

# SCHOOL NEWS

## Rathfarnham Parish National School

### Junior Infants

There are 30 new Junior Infants this year as well as some new pupils joining more senior classes in school. We welcome all new families to the school and wish them well in their association with RPNS. Please take the time to introduce yourself to any new parents; a friendly face can make all the difference (socially distancing of course!)

### NEW WEBSITE

Lockdown meant that there was plenty of time to finish a longstanding project to build a new website. Our new website can be found at [www.rpns.ie](http://www.rpns.ie) and is live now. Please note that the old scoil net blog is no longer available at [www.rathfarnhamparishns.com](http://www.rathfarnhamparishns.com) Please visit the website which will help push it up to the top of the google search. There is also a blog which teachers are using to share what's going on in their classes.

We hope you like it!



## Welcome back to school!

### Principal's message

We're all completely delighted to be back at school after such a long break. Now that several weeks have passed and so far we've managed to stay Covid free, we can take a moment to reflect on how things are going so far and look to the rest of the term and year. With the government's publication this week of the living with Covid plan we are hopeful that we don't have to face into the sort of restrictions placed on us as earlier this year. We've had terrific co-operation from parents and pupils but we're not out of the woods by any means so we need to continue to be super careful! The staff have been brilliant in adapting to a different way of working - it's no easy task to teach a class while wearing a face covering! We also appreciate that it's very different for the children but it is so great to hear children's voices again in the school building - it's been empty too long. In addition, with all the hygiene checks, it's never been cleaner!





## Extra curricular activities

We hope to try to adapt our activities as the year progresses but in the meantime we are watching the public health advice so please bear with us.

## Spanish

Spanish lessons will be available for pupils in 5th and 6th classes via Zoom from mid October or so. The lessons will be on Wednesday afternoons and will be approx. 40 minutes long. More details to follow

## Homework

The news on the street is that both children and parents are enjoying the lack of homework! It certainly is important for children to get outside while the weather is good so we won't be rushing to give lots of homework just yet. However, we encourage everyone to keep reading and to use their Reading Eggs and Mathletics accounts.

## Collecting infants from school

Parents who are collecting infants should not allow younger/other siblings play on the playground equipment without staff supervision. Children should **not** be left unattended in the playground at any time.

There have been some parents hanging around at the gate having a chat - please collect your child and leave as quickly as possible to keep us all safe. Also children are not allowed to climb on the gate or on the electricity junction box (the one that says 'Danger, do not sit or stand on this'!

## Hockey

Mrs. Correll has put together a survey for parents on hockey this year as it will be a completely different set-up. The survey has been emailed to you via Aladdin. (Please note there will be no hockey if we're at Level 3-5 restrictions).

## Curriculum

At the moment we are concentrating on catching up in Literacy and Numeracy as well as focusing on SPHE and pupil wellbeing. The general mood in the school is very positive and the children are coping really well with the return to school - in truth they are all delighted to be back with their friends and learning again. The teachers are finding where the children are in terms of their learning and spending time revising key concepts.



## Assembly

We have started having a weekly Assembly again via Zoom. Each class joins in from their classroom and share what they've been up to during the week. We also celebrate birthdays, sing the birthday song and give out our Student of the Week awards. Canon Adrienne joined us this morning which was lovely and everyone enjoyed the sense of community which is so important in our school. There were a few technical issues but we'll get better at this new way of being together!

## Information Forms

Most parents have now filled in and returned the Information Form that was shared online. We need to have an updated form for each child every year. There are still some forms outstanding so if you haven't filled it in yet, please do so this weekend and get them back to us. Many thanks.

### **SCHOOL CLOSURES**

The list of school closures for this year is now available on the school website at [www.rpns.ie](http://www.rpns.ie)

