

Rathkeevin National School

December 2024 Newsletter



Au Revoir

Christmas approaches and life is ever busy and changing in Rathkeevin N.S. We have had a fantastic first term filled with activity and learning.

Mr. Curran has been leading up our drive towards an Active Flag. It is wonderful to see all classes full of energy. Thank you to Ms. Paula Morrissey for leading our choir in preparation for Peace Proms in January. We have participated in football blitzes, cycling, art competitions, Science Week, Maths Week, F.A.I Futsal training, music lessons, drama and much more. Our Senior classes visited the Nursing home before Christmas to celebrate Christmas with the residents through music. We have busy classrooms, buzzing with teamwork, collaboration and fun. News of the upcoming building works was greatly welcomed and hopefully work will commence in the New Year. We have a thriving school in Rathkeevin.

As the sun sets on my time in Rathkeevin, I want to say a sincere and genuine thank you for the support and positivity shown since my arrival in November 2020. The Board of Management could not have been more supportive of the school and have worked tirelessly to make the school a better place for your children. I want to single out Fr. Ahearne for his commitment to the schools in the Parish and his unending energy and support. A special word of thanks also to Frank Burke for his dedication to Rathkeevin School. Frank's support has been invaluable and he has played a vital role in all school developments over many years.

A huge thank you to the Parents' Association for their constant support and tireless work and fundraising to support the school. The Parents' Association have long played a hugely important role in supporting the

school. Special thanks to our current committee; Laura, Elaine and Aidan for your work in recent years. It is greatly appreciated.

To all of the parents in the school and to the wider school community, thank you for making Rathkeevin such a wonderful place to come every morning. The positivity and support for the school is incredible. I have no doubt that Rathkeevin will continue to flourish with such a strong community.

What a period of change it has been in terms of staff. I am delighted to say that the new Principal in Rathkeevin will inherit a terrific, hardworking and dedicated staff who consistently go above and beyond for the betterment of your children. Thank you for making Rathkeevin a lovely place to come to work and for making my job no more complicated than necessary. It is fantastic to see the collaboration, camaraderie and good spirit on a daily basis throughout the school. It has been a pleasure working with all of you.

My final thank you is to the wonderful children in Rathkeevin National School. It has been a privilege to come to school everyday. I have thoroughly enjoyed my time teaching here and I wish each and every one of you the very best in the future. I look forward to hearing great things about each of you.

It has been my honour to be part of the history of this great school. While it's bittersweet to move on, I am incredibly grateful for the opportunity afforded to me in Rathkeevin. I am excited for new challenges but I will cherish memories and friendships made here. I will work closely with the new Principal to ensure as smooth a transition as possible after Christmas.

This school has a bright future ahead. Beannachtaí na Nollag daoibh go léir agus Athbhliain faoi shéan agus faoi mhaise daoibh freisin.

‘How lucky am I to have something that makes saying goodbye so hard’ –

A.A Milne

Le meas,

Diarmuid de Búrca



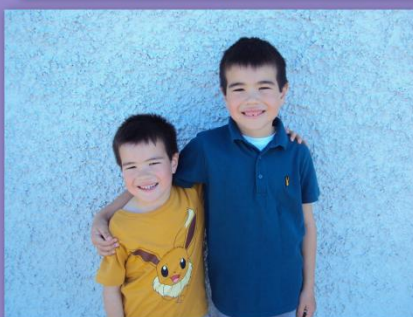
go raibh míle
maith agat

thank you

Welcome Junior Infants September 2024



& their siblings



**Welcome Hayley to
Junior Infants**

SCHOOL LIFE

U13 Girls Blitz in Moyle Rovers on the 3rd October with Ms. Grace



Blitz in Cahir 11th October



Trip to Cahir Castle for a tour



Blitz in Killenaule with Ms. Mackey



Many thanks to Ms. Mackey, Ms. Grace and Mr. Curran for training and managing the teams.

CYCLE RIGHT with 5th & 6th Class

Tipperary Sports Partnership in association with Tipperary County Council and the HSE organise Cycle Right programmes throughout Primary Schools.

