



**SAMHAIN 2022**

# NUACHTLITIR



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 28th for each class except Junior Infants. This year, parents will be given the option on Aladdin to book a phone call or a face-to-face meeting. Dates and time slots will issue next week. Parents who have already met with special education teachers to discuss individual plans don't need to book a slot, but this can be accommodated if necessary.

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## **Science Week**

Next week, schools across the country will celebrate Science Week. Science Week is a week-long event in Ireland each November, celebrating science in our everyday lives. Each class will be marking the week with their own activities and experiments. To kickstart the week, we have booked a portable planetarium dome on Monday. Each class will have a 30-minute visit to the dome to experience an interactive show and workshop. The dome is coming from Armagh that morning and there is obviously a cost involved. To help subsidise this cost, we are asking for a €3 contribution from each pupil. The payment option will be on Aladdin later this week. For more information on Science Week, please visit the Science Week Ireland website <https://www.sfi.ie/engagement/science-week/>.

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## **School Closure**

You should have received a message on Monday to inform you that the school will have to close for the day on **Wednesday November 16th**. ESB Networks contacted us again to make us aware of another planned electricity supply interruption between 9am and 5pm on the day.

We queried this and sought an alternative solution with ESB Networks as we understand the disruption it causes for the children's education and also for you as working parents. However, they informed us that this is part of a major upgrading of the system in the greater Athy area and they are unable to reschedule the work to a non-school day. They did assure me however that this will be the last outage to effect the school as part of this planned work.

With no power, it means we have no water, light or heat. Therefore, the board of management must close the school on the day.

## Halloween Hike

Our annual Halloween Hike was held on October 28th. 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.



## GAA

Our Boys B football team have qualified for the Cumann na mBunscol Laoise Championship Finals tomorrow (Thursday) after topping their group. They will play Gaelscoil Phortlaoise at 1pm in O'Moore Park, Portlaoise.

The panel will get a bus to Portlaoise on Thursday. Supporters and other pupils are welcome to attend but they must organise their own transport. Entry for students and OAPs is free on finals day but adults will be charged €5 at the turnstile. Go n-éirí an t-ádh leis na buachaillí.

Our lunchtime football leagues continue with boys and girls in 3rd - 6th Class. Well done to our 6th Class pupils for the excellent job they are doing refereeing the matches and setting up the pitches each day.

Many thanks to the coaches in Courtwood GAA who continue to visit the school each Friday afternoon to help coach the pupils in the school. This Friday (Nov 11th), 5th and 6th class pupils will have after-school football training between 3pm & 4pm. The following week, it will be 3rd & 4th class again.

St. Paul's GAA have reminded us that winter hurling training will continue every Sunday morning at 10am in Emo. It is for boys and girls born in 2011, 2012 and 2013. It is open to existing players, and in particular new players who want to try out hurling. We encourage all those interested to attend.



## County Photos

County Photos visited recently and your child has now received a proof of their photographs. All details on how to purchase these photographs are on the envelope. If you are sending back the proof card to the school, please have them back by Friday 18th November. If you have any questions, please contact Amanda in the office.

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## 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 maith leat? Is maith liom / Ní maith liom (Do you like? I like / I don't like)

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## 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 2022. Many thanks to Ms Conroy in particular for organising the week's activities. There are more photos on the school website.



## Rolla & Morning Supervision

We are often asked questions with regard to the school roll book and if/when children are marked absent from school. Schools are advised to do the roll call within one hour of the start of the school day - 10:20am in our case. This can then cause confusion if children arrive late for perfectly valid reasons such as medical appointments, either planned or unplanned. Department of Education Circular 0028/2013 states that, 'a pupil will be marked either present or absent at the time of roll call and there will be no provision for adjusting the Roll Book (Leabhar Rolla) where a pupil subsequently does not complete the full school day or arrives after the roll call'.

Therefore, we are unable to alter or adjust the roll if your child arrives late.

Also, I will remind you all again that we begin supervision at 9am each morning. Children should not be on the school premises before 9am. They will not be supervised and there are safety and insurance implications as a result.

## **Parents' Association Noticeboard**

The AGM took place on Monday 10th October. The following parents were elected.

Chairperson – Áine O' Connell,  
Vice Chairperson – Aisling Byrne,  
Secretary – Deirdre O' Grady,  
Treasurer – Fiona Kelly,  
Vice -Treasurer – Mary Daly,  
PRO – Katherine O' Connell.

Please see our Facebook page "Rath NS Parents Council (2022/2023)" for further information. You can also contact us on [chair.p.c.rathns@gmail.com](mailto:chair.p.c.rathns@gmail.com) or [sec.p.c.rathns@gmail.com](mailto:sec.p.c.rathns@gmail.com)

### Halloween Hike

On Friday 28th of October the Halloween Hike took place. It was a wonderful morning. We would like to thank the children and staff who all had fabulous costumes and for creating a brilliant atmosphere. A very special word of thanks to all in the Fisherman's Inn for hosting us and for providing fresh fruit and drinks which were enjoyed by all. A very big thank you to all the parents and guardians who helped out on the day. Finally, we would like to say a massive thank you for your continued support and generosity. We have raised over €3,000 to date towards the cost of the outdoor classroom. Please return all cards by Friday 12th, if you have not done so already. Go raibh maith agat.

### Féilire

Work is ongoing on the calendar. We hope to have it for sale in early December.

### Split the Pot

This year we will run Split the Pot for five weeks. The first draw will take place on Wednesday 23rd of November. The children will bring home envelopes next week. The money raised will go towards the Outdoor classroom project and equipment. We are grateful for all your support.

Next meeting: Our next meeting will take place on Monday 5th December at 8:30 pm in the school. We would really love to see you there.

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## **Garda Vetting**

As acknowledged above, we had great support at our recent Halloween Hike. This is always the case when we ask for parental support at events such as our duathlon, Santa Dash, bake sale, communion reception etc. A number of years ago, we asked parents to be Garda Vetting through the school and a large number of parents did so at the time. This is not a requirement but it is suggested as good practice by our management body. Therefore, if you haven't already been vetted through the school, I ask you to please consider doing so if you help out occasionally at school events. It is not an onerous process and shouldn't take too long. Please contact Amanda in the office and she will forward a link to you. Mile buíochas.