



MEÁN FÓMHAIR 2023

NUACHTLITIR



Your monthly news from Sacred Heart National School Rath

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Fáilte Ar Ais & Our New Junior Infants

Morning Supervision & Parking

Computers

Football

Student Council

Gaeilge

Code of Behaviour

Mobile Phones

Delayed Opening for Ploughing Championship

Parents' Association



Fáilte Ar Ais

Fáilte romhaibh ar ais tar éis an samhradh. Tá sé iontach a bheith ar ais arís. Welcome to the 2023/2024 school year, one which we hope will be enjoyable and productive for all. It was wonderful to welcome a new class of Junior Infants last week. They have settled in so well and we look forward to tracking their development in the weeks and months to come.

We'd like to remind you all that the school starts at 9.20am. **No child should be on the school grounds before 9am** as we are not insured before then.

We encourage you to use the church car park and path from the school if possible, in the morning and afternoon, in an effort to alleviate traffic congestion outside the school. Parking at the rear of the hall / playschool is reserved for staff only. We have 28 staff members using that car park each day so all available spots are required.



Football

The children in the senior classrooms are very excited about Cumann na mBunscol Football competitions commencing next week. Once again, we will field two boys teams and two girls teams. Preparations have begun already agus táimid ag tnúth go mór leis na cluichí. Parents are welcome to attend home games but we ask you to enter through the gate near the church. Go n-éirí an t-ádh leis na foirne ar fad.



Student Council

Our current Student Council's term will soon come to an end. They have been fantastic representatives of our school and we are very grateful for all their hard work throughout the year. A new Student Council will be elected by their peers before the end of the month. I'm sure they'll continue to provide an opportunity for pupils to voice their opinions and offer suggestions in relation to many aspects of school life. Pictured below are members of our outgoing Student Council presenting Ms Behan, on behalf of St Vincent de Paul, with a cheque following last year's Santa Dash. It is just an example of the good work they carried out throughout their term.



Return to School Costs

Back to school costs this summer were helped significantly due to the introduction of the new free schoolbook scheme. As noted in a previous correspondence in June, in what is a significant reduction compared to previous years, we will be asking for payment to cover the following:

- €10 (with the exception of Junior Infants) to cover additional costs for art materials / photocopying
- €8 for 24-Hour accident insurance from Allianz

The school financial year commenced on September 1st. Therefore, the payments above for the 2023/2024 school year are payable through the month of September. You will be provided with a link to Aladdin online payments. Cheque or cash payments are acceptable, but we encourage all parents/guardians to avail of our online payment option if possible. Please contact Amanda (office@rathns.com / 0578626270) if you require assistance.

Computer Classes

Computer lessons with Ríomhairetech will recommence on Monday September 18th with the pupils in 3rd Class to 6th Class. These lessons will run for the remaining Mondays in Term 1. Amanda will set up a payment option on Aladdin. It will cost €10 per pupil with our Parents' Association subsidising the remaining costs.



Gaeilge

Bain triail as beagán Gaeilge sa bhaile. We place an emphasis on spoken and informal Irish across the school – both inside and outside the classroom. We want to instil an awareness among the children that Gaeilge is a living language. This in turn helps to create a positive outlook among pupils towards Gaeilge. It would be great if the children could hear you speak ‘cúpla focal’ at home. Each month, we will pick a number of phrases to work on - in school and at home. Bain triail as agus bain taitneamh as chomh maith!



Méan Fómhair (September)

Seachtain 1 – Dia duit (hello) / Móra duit ar maidin (good morning)

Seachtain 2 – Slán (bye) / Feicfidh mé thú ar ball (see you soon)

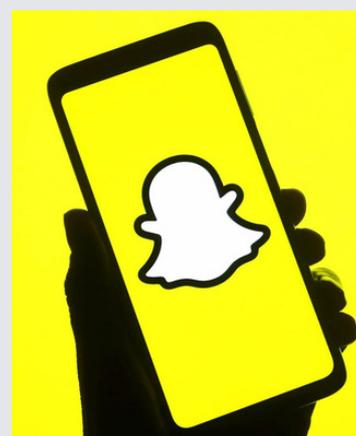
Seachtain 3 – Conas atá tú? (how are you?) / Tá mé go hiontach (I'm great)

Seachtain 4 – Go raibh maith agat (thank you). Tá fáilte romhat (you're welcome).

Ceist coicíse: An maith leat? (do you like___)Is maith liom/Ní maith liom (I like / I don't like)

Mobile Phones

Please refer to the Aladdin message sent to all parents on Monday September 4th with regard to pupils and mobile/smart phones. If you decide that your child is mature enough to deal with the consequences and responsibilities that come with owning a phone, we would advise you to monitor their usage closely. We would also strongly advise pupils to avoid large group chats, as per advice from outside experts and our own experiences. As mobile phones are not permitted on school grounds, children's online activity outside school hours is beyond our control. Should issues arise, we ask you in the first instance to have a family plan to deal with it. We have found in recent years that more and more out of school online behaviour is creeping into the school which negatively impacts teaching and learning, not to mention the effects on friendships.



If you would like some support on this topic, I would suggest you visit the webwise.ie site which contains lots of excellent advice and resources for parents.

Code of Behaviour

In recent years, we have implemented our new Code of Behaviour across the school. The feedback from staff, pupils and parents is that it's a very fair and clear document, and it allows the pupils to learn in a safe environment. Our traffic light system is predicated on our four basic school rules:

1. I have respect for people and for property.
2. I do my best in class and allow others to do the same.
3. I behave in a proper manner around the school.
4. I play safely and fairly.

At the beginning of another school year, we will familiarise the children with the rules once more and how our code of behaviour operates. Copies are available to download from the website. Our overarching aim is to promote positive behaviour and respect for one another.

Ploughing Championships / Late Opening

The local Garda Inspector has written to the school in advance of the National Ploughing Championships in Ratheniska on September 19th-21st. An Garda Síochána expect large volumes of traffic in the vicinity of our school and have asked us to delay our starting time on those mornings.

It is expected that normal traffic volumes will return after 10am so we will open at 10:15am on those mornings, with supervision starting from 10:05am. This decision is based on the advice we received from An Garda Síochána.

Parents' Association Noticeboard

Fáilte - We would like to warmly welcome everyone back to school, a very special welcome to the new Naíonáin Bheaga. We hope everyone has a happy, safe, enjoyable and productive year.

Junior Infants Meet & Greet - We had a lovely evening on Monday 28th August when Junior Infants visited the school and spent some time getting to know each other. Thank you to all the parents and guardians for bringing the children along on the evening. A special thank you to Rachel Hoban from Portlaoise library who was on hand to chat to everyone about the beautiful new library and gave some lovely goodie bags filled with books for the children. Thank you also to all those who helped organise the event and refreshments.

Facebook - The Parents' Association have a Facebook page, Rath NS Parents Council (2023/2024). It is a private group therefore we ask that you answer the three questions asked in order to join. The page is used to share information about events the PA organises and other events in the area that might be of interest to the school community.

Meeting - The first meeting of the year will take place on Tuesday 19th of September 8:30 pm in the school. All parents and guardians are members of the Parents' Association. We would really love to see more parents and guardians involved. It is a wonderful opportunity to meet other parents and guardians in the school. All help and new ideas are more than welcome at all times.

AGM - We will hold our AGM in early October.

