



# MEITHEAMH 2023

# NUACHTLITIR



Your monthly news from Sacred Heart National School Rath

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## **Communion 2023**



Pictured above are our 2nd Class pupils who recently received their First Holy Communion. It was a lovely day and the children were a credit to the school and their families. Many thanks to Fr Dooley, Fr O'Neill, Ms McCormack, Aisling Byrne and our wonderful Parents' Choir led by Helen Mulhall. A lovely reception hosted by the Parents' Association followed the ceremony. There are more pictures on the school website [www.rathns.ie](http://www.rathns.ie)

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## **Book Fair**

Many thanks for your wonderful support of our recent Book Fair. Books to the value of €3,042.20 were purchased by families in the school. This means that our school will receive books worth €1,825. This will add greatly to our well-stocked school and class libraries. Thank you for your generous support and thank you also to Ms. Bergin for once again organising the book fair.

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## **Incoming Junior Infants**

We look forward to welcoming our new Junior Infant pupils to the school in the coming months. Parents are reminded that we will host a short induction for these boys and girls on Thursday next, June 8th at 2:15pm. We look forward to meeting the next generation of Rath N.S. pupils.

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## **School Tours**

Please make note of the following dates for your child's school tour.

- June 9th - 1st Class & 3rd Class (Redhills Adventure, Kildare)
- June 13th - 4th Class & 5th Class (Redhills Adventure, Kildare)
- June 14th - Junior Infants & Senior Infants (Nore Valley Park, Kilkenny)
- June 16th - 6th Class (Clara Lara Funpark, Wicklow)
- June 19th - 2nd Class (Clara Lara Funpark, Wicklow)

### **Cumann na mBunscol Hurling/ Camogie Finals**

We are extremely proud of our school hurling and camogie teams who successfully reached their respective Cumann na mBunscol finals in O'Moore Park on Wednesday. We had mixed fortunes on the day with the Boys B team winning their final comfortably against Emo, whilst our camogie team and Boys B team both had very narrow losses to Ballyfin and Timahoe respectively. To witness the effort and determination on display was heartening and all the coaches commented on how much the players had improved over a few months. Memories of a lifetime were made and it was a great experience for all our young players. Many thanks to Courtwood GAA for sponsoring food for the teams after the finals. We also wish to thank our Parents' Association for sponsoring new shorts for the players on the day. We have more photos from the day on the school website.



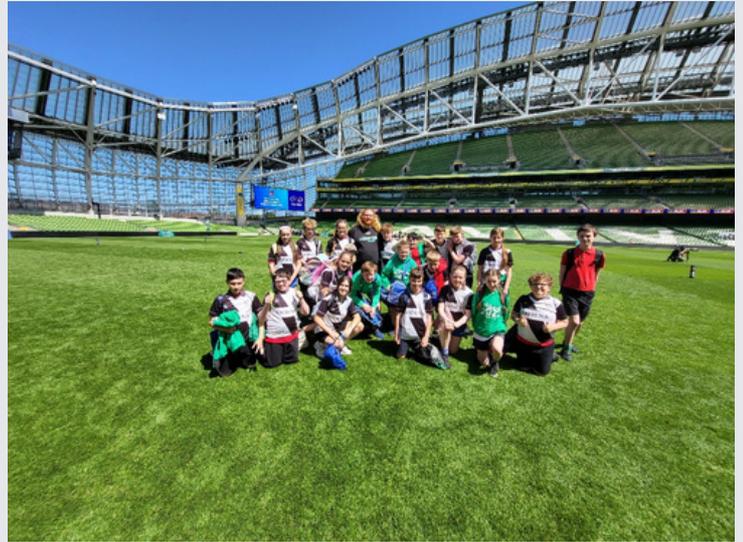
### **Bike Week Challenge**

It was great to see so many pupils cycling to school in recent weeks. Many thanks to parents and indeed grandparents for facilitating this. During Bike Week, our 5th & 6th Class pupils cycled as far as Monasterevin on the beautiful Barrow Blueway. There are more photos on the school website. I'd like to remind you to please return the cards recording all the kilometers the children cycled during May. Laois County Council have invited 5 schools in Laois to take part in a 'build up bike miles challenge' for the month of May and the total number of kilometres cycled by the pupils is then divided by the number of pupils in the school. The winning school will receive a cash prize of €500. We have some spare sheets if required.



## Rang 6 Visit The Aviva Stadium

6th Class were very fortunate to receive an invitation to attend a rugby blitz in The Aviva Stadium on Tuesday May 30th. A great day was had by all. Many thanks to the brilliant Paidí Mahon from Portarlington RFC for facilitating the trip. Paidí is a very popular visitor to our school and we are honoured that he nominated our school to attend. More photos from the day are on the school website.



## Music Generation Laois

In recent months, our pupils in 2nd Class and 3rd Class have been engaged in an exciting project with Music Generation Laois. Alongside our regular tutor Nuala Kelly, MGL commissioned two composers, Lorna McLaughlin and Sarah Murphy, to create a suite of songs for and with children in 3 Laois Primary Schools. The children's voices and ideas were central to the development of these new songs. It was wonderful to see the culmination of all the work on display in The Malthouse, Stradbally yesterday. The children were magnificent and all those present thoroughly enjoyed the experience.

