

NEWSLETTER



RATHFARNHAM PARISH N.S.

New Pupils

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.

SCHOOL HOURS

School begins for all pupils at 8.20 a.m. Children are not permitted on the school grounds prior to 8.20 a.m. and should wait at the end of the lane until the bell in rung.

School ends for Junior and Senior Infants at 1.05 p.m. and for all other classes at 2.05 p.m. Parents of children in Junior and Senior Infants wait outside the gates until the bell rings at 1.05 p.m. Teachers will bring the pupils in these classes to the door at 1.05 p.m. Please vacate the yard quickly once you've collected your child as other classes use the yard for P.E. and games.

Thank you for your co-operation.



Welcome back to school!

We've all had a lovely break and have enjoyed the long summer holidays and are now all ready to start the new school year with energy and enthusiasm!

School Improvements

Some work was carried out to the school over the summer holidays. The outside of the school, the school corridor and the resource rooms were painted; some new touch screen panels were installed in classrooms and most significantly, the tarmac in the junior yard was replaced by a lovely new play surface.



Mornings

Mornings in the classrooms are busy times for children and teachers as they prepare for the day ahead. The children in Senior Infants - 6th classes should come into class on their own or with friends.

Friday mornings are 'Come and See' days for parents. We encourage parents to visit the classrooms then to view children's work. However, this is not the time for an informal parent/teacher meeting! If you wish to discuss any issues you or your child may be having, please make an appointment through the office to meet the teacher at a more suitable (and private) time.

Extra-Curricular Activities

There are a variety of after school activities that will begin over the next few weeks. More details to follow:

- Hockey
- Swimming
- Soccer
- Chess
- Lego club

Credit Union

We have a special arrangement with Rathfarnham Credit Union whereby the children in RPNS can have an account and a member of the Credit Union comes to school every Friday to collect lodgements. This is to encourage children to learn to save.



SMARTPHONES

Last year a subcommittee of parents and teachers met to discuss and develop an updated policy on the use of smartphones. Following consultation with parents and much discussion it has been decided that the use of smartphones and devices that use the internet are to be banned for use by pupils (this includes smart watches). Pupils may continue to have ordinary mobile phones, if their parents wish (no internet access). These should be turned off and given to the teacher during school hours.

Pupils who bring smartphones to school will have them confiscated. Parents will have to collect these phones from the school office.



Class Meetings

Class information meetings for parents will be held on the following days:

3rd September: 5th class

4th September: 6th class

5th September: 3rd class

6th September: Senior Infants

9th September: 1st class

10th September: 2nd class

11th September: Junior Infants

12th September: 4th class

All meetings begin at 8.45 a.m.

Music Generation

We will continue to take part in the Music Generation programme this year. These are heavily subsidised lessons and allow children to access specialised music teachers. More details to follow. Nut Free Zone!

Due to a number of children in school who have severe nut allergies the school is a nut free school. Please make sure that your child's lunch does not contain any products containing nuts (such as Nutella).

Helping out and Garda Vetting

There are many ways in which parents can help out in school so if you have a particular talent, don't be shy! Parents help with listening to children reading, accompanying teachers on school trips, help with gardening/planting etc.

Due to statutory requirements all parents who help out in school must be garda vetted through the school. If you have not

been vetted and are willing to go through the process please contact the office.



the School Choir at Clara Lara

School Choir

Choir will begin this year on Thursday 5th September at 8.20 a.m in the school hall. The choir is open to all pupils in 3rd-6th classes. The choir is a school and parish choir and all children are expected to be available to sing in the parish church usually once a month during the year. Children who cannot commit to singing in church should not join the choir.

The choir will also sing at other events during the year such as the Peace Proms and Cór Fhéile.

At the end of the year the choir has a trip to Clara Lara.

Cycling Safety

5th Class will take part in an eight week cycling safety course which is run by South Dublin County Council beginning on the 2nd September.



Lost Property

Every year we accumulate a small mountain of clothing that we can't reunite with their owners! Please can you ensure that your child's belongings are all named. The lost property is hanging up in the corridor at the main entrance. Please take a look there regularly and see if your child owns any of it.

Transport Grant

The Church of Ireland Board of Education operates a transport grant which is available to protestant pupils who live more than two miles from their nearest protestant school, or more than two miles from a scheduled service which is deemed to service the school. If you feel you might be eligible for this grant you should apply to the School Transport Section of the Department of Education and Skills on 057 9325465.

Traffic and Parking

Traffic in the laneway and parking are ongoing issues for the school and local residents often complain about parents' behaviour on Washington Lane. Please note that although we operate a voluntary one way system, the lane is two way and other road users and residents are entitled to drive along the laneway in both directions.

We also get complaints about parents parking in such a way as to block residents' access. Please note that Washington Grove is a private road and parents are requested not to park there. Drivers should not turn cars in the laneway as this is a hazard for small children. Also, please park before letting children out of the car and don't block the road for other users.

Thank you for your co-operation.



Late for school!

Children who are late for school need to be signed in at the school office. Please try to get to school on time as it is disruptive for classes and discourteous to other pupils and teachers. Some children (and parents) are persistently late for school - you know who you are!

School Closures

The list of holiday is available on the school website under school closures
www.rathfarnhamparishns.com

There will be additional closures this year for teacher training. The first of these will be on the 11th December 2019.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

17th October: Diocesan Service

25th October: Grandparents' Day

28th October-1st November: MID TERM

13th, 14th 15th November: Parent Teacher meetings

6th December: Christmas Fair