

JANUARY 2022

Rathfarnham Parish National School Newsletter

CLASS hours

The DES has provided additional teaching hours for schools to identify and give additional support to children for whom the school closures has had the greatest effect. We're delighted to welcome back Mrs. Patricia England and Ms. Zoe Hill who are working part time in the school to help cover these hours.

Substitute teachers

One of the greatest challenges for schools this year has been the lack of substitute teachers available to cover for teachers who are absent. We are a base school for a substitute supply panel which is shared between several schools in the area. We have also been very lucky to know some student teachers who are available to provide cover.

Assembly

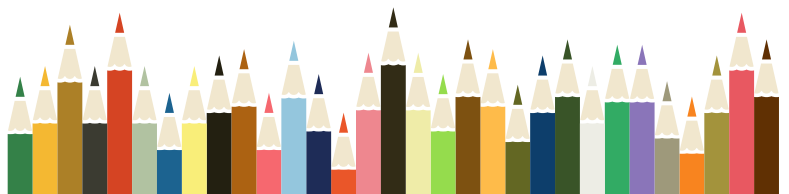
We will continue to hold our Friday Assembly via Zoom for the moment. Canon Adrienne joins us and we celebrate the birthdays and Students of the Week. Once the weather improves, we will move assembly outside again, it's much nicer to be together!



New Year, New Hope!

Coming back to school was a worrying time for everyone with the sharp increase in cases of Covid-19 and the worry that classes, staff and families would be isolating and ill. So far however, we've been very lucky and the number of infections in RPNS has remained very low. This is in no small part due to everyone's fantastic co-operation in wearing masks, sanitising hands, regular antigen testing and children staying at home if they have symptoms. It now looks like there is a note of optimism from public health and we are tentatively hoping that some of the restrictions will be lifted and normal life can resume soon!

Better days are coming!





Hockey

The boys' and girls' hockey teams have their first league matches next week. Good luck to everyone taking part!



Music Generation

Music Generation classes have resumed this term and the children are enjoying their singing, ukulele and guitar lessons. Here are 4th class practising the ukulele.

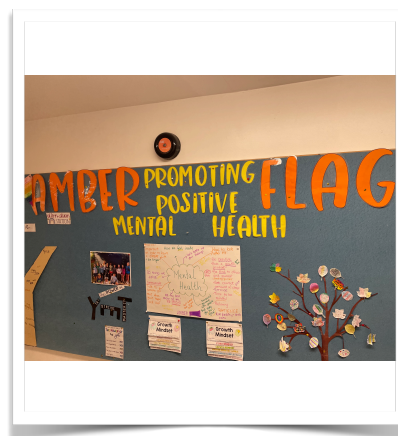


Co-operative games as part of our Mental Health Awareness Week.

Mental Health Awareness Week

This month we held a special Mental Health Awareness Week. This was organised by the Amber Flag Committee led by Ms. Storey and Ms. Farrell. Each morning we started the day with a positive announcement from the Amber Flag committee on the school intercom and throughout the week there were a variety of activities. These included: Yoga, collaborative art and sporting activities led by 6th class, Friendly Friday, prayer stations, and an online safety workshop for 3rd-6th classes. On Friday we all dressed in bright colours or wore clothes with positive slogans and the children raised €522.50 for Pieta House.

Thank you to 6th class for being such a great example for the younger children throughout the week.



Check out the school blog on <https://www.rpns.ie/blog-1> for more photos on activities that are happening in school.

Swimming

It is hoped to restart swimming after the February midterm break from 2nd class up.

Since the pool has introduced new restrictions, we will have to make changes to the way that swimming has been organised and we may have to reduce the number of children who are able to avail of swimming lessons.

At present, we hope that Templeogue Swimming Pool will be able to accommodate us on a Thursday afternoon.

However, due to current restrictions, parents will have to wait in their cars and won't be allowed into the pool building. Children must be able to dry and dress themselves if they wish to take part in swimming.

Before we can decide which classes/age groups can take part we would like to gauge the interest and get an idea of how many children we're planning for. A Google form will be sent you via Aladdin and if you wish your child to be considered for swimming you need to fill it in and submit it asap.

More news to follow.

Junior Infants

Junior Infants have been very busy learning about the Arctic and the Antarctic this month. They know all about Polar Bears, Penguins, the Inuit people, the Northern Lights and some of the Aistear activities have involved making fake snow, building igloos, and excavating ice. Here are some photos of them in action!





PTA News

This year's PTA committee has eight members:

Chairperson: Llerena Espinosa

Treasurer: Ros Collery

Secretary: Karen Ayton

Committee Aideen Toner

Daithí Thornton

Shane Murphy

Teacher reps: Alana Storey

Deirdre Connolly

The PTA has regular meetings and while activities have been put on hold due to restrictions, so far this year the PTA has raised €190 for the clothing collection last term and €934.50 for the Christmas Cards. Thank you to everyone who supported these fundraisers.

The clothing collection is a fairly easy way to raise funds while also contributing to environment recycling. Therefore the PTA has organised another collection this term on **Wednesday 23rd March**. This is a great opportunity to do a Spring Clearout while supporting a good cause!

Since it's unlikely that the PTA will be able to organise a major fundraiser this school year, all fundraising for the remainder of the year will be based on small initiatives with the money being ring fenced towards developing the Senior Playground. This is a significant project and the PTA hopes to work with the Board of Management to bring it to fruition in the coming year.

Some other activities this year:

- Clothing collection - Wednesday 23rd March
- Treasure Hunt - Saturday 2nd April
- Sponsored Walk - May/June