

# RATHKEEVIN NS

December 2023 Newsletter



## *Nollaig Shona daoibh go léir*

We come to an end of another eventful term in Rathkeevin N.S. It has proven to be a term of change. We are delighted to welcome Ms. Paula Morrissey and Ms. Niamh Mackey to the staff in Rathkeevin. Both have made a terrific start to life in Rathkeevin and will undoubtedly prove to be excellent additions to our school for years to come. We said goodbye to Mrs. Noreen Moroney at Halloween. I would like to thank Noreen for all her contributions to the school over the past couple of years.

Friday 22nd of December will bring down the curtain on Mr. Stephen Doody's time in Rathkeevin. Stephen has been part of the furniture here for a long time and has become well renowned as a superb teacher, a true gentleman and equally popular with fellow staff, pupils and parents. He has proven to be a natural leader in his year as Deputy Principal and it has been a pleasure to work alongside him. Stephen will be greatly missed here in Rathkeevin and will be a huge addition to his new school. We all wish Stephen the very best in his new position of Deputy Principal in Granagh National School, Ballingarry, Co. Limerick. Slán leat mo chara.

Change brings opportunity. With Stephen vacating his role of Deputy Principal, I was delighted with the quality of applicant for the Deputy Principal role. Huge congratulations to Mr. Seán Curran on his appointment. I have no doubt, but that Seán will continue to lead the drive for progress in Rathkeevin for many years to come.

December 2023 also brought a new Board of Management. Sincere thanks to our outgoing Board for their work for the past 4 years, particularly through challenging Covid times. Welcome and thank you to our new Board of Management;

*Fr. Peter Ahearne (Chairperson)*  
*Frank Burke (Treasurer)*  
*Maria O'Sullivan (Community Representative)*  
*Martin Hanrahan (Community Representative)*  
*Aisling Cooney (Parents' Nominee)*  
*James Cooney (Parents' Nominee)*  
*Seán Curran (Teachers' Nominee)*  
*Diarmuid Burke (Principal)*

Thank you to Fr. Ahearne for his tireless work in our school and in the Parish. Thank you kindly to all of our staff in school for making Rathkeevin School the wonderful place it is to work. Thank you to all of our families, for the wonderful support for our school. Special thanks to our Parents' Association for their work in supporting the school. Thank you especially to our wonderful pupils, who make Rathkeevin the special place it is today. We are truly blessed.

I want to wish everybody a safe, healthy and happy Christmas and New Year. We look forward to seeing you all on the 8th of January.

Nollaig shona agus athbhliain faoi mhaise daoibh.

Le Meas,

*Diarmuid*

*Welcome Junior Infants*



*& Our new arrivals throughout the school*



# SCHOOL LIFE

## *Football Blitzs*

On the morning of the boys GAA blitz there was great excitement and anticipation for the matches that were to take place at Moyle Rovers but problems quickly arose with the bus driver being late by half an hour! Eventually he arrived and we did forgive him.

About forty five minutes later we were at Moyle Rovers and the second we arrived we all sprinted into the nearest locker room that is without Mr Doody of course, who thought his team had vanished. Finally after ten minutes of searching he found us and we were into our first game against Ballyporeen which we did lose but not by much with Jack, Tadgh and Ian putting on a masterclass of a performance.

Into the second game against Newcastle which in fact we actually drew this time, Mikey Flannery getting the drawing point and Charles pulling off some super saves to keep us in it, this also meant that the boys had done better than the girls!

Now, I won't talk about the last game for too long seeing as we lost by about six goals to Mullinahone but what I will say is that we all tried and all is well that ends well.



*U13 Boys Blitz in Moyle Rovers*



*U13 Girls Blitz in Moyle Rovers*



*U11 Boys Blitz in Killenaule*



*U11 Girls Blitz in Moyle Rovers*

On October 17<sup>th</sup> our 4<sup>th</sup> class girls travelled to Killenaule to take part in an U11 school football blitz. We played against Clerihan, Killenaule and Mullinahone. Our team Naoise, Kate, Julia, Clodagh, Caitlin, Isabel, Saoimhe, Jennifer and Inis played really well together and had great fun - Clodagh Cooney

Many thanks to Ms. Mackey for training and managing the team.

## Orienteering in Fethard – 4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Class

On the morning of the orienteering there was quite a few questions on what it could be like but it was all explained to us by a very nice man who also set us off in a small maze which Isabelle and Ian absolutely smashed everyone else. After that we were all off on the real maze which seemed like it might have taken for ever but of course Isabelle and Ian also won by about ten minutes. If you finished early there was also a riveting under 15s rugby game going on in the field beside us. In the end we did miss lunch but I think we all had the best day!



## ***FAI Futsal***



# Heritage week at Rathkeevin N.S.







# Halloween dress up at Rathkeevin National School







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.

