

# Rathfeigh National School from Seamus Tansley

## Sixth class pupils

It seems unlikely at this stage that our 6<sup>th</sup> class pupils will be returning to school before the summer holidays. This is extremely disappointing for the pupils, their parents/guardians and their teachers. The children have spent eight years in Rathfeigh and during that time we have seen them develop academically, socially and physically. They have made great friendships and have experienced many ups and downs together. I think it would be a shame if the Government doesn't allow the children to come back for a day or two in June to say goodbye properly to their classmates and of course to get the very important school jumper signed! We have 19 pupils in sixth class. I'm very confident we can accommodate this number of pupils safely under social distancing guidelines. If we can't do this safely for this small number then the chances of doing it safely in September for considerably larger numbers seems remote!!

Ms Reynolds (6<sup>th</sup> class teacher) had a Zoom meeting with the sixth class pupils during the week to get feedback from the children on a number of items. The children said they would love to come back for a day or two in June and really want to get their jumpers signed. They are very disappointed that there won't be a 6<sup>th</sup> class graduation but said they would like to come back at a later date (even September) to have the graduation. We will, of course, accommodate this request but with a few prayers this may happen in June!!

## Mental Health Awareness

A number of countries around the world are celebrating mental health awareness this week. The theme is Kindness. More so than ever we have to be aware of our own mental health and the mental health of our children. We are facing a varied amount of stresses in our life and the coronavirus pandemic may be adding to the stresses for many people. There are many supports available to adults and children in terms of mental health and we shouldn't be afraid to get help if needed.

Pieta House have confirmed that Rathfeigh National School has been awarded with an Amber Flag for our commitment to promoting mental health in our school. Ms. Ward introduced this initiative for which we thank her. Pieta House contacted the school this week by e-mail (below).

Dear Amber Flag Committee in Rathfeigh National School,

We, at Pieta, are delighted to inform you that your school has been awarded with the Amber Flag! 😊

We would like to thank the Amber Flag Committee for their commitment and dedication to promoting Positive Mental Health in your school this year. As you know in order to receive a Pieta Amber Flag you have to set and achieve goals throughout the year and our team found your application to be an outstanding initiative promoting positive mental health. We are truly overwhelmed with the amazing initiatives being run in schools this year. You are all a credit to your school.

We know how difficult the last few months have been and we are so thankful that you were able to achieve your goals either in person or "virtually". We understand it's been a trying time for the Amber Flag Committee but we hope that you can look back on your achievements throughout the year and be grateful of the time you spent together and the goals you've accomplished! Don't underestimate the positive impact that your work has had this year. We, here at Pieta, certainly don't.

Attached are certificates for the Amber Flag Committee that you can edit the names and forward them to everyone, if you wish. There is also a certificate for your school that we hope you will display to show your

great achievements. We are hoping to send the physical flags once we get back from working remotely, hopefully this will be in September so thank you for your understanding.

Well done to all of you. Pieta's Amber Flag Team hope that you are proud of all your accomplishments this year, especially in spite of the current situation. We certainly are!

Kindest regards,  
The Pieta Amber Flag Team

### **Keeping Connected Art Competition**

There is still time for the children to enter the “Keeping Connected” art competition (details below). We would love if children in all classes entered. Please also e-mail your entries to the individual class Edmodo learning platforms or the school e-mail [snrathfaiche1@eircom.net](mailto:snrathfaiche1@eircom.net). We will be picking a winner from each class. Best of luck everyone!



### **Children's Art Competition** *Keeping connected in times of Covid19*

Lots of children around the country are missing out on regular connections and contacts with their favourite older people- grandparents, friends and neighbours. Many are finding new ways to keep in touch with their cocooning loved ones.

#### **Draw or paint a picture to show us how you are keeping in touch with some older people in your life.**

The competition has three categories:

1. Children - Infants to second class
2. Children - Third to sixth class
3. Children with physical, sensory or intellectual disability (U 18)

**Each category will have a winning prize of a €50 voucher.**

#### **Entry details**

Pictures on an A4 page, parents/guardians to email a photo of entry to [safeguarding.socialcare@hse.ie](mailto:safeguarding.socialcare@hse.ie) including the child's name and category. Use the subject line 'keeping connected competition'.

Closing date **29th May**. Winners will be announced on 15<sup>th</sup> June to mark *World Elder Abuse Awareness Day*.

We will share some inspiring entries on our social media pages  
[@safeguarding\\_ie](https://twitter.com/safeguarding_ie)  
[#keepingconnected](https://twitter.com/keepingconnected)  
[#intergenerations](https://twitter.com/intergenerations)

T&C available on request.