The two lads, Ollie and Donal from Cycle Right came to our school at the end of September for 6 weeks. They brought small, medium and large bikes with helmets. When we got our bikes, the two lads adjusted them to our level and off we went. They taught us practical safety and cycle skills, this will make us more confident cyclists as we get older. The lads come back on Wednesday November 27th for an extra day and to give us our certificates. *By Michael Fox*





Coláiste Dún Iascaigh School Play “Footloose”

Our school is very lucky each year to be invited to the Coláiste Dún Iascaigh for their show. This year 5th & 6th Class went to see Footloose on the 24th October, we all had a great time and they gave us lots of treats. We have a great tradition of going to see a new show every year.

We look forward to seeing what next year’s show will be. *By Isabel*

CROSS COUNTRY

On Wednesday 16th October, 64 students attended the Cross Country event which was held by the Clonmel Athletics Club at their facility in the TÚS Sports Hub. This was our first year attending and despite very little training we exceeded all expectations.



Orienteering in Kilkenny – 5th and 6th Class



On Tuesday 26th November we went Orienteering at Kilkenny Castle. When we got there we were put in pairs and did a quick practice. The first thing we were given was a map and something around our neck. The first activity we did we had to look at the map and find the numbers shown on the map. We tapped all the numbers as we went along and this would give us our overall time. On the second event we got something around our finger and ran around the whole place. When we were finished you could go up to the green tent. We really enjoyed our trip to Kilkenny and I think we all had the best day! *By Joe & Alice*



Halloween dress up at Rathkeevin National School



Halloween raffle winners:

- Box of wine (kindly donated)- Paddy O’Gorman
- €50 Galileo- Molly Harris c/o Emma O’Mahony
- €50 Cinema - Andy Ryan c/o Oscar Foley
- €50 Talbot - Rían Burke c/o Diarmuid Burke
- €500 Centre Parcs - Henry Rhattigan c/o Darragh Rhattigan. Congratulations to all the winners! More importantly thank you to each and every child and family for their support of the raffle and we will ensure all funds are used to benefit all our kids.

Thanks to all those who helped out - Happy Halloween

On behalf of the Parents Association



**PARENTS' ASSOCIATION WILL BE RUNNING THE FOLLOWING
EVENTS IN 2025:-**

- 1. Hygiene Hub donation via school (speaker will come to school early in new year)**
- 2. Family Table Quiz in February**
- 3. Sponsored Readathon, in the run up to World Book Day.**
- 4. Clothes Collection in Spring (so keep those clothes bags)**
- 5. Summer Fun Evening**

REMEMBER – The Parents' Association is always looking for new parents to join, if you are interested we would love to hear from you.



The team at Gourmet Kids would be delighted to have the opportunity to serve our delicious Hot Lunches to the Children in your school.

We are very passionate about what we do & over the last 8 years of producing food for school providers we have mastered the ability to produce the freshest, tastiest, nutritiously balanced meals to support the Hot Lunches Programme.

Our goal is to provide your school with the best quality food & the service we deliver will not only put a big smile on the kid's faces, but also on the teachers.

Music, Drama & GAA

It's brilliant to have Maria, Aileen & Martin back for Music/Drama and GAA. Maria has music from juniors to 6th class every Tuesday and Aileen has Drama on the Wednesday with all classes. Martin comes every Thursday (weather permitting) for skills training. Aileen, Maria & Martin will continue until June 2025.

CHRISTMAS SHOEBOX APPEAL

Many thanks for your generous response to the shoe box appeal run by Team Hope. We collected **74 shoe boxes** this year.

A BIG thank you to our wonderful pupils and their parents for participating.





6th Class Hoodies





Our Active School Committee

for 2024 - 2025



SWIMMING will

commence with **Group 1** on Friday 10th January, 2025 with Junior/Senior Infants (Ms. Morrissey), 3rd Class (Ms. Grace) and 5th Class (Mr. Curran).

Group 2 on Friday 4th April with Senior/1st (Ms. O'Dea), 1st & 2nd (Ms. Mackey), 4th Class (Ms. Grace) & 6th Class (Mr. Curran)

The cost for 8 lessons will be €65 (payment online or through the office).

A note with further details has been sent out.



5th & 6th Class – Trip to Kilkenny Orienteering



PEACE PROMS

Well done to all who are taking part in Peace Proms.

The Choir attended a workshop on Wednesday 20th November at SETU Sports Arena, Waterford. Big thank you to Aisling Cooney for helping out on the day.

We have been very busy practising, both singing and dancing, for the big day which will go ahead on January 26th 2025 in SETU.

