



SAMHAIN 2025

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Your monthly news from Sacred Heart National School Rath



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Parent / Teacher Meetings

Parent / Teacher meetings will take place the week beginning November 24th for each class. Parents / guardians will need to use our Aladdin app to book a face-to-face meeting. If you would prefer a phone call, please contact Amanda in the office and we will arrange a suitable time. Dates and time slots will issue next week. Parents who have already met with teachers to discuss individual special education plans may not need to book a slot, but this can be accommodated if necessary.

We also remind parents/guardians to please book an appointment through the office to speak with or to arrange a meeting with a teacher. It is against school policy to approach a teacher directly before or after school without an appointment.

Swimming

Swimming lessons in Portarlinton Leisure Centre commence this week for pupils in 2nd Class to 6th Class. There will be 5 weeks of lessons for each group.

5th & 6th

Nov 3rd
Nov 10th
Nov 17th
Nov 24th
Dec 1st

2nd / 3rd / 4th

Nov 5th
Nov 12th
Nov 19th
Nov 26th
Dec 3rd



Many thanks once again to our Parents' Association who will cover the cost of the bus each day. This results in a significant saving for parents.

School Closures

Child Protection Procedures for Schools have been updated in recent months. We'd like to remind you that we have been notified that this training will take place on **Friday December 12th**. This will necessitate a school closure on the day. More school closures will be taking place in the new year to facilitate in-service on the new Primary Curriculum. We will pass on these dates once we have been notified.

Halloween Hike

Our annual Halloween Hike was held on October 24th. As always, it was a very enjoyable day. Well done to all the pupils, staff and parents for making such a great effort to dress up. Many thanks also to our Parents' Association for organising the refreshments and treats on the day, as well as helping to keep the roads and junctions safe for the children. We would also like to thank Seán and the Ward family for being such great hosts once again in The Fisherman's Inn. There are more photos to view on the school website.



Thank you Elizabeth

At the end of October, after 28 years working in the school, Elizabeth Fenlon retired from her role. Elizabeth has been such a hard working and valued member of our school team over the years. We thank her sincerely for her dedication, friendship and service to our school community and wish her all the best. Míle buíochas Elizabeth.



Gaeilge

Mí na Samhna (November)

Seachtain 1 - Tá brón orm (I'm sorry) / Brón orm cur isteach ort (sorry to disturb you)

Seachtain 2 - Cad a tharla? (what happened?)

Seachtain 3 - An bhfuil cead agam...? (Can I...?)

Seachtain 4 - Gabh mo leithscéal (excuse me)

Ceist coicíse: Conas atá an aimsir inniú? (how is the weather today?)

Cá bhfuil tú i do chónaí? (where do you live?)

Football

Our pitches were a hive of activity in recent weeks as we ran our two respective lunchtime football leagues. The Junior League was for pupils in 2nd, 3rd and 4th Classes, while the Senior League was for 5th and 6th Class pupils. The action concluded on finals day with medals presented to the winning teams and runners up at our recent Teacht le Chéile. Well done to our 6th Class pupils for the excellent job they did refereeing the matches and setting up the pitches each day. We now look forward to our summer leagues in Term 3. More photos on the school website www.rathns.ie.

We were also privileged to welcome our two senior football teams, Courtwood and St. Conleth's to the school in advance of their recent respective county finals. It is fantastic to see so many past pupils performing at such a high level and providing inspiration for the next generation in the process.



Meet our Student Council



Name: Téighan Donnellan McGrath

Class: Rang 2

Favourite Subject: English

Hobbies: Reading, cycling and running

What I like about our school: I just love our school in general!

My priority for the Student Council:

- make everyone happy
- make a 'Kindness Wall'
- every class to get pen pals



Name: Olivia Aherne

Class: Rang 4

Favourite Subject: PE

Hobbies: Football, camogie, swimming and basketball

What I like about our school: I like the way the teachers push us to learn as much as we can. I also like my friends in school.

My priority for the Student Council: I want to make sure that everyone is happy with any new changes in school and that children never get bullied. I want to encourage more friendships.

