



# DEIREADH FÓMHAIR 2025

# NUACHTLITIR



Your monthly news from Sacred Heart National School Rath

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## ***Student Council***

We are excited to announce that the pupils have elected a new Student Council. They will continue to provide an opportunity for pupils to voice their opinions and offer suggestions in relation to many aspects of school life. Through our Student Council, we hope to give the pupils a positive role in the organisation of the school.

There was great activity in recent weeks as scores of children in 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th classes nominated themselves and campaigned for their respective class elections. Elections followed in each classroom and we now have a new 14-member Student Council in place. We look forward to working with them in the coming months. Well done to all the boys and girls who put their names forward.

The members of our new Student Council are listed below. Each month on our newsletter, we will get to know the members of the Student Council a little better with a profile piece. Please go to Page 4 & 5 to meet our first three members.

Rang 2: Téighan Donnellan-McGrath, Liam Kelly & Hannah Connelly

Rang 3: Cillan O'Connell, Ariya Roker & John Carey

Rang 4: Jude O'Connell & Olivia Aherne

Rang 5: Mary-Kate O'Connell, Michael Dunne & Robyn Miller

Rang 6: Clodadh O'Grady, Aidan O'Keefe & Dáire Delaney

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## ***Enrolment 2026***

Enrolment for the Junior Infant Class and our special classes for the 2026/2027 school year opens on **October 6th**. The closing date for application forms is October 24th. Please inform any family members or neighbours if they've children ready to start school in September 2026. Enrolment forms are available from the school office or can be downloaded from the school website [www.rathns.ie](http://www.rathns.ie). Our Admissions Policy is also online. It is important that all prospective parents read the policy carefully beforehand.

## Gaelic Football

The girls and boys in 4th, 5th and 6th Class have been very busy in recent weeks training for and playing their respective football games. We entered 4 teams in the Cumann na mBunscol competitions and our teams have been very competitive in each game, with mixed results across the board. As the leagues begin to wind down in the coming weeks, we plan to commence our Autumn Lunchtime Football Leagues with pupils from 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th Classes.

There is great excitement and pride in the community with our local football teams reaching senior county finals. This is an unprecedented and historic achievement. Best wishes to all our past pupils who will line out for Courtwood in the Laois Senior Football Final and for St. Conleth's in the ladies football final. They are great role models for all the pupils in the school.



## Gaeilge

### Deireadh Fómhair (October)

Seachtain 1 - An bhfuil...? Tá / Níl...

Seachtain 2 - An bhfaca tú? Chonaic mé/ Ní fhaca mé (Did you see? I saw / I didn't see)

Seachtain 3 - Fan nóiméad! (wait a minute!)

Seachtain 4 - Brostaigh ort! / Déan deifir! (Hurry up!)

Ceist coicíse: Cén t-am é? (What time is it?)

Conas atá an aimsir? (How is the weather?)



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## Smartphone Agreement

Last year, we introduced our 'Smartphone Charter' across the school. There are huge challenges associated with online apps and smartphones for parents and young people. Our charter was introduced to help parents/guardians navigate this space with the collective help of the whole school community. Our charter 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.'*

We were very pleased and encouraged by the uptake and response, with over 90% of families signing up. If you still wish to sign a copy, they are available from Amanda in the school office or can be downloaded and printed directly from the school website <https://www.rathns.ie/our-school/parentsassociation-132/>

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## Sacraments 2026

The dates below are for our two sacrament classes this year:

### Rang 2

October 7th - Enrolment Meeting for Parents 7:30pm

October 12th - Enrolment mass at 9am

April 22nd - First Confession at 7pm

June 6th - First Communion at 11:30am

### Rang 6

Sept. 29th - Enrolment Meeting for parents 7:30pm

October 5th - Enrolment mass at 9am

March 9th - Service of Light at 6:30pm

March 11th - Confirmation at 11am



## School Closure December 12th

Child Protection Procedures for Schools have been updated in recent months. As part of the implementation process, school staff must attend in-service on the new procedures. We have been notified that this training will take place on **Friday December 12<sup>th</sup>**. This will necessitate a school closure on the day.

