



Rathkeevin National School

December 2022 Newsletter

Beannachtaí na Nollag daoibh go léir.

It is great to be able to say that we have had a busy First Term in School so far, full of fun and activity. Hopefully this will continue into the New Year as we continue our progress back to normality. A huge thank you to our Parents' Association who have been working tirelessly to bring in much needed funding to our school. Thank you to everybody who has supported their efforts to date. It has been a time of change in Rathkeevin.

Sera Palazzo who joined us during the summer, has been a terrific addition to our staff. A huge thank you also to Deirdre, Siobhán, Marie and Anne who have been regular visitors to our school this term in their SNA role. It is terrific to have such reliable and trustworthy back up when needed.

Thank you to both Martin Hanrahan (Parents' Nominee) and to Mr. Curran (Teachers' Nominee) for giving their time and commitment to the Board of Management. Huge thanks of course to our outgoing Board Members, John Walsh and Ms. Ryan who both gave many years of dedication to the School. Thank you to all members of the Board of Management who have committed their time to providing the best education and facilities possible for the children and families of Rathkeevin.

We waved goodbye to Ms. Ryan at Hallowe'en after 29 years in Rathkeevin. We wish her the very best of luck in all her future endeavours. Best wishes to Mr. Doody who has stepped up into the role of Deputy Principal. I have no doubt that he will do a fantastic job. It is a pleasure to work alongside someone as dedicated and passionate about his role as Mr. Doody is.

We have recently appointed Mrs. Noreen Moroney to the Junior/Senior Infant Classroom. Noreen has replaced Celia in a temporary capacity until the summer and has taken to the role like a duck to water, with great enthusiasm, compassion and care for the children. We wish Noreen the very best.

We have a terrific school community in Rathkeevin. I want to thank all of the staff in our school for all of their efforts and support. A special word of thanks to Claire for everything that she does for our school.

A huge thank you to Fr. Ahearne for his tireless work in the Parish and in our school. Finally, I want to thank you, the parents for all your support in making Rathkeevin the best possible place for your children.

It has been a time of change. Hopefully we can all be part of a bright future in Rathkeevin.

Nollaig shona agus athbhliain faoi mhaise daoibh.

Le Meas,
Diarmuid

School Life

Football Blitzes in Mullinahone and Moyle Rovers



In the October, the Under 13 girls of Rathkeevin headed off to Mullinahone to play a football blitz. We played against Mullinahone first and lost. Our second match was against Gaelscoil Carrick which they won. Our last match was against Moyglass and we won. It was a terrible rainy day but we enjoyed ourselves.

By Keeva & Isabelle

U13 Blitz in Moyle Rovers



In the month of October the boys under 13 played three football matches in Moyle Rovers. We played Gael Scoil Carrick and won but lost to Mullinahone and Newcastle . The pitch was in bad condition but Mullinahone and

Newcastle were the better sides. By Ethan & Jamie

Works carried over the last few months.



Hedging to be planted in Spring.





Download our app & order before 12 noon for next day delivery! Place orders for the week & don't worry about lunch until the next time you want to change an order. Our individually handcrafted lunches comprise of a sandwich-based option, or a pasta/salad/fruit alternative.

Drama & Music

It's brilliant to have both Nancy and Maria back for Drama and Music. Maria has music from juniors to 6th class and Nancy is running her drama classes from Juniors to 4th Class. We are so lucky to have both talented teachers working with us in Rathkeevin.

We will be continuing music & drama lessons in the new year.

CHRISTMAS SHOEBOX APPEAL

Many thanks for your generous response to the shoe box appeal run by Team Hope. We collected **76 shoe boxes** this year.

Huge thank you to pupils and their parents.



PARENTS' ASSOCIATION WILL BE RUNNING THE FOLLOWING EVENTS SOON:-

- 1. Hats – Beanies with school crest are available for sale – purchase is completely voluntary.**
- 2. 6th Class Hoodies** – To be ordered in January, 2023
- 3. Cash for Clobber** – Get ready for a good clear out in Spring 2022 .
- 4. School Walk** – we hope to organise a Spring Walk outside of school hours, giving everyone a social opportunity to meet up!

