

Rathfeigh National School

Seamus Tansley

■ Science-in-a-Box with Professor Luke O'Neill

We have just one week remaining in this year's Science-in-a-Box programme. As part of last week's lesson we had the privilege of a live Zoom Question and Answer session with one of the most famous scientists in the country – Professor Luke O'Neill. He has a wealth of scientific knowledge and the children had numerous questions for him which he enjoyed answering. The questions covered everything from the size of a coronavirus particle, the instrument he played in his band to the type of food he likes most. It was a pleasure listening to Luke and the forty five minutes flew by. He complimented the children on their varied and interesting questions and his sense of humour shone through throughout the session. We thank our Science-in-a-Box scientist Suzanne for organising this special event for us. At the end of the programme next week we have two Luke O'Neill books as prizes in a raffle. Thanks to Eimear, not only for sponsoring these prizes, but for sponsoring the Science-in-a-Box programme in our school. Míle Buíochas!

■ Rathfeigh School Crest Artwork

I'm sure you'll all have noticed the fantastic artwork at the front of our school hall as you walked, cycled or drove passed our school. Over the last week or so our resident artist Róisín Wade has created a truly unique piece of artwork which, I'm sure, will be admired for many, many years to come. Róisín is truly a master of her craft and we were delighted when she accepted to complete this mammoth task for us. She worked though rain and shine and never complained once despite the weather and our occasional change of design! Everyone in the Rathfeigh school community is really proud of this tremendous piece of artwork and we thank Róisín for her time, skill and patience in completing it. Róisín's work is in high demand which is no surprise. If you want to contact Róisín about an art project please contact the school (0419825156) and we can send you her details. We thank Kevin and Paul from across the road in Borrowaddy Motors for helping us in making alterations to the scaffolding at the start of the project. Thanks lads!

■ Fundraiser for Sensory Room

Our Parents' Association are presently organising their second fundraiser of the school year. Following on from the very successful "Cash for Clobber" fundraiser at Christmas they will be organising a Relay Marathon at the rear of the school on Wednesday June 16th. The children in all classes will have a few laps to run each in relay format. Over the course of a few hours we have 42,195 metres to run! A number of years ago we completed the marathon in approximately 2hrs 20 mins. This, however, took place in one of the wettest days of the year with heavy and slippy underfoot conditions. If the weather shines favourably on us we hope to beat our previous time by a few minutes. No pressure! The children will be getting sponsorship cards this week. We hope everyone in the Rathfeigh and Skryne parish will support our fantastic

children as they embark on their "marathon" task. We thank Nicola (SNA) and Mrs Vaughan for all their work behind the scenes in getting this great idea (Sensory Room) to fruition.

All monies received will go towards our Sensory Room which will be up and running by September.

■ Art – Construction

The children in Rathfeigh are showing great creativity during art lessons over the last few weeks. Third and Fourth class were learning about the Titanic during history lessons and Ms Reynolds got the children to construct their own "Titanic" ships using cardboard, paper, toilet roll holders etc. The standard of the construction work was amazing and it was great to see the children so proud of their finished products. Well done!!

The Fifth and Sixth class children also engaged very productively with their constructions during art classes. Their constructions were wide and varied which included a football stadium, race track, buildings, piano, animals etc etc. They presented their work for the children in the school last Friday and I'm sure it will inspire the younger children to create their own masterpieces in future years.

■ Standardised Tests/School Reports

Standardised tests in Irish, English and maths will be administered to the children in all classes from First to Sixth next week (Tuesday 1st, Wednesday 2nd, Thursday 3rd). Due to Covid-19 these tests weren't administered last year. These tests in conjunction with various teacher assessment methods over the course of the year will help in determining your child's progress. We will e-mail all parents/guardians information on how to interpret the scores in the standardised tests. The end of year school reports will be posted home in mid-June. If you would like to discuss your child's report with the class teacher please make an appointment before we close for the summer holidays.

■ School Garden

Our school gardener Mary McCarron is a regular visitor to our school. The children always enjoy Mary's visits as they get a chance to get their hands dirty while planting seeds and it also gets them out of the classroom!! We thank Mary for her enthusiasm and patience with the children.

■ Picker Pals – Litter Picking Programme

The pupils in 1st and 2nd class are taking part in this unique school based litter-picking programme. This programme motivates and equips children with "Picker Packs" containing items that children need to go litter picking. We hope the children continue positively with this important social and environmental issue over the next few weeks. After receiving a 'Green Flag' for the school last year this programme is

another way of getting the 'Green' message across to our pupils and families in Rathfeigh. Thanks to Ms. O'Donoghue for co-ordinating the programme.

School Grounds

Our school grounds are looking fantastic at the moment. Ingrid is doing an amazing job in Jackie's absence – cutting grass, cleaning windows, painting railings, cleaning classrooms etc etc. We thank Ingrid for doing an amazing job and we also wish Jackie a speedy recovery.

Staff/Board of Management

I was told by a pupil during the week that "July" and "August" were a teacher's favourite words! I couldn't disagree! This year has been difficult for all staff due to Covid-19 so we are looking forward to a well-deserved break in July and August! All our teachers, SNA, Helen, Jackie and Ingrid have done an amazing job this year in difficult circumstances for which I sincerely thank them. Our Board of Management have also done amazing work. There's been more meetings this year

than any other previous year. I thank them for their hard work throughout the year and their commitment to the school.

It was with great sadness and shock last week when I heard the news of the passing of Jim Pentony. Jim was a regular visitor to Rathfeigh NS down through the years and I always enjoyed meeting him. He had a great sense of humour and his knowledge of the history of Rathfeigh was second to none. I had the pleasure of serving on the Board of Management with Jim from 2015 to 2019. At these meetings he never referred to me as Seamus but Mr Tansley. He also addressed Maurice Daly as Chairman. This "old school" respect is dying away but Jim had it in spades. I was very fond of Jim and will miss him dearly. He was a gentleman in every sense of the word. A text I received during the week mentioned Jim as being a "great friend of Rathfeigh NS" which he undoubtedly was. On behalf of all the staff and Board of Management I would like to express my deepest condolences to the Pentony family, relatives and friends. Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam.

Below are a few pictures of the children working in the school garden and a few examples of the construction art-work.

