



Rathlee N.S.
Rathlee, Easkey, Co. Sligo.

June 20th, 2025

Dear Parents,

As we come to the end of another school year, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your continued support of our school. I would like to thank our hard working staff, Board Of Management and Parents Association for their on-going commitment and hard work. A sincere thank you also to our fantastic pupils for their effort, enthusiasm and kindness.

Please find below some information and a brief outline of some of the activities our school has been participating in since we returned from the Easter Holidays. Our school calendar and your child's stationery list for the new school year are also enclosed.

Thank You Mary

On behalf of the entire school community. I want to wish our long serving SNA, Mary Connor all the best on her retirement as she leaves our school. Mary has been a hard working, dedicated and enthusiastic member of staff who embodied everything that is good about our school. We celebrated Mary's retirement on Tuesday last by celebrating mass in Rathlee Church and returning to our school afterwards for refreshments. Thank you to Fr. Loftus for celebrating mass and to all our staff and parents who helped with organising the day. Best of luck to Mary Feeney who will now continue her role as an SNA in a full time capacity in the new school year.



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Wishing Mr. Walshe the Best!

This week, we're saying a fond farewell to Mr. Walshe, who is off to an exciting new adventure at a different school. Mr. Walshe has been a great teacher and colleague. We want to wish him the very best of luck in his new role as principal in Templeboy NS and hope he has lots of fun teaching new students. Thank you for everything, Mr. Walshe! We'll miss you!

6th Class Graduation

We say a fond farewell to our 6th class pupils. We are very proud of all you have achieved and wish you every success and happiness as you take your next steps. All our 6th class pupils were presented with their graduation certificates and 6th class hoodies at mass on Tuesday last. Thank you to Ber on baking the treats for our annual 6th class tea party which the boys and girls really enjoyed last Friday! On behalf of everyone in Rathlee NS, I would like to wish the 6th class of 2025 all the best in secondary school.

Junior and Senior Infants

Our Junior and Senior Infants had a fantastic final term of school filled with fun and learning! The children showed great energy and enthusiasm during our School Sports Day despite the weather, taking part in all the games and races with big smiles. We also enjoyed a magical storytelling session at the Jackie Clarke Museum, where the stories sparked our imaginations and curiosity. To finish off the term on a high, we went on a wonderful school tour to Graune Pet Farm this week, where we met lots of



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friendly animals and had an unforgettable day together. It's been a busy and joyful term - well done to all our little boys and girls for a fantastic year of learning, growing and having fun together. We are so proud of each and every one of you!

Curious Minds Award

We are delighted that our school has been awarded another Curious Minds Gold award recognising our commitment to promoting curiosity, creativity and critical thinking across the curriculum. This award celebrates the engaging hands-on ways our pupils explore the world around them particularly through science experiments, investigations and inquiry based learning. Well done to all involved!

Green Flag Award

We are thrilled that our school has been awarded our 10th Green flag, this time for Global Citizenship - Food And Biodiversity. Through a variety of projects, from planting pollinator friendly plants to exploring the impact of our food systems, our pupils have shown incredible commitment to making a positive difference both locally and nationally.

Blue Star Programme Success

Congratulations to our Third and Fourth Classes who successfully completed the Blue Star Programme this year. The Blue Star Programme



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aims to foster a deeper understanding and appreciation of the European Union among primary school pupils through engaging, curriculum-linked projects in history, geography, art, and culture. As part of this initiative, the pupils explored key aspects of European culture, history, and citizenship. Highlights included a project on Anne Frank, hands-on exploration of Cubism in Art, and participation in a comprehensive EU-themed online quiz to round off the programme. The children showed great enthusiasm and creativity throughout, and we are proud to celebrate their achievement in completing this national programme. Well done to all involved!

Creative Schools Showcase Event

Our Lorg Na Scealaiochta story telling trail took place in early June in Kilglass Woods. The event was the culmination of two years of creative endeavours by our local schools. From puppet making to story writing, the Creative Cluster has been a fantastic success and a source of creative inspiration to the children in our school. Well done everyone!

First Holy Communion

It was a lovely, sunny day for our school's First Holy Communion ceremony which took place on Saturday May 17th in Star Of The Sea Church Rathlee. Thank you to Fr. Hogan for celebrating the ceremony and to the Parents Association for organising refreshments in the school afterwards.

Cuman Na mBunscol - Gaelic Football Update



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Well done to the boys and girls who attended gaelic football training after school on Mondays and represented our school in the various games we have played. Congratulations to our boys' team who won the Cuman Na mBunscol shield competition played in Scarden. They defeated Monasteraden NS in a hard fought encounter played on a wet evening.

