

Rathfeigh NS

Seamus Tansley

The quote from Shawshank Redemption **“Hope is a good thing, maybe the best of things and no good thing ever dies”** is apt as we start another school year with hope and positivity. Our children are the most important things in our lives and we hope the future is bright for them as they navigate through the difficult waters of life. We don't know what's around the corner for them and all we can do is guide them towards the right paths in life. We can, however, only control some things in life and, unfortunately, many things are in the laps of the gods. As we start a new school year I hope and wish all the children and their families a safe and happy year ahead.

Interactive Multi-Sensory Room

A year or so ago we were successful in our grant application to Meta for an Interactive Multi-Sensory room as part of Meta's community action grants project. A considerable amount of time and effort went into the ordering and installation of the equipment for which we thank Mrs Vaughan and Nicola (SNA). We officially opened the Interactive Sensory room in May with local councilor Suzanne Jamal cutting the ribbon!

The benefits of the Interactive Sensory Room will be varied depending on the needs of the particular children.

- The specially designed interactive equipment may help the children to become more aware of their senses and the world around them.
- It may help them in socializing with other children as the equipment may encourage them to explore and move with others.
- It provides a safe place for the children to hone their fine motor skills and practice their movement
- It may help some children to process experiences better and cope with differing situations in a more positive and less extreme way.

The reaction from the children who attend the Interactive Sensory Room regularly has been fantastic and they are benefiting day-on-day from their daily visits. **We are very grateful to Meta for looking on our application favourably as the children in Rathfeigh will be the beneficiaries for many, many years to come.**

Our multi-sensory room will be used by children with special needs in our school and in the community but also by children who might use the room occasionally in times of stress or anxiety.

Department of Education Primary School Book Scheme

I would like to thank Mrs Campbell and Mrs Vaughan for all their hard work organising the Book Rental Scheme books this year. Please ensure the children take good care of the books as some of them will be used again next year. The introduction of the Government Free Book Scheme has greatly reduced the financial burden on families as we start a new school year and particularly for those families who have more than one child in the school.

Gaelic Football

Our boys' and girls' Gaelic Football teams will be participating in the Meath Cumann na mBunscol competitions over the coming weeks. We wish both our teams the best of luck as they participate to the best of their ability against other schools of similar size. Our boys' teams have reached the semi-final for the last two years and of course they won the Meath title in 2017. Last year was definitely a year to remember for our girls' team as they won the Meath title in a very exciting and close game. This was their first title since 2000 and the celebrations deservedly went on for weeks

Swimming

The children in 3rd to 6th class will be going swimming in Navan Swimming Pool for six weeks starting on September 17th. They will be travelling by bus – leaving the school at 9.20a.m. (approx) and returning to the school at 11.30a.m. (approx).

School Secretary

It was with disappointment and sadness when Helen announced during the summer holidays that she was retiring at the end of August. Helen has been in Rathfeigh NS since the mid 1990's and during that time she always put a 100% effort into her work and nothing was ever too difficult for Helen to organise. I have worked with Helen on a daily basis since being appointed Principal in Rathfeigh in 2012 and I'm delighted to say we always got on extremely well together (Helen might say otherwise!). She made my job considerably easier as her organisational skills were second to none. Her sense of humour got me through the many stressful days for which I thank her and I took on her advice, slowly but surely, that you had to "laugh every day". Not only will the staff miss Helen but the children will miss her hugely as she was always so mindful, considerate and respectful of the children who came to the office in droves over the course of every school day. We all wish Helen the best of luck and happiness in retirement.

