



MÁRTA 2026

# NUACHTLITIR



Your monthly news from Sacred Heart National School Rath

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## ***Couch to 2K***

On Sunday February 22nd, we hosted a 2k Fun Run in the school. It was the culmination of 5 weeks training for the pupils in each class. It was wonderful to see so many parents, past pupils and extended family members in attendance, with many putting on the running shoes themselves and completing the 2k. Many thanks to our Parents' Association for providing the refreshments afterwards. We will continue to encourage the children to engage with regular exercise. Please visit the school website ([rathns.ie](http://rathns.ie)) to view more photos from the day.

## ***World Book Day***

We will celebrate World Book Day on **Thursday, March 5th**. The children have the opportunity to bring one of their favourite books to life by dressing up as a character from the book. It's one of the days the children most look forward to each year. It is part of our continuing efforts to motivate and encourage the children to read. The website <https://www.worldbookday.com/> contains a family section where you, as a parent, can source fun activities, reading recommendations, audiobooks, interactive games, low-cost dress up ideas and lots more. It might be something you'd like to do this week with your child. Below are some pictures from World Book Day 2025.



## Gaeilge / Seachtain na Gaeilge

Is féile Ghaeilge í Seachtain na Gaeilge, atá ar an gceiliúradh is mó dár dteanga agus dár gcultúr dúchais a bhíonn ar siúl in Éirinn gach bliain. We in Rath N.S. will be celebrating it also in our school and we plan to engage the children in fun language activities. Beidh 'Lá Glas' againn chomh maith ar **Márta 13**. The boys and girls can wear anything green to celebrate Seachtain na Gaeilge agus Lá Fhéile Pádraig.

### Márta (March)

Seachtain 1 – An ndearna tú? Rinne mé/ ní dhearna (did you do/make?)

Seachtain 2 – Ar chuala tú? Chuala / níor chuala (did you hear? I heard / didn't hear)

Seachtain 3 – Tá sceitimíní orm mar... (I'm excited because...)

Seachtain 4 – An bhfuil tú ceart go leor? (are you okay?)

Ceist coicíse: Cad iad na héadaí is fearr leat? (what clothes do you prefer?)

Cén sort clár teilifíse is fearr leat? (what type of TV programmes do you prefer?)

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## Sport

**Football:** After-school football coaching with Courtwood GAA continues on Fridays with pupils from 3rd - 6th Class. 1st and 2nd Class have football during school time on Fridays also. Many thanks to all the coaches and volunteers from Courtwood GAA for facilitating this.

**Volleyball:** Well done to our 6th Class pupils for competing so well in their recent blitz day in Portlaoise College. We congratulate our Mixed Team in particular who have qualified for the National Finals in Limerick on Friday March 20th. Go n-éirí leo! Thank you to Mr Walsh for coaching the boys and girls.

**Tag Rugby:** Tag rugby with Jack from Portarlinton RFC / Leinster Rugby commenced last week with pupils in 1st Class - 6th Class.

**Hurling / Camogie:** Hurling and camogie training continues as the children in 4th, 5th & 6th classes prepare for their respective Cumann na mBunscol competitions. Pupils in 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Class are welcome to train also.

**Chess:** Best wishes to Ms. O'Connell and our chess players who represent the school in the Laois Chess Tournament on March 20<sup>th</sup>.



## School Closure June 12th

We received notice in recent weeks of another school closure on Friday June 12<sup>th</sup>. This is again to facilitate teacher in-service on the new Primary Curriculum.

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## Whole-School Evaluation

Inspectorates from the Department of Education recently carried out an evaluation in our school. The evaluation looked at key aspects of the school's work including its management and organisation, and the quality of learning and teaching. A published report will follow in the coming months. We'd like to compliment our parent/guardian body for engaging with the online survey in such large numbers. The inspectors remarked that the volume of responses were higher than average.

## Sacraments

Rang 2 and Rang 6 are currently preparing for their respective sacraments in the coming weeks and months. We wish both groups the very best, particularly our 6th Class pupils who will be confirmed in the coming weeks. Please make note of the dates and times below:

### Rang 2

First Confessions / Sacrament of Reconciliation - Wednesday April 22nd at 7pm in Sacred Heart Church, Rath.

First Holy Communion - Saturday June 6th at 11am in Sacred Heart Church, Rath.

### Rang 6

Service of Light / Reconciliation - Monday March 9th at 6:30pm in Sacred Heart Church, Rath.

Confirmation - Wednesday March 11th at 11:30am in Sacred Heart Church, Rath.

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## Quiz Teams

Our Quiz teams have been busy in recent weeks. Our u11 and u13 teams took part in the Portarlington Area Credit Union quiz on February 6th, with our u13 team coming in 1st place. This is a great achievement and they now progress to the next level of the competition. Pictured below are team members Kevin, Dáire, Clodagh and Alison.

On Wednesday last, our u13 team also represented the school at the annual Laois Cumann na mBunscol quiz. Almost 30 schools from across the county participated with Rath N.S. finishing in 3rd place.



## Morning Supervision

We'd like to remind you all that school starts at 9.20am and supervision starts at 9am. Therefore, **no child should be on the school grounds before 9am**. We have noticed a number of children being dropped off before 9am. They are not insured to be on the school grounds before 9am.

## Parents' Association Noticeboard

**Bake Sale:** Our Bake Sale took place on Friday, February 13th, and it was a wonderful success. A massive thank you to everyone who generously donated baked treats — there was all sorts of amazing bakes which the children thoroughly enjoyed. We are also very grateful to those who helped on the day to make the event run so smoothly. The event raised a massive €1,116. Míle buíochas for your continued support.

**Confirmation:** Confirmation will be held on Wednesday, March 11th at 11am. We would like to take this opportunity to wish all the cailíní and buachaillí the best of luck as they continue their preparation for the sacrament of Confirmation. We hope you all have a wonderful day.

After the ceremony, a reception will be held in the school hall for Rang a Sé, their families, and our sponsors. If you are available to help on the day, please let a member of the committee know. Your assistance would be greatly appreciated.

**Church Gate Collection:** Our annual church gate collection will take place on March 22nd.

**Next meeting:** The next meeting will take place on Monday 2nd March at 8pm in the school. We would love to see you there.

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## Dates for Your Diary

March 5th - World Book Day

March 9<sup>th</sup> - Service of Light (Rang 6)

March 11<sup>th</sup> - Confirmation (Rang 6)

March 13th - Lá Glas

March 27th - Half-Day Closure for end of term. **12:30pm finish.**

