

RATHFARNHAM



EDUCATE TOGETHER
NATIONAL SCHOOL

Weekly Update

30th April 2021

This week in RETNS



A reminder that RETNS will be closed from Monday, 3rd to Friday, 7th May. School will close at the usual time on Friday, 30 April..

Dennis retires

I know that everybody will be very sorry to learn that our caretaker, Dennis, will retire on 30 June this year. Dennis is such a highly-valued member of our school community and has such a great relationship with children, staff and parents / guardians that it is difficult to imagine RETNS without him. While we will miss him very much, we wish him all the best for his well-earned retirement and look forward to marking the occasion at the end of June.



This Week in RETNS



Some egg-citing news from RETNS; newly arrived chicken eggs will begin their 21 day cycle today in our incubator. During this time, the children of 2nd and 3rd class will be monitoring and minding our soon-to-be fuzzy friends and hopefully we will see our plans hatch out successfully in the 3rd week of May. Until then, we hope to make some progress videos which we will share with all the other classes. Watch this space! (Annaick)

Green News

We look forward to raising our latest Green Flag tomorrow morning. This flag is for Global Citizenship – Energy and was awarded to us during the period of remote learning.

We have marked off a 'No Mow' area on our front lawn to the right of the cherry blossom tree. This allows any clover, daisies, dandelions etc. to flower and to feed hungry pollinators in May and June. 2nd class plan to make weather proof signage for this area. We ask that children stay outside this area. I was delighted to hear that some of our RETNS families are doing the same in their own gardens.

Our school garden continues to thrive, with great work being done by both the children and staff.

Frásai na Seachtaine

Conas atá tú? - It's great to hear a variety of responses at the gate in the morning. My favourite at the moment is from First Class: 'Tá mé cuibheasach gan a bheith maíteach' which translates as 'I'm fair to middling!'.

Survey on Children's Rights – Survey closes on Friday, 7 May

The Ombudsman for Children needs your help to hear from all children under the age of 18 in Ireland. This year Ireland is reporting to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child. The Ombudsman for Children's Office wants to get the views of children under 18 about what it is like to live in Ireland.

Link to survey: bit.ly/3vdxGxf

This survey is live now, and closes Friday 7 May 2021.

Message from Changing Lives Initiative

Fantastic free App on ADHD to support families

The Changing Lives Initiative have developed an App to help families understand what ADHD is and provides practical strategies and tools for parents to use with their children. The App is particularly relevant for parents who have concerns about their child's behaviour but are not yet sure if their child may have ADHD. The App is also very useful for those working with children, in helping them understand ADHD and how they might support children who have issues with inattention, hyperactivity or impulsivity. The App can be downloaded for free at <https://changinglivesinitiative.com/portal-capture/>

The Changing Lives Initiative launched last week the final report on the 3-year project and its evaluations. The cross-border project which provided an innovative early intervention programme for ADHD has been highly successful working with almost 2,000 families and providing training to over 1,700 professionals. The project evaluations demonstrated considerably improved outcomes for families who took part in the programme including a significant reduction in ADHD related behaviours reported in children and reductions in parental stress. The project report, video interviews with parents and other information on the project can be found at www.changinglivesinitiative.com

I hope everyone enjoys the break next week

Le dea-ghuí

Maeve