Everyone has been asked to wear a plain white top with no logo and dark bottoms on the day.

Further details will follow.

Ms. Morrissey's Class setting Daffodils for Spring



Lighting of the Christmas Tree 2024



Sophia put the Star on our Christmas Tree this year. Natalina & Sophie turned on the Christmas lights. Big thanks to our four 6th class girls who decorated the tree.







Christmas Jumpers Day Wednesday 18th in Aid of Cuan Saor, Clonmel



Congratulation to the pupils of Rathkeevin National School on a wonderful fundraiser for Cuan Saor, Clonmel. This year it was run by Mr. Curran's 5th & 6th Class

The Pupils together raised an impressive € 250.00

Thank you all for coming to see our Christmas Play –

'The Magical Toyshop'

This is a very special toyshop where the toys come to life when it's dark at night. The toys have the most magical night, filled with laughter, fun, and pure delight. They know the true meaning of Christmas is clear, It's about giving and inclusion, bringing cheer. The children had a great time singing their songs and speaking their lines. Well done to all of them for learning their lines so well.

Merry Christmas everyone!

Have a lovely break from everyone in the Magical Toyshop





Ms. O'Dea's Play

Having spent many weeks learning their lines and Christmas songs, Senior Infants and First Class performed 'The Christmas Magic Crystal' on Friday last. The girls and boys thoroughly enjoyed performing for the school community and of course their families. Wishing each and all of you a very happy and safe holiday.

We look forward to seeing you in 2025!





A special Visit filled with Joy and Music

Today, our wonderful primary school students from 3rd-6th class brought smiles, laughter and beautiful melodies to the residents of Rathkeevin Nursing Home.



The children sang, played instruments and danced spreading happiness and creating precious moments that warmed everyone's hearts Thank you to Rathkeevin Nursing Home for having us, and to the students for their enthusiasm and kindness.





Santa came to visit Rathkeevin N.S. on Thursday 18th December 2024









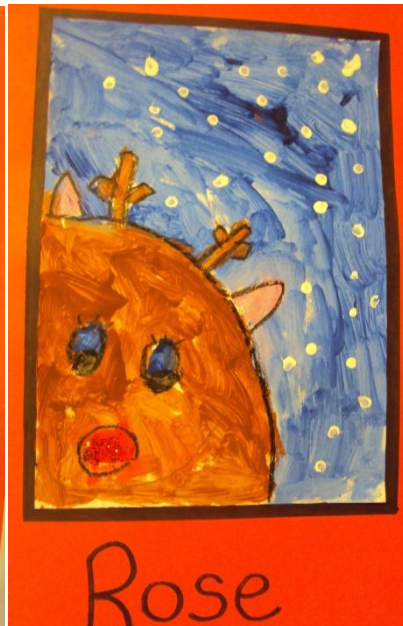
Big thank you to Santa's helpers



Parents' Association Annual Halloween Raffle

The Parents' Association would like to thank everyone for the contributions to the Halloween raffle, help with organising, buying tickets, helping at the draw and to those who donated and got prizes. The biggest well done is to all the kids selling lines **The good news is we raised €2165, which is fantastic.** This money will go towards different events including contribution to buses for sports etc

