



MEITHEAMH 2025

NUACHTLITIR



Your monthly news from Sacred Heart National School Rath

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Rath National School
10th June 2025
SUMMER RAFFLE

Purchase Here

Supporting S.T.E.A.M. Education

Fantastic Prizes

Smart Phone Cash Prizes Spa Voucher
Swimming Lessons
Derby Tickets Afternoon Tea Hampers
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And Many More...

Tickets €5

Proudly organised by the Parents Association

Rath N.S. Summer Raffle

Our Parents' Association are organising a summer raffle. There are some fantastic prizes on offer. Tickets can be purchased using the QR code above or by clicking on the following link <https://www.idonate.ie/raffle/RathNSSummerraffle>

All funds raised will help cover the cost of new LEGO Spike equipment purchased. LEGO Spike gets primary school students excited about hands-on STEAM learning. It is a playful, narrative-based learning experience and encourages students to investigate STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Maths) concepts while contributing to literacy and social-emotional development.

Book Fair

Many thanks for your wonderful support of our recent Book Fair. Your generosity means that our school will receive books worth €1,276. This will allow us to supplement our school and class libraries. Thank you to Ms. Bergin and Amanda for once again organising the book fair.

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 Wednesday June 18th at 2:10pm. We look forward to meeting the next generation of Rath N.S. pupils.

Sport

Football: Our Lunchtime Football Leagues commenced last week. 122 pupils between 1st Class and 6th Class have signed up for the leagues. It's wonderful to see such participation levels. Please contact the school if you're looking for details of our local clubs.

Congratulations to the boys in 5th Class and 4th Class who won the inaugural Parish Football Cup last week. Many thanks to Fr Dooley for sponsoring the cup.

Athletics: Well done to our cross-country teams who competed at the recent Cumann na mBunscol event. Our Senior Boys team excelled, bringing home the Gold medal. Maith sibh buachaillí.

Rounders: Ms Phelan has been busy practicing for the upcoming rounders competitions. Rounders has gone from strength to strength in recent years and the children look forward to once again competing against other schools around the county.



Duathlon / 5th & 6th Class Cycle

Our annual duathlon will take place on Thursday June 19th. Each pupil will complete a cycle and run. We encourage all families to check that bikes are in good working order. It may also be a good opportunity to practice with any nervous cyclists. Children need to bring a helmet to school that day also.

Our 5th and 6th Class pupils will also cycle to Vicarstown, along the Barrow Blueway on Friday June 13th.



First Holy Communion

Best wishes to Ms. McCormack's 2nd Class pupils who will celebrate the sacrament of eucharist and receive their first holy communion on Saturday June 7th in The Sacred Heart Church, Rath. Families are invited back to the school afterwards for a reception hosted by our Parents' Association.

Music Generation Laois

On Thursday June 5th, we will celebrate our second annual Music Day in Rath as all our wonderful tutors from Music Generation Laois will join us for the day. Each class will get to perform in front of the school and they also get the opportunity to experiment with the different musical instruments on offer to our pupils through Music Generation Laois. Many thanks to Nuala, James, Siobhán, Dale and all in Music Generation Laois.



Gaeilge

Meitheamh (June)

Seachtain 1 – Táim ag tnúth le mo laethanta saoire. (I'm looking forward to my holidays.)

Seachtaine 2 – Bain taitneamh as na laethanta saoire. (Enjoy the holidays.)



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 18th. 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 with 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.

Parents' Association Noticeboard

Summer Raffle

Our summer raffle is taking place on June 10th – tickets €5 available via idonate. We have lots of amazing prizes up for grabs - from days out to cash prizes. Many thanks to all the businesses who have generously sponsored prizes. Check out FB page for more details.

Volunteers

We are seeking help with First Communion reception – Sat June 7th and Duathlon – Thurs June 19th. If you are available on either day please let us know, via FB or Text 086 8339779

Laois Abú

Best of luck to Mr. Fitzgerald and the Laois hurlers in the Joe McDonagh Cup Final! We're all behind you and cheering you on—Laois abú!

Rang a Sé

We'd like to wish Rang a Sé the very best as they come to the end of their time here in Rath NS. We hope they've made great memories and friendships that will stay with them for years to come. Go n-éirí an bóthar leo as they set off on the next chapter in secondary school. A big thank you to all the staff who supported and encouraged them throughout their journey. May they continue to grow and flourish in all that lies ahead.

Thank You

As we come to the end of another school year, we want to thank each and every one of you for your generous support of the PA over the past months. We've really enjoyed all the events and we're already looking forward to many more next year—with your continued help and support.

Thank you to Mr. Fitzgerald, Ms. McCormack, Amanda, all the staff, and the Board of Management for your dedication, hard work, and unwavering support. It means a great deal to us and is truly appreciated. We hope you all have a wonderful, happy and safe summer. Bainigí taitneamh as.

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.



Bí Cineálta Policy

Cineáltas is a government action plan on bullying. The new 'Bí Cineálta Procedures' were one of the actions arising from the plan. Each primary and post-primary school is obliged to update their anti-bullying plan based on these procedures.

In recent months, school staff have been working on a draft copy of a new policy. This was a collaborative approach and feedback from pupils, parents and staff was all considered and has helped inform our new plan. The plan was recently adopted by our board of management and will replace our previous Anti-Bullying Policy. A copy of our new Bí Cineálta Policy can be found on the school website www.rathns.ie

Dates for Your Diary

- June 5th - Music Day with Music Generation Laois
- June 7th - First Holy Communion at 11:30am
- June 10th - Parents' Association Summer Raffle
- June 11th - International Day
- June 12th - Rounders Blitz
- June 13th - 5th & 6th Class Cycle to Vicarstown
- June 16th - 2nd Class Tour
- June 17th - 6th Class Tour
- June 18th - 3rd / 4th / 5th Class Tour
- June 18th - Junior Infant Induction
- June 19th - Duathlon
- June 23rd - Lá Spraoi
- June 25th - End of term & half-day closure (12:30pm)



Our certificate recipients from our May Teacht le Chéile pictured above.