

Rathfeigh National School from Seamus Tansley

Happy New Year

As this is the first RST of 2021, I'd like to wish everyone in Rathfeigh and Skryne a happy, safe, healthy, peaceful and enjoyable New Year. This may be a lot to ask for in the current pandemic that we are living through, but one I think we all deserve after the disappointing year gone by. Hope springs eternal and I really hope that 2021 will be a year to remember for the right reasons.

*"If you only carry one thing throughout your entire life, let it be **hope**. Let it be **hope** that better things are always ahead. Let it be **hope** that you can get through even the toughest of times. Let it be **hope** that you are stronger than any challenge that comes your way. Let it be **hope** that you are exactly where you are meant to be right now, and that you are on the path to where you are meant to be. Because during these times, **hope** will be the very thing that carries you through".* (Nikki Banas – "Walk the Earth" writer).

School Closure

When we started the new school year back in late August we really hoped we would get through the school year without any unforeseen closures. Of course, it was no major surprise when the daily Covid-19 infections started to rise significantly before Christmas that another prolonged school closure was on the cards. The children haven't set foot inside the school so far in 2021 and they are unlikely to do so for another few weeks at least. This is very disappointing but we really hope that we'll be back teaching them before St. Patrick's Day at the latest. Since January 11th we have been using the following timetable and we will be continuing with this same daily timetable, which has a mixture of "Zoom" (30/40 minute sessions daily) and Edmodo, for the next few weeks also. In addition to this timetable, Mrs Campbell (Learning Support) will continue with the Zoom sessions for the children who need some extra support in English and maths. Also, Nicola (SNA) will be continuing with her Zoom sessions on a daily basis.

Teacher	Zoom	Edmodo	Zoom	Edmodo
Mr Tansley	9.15 -9.45	10.00	12.15-12.45	1.00
Ms Reynolds	10.00-10.30	10.45	1.00-1.30	1.45
Ms O'Donoghue	10.45-11.15	11.30	1.45 – 2.15	2.30
Mrs Vaughan	11.30-12.00	12.15		

The above timetable seems to be working well for the children and their families. It's exceptionally difficult trying to work from home whilst trying to ensure that the children are engaging with online learning but most families seem to be coping well so far!! As I have mentioned before, please contact the class teacher through Edmodo if your child is experiencing difficulties or is stressed for whatever reason. They are always there to help you if you are having difficulties.

I want to thank all the staff in Rathfeigh for the Trojan work they have done since the school opened in late August (teachers, SNA, secretary, caretaker and cleaner). They have worked tirelessly, and without complaint, in difficult circumstances for which I thank them. We also want to thank the children for their resilience and good humour in these difficult times. They have been FANTASTIC. The support of our Board of Management has also been invaluable.

Enrolments 2021/22

We are now accepting enrolments for children that are starting school in September. Enrolment forms can be downloaded from the school website (rathfeighns.org). Our Admissions Policy and Admissions Notice can also be viewed in the "Parents Section" of the website. All enrolments forms must be returned to the school no later than March 1st. If you know any family that have children starting school in September please let

them know about the closing date for receipt of applications in Rathfeigh. If you have a child already enrolled in another school please send in an enrolment application to us anyway. You can always make a final decision before March 1st. If you would like to find out more information about Rathfeigh NS please e-mail the school (rathfeighns@outlook.com) and give your details and we can arrange a Zoom meeting or a phone-call.

We have so much to offer children in Rathfeigh. We pride ourselves on achieving excellent results in the standardised tests in Irish, English and maths annually. We have the Literacy Lift Off reading programme up and running for eight years. This station-teaching approach to the teaching of literacy to children from Senior Infants to Second class has resulted in the vast majority of children being fluent independent readers by the time they get to Third class. We recently opened our computer room with the children regularly getting classes in IT which has significantly improved their computer skills. We achieved our first Green Flag last year for our great efforts in promoting a “Greener” culture throughout the school. Our mental health initiatives last year earned the “Amber Flag” for our school. Mental health issues among children are more prevalent than ever and we will have lessons regularly in all classes as part of the SPHE curriculum to promote and tackle mental health issues. We actively promote the participation in sports for boys and girls in all classes. We like to see the children being active at break-times playing a variety of games (e.g. soccer, skipping, hockey, gaelic football etc.). Our boys’ and girls’ gaelic football and rounders’ teams have been very successful in recent years in the Cumann na mBunscol school competitions. We also encourage the children in all classes to participate in after-school activities in the school hall – Irish dancing, drama, gymnastics and basketball.

Rathfeigh NS has a vibrant and active Parents’ Association. Their annual fundraising for the school has contributed significantly to the education and social development of the children. In recent years their fundraising has helped fund our new computer room and the purchase of classroom resources for the children as well as making contributions towards the cost of school tours and swimming excursions. New parents/guardians to the school are always encouraged to participate in the Association.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Below is a selection of work uploaded to Edmodo in 5th and 6th class.