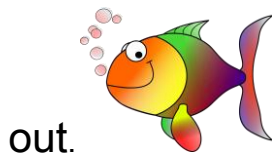
REMEMBER – The Parents' Association is always looking for new parents to join, if you are interested we would love to hear from you.



SWIMMING will commence on Friday

13th January, 2023 with Ms. Moroney &

Mr. Doody's Class. The cost for 8 lessons will be €50 (due before Jan 13th). A note with further details including permission slip has been sent



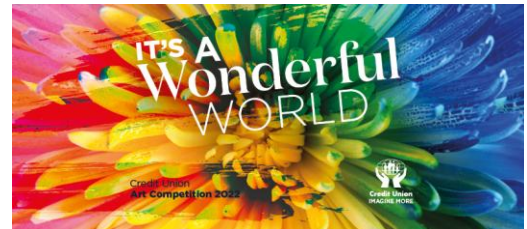
out.

Congratulation to Tom who was the overall prize winner of 3rd class “Maths Eyes” competition. They received a huge response and the standard was very high so many congratulations and well done to everyone who participated and received certificates





Big congratulations to the
our two Senior Infants,
winners in the Credit Union
Art 'It's a Wonderful World'
Competition 2022



Peace Proms

On Tuesday the 16th of November, the students of 3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th class participating in Peace Proms went to UL in Limerick to practice for Peace Proms. There was a lot of schools there taking part and it sounded awesome! We went through all the songs and all the dances. We had an amazing conductor called Greg. He was really nice and friendly. Greg made the practice very enjoyable. We had a blast! As always a huge thank you to our incredible teacher Ms. English. We are really looking forward to the real concert next year on the 21st January.

By Ailbhe O'Brien & Méadbh Lonergan, 6th Class

Ms. Moroney's Class setting Daffodils for Spring





Lighting of the Christmas Tree 2022



Our youngest pupil turned on the Christmas tree lights and our eldest pupil placed the star on top of the tree.



Christmas Jumpers Day ----- December in Aid of Crumlin Children Hospital Appeal.



Congratulation to the pupils of Rathkeevin National School on a wonderful fundraiser for Crumlin Children Hospital. This year it was run by Mr.Doody's 5th & 6th Class.-The Pupils & Teachers together raised an impressive €300.00

A special visit from Courtney McGuire to 5th & 6th class



The day Courtney McGuire came was so amazing. We were doing an inspirational person, and I had written to Courtney who inspired me. A knock came to the door and Mr. Doody told me to come out. I couldn't believe my eyes, she came to my school. She gave me a letter she wrote to me, bag of sweets and treats and a box of sweets to share with my class. She stayed with the class and answers lots of questions. It was the best day ever and one I will never forget.

The four 5th & 6th who won the Christmas canvas in Mr. Doody's class



Santa came to visit Rathkeevin N.S. on Monday







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 raffle, help 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 €2200, which is fantastic.** This money will go towards different events including contribution to buses for sports etc

Ms. Ryan's Retirement



Farewell Ms. Ryan.

After 29 years in Rathkeevin National School, Ms. Celia Ryan retired from her position at Hallowe'en. A superb teacher, Ms. Ryan also served as Deputy Principal and as the Teachers' Nominee to the Board of Management for many years. She will be sorely missed and fondly remembered by staff, pupils, past pupils and parents. We cannot thank her enough for her years of dedicated service to our school and she leave a terrific legacy behind her.

We celebrated the occasion with a special mass in Powerstown Church on Friday the 28th of October. Well done and thank you to all involved in the organisation, preparation and participation in the mass. It was a lovely occasion. Thank you to Fr.

Ahearne for his kind words during the mass. Special thanks to Ms. English for preparing the choir, to Maura for accompanying them and to Caitlin and Lucy whose superb solo performances contributed massively to the mass. Keeva O' Gorman spoke beautifully on behalf of the children in the school and Mr. Burke thanked Celia on behalf of the staff. Ms. Ryan addressed the congregation and spoke very kindly about her time in Rathkeevin, being especially appreciative of the wonderful children and families associated with the school.

We travelled in Double Decker style back to the school, where we were delighted to welcome some friends of Ms. Ryan. At two O' Clock, Ms. Ryan made her final (official) exit from the school where she was applauded by all present in a Guard of Honour. Thank you to our talented musicians, Ethan, Méadbh and Jack who played as Ms. Ryan made her way through the crowd.

