s Lucan in a friendly tomorrow. The Boys’ team also lost a tough match against Wesley Preps with Rhys being particularly praised for his goalkeeping. They have two matches this week – against St. Andrew’s Primary, Booterstown and St. Andrew’s Lucan. The best of luck to everyone playing.

**Football** – the Football team played a friendly match against Woodlands College and Coach Ryan was most impressed with them. They also played St Mary’ Boys School and drew 1-1 which was an excellent result given that the opposition are traditionally very strong.

**Rugby** – this has started for 2<sup>nd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> Classes with Coach Luke from Leinster Rugby. This will conclude on 11<sup>th</sup> March.

**Cricket** – this will commence for 4<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> Classes on 8<sup>th</sup> April for 4 weeks with Leinster Development Officer, Jim Stewart.

**Cycle Training** – continues until 7<sup>th</sup> March for 6<sup>th</sup> Class.

**Running around Europe** – this is continuing with some classes aiming to reach some very exotic locations! The amount of laps being run each week is being recorded for every class.

**The Sportsmanship Awards for February** are as follows:

Junior Infants	Jesse
Senior Infants	Sadhbh
1st Class	Ben
2nd Class	Jordi
3 <sup>rd</sup> Class	Freya
4 <sup>th</sup> Class	Eve
5 <sup>th</sup> Class	Jamie H
6 <sup>th</sup> Class	Rhys

**Tennis** – this commences on 3<sup>rd</sup> May for 6<sup>th</sup> Class.

**Swimming** – the last session for 2<sup>nd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Classes will take place on 8<sup>th</sup> March and 1<sup>st</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Classes will commence swimming on 12<sup>th</sup> April. A separate note has gone out today.

**Chess** – this is continuing on Thursdays after school with Al Robinson and is proving to be very popular. Some of the children have entered into the Chess Competition in the upcoming Community Games so the very best of luck to them.

**After School Artzone Classes** – these are also continuing and the children are producing some amazing art work.

### **Wellbeing/Health**

The theme for February is Love and the children are all working on topics related to this.

### **Community Woodland Planting Project**

This DLRCC sponsored event takes place on two dates – Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> and Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> March at Shanganagh Cliffs from 10.00 a.m. to 3.00 p.m. Children under 8 years of age are recommended to come with an adult (over 16). For further information go to [Community Woodland Planting Scheme | Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council \(dlrcoco.ie\)](https://www.dlrcco.ie/Community-Woodland-Planting-Scheme). To register to attend, email [parksconsultations@dlrcoco.ie](mailto:parksconsultations@dlrcoco.ie)

### **Green School – WEEE Battery Recycling Competition**

There is still time to send in your used batteries. If you require more boxes to put them in, please contact Trish and she will send them home in school bags.

Thank you to the whole school community for your continuing support.

Naomi Rpusseau

Principal

29<sup>th</sup> February 2024