## **Music & GAA**

**It's brilliant to have Maria & Martin back for Music and GAA. Maria has music from juniors to 6<sup>th</sup> class every Tuesday and Martin come every Thursday (weather permitting) for skills training. Martin & Maria will continue until June 2024.**

## CHRISTMAS SHOEBOX APPEAL

Many thanks for your generous response to the shoe box appeal run by Team Hope. We collected **103 shoe boxes** this year.

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





## Blitz in Cahir for 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Class

First and second class went to Cahir on a bus to play in a Football blitz. We were the first to wear the **New Jerseys**, some were blue and some were white. We played Ardfinnan, Ballydrehid and Lisronagh. It was tough but soooo much fun. Lucy & Finn 2<sup>nd</sup> Class



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

- 1. Hats – Beanies with school crest are available for purchase in the office.**
- 2. 6<sup>th</sup> Class Hoodies** – To be ordered in January, 2024
- 3. Cash for Clobber** – Get ready for a good clear out in Spring 2024 .
- 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 with Group 1 on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> January, 2024 with Junior Infants, 1<sup>st</sup> Class & 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> Class and Group 2 on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> April with Senior Infants, 2<sup>nd</sup> 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Class. The cost for 8 lessons will be €65 (due before Jan 12<sup>th</sup>).

A note with further details including permission slip has been sent out.





## Maths Eyes Competition 2023

Congratulation to everyone for participating in the “Maths Eyes” competition in Mr. Curran’s class. 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 all our winners in the  
Specsavers Halloween Competition**

# Ms. Morrissey's Class setting Daffodils and tulips for Spring



## Lighting of the Christmas Tree 2023



**Our eldest pupil turned on the Christmas lights and youngest pupil, helped by Mr. Doody placed the star on top of the tree.**



## Christmas Jumpers Day 7<sup>th</sup> December in Aid of Clonmel Community Soup Kitchen & Free Food Bank



Congratulation to the pupils of Rathkeevin National School on a wonderful fundraiser for Clonmel Community Soup Kitchen and Free Food Bank. This year it was run by Mr.Dooddy's 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> Class.

**The Pupils together raised an impressive €270.00**

*Christmas approaches and with it comes the excitement of performing in the Christmas Play. This year Ms. Morrissey's Junior Infants performed 'Whoops-a-Daisy Angel' – they were brilliant.*





## ***The four 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> who won the Christmas canvas and chess boards in Mr. Doody's class***



Mr. Doody presented our up and coming chess club with 3 wooden and 3 magnetic boards this week. It was recommended by the student council and some chess enthusiasts in the senior end to get a club up and running in the new year. Best of luck and enjoy the experiences it will bring you all.



*Our Christmas Canvas competition 2023 was another success this year. Our three fantastic winners were Mikey, Jack and Emma. All children enjoyed taking part and some beautiful art was created. Merry Christmas everyone.*

**A quick note to all parents and children, I want to wish you a Happy and Healthy Christmas. I am heartbroken to be leaving such a fantastic school community and can't thank you all enough for your support over the years. I will miss this amazing school hugely but onwards and upwards. I will be back to visit and I'll always be keeping an eye on RNS. Rathkeevin Abu go deo!! - tog go bog e, Stephen.**



# Santa came to visit Rathkeevin N.S. on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> December 2023









## 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 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 €2,839, which is fantastic.** This money will go towards different events including contribution to buses for sports etc



Christmas Artworks

## Maria teaching the Senior Infants to sing

For auld lang syne, my dear  
For auld lang syne  
We'll drink a cup of kindness yet  
For the sake of auld lang syne



## School Calendar 2023-2024

<b>Christmas Holidays</b>	<b>Break up :- Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> December</b> <b>Ms. Morrissey Junior Infants 12.20pm</b> <b>Ms. O’Dea’s Senior Infants 12.20pm</b> <b>Mr. Curran’s 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> Class 12.30pm</b> <b>Ms. Mackey’s 2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> Class 12.30pm</b> <b>Mr. Burke’s 4<sup>th</sup> Class 12.30pm</b> <b>Mr. Doody’s 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Class 12.30pm</b> <b>Return to School Monday 8th January, 2024</b>
<b>Public Holiday St. Brigid’s Day</b>	<b>Monday 5<sup>th</sup> February , 2024</b>
<b>Spring Mid Term Break</b>	<b>Break up :-Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> February &amp; Friday 16<sup>th</sup> February, 2024.</b> <b>Return – Monday 19<sup>th</sup> February, 2024</b>
<b>Public Holiday St. Patrick’s Day</b>	<b>Monday 18<sup>th</sup> March, 2024</b>
<b>Confirmation Day</b>	<b>Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> March, 2024</b>
<b>First Holy Communion Day</b>	<b>Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> May, 2024</b>
<b>Easter Holidays</b>	<b>Break up:- from 12.20pm Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> March, 2024</b> <b>Return – Monday 8<sup>th</sup> April, 2024.</b>
<b>Public Holiday</b>	<b>Monday 6<sup>th</sup> May, 2024</b>
<b>Annual Day</b>	<b>Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> June, 2024</b>
<b>Summer Holidays</b>	<b>Friday 21<sup>st</sup> June, 2024</b>



# 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.

