



MEÁN FÓMHAIR 2025

NUACHTLITIR



Your monthly news from Sacred Heart National School Rath

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Fáilte Ar Ais

Fáilte romhaibh ar ais tar éis an samhradh. Tá sé iontach a bheith ar ais arís. Welcome to the 2025/2026 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 27 staff members using that car park each day so all available spots are required. Also, we ask you to ***please label all jumpers and coats***. We have numerous jumpers unclaimed each week.



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 on the left are members of our outgoing Student Council for the 2024/2025 school year.

Return to School Costs

Back to school costs this summer were once again helped significantly due to the introduction of the new free schoolbook scheme. However, there was a reduction in the rate per pupil granted to schools. Therefore, in order to cover the significant costs associated with books, copies, stationary, art supplies, photocopying, extra-curricular activities etc., similar to last year, we will be asking for varying payments depending on the class and the activities they're engaged in. The costs associated with the computer classes and whole-class music lessons are heavily subsidised by the Parents' Association and we thank them sincerely for this.

The school financial year commenced on September 1st. Therefore, the payments above for the 2025/2026 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.

Hot School Lunches

We remind you to pay particular attention to the tips / suggestions below:

- Please check your child's order regularly. We advise all parents to do so each weekend until you and your child are satisfied with their choices. The menu does change occasionally as well. Changes to orders can be made up to 48 hours before meal time.
- The plastic lunch box needs to come to school each day. The brown box and all contents can be composted. We are very conscious of our environmental responsibilities so we ask for your cooperation in this regard.
- Children may wish to use their own cutlery. This is fine once the children bring them home and wash daily.
- Encourage your child to try new foods. It has been wonderful to see the children experiment with new food.
- It is possible to cancel meals when you know you're child won't be in school.
 1. Open the app.
 2. In the top left hand corner you'll see 3 lines. Click this and then choose calendar.
 3. You can flick between children if you've more than one child in the school.
 4. Click on the dates you want to cancel the meals.
- If you have any technical issues or general queries, please contact schoolmeals@thelunchbag.ie . However, if you wish for your child not to receive hot meals going forward, please let Amanda know in the office.

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: Déan cur síos ort féin... (describe yourself), Cén dath atá ar do shúile? Tá súile .. agam. (what colour are your eyes? I have eyes.)

Cén dath atá ar do chuid gruaige? Tá gruaig ...orm. (what colour have do you have? I have hair.)

Mobile Phones / Online Activity

Last year, we introduced our 'Smartphone Charter' across the school. We were very pleased with the positive response, with over 90% of families signing up to it. The agreement states;

My child will not own a smartphone or have access to social media platforms until, at the very earliest, after Confirmation in 6th Class in Rath N.S.

It also came to our attention last year that some children were using the 'JusTalk Kids' and 'Snapchat' messaging apps. You don't need to have a smartphone to have an account. You can create and use an account with a tablet or other internet enabled devices. Other children were using Roblox to communicate online with each other.

We ask parents to please consider the following;

- Should your child have access to a messaging app? Are they mature enough to do so?
- Are these messaging apps and other internet usage being monitored? If not, we strongly advise that it is. Please do spot-checks on all devices.
- Please put controls on internet usage and access to devices. For obvious reasons, school aged children should not have unfettered access to devices.
- Please discuss these apps and internet usage in general with your child.

If you decide that your child is mature enough to deal with the consequences and responsibilities that come with owning a phone or having access to online messaging apps, 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. 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, we would suggest you visit the webwise.ie site which contains lots of excellent advice and resources for parents.

Football

The children in the senior classrooms are very excited about Cumann na mBunscol Football competitions commencing this 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.

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.

Parents' Association Noticeboard

Fáilte

A very warm welcome back to school to all our families, and a special welcome to our new Naíonáin Bheaga who are starting out. We hope everyone has settled in and is looking forward to an enjoyable and productive year.

Junior Infants Meet & Greet

We had a wonderful evening on Monday, 25th August, as our Junior Infants visited the school and enjoyed spending time getting to know one another. A big thank you to all the parents and guardians for bringing the children along. We're also very grateful to everyone who helped with the organisation and to our talented face painters who added to the fun for the boys and girls.

Facebook

The Parents' Association has a Facebook page: Rath NS Parents Council (2025/2026). This page is used to share updates on Parents Association events, as well as other local happenings that may be of interest to our school community.

Meeting

The first meeting of the year will be held on Monday, 8th September at 8:30 pm in the school. All parents and guardians are warmly invited to attend — we'd love to see you there! It's a great chance to meet others in the school community, and your support and fresh ideas are always very welcome

AGM

We will hold our AGM in early October.