

# NOVEMBER '21

## Rathfarnham Parish National School

### Book Fair

The Book Fair was a terrific success and a welcome return to normality! 6th Class were a super help and ran it with great professionalism. We made €1425 which we can spend on books for the class libraries. Thank you to everyone for supporting the Fair so well.



*Browsing for books*

### PTA AGM

The AGM of the RPNS PTA will take place next Monday at 8pm on Zoom (link to follow next week).

This year the PTA is looking for three parents to join the committee for a 3 year term, at least two of these need to be men to meet the requirements of the PTA constitution. Please contact any member of the PTA or your class rep if interested.

Stuart Wilson from [zestlife.ie](http://zestlife.ie) will also deliver a talk after the AGM



*6th Class pupils helping with the Book Fair*

## Welcome back!

It's hard to believe that it's November already and there are only eight 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.

Thank you all for your co-operation as we continue to live with, and fight against, Covid-19. It has been a challenging time but we're delighted that school has remained open and for the most part, there have been few confirmed cases in our school community.

However, it's not a time for complacency, there are other bugs out there which are having an impact on children and staff. As many of you have heard in the media, there is a significant shortage of substitute teachers available to cover for teachers who have symptoms and who have to stay at home. While we will do the best we can to ensure that no one loses out, there will be times when there will be unavoidable changes in teachers covering classes. This is to ensure that we won't have to send any class home. Please bear with us!

*Mrs. Perdue*



## Late for School!

Children should arrive into school between 8.20 and 8.40 a.m. It's 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.



From next Monday parents of pupils who arrive after 8.40 will be required to sign the child in at the school reception.

Please make a special effort to get your child in to school on time - you know who you are!

## Amber Flag

This year we are working towards an Amber Flag. This is an initiative of Pieta House to promote positive mental health and ties in with our new school self evaluation focus which is on Wellbeing and SPHE.



*The Amber Flag Committee*

We will all be engaging in 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

With the recent increase in Covid cases and in the absence of clear instructions from Public Health and the DES, we have consulted with other schools and have decided that our annual Parent Teacher Meetings will take place either online or via telephone this year, depending on teacher preference. The meetings will take place on 24th, 25th and 26th November in the afternoon. School will end early for pupils on Friday 26th 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/not answering, additional time will not be allocated and you will have a shortened meeting!*

Details for booking meetings will be sent soon. If you have two or more children in school, please don't book consecutive meetings to allow teachers time to contact you.

5th and 6th class children should attend the meeting with their parents as usual.

## Dogs

We have many great pet owners here in RPNS who love animals. However, there has been an increase in the number of dogs visiting the school and there are several children who are afraid of dogs. Please leave your dog at home or in the car when you're coming into the school playground.

## 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!

## 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 and avoid unnecessary collisions. Also we recommend that children wear helmets when on the move.



## Little Heroes First Aid

Before mid-term children in Rang 1- Rang 6 took part in a series of age appropriate Little Heroes First Aid workshops. During this time they learned what to do in an emergency as well as basic first aid and resuscitation. They all engaged sensibly with the sessions and learned a great deal.

## News2Day

We had a visit from the News2Day to report on all the work that's been done in school on Wellbeing. The reporter visited most of the classes and recorded the children talking about what techniques they're learning to support their positivity. We should hear soon when the recording will be aired.



## Christmas Fair

We are unable to make a decision about whether the Christmas Fair will go ahead in its normal format at the moment. Last year we had a pared back Christmas Fun Day in school which the children enjoyed, despite the restrictions. We may have to do something like this again, depending on the number of confirmed Covid cases in the younger population. We'll keep you informed!

## 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. With the current restrictions set to continue we have decided to take the same approach to the plays as last year and record them for sharing with you.



**Voluntary Contributions**

The Department of Education and Skills pays a capitation grant of less than €200 per child *per year*. This is not enough money to run the school and although there are some other grants there is an annual shortfall. With energy costs due to 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.

**Sensory Space**

We now have a lovely sensory space just off the school hall and known affectionately by some as ‘The Bubble Room’! This space is invaluable for anyone who needs a place of calm to help find some equilibrium, something we can all do with. A huge thank you to Martina Nolan Jones who fund-raised towards the cost of the space. Thanks also to Mrs. Debbie Murphy who organised the installation. It’s such a welcome addition to the school building.



**Music Generation**

We are delighted to welcome three new teachers from the Music Generation programme this year. This is a scheme funded by U2 and supported by South Dublin County Council to give children access to professional music teachers at a fraction of the price of private lessons. Children in Junior Infants to Rang 2 will have singing and percussion classes while children in Rang 3 & Rang 4 will learn ukulele. Rang 5 & Rang 6 will have guitar lessons. The cost of these music lessons is €11 per child and can be payable in the usual way through Aladdin Connect.



**Music Generation**