



MÁRTA 2022

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Your monthly news from Sacred Heart National School Rath

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Covid Update

Parents' Association

Internet Safety Survey

Football

World Book Day

Gaeilge

Table Tennis Finals

6th Class Music

Sacraments

Dates for Your Diary



Covid-19 Update

As you are aware by now, the government have lifted almost all remaining restrictions relating to Covid-19. The Department of Education has advised that schools can now begin to revert to normal routines. This means that the wearing of face masks and the requirement to maintain classroom pods and bubbles is now gone.

As stated in a recent communication, although masks are no longer mandatory, some pupils and staff members may still choose to wear them. This personal choice will be completely respected. It is also still advised to wear face masks on school buses. Now that restrictions are lifted, we look forward to resuming activities such as matches, swimming lessons, mentoring and school tours.

The guidelines with respect to symptoms have not changed however. If your child displays any symptoms of Covid-19, they cannot attend school. Please continue to check the HSE website for the most up-to-date advise.

Thank you once again for your continued support and cooperation throughout these challenging times.

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. Please make note of the dates and times below:

Rang 2

First Confessions - Tuesday March 15th at 7:30pm in Sacred Heart Church, Rath.

First Holy Communion - Saturday May 7th at 11:30am in Sacred Heart Church, Rath.

Rang 6

Service of Light / Reconciliation - Tuesday March 22nd at 7pm in Sacred Heart Church, Rath.

Confirmation - Thursday March 24th at 11am in Sacred Heart Church, Rath.

Football

The children in the senior classes have been busy in recent weeks preparing for the return of our Cuman na mBunscol matches. We have two boys teams and two girls teams, with almost 60 children from 4th, 5th and 6th class training. After two years without games, it's brilliant to be back. The pictures below are from the boys games on Tuesday against Emo. Our girls teams play their first games on Thursday.



World Book Day

We will celebrate World Book Day this Friday, March 4th. 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 endeavor to motivate and encourage the children to read. The website <https://www.worldbookday.com/about-us/ireland/> contains a family section where you, as a parent, can source fun activities, reading recommendations, audiobooks, interactive games and lots more. It might be something you'd like to do Thursday evening with your child.



Internet Safety

We recently marked Internet Safety Day in the school with activities and lessons in each classroom. These lessons coincided with the parental webinar that evening run by Barnardos. Our Student Council also conducted a survey with all the pupils from 2nd Class to 6th Class. Some of the findings were expected, but some of them below also surprised us;

- 19% of pupils surveyed spend more than 3 hours online each day.
- 26% of pupils say their parents have no rules with regard to internet usage.
- Only 61% of pupils feel safe using the internet.

What was probably most alarming was the number of children, even as far down as 3rd and 4th Class, who said they have their own mobile smart phones. Research and anecdotal evidence would suggest that this is not a good idea for children so young. Please visit <https://www.webwise.ie/> for further information and resources.

Márta 2022

6th Class Music Project

Our 6th Class pupils have been working on an exciting project in recent months with two of our Music Generation Laois tutors, Dale McKay and Siobhán Buckley. Singer John Spillane is also involved. We look forward to sharing the finished product with you in the coming weeks.



Table Tennis League Finals

Our annual 6th Class table tennis league concluded last week. The standard was exceptionally high and well done to all 29 pupils who participated. Congratulations to our finalists and winners pictured below. Ríoch and Holly were our respective winners. Míle buíochas to the staff members for giving up so many lunch breaks to facilitate the training and league, and many thanks also to Courtwood GAA for generously sponsoring the prizes.



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 15. The boys and girls can wear anything green to celebrate Seachtain na Gaeilge agus Lá Fhéile Pádraig.

Márta (March)

Seachtain 1 - Gabh mo leithscéal! (Excuse me!)

Seachtain 2 - Go raibh maith agat. Ná habair é! (Thank you. Don't mention it!)

Seachtain 3 - Tóg go bog é! (Take it easy!)

Seachtain 4 - Ceart go leor. An bhfuil tú ceart go leor? (Okay. Are you okay)



Parents' Association

Bake Sale: In light of the lifting of restrictions, we are hoping to hold the Bake Sale after Easter. Keep an eye on our Facebook page Rath NS Parents Council (2021/2022) for more information.

Family Quiz Night: We are hoping to hold the family quiz in the near future and will have a date for your diary soon.

Swimming: We are delighted to confirm that when school swimming lessons return in April, the P.A. will subsidise the transportation costs from funds raised throughout the previous year, which will reduce the cost of lessons significantly.

Confirmation: We will hold a reception for the children and their families after confirmation on March 24th. We would welcome all donations of baked goods on the day. More details as regards time etc. will follow nearer to the date.

Next meeting: Our next P.A. meeting will take place *in the school hall in person* on Tuesday 8th March at 8:30pm. All Parents and Guardians are members of the Association and we would really love to see you there.

Dates for Your Diary

March 4th - World Book Day

March 15th - Lá Glas

March 16th - 18th - School closed

March 21st - 5th & 6th Class History trip to Dublin

March 24th - Confirmation



Pictures of Senior Infants enjoying pancakes this week and 2nd Class making pizzas recently.