Our various MGL tutors are facilitating small informal performances for their groups in recent weeks, with more to come. Parents are welcome to attend.

James O'Connor's guitar players: Wednesday June 7th at 2:15pm

Siobhán Buckley's harp players: Monday June 12th at 2pm





## ***Our Outdoor Classroom***

Our new Outdoor Classroom is now fully operational and due to the recent good weather, it's getting plenty of use. Many thanks once again to Denis Gleeson in particular for his hard work in helping us to complete the project.



## ***Parents' Association Noticeboard***

### Communion

We would like to congratulate Rang a dó on receiving the sacrament of First Holy Communion last Saturday. A very big thank you to Ms. Mc Cormack and Aisling for preparing the children so well and to Fr. Joe for a beautiful ceremony. We would also like to thank the amazing choir for adding to the wonderful occasion. A special word of thanks to all the parents who helped at the fabulous reception that was held in the school hall.

### Cumann na mBunscol

We would like to congratulate all the girls and boys who took part in the hurling and camogie Cumann na mBunscol matches. We were delighted to sponsor the new team shorts for the teams. A massive comhghairdeas to the boys B team on their success, hard luck to the boys A team and the girls camogie team. We are all extremely proud of all your hard work and commitment. Thank you to the staff for coaching the children and for helping them to develop their skills.

### Duathlon

The duathlon will take place on Wednesday 21st June. It is lovely to be a part of the day and if you are available to help for approximately 2 hours, please contact Áine on (087)6350365.

### Rang a Sé

We would like to wish Rang a Sé the very best of luck as they finish their primary education. We hope that they enjoyed their time in Rath. We would also like to thank all the staff who helped them on their journey through primary school. We hope that they continue to grow and flourish during their secondary school years. Guímíd gach ráth, áthas agus sonas orthu anois is go deo.

### End of Year

As the school year draws to a close, we would like to thank each of you for your very generous support of the Association throughout the year. We have enjoyed all the different events and look forward to many more events next year with your continued help and support. We would like to thank Mr. Fitzgerald, Ms. Mc Cormack, Amanda, all the staff and the Board of Management for all your help, hard work, and great support. It is very much appreciated. We hope you all have a wonderful, happy and safe summer. Bainigí taitneamh as.

## ***End of Year Reports / Standardised Tests***

The end of year reports this year will be delivered via our Aladdin Connect app. We hope to send reports by June 16th.

The children in 1st Class to 6th Class have been completing standardised tests in literacy and numeracy in recent weeks. With the exception of 1st Class literacy, scores will be included in the end of year reports. Please understand that these standardised tests are only one of a number of ways that we monitor and measure a child's progress.

They are not an “end of year” test (in some schools they are carried out in Autumn). Standardised tests are not designed as to simply test topics covered by curriculum of a class level. Particularly in Maths, tests can contain questions which might be more suitable to a lower or a higher class level.

Results can be useful references for teachers and can be used to help identify if a child is experiencing difficulty in a certain area. A standardised test result may highlight an area that a child ordinarily seems to be comfortable with in class and/or at home – and may need to be monitored further in that area. In summary, standardised tests are only one of a wide range of assessment tools used by teachers and results should not be interpreted in isolation.

It is up to you, as a parent, to decide if you wish to discuss the exact result with your child. The school would **STRONGLY** advise against. If you wish to discuss them, we advise that you only discuss results in general terms with pupils – rather than giving them a numeric value. Comments such as, “You should be very proud of your results” and, “Your hard work paid off”, might be more appropriate with young children.

You must consider if it will cause undue worry or stress to your child to share a score every year – they may worry about ‘going up’ or ‘going down’ from year to year, when it is perfectly natural for results to do this.

They may interpret the results as 7/10, which is not the case, or may be unduly excited or disappointed by a result. It is up to you, as a parent, to decide how much information, if any to share with your child. If you do choose to share the results with your child, please remind them to keep the results to themselves, and not to share them with their classmates. Test results should **NOT** be a topic of conversation particularly in the Senior Classes, as it can cause a lot of undue pressure for children.

No matter the results, they have all worked hard across the year, and no doubt did their best and should be praised for doing so.

### ***Rang 6***

As this is the final newsletter of the school year, I'd like to thank each of you for your cooperation and support for the work that we do in school throughout the year. For those parents with their youngest child in 6th Class, we thank you sincerely for your contribution to our school community over the years.

Our outgoing 6th Class are a credit to you and your families. We're very proud of each of them and we wish them all the very best as they commence the next chapter in their lives.

### ***Dates for Your Diary***

- June 6th - Lá Spraoi
- June 8th - Junior Infant Induction
- June 8th - Rounders Competition
- June 15th - Bandwagon Tour
- June 16th - End of Year Reports
- June 21st - Duathlon
- June 23rd - End of term & half-day closure (12:30pm))



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