

DECEMBER'23

CHRISTMAS IS COMING!

Choir Concert

The choir is having a Christmas Concert in the school hall next Tuesday 19th December from 6-7p.m.

Please come along and support the performers!

Christmas Plays

Junior & Senior Infants are performing 'The Inn-spectors' at 9a.m. Wednesday 20th December.

1st and 2nd Classes will then follow at 10.15 a.m. with 'The Donkey Seller'.

The children (and teachers!) have been working very hard to learn the lines and songs, despite a lot of recent illness!

Christmas Service

The whole school will walk to the church on Thursday 21st December for our School Christmas Service which will be at 10.30a.m. The service will be led by 6th Class and is a lovely way to get into the Christmas spirit.

Once the service is finished we will walk back to the school. Everyone is invited to attend.



Christmas Fair Fun!

Our highly anticipated annual Christmas Fair is one of the main events of the school year, and 2023 was no exception! The children had a great day with the older children helping their younger buddies to buy a variety of things from toys to hot dogs. There were loads of different stalls selling all sorts: toys, sweets, good as new, books, cakes, accessories, adult bottles as well as pizza, hot dogs, nails and face painting and many more.

A huge thank you to the parents who helped sorting all the stuff beforehand and to those who helped on the day. We raised almost €5,000, which was a great result. Thank you also to everyone who donated prizes for the raffle..





Christmas Jumper Day

On Monday 17th December we are holding a Christmas Jumper Day on behalf of the Simon Community to help the homeless this Christmas. We ask that the children wear their Christmas jumpers to school that day and make a donation to this good cause.

Schools' Forum

The school continues to be involved in the forum on redeveloping the Primary School Curriculum. We are very proud to have been involved in developing the new Primary Curriculum Framework and will be piloting some of the elements of the framework.

The new Primary Maths Curriculum has also been published and the teachers will be undergoing CPD throughout this year in preparation for the full introduction of this curriculum in the next school year.

The NCCA is currently working on developing all subjects within the framework. You can find out more on www.ncca.ie

Board of Management

The process of constituting a new Board of Management for 2023-27 has now been completed and has been approved by the Patron.

It is the duty of the board to '*manage the school on behalf of the patron and for the benefit of the students and their parents to provide or cause to be provided an appropriate education for each student at the school for for which that board has responsibility*' (Education Act 1998)

The new board is as follows:

Chairperson: Rev. Canon Adrienne Galligan

Patron's Nominee: Christopher Sykes

Secretary and Principal: Joyce Perdue

Teachers' Nominee: Eoin Leonard

Parents' Nominee: Liz O'Leary

Parents' Nominee: David Richardson

Community Nominee: Ross Shorten

Community Nominee: Ramon Gillis



Forest School in RPNS!

“If children grow up not knowing about nature and appreciating it, they will not understand it. If they don’t understand it, they won’t protect it. And if they don’t protect it, who will?”

Sir David Attenborough, 2015

In October 2023, Ms Beardsley began a year-long training course in Forest School Leadership. We are hoping to bring it into the school programme at RPNS to enhance the wellbeing, self development and learning of our pupils.

What is Forest School?

Forest School began in Scandinavia in the 1950s and became popular in the UK in the 1990s. It is an innovative educational approach to outdoor learning and play. The philosophy of Forest School is to encourage and inspire individuals through positive outdoor experiences.

The Department of Education and Skills and Túsla are now starting to recognise the importance and benefits of supported risk-taking, play and outdoor child-led learning. In June 2023, Túsla issued a new guidance document called “Where the Roof Is the Sky” to help early years services provide more outdoor learning opportunities and risky or adventurous play.

How does Forest School work?

Established Forest School programmes run throughout the year, going to the woods in all weathers except for high winds or during weather warnings. Children use full sized tools, play, learn boundaries of behaviour - both physical and social, establish and grow in confidence, self-esteem and become self-motivated. Ideally sessions are at least 2.5 hours long, have a high ratio of adults to child, are regular (usually weekly) and take place in the same natural woodland setting during at least three seasons of the year.

Many Irish schools already have Forest School embedded into their school programme and Ms Beardsley will be contacting local schools with established programmes to get ideas, discuss practicalities and get guidance on policies and procedures.

It is hoped that in the next school year 2024-2025, Rathfarnham Parish NS will roll out Forest School sessions for some of the classes and build on this in the following years, increasing the number of classes involved. Ms Beardsley will design, plan and run a six-session pilot scheme in the school towards the end of her training course, possibly next autumn.

Forest School must have a high adult - child ratio to facilitate optimum benefit so, in time, we will be looking for Garda-vetted parent volunteers to help run our outdoor sessions. The exact location is yet to be finalised. If you are interested in nature and the outdoors, please keep this in mind for the next school year!



After School Activities

Active Sports

Active Sports will be extended for all classes next term. If you would like your child to take part please see the details and booking links that were sent out through Aladdin last week.

Chess

Chess starts again on Wednesday 10th January.

Hockey

Hockey will restart for term 2 on 15th January 2024.

Gymnastics

Olympiad Gymnastics will be running classes here in school during the school day for 6 weeks beginning on Monday the 8th January. Please make sure that your child wears a comfortable tracksuit and shoes on these Mondays.

Thanks to the PTA for paying for these classes.



Swimming

Swimming re-starts on Thursday the 11th January 2024.

Passports

We are happy to witness passport applications for children. However, both parents need to be present to sign the form as the passport office calls to check that we have actually seen both parents sign!

Lost Property

Please take some time to ensure that your children's belongings are named as we have a mountain of lost property accumulating in school, especially hats and gloves. Children very often don't recognise their own clothing so it's important to label everything!



School ends for all classes at **12 noon on Friday 22nd December**

The new term begins at 8.20 a.m. on **Monday 8th January 2024**

Wishing you all a very happy Christmas!