Christmas Artworks



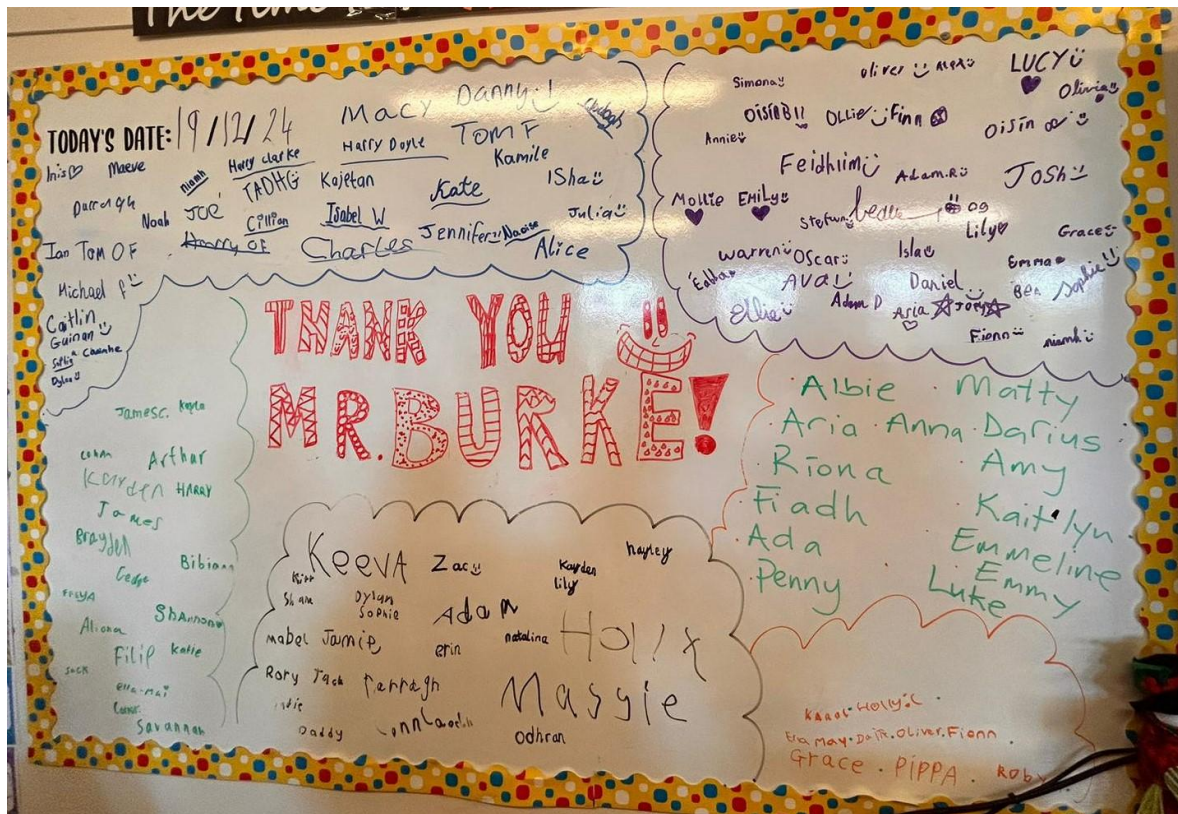
Ellie & Olivia – 4th Class



Ms. Mackey's Class



THANK YOU MR. BURKE



Christmas Raffle



Well done to Ellie who won the beautiful crafted Santa, kindly donated by Finn, Kitt & Sadie's lovely Nan.

Thank you to everyone who contributed, total €275.00 which will be used on green initiatives around our school.

School Calendar 2024-2025

Christmas Holidays	Break up :- Friday 20th December Ms. Morrissey Junior /Seniors 12.20pm Ms. O'Dea's Senior Infants 12.20pm Mr. Curran's 5 th & 6 th Class 12.30pm Ms. Mackey's 1 st & 2 nd Class 12.30pm Ms. Grace's 3 rd & 4 th Class 12.30pm Return to School Monday 6th January, 2025
Public Holiday St. Brigid's Day	Monday 3 rd February , 2025
Spring Mid Term Break	Break up :- Thursday 20 th February & Friday 21 st February, 2025. Return – Monday 24 th February, 2024
SCHOOL CLOSED – PLEASE ADD TO YOUR CALENDAR Primary Mathematics Curriculum Training	Monday 3 rd March, 2024
Public Holiday St. Patrick's Day	Monday 17 th March, 2024
Confirmation Day	Monday 7 th April, 2025 at 12.30pm
First Holy Communion Day	Saturday 24 th May, 2025
Easter Holidays	Break up:- from 12.20pm Friday 11 th April, 2025 Return – Monday 28 th April, 2025
Public Holiday	Monday 5 th May, 2025
Public Holiday	Monday 2 nd June, 2025
Summer Holidays	Friday 20 th June, 2025

Help Wanted

By Timothy Tocher



Santa needs new reindeer.

The first bunch has grown old.

Dasher has arthritis;

Comet hates the cold.

Prancer's sick of staring
at Dancer's big behind.

Cupid married Blitzen
and Donner lost his mind.

Dancer's mad at Vixen
for stepping on his toes.

Vixen's being thrown out—
she laughed at Rudolph's nose.

If you are a reindeer
we hope you will apply.
There is just one tricky part:
You must know how to fly.

