



NUACHTLITIR

Your monthly news from Sacred Heart National School Rath

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Maths Tips for Parents**Grandparents' Day****Sport****Safe Routes to School****Parents' Association****Christmas 2025****Gaeilge****School Closure Feb 3rd****Meet our Student Council****Grandparents Day**

Grandparents Day is always celebrated in our school and we look forward to continuing the tradition this year. The grandparents of our Junior Infants and 6th Class pupils are invited to the school on Wednesday January 21st for a short prayer service and opportunity then to visit their grandchildren's classrooms. Those not fortunate enough to have grandparents in their lives are free to invite other family members. There will be a cup of tea/coffee for our guests afterwards. Those attending are asked to be in the church at 12pm.

**Maths Tips for Parents/Guardians**

The focus of our current School Improvement Plan is 'Emphasising Mathematical Modelling'. 'How' children learn is as important as 'what' children learn. Mathematical modelling involves children using Mathematics to describe a problem-context and determine meaningful solutions to the problem. Children form models through a process of testing, revising and expressing their interpretation of different mathematical ideas, experiences, problems and situations, typically posed to them as questions or challenges. Over the next few monthly newsletters, we will share some practical tips for parents / guardians on how you can support your child's learning at home.

1. Ask 'what is $6 + 8$?' I don't believe you - prove it! Ask them to use some materials at home and to show you more than one way of finding the answer.
2. Always be encouraging and try avoid telling your child that they are wrong when working on Maths problems. Instead, find the logic in their thinking. For example, if your child multiplies 3 & 4 and gets 7, say, 'Oh I see what you are thinking, you are using what you know about addition to add 3 & 4. When we multiply, we have 4 groups of 3...'

Christmas 2025

We were very fortunate that Santa took time out of his busy schedule to visit the school on December 19th. We were grateful to Willie Whelan for providing the transport for Santa and there was great excitement to see Santa arrive by horse and cart. Santa then greeted the children in his own grotto that had been brilliantly decorated by members of the Parents' Association. It was a wonderful day and thank you to everyone who helped facilitate it. There are more pictures on the school website.

We also hosted our annual Santa Dash, a 6th Class/Student Council Fun Day, a retelling of the Story of the Nativity through Christmas carols and our school choir also performed twice in the community; at Emo Court and at Laois Shopping Centre. These events helped raise €2,795.75 for the Cuisle Centre in Portlaoise, our chosen charity. It was an amazing total and thank you for your generosity and support.



Safe Routes to School

We are delighted to announce that our application for funding under the Safe Routes to School Programme was successful. We are one of four schools in Laois to receive funding.

Safe Routes to School (SRTS) is a Department of Transport initiative which has been in operation since 2021. The programme is run by the SRTS team in An Taisce, funded by and operated in collaboration with the National Transport Authority, and delivered in partnership with all 31 local authorities.

The SRTS programme goals are:

1. To provide “front of school” treatments which will enhance access to school grounds and create a safe space for students at the front of school.
2. To accelerate the delivery of walking, cycling, and wheeling infrastructure on key access routes to schools.
3. To expand the amount of cycle and scooter parking available at schools.

The SRTS team will start by gathering information through travel surveys, school visits, route checks and talks with school representatives. This helps them develop a delivery plan for safer journeys and easier access to our school. Laois County Council will be responsible for the design and implementation of the SRTS scheme. This can take time, but each step brings our school closer to safer routes. For more information go to www.saferoutestoschool.ie

Sport

Despite the wintery weather conditions, sporting activity has continued in Rath N.S. as follows:

- **Swimming:** Pupils in 2nd Class to 6th Class recently completed a block of swimming lessons in Portarlington Pool.
- **Table Tennis:** Our annual 6th Class table tennis league took place. It's always one of the highlights in the 6th Class calendar and it didn't disappoint this year. Thank you to Ms. Phelan and Ms. Bergin for facilitating. Many thanks also to Courtwood GAA for sponsoring the prizes.
- **Basketball:** Thank you to Mr. Walsh for organising a 5th & 6th Class basketball lunchtime league in recent weeks.

We look forward to more sporting activity in the months ahead.



Meet our Student Council



Name: Michael Dunne

Class: Rang 5

Favourite Subject: Maths

Hobbies: Soccer and football

What I like about our school: There are a lot of nice teachers, SNAs and students throughout the school.

My priority for the Student Council:

- Lunchtime soccer leagues
- Fun-Day



Name: Hannah Connolly

Class: Rang 2

Favourite Subject: Maths

Hobbies: Arts & crafts

What I like about our school: The teachers are nice and I get to play with my friends.

My priority for the Student Council: I want to listen to other people's opinions.



Name: Dáire Delaney

Class: Rang 6

Favourite Subject: History

Hobbies: Football, rugby, running and music

What I like about our school: Everyone is very nice, very welcoming and inclusive.

My priority for the Student Council: My priority is to make the school a better place and for the 2026 Student Council to leave their mark.

School Closure February 3rd

We'd like to remind you that we have been notified that staff training on the New Primary Curriculum will be taking place on **Tuesday February 3rd**. This will result in a school closure that day

Gaeilge

Eanair (January)

Seachtain 1 – Athbhliain faoi mhaise duit (Happy New Year to you)

Seachtain 2 – An féidir leat? Is / Ní (can you? I can / I can't)

Seachtain 3 – Tóg go bog é (take it easy)

Seachtain 4 – An mbeidh tú? Beidh / ní bheidh (Will you be? I will / I won't)

Ceist coicíse: Cad a itheann tú don Bhricfeasta? (what do you eat for breakfast?)

Cé acu is fearr leat? (which one do you prefer?)



Parents' Association

As we begin the new year, we would like to wish all our school community a happy and healthy New Year.

Athbhliain faoi shéan is faoi mhaise daoibh go léir.

Split the Pot

We sincerely thank everyone who supported the Christmas Split the Pot draw. Well done to all the winners. Thanks to your generosity, a total of €1,172.50 was raised, and your ongoing support is very much appreciated.

School Calendar

Thank you to all who purchased the school calendar, and to the local businesses who generously supported us through advertising. We hope it will be a treasured reminder of the year. Our thanks also go to the team who put so much work into its production. A limited number of calendars are still available.

Santa's Visit

On December 19th, Santa made a very special visit to Rath School, much to the excitement of the boys and girls. Sincere thanks to Willie for helping Santa arrive in style by horse and cart. Santa met each child in his grotto, creating wonderful memories for all. Many thanks to Sinéad Gorman for the use of the grotto, and to the team who helped set it up.

