



NOLLAIG 2025

NUACHTLITIR



Your monthly news from Sacred Heart National School Rath

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Christmas 2025

As we enter December, talk of Christmas is in the air as we anticipate all the joy and happiness this season brings. I'm sure the teachers will organise lots of fun Christmas-themed activities, but we still have three school weeks ahead with lots of work to get through. Therefore, we ask the children not to wear Christmas jumpers until the final week commencing Monday December 15th.

Our Student Council will organise two fun events for charity on Christmas Week. The two events are;

- 'Fun Day' on Tuesday December 16th (Combined Student Council / 6th Class event)
- 'Santa Dash' on Thursday December 18th

Their chosen charity this year is The Cuisle Centre in Portlaoise. The children can wear their Christmas jumpers and Santa hats on both days. We are not asking the children to sell sponsorship cards, but donations can be made that week.

We will close for the Christmas holidays on Friday December 19th at 12:30pm. We will reopen on Monday January 5th.

School Closures

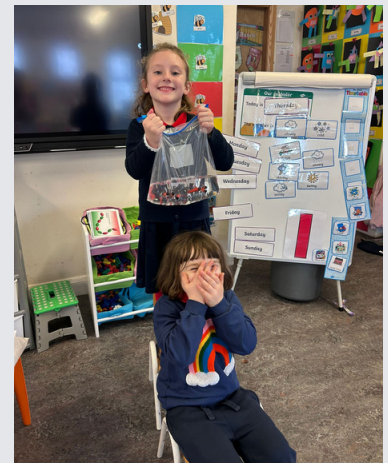
Child Protection Procedures for Schools are currently being updated. We'd like to remind you that we have been notified that staff training on the new procedures will take place on **Friday December 12th**. This will necessitate a school closure on the day. A second school closures will be taking place on **Tuesday February 3rd** to facilitate in-service on the new Primary Curriculum.

Hot Lunches

We remind you to please check your child's lunch box each day to make sure they're eating their meals in school. One of the positive elements of The Lunch Bag's product is that it allows parents / guardians to see if there is waste or leftovers each day. If there is regular waste, you should revisit the meal choices using The Lunch Bag app.

Science Week

We recently celebrated Science Week in the school. Each class engaged in science experiments and projects and there was lots of evidence of collaboration, innovation and scientific skills in operation. The pictures attached capture some of the great work that took place across the school. There are more photos to view on the school website (check individual class pages).



Gaeilge

Mí na Nollag (December)

Seachtain 1 – Tá sceitimíní orm / Tá sceitimíní orm mar...

Seachtain 2 - Tá mé ag tnúth le...

Seachtain 3 - Nollaig Shona duit

Ceist coicíse: Cad iad na habhair scoile is fear leat?



Parent / Guardian Communication Guidelines

The Board of Management and staff of Rath N.S. value and respect our relationships with parents and guardians. As the primary educators, we encourage parents to play an active role in their child's learning and school experience. Over the years, we believe these relationships have helped foster a culture of learning, empathy, wellbeing and a shared understanding of respect. In the main, we feel this partnership approach and vision has helped develop well-rounded, mature and confident young people.

We have created a new document with guidelines pertaining to communication between staff members and parents / guardians. The aim of this document is to guide and promote effective and respectful communication. This short two-page document is available to view on the school website rathns.ie

Sport

Basketball: Our 5th & 6th Class pupils have been participating in a lunchtime league in recent weeks with the finals due to take place in December. Many thanks to Mr. Walsh for organising.

Table Tennis: One of the highlights for 6th Class each year is our annual Table Tennis League. Ms. Phelan and Ms. Bergin have commenced coaching sessions with the class in advance of the leagues. We look forward to an exciting few weeks of action!



MS Readathon

Many thanks to all the pupils and families who engaged with the MS Readathon in recent weeks. We had a fantastic response and it was heartening to see and hear of our pupils enjoying the gift of reading throughout the month of November. Please encourage your child to continue reading for pleasure. It is a wonderful gift that derives so many benefits.

We are delighted to report that a total of €1,933 was also raised in the process for MS Ireland.



Meet our Student Council



Name: Jude O'Connell

Class: Rang 4

Favourite Subject: Geography

Hobbies: Football, reading and chess

What I like about our school: I like the kind people and teachers. I like playing with my friends.

My priority for the Student Council:

- Lunchtime hurling leagues
- Start an after-school book club
- Volleyball lunchtime league



Name: Robyn Miller

Class: Rang 5

Favourite Subject: Art

Hobbies: Acro dance and gymnastics

What I like about our school: I like how inclusive our school is and how well they handle bullying.

My priority for the Student Council: My priority for the Student Council is that everyone's idea is heard and that there is no bullying in the school.



Name: Liam Kelly

Class: Rang 2

Favourite Subject: Maths

Hobbies: Football

What I like about our school: I like doing spellings, handwriting and Gaeilge.

My priority for the Student Council:

- new bird boxes
- lunchtime soccer leagues
- Art day

Parents' Association Noticeboard

Split the Pot: Draws take place over the next 3 weeks to Dec 17th. Many thanks to everyone who has already entered. Envelopes are available from the school, Donohoe's Service Station, The Fishermans and Íosa Linn. We also have an online ticket option via idonate. Keep an eye on our Facebook page "Rath NS Parents Council (2025/2026)" for weekly ticket link. Best of luck —and congratulations to our Week 1 winner, Sophie McEntee.

School Calendar: We're delighted to share that the 2026 school calendar will be available to purchase via Aladdin or directly from committee members in the coming days. It features important dates for the year ahead, along with plenty of photos capturing highlights from the past school year. A beautiful keepsake for all to enjoy!

Santa's Visit: We've just had word from the North Pole that Santa Claus will be visiting all the boys and girls in Rath on December 19th, it's always an exciting morning and he's looking forward to meeting all.

Beannachtaí na Nollag: A sincere thank you to our school community for your support this year. We especially wish to acknowledge Mr. Fitzgerald, Ms. McCormack, and all the staff for their commitment and hard work, as well as our Board of Management for their continued support. Wishing you all a very happy Christmas. Nollaig Shona agus Athbhliain faoi Mhaise Daoibh.