

# Rathfeigh National School

Seamus Tansley

## Meta Grant

We are delighted to announce that for the second consecutive year we have been successful in our Meta Community Action Grant application. Last year we purchased interactive whiteboards for all classrooms, twenty-five chrome-books and a chrome-book charger with the €21,500 grant from Meta. We have just been informed that we will be receiving €20,142 from Meta this year which will be used to purchase interactive multi-sensory equipment for our existing sensory room. We thank Meta again this year for looking so favourable on our application which will benefit the children in the Rathfeigh school community and parish for years to come.

## Snow Day

Since the 'Beast from the East' in 2018 we haven't seen much snow. On March 10th the children got a nice surprise with the arrival of a decent amount of snow. The children in Rathfeigh are tough and resilient so we got all the children outside first thing in the morning for an overdue snowball fight as Met Eireann were forecasting a very quick thaw before mid-morning. I think it's important to avail of these moments as the children don't always remember Gaeilge or Maths lessons etc but will definitely remember special moments like the giant "snowball fight" !

## World Book Day

World Book Day was organised in the school this year by Ms. Reynolds. The children came to school dressed as their favourite characters from a variety of books. It was an exciting day as the children in all classes spoke very eloquently about their favourite books and characters. Pictures of World Book Day have been uploaded to the school website (rathfeighns.org).

## First Aid

We were delighted to welcome the local First Aid Responders to the school on March 10th for invaluable First Aid lessons for the children in all classes. The First Responders engaged really well with the children and gave them great practical advice for times of emergency. It's important for us as parents/guardians to ensure that our children know their eircode in cases of emergency.

## International Women's Day

International Women's Day was celebrated in the school on March 8th This was a great opportunity to celebrate women's accomplishments and advocate for greater gender equality. The children researched a variety of women, past and present, that inspired them and presented their work to the children in other classes.

***"Human rights are women's rights and women's rights are human rights" (Hilary Clinton).***

## Saint Patrick's Day Céilí

Definitely one of the highlights of the school year is the annual Céilí in the school hall. All children participated in the group dances with smiles on their faces on March 15th. The dances were interspersed with individual performances from a variety of children – Irish dancing, poetry, singing, tin whistle etc. Well done to everyone for making the day so special and to Mrs Vaughan for teaching the children the dances.

## Dogs Trust

We were visited last week by the local Dogs Trust. The children got great information and advice on how to take care of their pet dogs. The Dogs Trust is Ireland's largest dog welfare charity and their mission is to bring an end to the destruction of stray and abandoned dogs in Ireland. The Dogs Trust website is worth viewing if you are planning to adopt or foster dogs.

## Zeeko Education

We were visited on Monday by 'Zeeko'. 'Zeeko' gave the children very informative advice and information to improve their safety online and with technology. As parents/guardians it is our responsibility to ensure our children are safe online. Zeeko.ie has very useful and helpful information for parents/guardians about online safety. They have a 'Parental Advice Hub', also, which may be worth logging into.

## Confirmation

The children in sixth class received their Confirmation on February 28th. A lot of work went into making it a special day for the children - Ms. O'Donoghue and Mr. Newman for preparing the children so well, Bishop Deenihan and Fr. Thomas for the lovely ceremony, the choir who sang beautifully, the Parents' Associations of Rathfeigh and Skryne for the refreshments in the hall after the ceremony. A special thanks to Caroline Giles, Ms. Sheridan, Caoimhe Giles, Isabel Reuter and Aisling O'Connor for all their great work with the choir.

## Cash for Clobber

A big thanks to our Parents' Association for once again organising a very successful fundraiser for the school. All the money received from the 'Cash for Clobber' will be used for the benefit of the children in the school.

## Visit to Fairyhouse Racecourse

Our Fifth and Sixth class pupils visited Fairyhouse Racecourse on Friday and got a behind-the-scenes look at the home of the Irish Grand National. They got to walk a part of the track with the racecourse manager and got to speak to one of the local jockeys. They also received a demonstration from the Racing Academy and Centre of Education (RACE) racehorse simulator. Thanks to everyone at Fairyhouse Racecourse for making the day so memorable for the children.

