

RATHFARNHAM



EDUCATE TOGETHER
NATIONAL SCHOOL

Weekly Update 27 April 2023

School Closures

RETNS will be closed next Monday, 1 May, for the May Bank Holiday.



The school will also be closed on Friday, 5 May, for Primary Language Curriculum training for teachers.

Drumcondra Tests

The reading, maths and spelling Drumcondra tests take place for Rang I – Rang VI during the weeks beginning 8, 15 and 22 May. Children can become anxious about these tests so there is absolutely no need to give them advance warning. However, these tests are an important part of the children's annual assessment so please do not plan any absences over that period.

Missing a Scooter?



The three scooters in the attached photo have been left on our bike rack for some time now. Please claim them by next Friday, 5 May if they belong to your child(ren). If you would like to take a scooter still unclaimed by the end of next week, please contact Carol on info@retns.ie.

This Week in RETNS



Active School's Week

This week was our Active School's Week. Tomorrow our staff will play a game of Olympic Handball against Rang a Sé. Friday is also a Jersey Day (not a fundraiser!) when children are encouraged to wear a jersey or sports top of their choice to celebrate Active Schools Week. Thank you to Darren and the Active Schools Team for organising the week's activities.

Hockey

Hockey as an extracurricular activity for 1st and 2nd class children came to an end yesterday. The children finished by playing a match at Three Rock hockey club. Thank you to their hockey teacher, Jane Sweetman, for organising this and to our Transition Year volunteer, Jamie Leslie for helping out. Thank you too to all our teachers who participated in the ECA programme.

National Children's Choir

Congratulations to Rang V and Rang VI who participated in the National Children's Choir concert held last night in the National Basketball Arena. Enormous thanks are due to Anna and Gráinne for their work with the choir this year. Thank you too to

Darren and Aileen who taught Rang I and Rang II when choir rehearsals were taking place.

Write a Book - Winners and Highly Commended

3rd and 4th classes have shared their books from the Write-a-Book project with other classes. Congratulations to the class winners, Evie from 4th class with her book 'War Diary' and Sophia from 3rd class with her book, 'Dream Big'. Elsa, Ella Jane, Sonny, Lyra, Hugo and Rogan were highly commended for their books. Parents/ guardians are welcome to visit the library to see the books.



4th Class study the Celts

Last week, Rang IV produced very creative Celtic roundhouses, some complete with air fresheners and chimneys. You can see photos of their work on the school website.

Pocket Forest Update

This afternoon, Rang V are doing some weeding of the pocket forest they planted in Loreto Park last year. They are doing great work on this long-term project.

New Parents Meeting

Yesterday we welcomed the parents/guardians of our incoming Junior Infants to the school. Lauren and Maebh from our Student Council gave them a very interesting and entertaining talk on their 8 years in RETNS. Other children from 6th class gave the new parents/guardians a guided tour of the school.

Cake Sale

Our Cake Sale last week raised €1075.13. Thank you to all who baked and bought cakes.

Learning Irish at Home

In school, your child is learning Irish as part of the Primary Language Curriculum/Curaclam Teanga na Bunscoile. For the next four weeks, I will send a tip sheet home which have been developed to help parents support their children as they learn Irish. Each tip sheet describes a range of activities which parents can do with

children at home 'as Gaeilge'. These materials are designed to be fun and engaging for both parents and children.

[Gaeilge Tip Sheet 1](#)

RETNS Lotto

Last week's lotto winner of €20 was Maeve McCarthy (I'm delighted!).

There was no winner of the jackpot.

Please spread the word and encourage family and friends to join to help grow our fundraiser at <https://www.ourfundraiser.ie/org/retns>

Féile Nasc Marley Park 21st May 2023



LASCÁINE do Fhéile Nasc/ DISCOUNT CODE for Féile Nasc Folk & Traditional Music Festival

Féile Nasc is Dublin's outdoor Folk and Traditional Music Festival. It is a family-friendly festival and will take place amongst the trees in Marlay Park, Rathfarnham on **Sunday, May 21st**.