MS Readathon

The MS Readathon is an epic reading challenge. Participants are encouraged to read as much as they can in the month of November and raise funds to help MS Ireland provide services and support for people living with Multiple Sclerosis and their families. More details will follow in the coming days but we encourage all our pupils to get reading in the meantime!



Gear for the Pitch

We are lucky in our school to have such a large grass playing area. Not many schools have such facilities. Whenever possible and whenever conditions allow, we encourage the pupils to play on the grass. However, as the weather is so changeable at this time of the year, the grass can be wet and the ground can be soft. Therefore, we expect all pupils to have a change of footwear each day. This can be football boots, old runners, wellies etc. We have racks and storage boxes outside of each classroom to facilitate this. Please ensure your child brings appropriate footwear each day.



Healthy Eating

We'd like to remind you all that we promote healthy eating in Rath N.S. A healthy eating policy enables schools to develop and maintain a shared philosophy on all aspects of food and drink. It helps to develop consistent messages about healthy eating across the curriculum and ensure food consumption at school is in line with healthy eating guidelines. The children are therefore required to bring healthy lunches to school.

We have noticed that some pupils have started to bring in chocolate, chips and other unhealthy food options. Please view our healthy eating policy on the school website if you're in any doubt as to what is allowed or not allowed.

Maths Week

We celebrated Maths Week in the school recently. The school was a hive of activity all week as each class engaged in fun and imaginative Maths activities to celebrate Maths Week 2025.



Parents' Association Noticeboard

AGM: The AGM took place on 6th October. The following members were elected: -

Chairperson – Fiona Kelly, Secretary – Enrica Roker, Treasurer – Deirdre Bell, Vice Treasurer – May Kelly and PRO – Elaine Brick

Halloween Hike: Our annual Halloween Hike took place on October 24th, with staff and students all looking fantastic in their costumes. A huge thank-you to Sean and everyone at the Fisherman's Inn for use of gardens for our stop — it's always a highlight of the day! We're also very grateful to the parents and guardians who helped out, and to everyone who supported the event so generously. So far, we've raised an amazing €2,734! Any remaining sponsorship cards can be returned to Amanda.

Split the Pot: This year, we'll be running Split the Pot for four weeks. The first draw will take place on Wednesday, November 26th. Children will bring home envelopes next week, and we'll also offer an online payment option — details will be shared on our Facebook page. Your support is greatly appreciated.

Calendar 2026: We are currently working on calendar for 2026. Anyone wishing to purchase an advert please contact us.

Next meeting: November 17th.

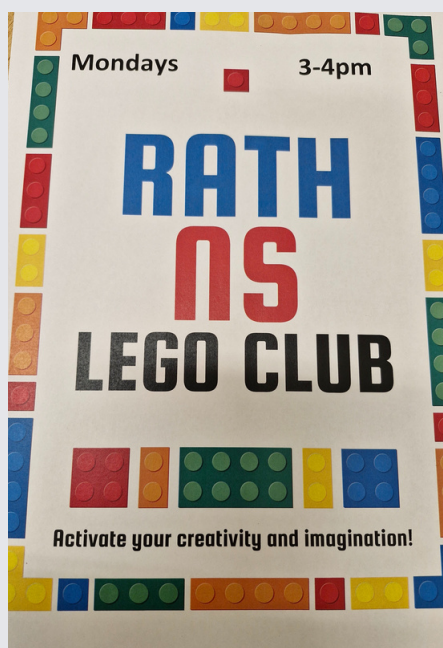


After-School Clubs



An after school club continues to run every Thursday. Lots of sports, games and activities from 3pm to 4pm for students from 3rd to 6th class. For all queries, please contact Mr. Walsh.

Chess club continues every Tuesday with Ms O'Connell's room. All abilities are catered for. It is open for students from 3rd to 6th class. Please contact Ms. O'Connell for forms and payment details (smccormack@rathns.com).



This club is a great opportunity for your child to explore and develop their natural creativity through play, work as part of a team and enhance their STEM skills. It runs every Monday. The club is open to children from 1st Class – 6th Class. For an application form, details about payment or any further queries, please don't hesitate to contact Mr. Delaney by email – kdelaney@rathns.com.