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## Halloween Hike 2025

Our annual Halloween Hike will take place later this month. It is provisionally fixed for Friday October 24th. Depending on the weather forecast, we will confirm the day early that week. The children (and staff!) are encouraged to dress up, so all types of witches, ghosts, fancy dress etc. are welcome. The emphasis is on fun and we discourage parents from buying expensive costumes for the day. Homemade costumes are usually the best! The Parents' Association will circulate sponsorship cards in the coming weeks. Below are some pictures from last year's Halloween Hike. It is always one of the most enjoyable days in the school calendar.



## Stay Safe

Stay Safe is a personal safety skills programme for primary schools. The aim of the programme is to reduce vulnerability to child abuse and bullying through the provision of personal safety education for children. It is developmentally structured and addresses personal safety issues such as physical, emotional and sexual abuse as well as bullying and stranger danger. All classes will engage with these lessons through the month of October. Your child may wish to discuss some of the content of these lessons at home.

## County Photos

County Photos will visit the school on Tuesday October 14th. They will circulate proofs and payment options following this, if you wish to purchase from them. As always, this is completely optional.



## **Parents' Association Noticeboard**

Please follow our FB page Rath NS Parents Council (2025/2026)

### **Halloween Hike**

With Oíche Shamhna fast approaching, our annual Halloween Hike will take place on the 25th of October. This is our first fundraiser of the school year. Children are invited to dress up for the occasion — beidh spórt, craic agus spraoi acu! **Sponsorship cards will be sent home in schoolbags over the coming week (one card per family). Your support is greatly appreciated, as always! We do require volunteers to help on the morning of hike, if available please contact Fiona 086 8339779.**

### **Calendar**

We've begun preparing the 2026 school calendar and aim to have it available for purchase in early December. If you or someone you know is interested in placing an advertisement in the calendar, please get in touch. For more information, contact PA via email Sec.p.c.rathns@gmail.com

### **AGM**

Our AGM will take place on Monday, 6th October at 8:30 p.m. in the school. We are currently looking for new members to join the committee, so if you're interested in getting involved, please contact Amanda to put your name forward. New members are always welcome. We'd love to see as many people as possible attend.

We'd like to wish St. Conleth's and Courtwood the very best of luck in their respective finals in the coming weeks.

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## **24-Hour Pupil Personal Accident Insurance**

We would like to remind you that all pupils in the school have 24-hour Pupil Personal Accident Insurance from Allianz. The Allianz Pupil Personal Accident Insurance is a benefit policy that covers Medical and Dental expenses following an accident. The 24-hour nature of the cover ensures pupils are covered for out of school accidents also. It is very useful to have and we'd like to make sure all parents / guardians are aware of it going forward. Claim forms can be downloaded from the Allianz website (link below) or the school can provide you with a hard copy.

[https://www.allianz.ie/content/dam/onemarketing/azie/allianz-ireland/en\\_us/documents/pupil-personal-accident-resources/schools-pupil-personal-accident-claim-form.pdf](https://www.allianz.ie/content/dam/onemarketing/azie/allianz-ireland/en_us/documents/pupil-personal-accident-resources/schools-pupil-personal-accident-claim-form.pdf)

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## **Meet our Student Council**



**Name: Clodagh O'Grady**

**Class: Rang 6**

**Favourite Subject: Maths**

**Hobbies: Irish dancing and football**

**What I like about our school:** I like that our school is a safe and happy environment, and that everyone is kind to each other.

**My priority for the Student Council:** My priority for the Student Council is to try make it an even better place than it already is!





**Name:** John Carey

**Class:** Rang 3

**Favourite Subject:** Art

**Hobbies:** Lego, baking, making comics and playing with my friends

**What I like about our school:** I love our school pitch. It is a great place to play and have fun. I like lego club after school also.

**My priority for the Student Council:** I am going to listen carefully in all the meetings so that I can help my classmates.



**Name:** Mary-Kate O'Connell

**Class:** Rang 5

**Favourite Subject:** English

**Hobbies:** Football and Art

**What I like about our school:** I like that Rath N.S. is a very safe school. I also like that there are a lot of activities and hobbies in the school.

**My priority for the Student Council:** I will try my very best to make sure there is no bullying and I will be the best I can be around the school.



Pictured above are all the certificate recipients from our September 'Teacht le Chéile'.

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