Thank you to everybody involved in making Ms. Ryan's last day such a great occasion.

Celebrations continued into the evening as staff, Board of Management, Parents' Association, Celia and family gathered in the Hotel Minella for some top class service.

Laura Ahearn spoke about the regard in which Celia is held among the parents and past pupils of the school. Celia's name became synonymous with teaching Infants in Rathkeevin and with the love, care and dedication she gave to the children.

Helen O' Dea spoke fondly on behalf of the staff and emphasised the kind, loving and caring nature with which Celia treated everybody and of how valued she was as a staff member and friend.

Frank Burke spoke with great honesty on behalf of the Board of Management, recognising the important and valuable role that Celia played over many years. Even if they didn't always agree with each other, the best for the school was always at the heart of everything. Frank wished Celia a very happy and healthy retirement.

Celia spoke glowingly about her time in Rathkeevin and praised the quality of the school, the staff, the families and especially the children.

Presentations were made on behalf of the Parents' Association in the church and from staff and the B.O.M on the night.

To Celia, We all wish you the very best for the future and hope that you enjoy a long, happy retirement.

Saol fada agus breac-shláinte chugat.

School Calendar 2022-2023

Christmas Holidays	Break up :- Wednesday 22nd December Ms. Moroney's Junior/Seniors 12.20pm Ms. English's Senior Inf./1 st Class 12.20pm Mr. Curran's 2 nd Class 12.30pm Mr. Doody's 5 th and 6 th Class 12.30pm Mr. Burke's 3 rd and 4 th Class 12.30pm Return to School Thursday 6th January, 2023
Public Holiday St. Brigid's Day	Monday 6 th February , 2023
Spring Mid Term Break	Break up :- Thursday 16 th February & Friday 17 th February, 2023. Return – Monday 20 th February, 2023
Public Holiday St. Patrick's Day	Friday 17 th March, 2023
Confirmation Day	Tuesday 28 th March, 2023
First Holy Communion Day	Saturday 20 th May, 2023
Easter Holidays	Break up:- from 12.10pm Friday 31 st March, 2023 Return – Monday 17 th April, 2023.
Public Holiday	Monday 1 st May, 2023
Annual Day	Tuesday 6 th June, 2023
Summer Holidays	Friday 23 rd June, 2023



A Christmas Reflection

By Michael Moore

The shopping is done and finished. The presents are bought and wrapped. All the waiting in long queues in the shops is over. The house has been cleaned and the tree with all its lights and decorations are shining brightly. So what has all this hectic buying, spending and shopping been all about?

My nephew Daniel was twenty-five last week. With his birthday being so close to Christmas, we always made an extra effort to celebrate it with him. So when have birthdays in our own families what do we do? We gather around the person and do two things; we remember and we celebrate.

We remember the time and date that the person was born. We look back and remember the day they came into our family. We might look at photographs of them when they were younger. We might remember their first steps and their first day at school. Then we celebrate with them. We give thanks for and celebrate the difference they have made and still make in our families.

This is exactly what we do at Christmas; **we remember and we celebrate**. We recall and tell that story of how, where and when Jesus was born. We tell the story of Mary and Joseph going back to Bethlehem. We recall that they were turned away because there no space for them. We remember that the shepherds and the kings came when Jesus was born. Then we joyfully celebrate the difference and impact that Jesus has made and is making to our world and to each of us personally.

We are asked to remember that Christmas is not something that happened in the past. The birth of Jesus echoes and ripples through the centuries right down to us today. Through the birth of Jesus God enters our world, our time and our lives. Jesus is Emmanuel, **God-is-with us**. In and through the person of Jesus, God reaches out to embrace each of us. Through the birth of Jesus God comes to live amongst us and deeply within us. Christmas is not just about remembering the birth of Jesus, it is about the celebrating the presence of Jesus in our hearts and in our lives today.

When he was pope, John Paul II, wrote that, ***the mystery of Jesus that took place over 2000 years ago must be lived today and every day. The word of God who found a dwelling place in and through Mary comes to knock on our hearts this Christmas and every Christmas, this day and every day.***

May Christ the light and the light of Christ fill all our homes, hearts, families and the whole world this Christmas and always.