Gaa coaching

John Kelly from Sligo GAA has been visiting our school since before the Easter holidays to coach Gaelic football to the pupils in each class. The sessions have been very enjoyable and all the children are making great progress. Keep practising and training with your club during the summer holidays!

Gaelic Football Mini leagues

Our 3rd - 6th classes have been participating in gaelic football leagues over the past number of weeks. There have been some very close and keenly fought contests that have been played in a very sporting manner. Well done to all the children. Our semi - finals took place today and our finals will be tomorrow.

Soccer Blitz



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Our senior pupils had a very enjoyable day at Stokane NS in early June where we played a very enjoyable and fun blitz with some other local schools.

Jackie Clarke Museum Visit

Our 5th and 6th classes learned all about The Great Famine in April and May. We were delighted to visit the Jackie Clarke Museum in late May where we deepened our knowledge further of this seismic event in our history.

Busy Bees!

We welcomed Peter Neary back to our school a couple of weeks ago. Peter is an avid bee-keeper and he visited all classrooms where we learned all about our native bees and the wonders of how honey is produced. It was fascinating.

Water safety talk

Thank you to Fiona who spoke to first and second class in mid May about water safety. It was a very important lesson especially when we will be spending lots of time at beaches and swimming pools during the summer holidays.

Visiting Art Exhibition

Over the last few weeks, our school was delighted to showcase a piece of art from the Glucksman Exhibition which is based in University College

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Cork. The theme of the piece was "The right of children to be heard" and all classes participated in activities related to the piece of art. We were able to avail of this initiative through UCC's art library programme which is supported by the Arts Council Of Ireland.

Green Fingers!

The weather was fantastic when we returned from the Easter holidays and we were able to transplant the seeds of a variety of vegetables that we have been growing. As usual, weeding has proved to be the biggest challenge but we are hopeful of a successful harvest!

Internet Safety talk

Ger Brick from Inetsafety spoke to our 3rd - 6th class pupils about internet safety, cyber-bullying and safe use of devices in early May. Ger also spoke to our parents that evening about related issues and important things to be aware of when our children are on-line. He provided lots of useful information about this hugely important topic.

West Sligo Mobile Phones Voluntary Code

12 principals from schools in West Sligo met during this term to discuss the introduction of a voluntary smart phone code for our schools whereby parents in our schools would agree not to buy a smart phone or device for their child while he/she is attending primary school. An information talk about the harmful effects of smart phone/device use was hosted in the



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Ocean Sands in mid June. There will be further updates about this initiative in the new school year.

Summer Fun Run And Barbeque

Our annual 5km fun run and barbeque took place last Friday week and once again was a huge success. The evening is a great way for the entire school community to come together in a social setting outside of school. Thank you to all our families that supported this event through returning sponsorship cards, our volunteers who cooked on the evening, our many sponsors and to our Parents Association who put in trojan work each year to ensure everyone has an enjoyable evening.

Sports Day

We held our annual Sports Day on June 12th. The wet weather didn't get in the way as we had a thoroughly enjoyable day with lots of fun team games and activities. We are very lucky to have the use of our yard, pitch and soft play area for these days.

School tours (1st - 6th)

Our annual school tours proved to be hugely enjoyable days for our pupils. 1st - 4th class had a super, fun-filled day at the Let's Go multi activity camp at Sligo ATU while 5th and 6th class visited Bay Sports Adventure Park in Athlone.

School Maintenance



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Thank you to all our volunteers who are maintaining our school pitch and are tidying around the perimeter of the school. It is really important work and keeps our school grounds clean, tidy and welcoming. It is greatly appreciated by the staff and pupils in our school.

Other Information/Reminders

School Policies

A reminder that a selection of our school policies can be visited on our school website and all our school policies are available to review upon request from our school office. Our Board Of Management has recently ratified our Additional Support Policy and Statement Of Strategy For School Attendance.

School Uniform

Just a reminder that our school uniform and PE tracksuit can be purchased in Ivy and Bow, Ballina. The full school uniform must be worn to school every day and our school tracksuit must be worn on PE days.

Communication with School

Our school uses the Aladdin app to communicate important information and messages to parents. Please ensure you are able to access information on this app. Of course you can always email the school at principal@rathlee.net or call the school office at 096 - 49243 if you have any query or would like to arrange a meeting with your child's teacher.

School Website and Blog

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Don't forget to keep an eye on our school website and blog at www.rathleenns.ie for school news and updates of school activities. We can also be followed on Facebook and on X (formerly Twitter) @rathleeS.

Finally, on behalf of all the staff in Rathlee NS, I would like to wish you all an enjoyable summer holidays.

Yours sincerely,

James Rafter

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