As well as featuring the very best of folk and traditional music, the festival will have some fantastic activities for children. These activities will include Drumming Workshops with Rossa Ó Snodaigh, Óga Yoga, Forest Camp, Face Painting and much more. The

musical line-up will include; Jiggy, Rónán Ó Snodaigh and Myles O'Reilly, David Munnelly and Shane McGowan, The Len Collective.

Parents can enjoy great local food and drink provided by local producers and brewers. Féile Nasc places huge importance on our connection (Nasc) with nature which acts as a natural backdrop to the festival. Féile Nasc insists that all vendors use compostable plastic packaging.

A free children's ticket with every adult ticket is available to the school community between the 24th and the 30th of April 2023.

To avail of the discount, go to www.tickets.ie and use the promo code **Nasc2023**.

We ask you to please not share this code with those outside the school community..
Beidh Féile Nasc ar siúl arís i mbliana i bPáirc Mharlaí ar Dé Domhnaigh, 21ú Bealtaine.

Is Féile Ceoil Dhúchais agus Ceol Traidisiúnta í Féile Nasc. Tá an fhéile dírithe ar chlainnte agus beidh sí ar siúl i measc na gcrann i bPáirc Mharlaí i Ráth Fearnáin ar an 21ú Bealtaine.

Chomh maith le scoth an cheoil, beidh bia agus deoch áitiúil ar fáil mar aon le gníomhaíochtaí iontacha do pháistí. I measc na ngníomhaíochtaí do dhaoine óga beidh; Ceardlann Drumadóireachta le Rossa Ó Snodaigh, Campa Foraoise, Óga Yoga, Picnic Teidí le Sadhbh Rosenstock, Cluichí do Pháist, Péinteáil Aghaidh agus go leor eile.

I measc na gceoltóirí a bheidh ag seinm beidh; Jiggy, Rónán Ó Snodaigh agus Myles O Reilly, David Munnely agus Shane McGowan, The Len Collective.

Cuireann eagraitheoirí Féile Nasc an-bhéim ar an 'nasc' atá againn leis an dtimpeallacht nádúrtha. Tá an fhéile saor ó phlaisteach agus úsáidtear na crainn agus sceacha mar mhaisiúchán nádúrtha.

Beidh lascaine ar fáil do phobal na scoile idir an 24ú agus an 30ú Aibreán ar www.tickets.ie má úsáideann sibh an cód 'Nasc2023'.

Gheobhaidh sibh ticéad páiste amháin saor in aisce le gach ticéad leis an gcód sin.

Le bhur dtoil, ná roinn an cód seo le haon duine taobh amuigh de phobal na scoile.

Girls' Research Project – Transition to Teenager – [Transition to Teenager in Girls Project University of-Edinburgh](#)

Information about this reads as follows:

We are researchers in the School of Medicine at the University of Edinburgh. We are conducting research to understand mental health and puberty in girls as they transition into adolescence and transition to secondary school. The project is called The Transition to Teenager in Girls Project. My colleague Dr Sinead Rhodes and I (the lead researchers on the project) are from Dublin. I'm actually from Rathfarnham.

Benefits for families and schools: Findings from this study will be used to create booklets for parents/guardians and school staff to support well-being in girls during the transition to secondary school and adolescence. This project has been open since September. Girls have been letting me know they enjoy taking part. We designed the project with stakeholders to make it as easy as possible to take part and enjoyable. They project has been getting positive feedback at conferences too. We still need about 50 more girls to take part for the project to be a success though and recruitment closes in June.

What do the girls do?

- Girls will be asked to do two 30 minute meetings over 1 year. In these meetings, they will answer questions by ticking boxes about mental health, social relationships, and menstruation (periods).
- Parents will complete questionnaires about their daughter (25 minutes)

We want all girls to take part including neurodivergent girls (autistic girls, girls with ADHD, or girls with dyspraxia or on a waiting list for an assessment).

Checks: This study has been reviewed and given a favourable ethical opinion by an independent research committee the Edinburgh Medical School Research Ethics Committee. The study is being sponsored by the University of Edinburgh. I have a Basic Disclosure and Barring Service Check (Garda vetting equivalent).

Thank you for your time, *Ailbhe*

Ailbhe McKinney

*PhD Researcher at Child Life and Health/Centre for Clinical Brain Sciences,
University of Edinburgh*

Le dea-ghuí

Maeve