



Book Fair

The Book Fair was a terrific success and was really well supported. 6th Class were a super help and ran it with great professionalism. We made €3689 which we can spend on books for the class libraries. Thank you to everyone for supporting the Fair so well.



Browsing for books

Bikes and Scooters

It's fantastic to see so many children cycling and scooting to school! There are racks at the back of the school where bikes and scooters can be left safely during the school day. Since there are lots of little people in the yard at the beginning and end of the school day, please make sure that children walk with their bikes and scooters in the yard to keep everyone safe. Also we recommend that children wear helmets when on the move.



6th Class enjoying the new trim trail in the senior playground.

Welcome back!

It's hard to believe that it's November already and there are only six and a half weeks left until Christmas! I hope that everyone had a lovely mid-term break and has come back to school fully rejuvenated for the remainder of the term.

The big surprise for everyone coming back after the break was the installation of the new playground in the senior yard. It was a joy to see the happy and surprised faces as everyone arrived at school on Monday!

A huge thank you to John who co-ordinated the builders and work last week. This has been the culmination of several years of planning and it's so lovely to see it finally installed. Thank you too to the PTA and all the parents who have supported the fundraising which made this all possible.

Please can I remind everyone that children are not allowed to play on the trim trail unless there's a member of staff present to supervise.

Mrs. Perdue



Late for School!

School officially starts for all pupils at 8.20 and formal instruction begins at 8.40 a.m. This teach le chéile time is a valuable part of the day which allows the children to get to chat with their friends, play, and prepare for the day ahead; if they're late they miss this vital social interaction.

It is also important that children are on time for school as it can be embarrassing for the child to arrive once the school day has started and everyone is already engaged in the work of the class. It can cause many children unnecessary stress to be always late as well as being disruptive to the class.



Parents of pupils who arrive after 8.40 are required to sign the child in at the school reception.

Please make a special effort to get your child in to school on time.

Movie night

Prior to mid-term the PTA organised a Movie Night in school for all the classes. Everyone dressed up in their Hallowe'en costumes and watched a movie with their friends while munching on some goodies! It was great fun and most enjoyable. A huge thank you to the PTA and the staff who helped out on the night.

Amber Flag

We were really proud to have been awarded the Amber Flag last year for promoting promote positive mental health. We are continuing to focus on wellbeing and SPHE in our school self evaluation.



The Amber Flag Committee in June with the flag

Everyone does regular mindfulness exercises as well as learning about our feelings, good health and positive mental health.

Thank you to Ms. Storey and Ms. Farrell for leading this.

Parent Teacher Meetings

Our annual Parent Teacher Meetings will take place face to face in the school hall on the 23rd, 24th and 25th November. School will end early for pupils on Friday 25th at 1 p.m. Each meeting will last for 10 minutes per pupil.

It is imperative that everyone is punctual and keeps to their time. If you are late, additional time will not be allocated and you will have a shortened meeting!

You will be able to book the meetings on line - details will be sent soon.

The parent teacher meetings are to discuss your child's academic progress - if you have any other issues which you wish to discuss with the teacher, you should make a separate appointment for another time.

5th and 6th class children should attend the meeting with their parents. This is to encourage the children to be part of the conversation about their own learning and to foster independence in preparation for the transition to secondary school.



PTA AGM

The AGM of the RPNS PTA took place on the 20th October. A huge thank you to the committee led by Llerena Espinosa, who did such a great job organising everything.

At the meeting there were some new members elected to the committee. This year's committee is:

Role	Parent
Chairperson	Llerena Espinosa
Treasurer	Daithi Thornton
Deputy treasurer	Shane Murphy
Secretary	Karen Acton
Committee Member	Aideen Toner
Committee Member	Yvonne Bradford
Committee Member	Ariane Gray
Committee Member	Fintan McGrogan
Teacher Rep	Debbie Murphy
Teacher Rep	Heather O'Connor

Healthy Eating

We have a Healthy Eating Policy in the school that promotes good practice when it comes to school lunches and children's eating habits. Please can we remind parents that sweets and sugary snacks are not part of the policy so please don't include them in your child's lunch. Keep the treats for weekends!

Also remember that we have some children with severe nut allergies so the school is a NUT FREE ZONE.

Choir

The choir had its first outing when it sang at the family service in church in October and the children were really great! The choir is due to sing again on the 20th November and has also been invited to sing at the Parish Lunch on the 13th December.

Grandparents' Day

We were delighted to be able to host Grandparents' Day once again on the day that we broke up for mid-term. Lots of grandparents and older friends and relatives were able to come. 6th Class were excellent hosts and helped out with all aspects of the visit. Each class entertained the guests in the hall as well as showing off their classrooms. Everyone had a great day!



Infants performing for our guests at Grandparents' Day

Christmas Fair

The Christmas Fair is back! We will be open for business on Friday 2nd December from 8.20 a.m. until 12 noon. If you can help in any way, please let us know. This is a great opportunity for a big pre-Christmas clear out! More details about the stalls etc. will follow soon.

Christmas Plays

The Christmas Plays in Junior & Senior Infants and Ranganna 1 & 2 are such an integral part of the run up to Christmas in school and are loved by all. This year the plays will take place in the school hall on **Friday 16th December**.





Voluntary Contributions

A 40% increase in the capitation grant that the Department of Education and Skills pays per child *per year* will bring the grant to approx €258. While the increase is welcome, it is still not enough money to run the school to the current standard that the children enjoy.

With energy costs still on the rise this year we will have to be careful to budget accordingly.

The Board of Management is very grateful to parents who help financially through the voluntary contribution. Since the school is a registered charity we can also claim tax back from Revenue through the CHY scheme.

Letters will be issued to each family shortly with more information.

A huge thank you in advance for your support.

School closure

School will close early on **Friday 9th December** at 12 noon. This is to facilitate teacher professional development on the Primary Language Curriculum.

Diocesan Service

The Diocesan Service for schools in the Dublin and Glendalough Dioceses took place on the 20th October in Christchurch Cathedral. Ten of our 6th class pupils were invited to represent the school at the service. After the service the children visited the crypt which was really interesting!



Some of 6th Class at Christchurch

Lost property

We continue to accumulate a mountain of lost property! While we try to reunite items with owners it's amazing how many children don't recognise their own clothes. PLEASE, please, please take a minute to name your children's belongings so that there's some hope of matching owners to lost property

DATES AT A GLANCE

17th November: Junior Infant HSE hearing and vision tests

20th November: Choir singing in church

23rd-25th November: Parent teacher meetings
(school closes at 1p.m on Friday)

2nd December: CHRISTMAS FAIR

8th December: Junior Infant MMR vaccine booster

9th December: School closes at 12

13th December: Choir singing at parish old folks lunch

16th December: Junior and Senior infant and 1st and 2nd class plays.