

LEARNING AND LIVING IN THE WORLD TOGETHER

SUMMER 2018



RMDSNEWS

Ranelagh Multi-Denominational School



From The Principal's Desk:

On behalf of all the pupils and staff I would like to thank you as we near the end of another busy and fulfilling school year. Thank you for all your support for the many and varied events and activities that form part of the school year.

From The Principal's Desk:



In particular I would like to extend gratitude to all of you who have served on the various school committees over the year. In particular, I would like to thank Avril Whelan who is stepping down as Chair of the PA having served for the last number of years. She has brought amazing energy and vigour to the role. She is however, passing the baton over into safe hands.

It simply would not be possible to run our school without the generous voluntary support of our parents and families. We are extremely lucky to have families who are so generous with their time. Together with your continued financial support for the school, we are a thriving and vibrant school community which goes from strength to strength.

What a busy year it has been!

Firstly, we wish Rang 6 a final farewell as they branch off in differing directions this June knowing that bright and exciting futures lie ahead. We say goodbye to Kalyssa (J1) who is moving to Alexandra College Junior School and Max (R4) moving to St. Mary's Junior School. We wish them every success and look forward to them coming back to visit us here in RMDS.

We welcome back Maria Halpin and Caroline O'Dowd. Mary Clare Pigott remains on career break to take care of her mother.

It is with sadness that we say goodbye to Assumpta Neylon, who will be retiring this year. Assumpta has worked in RMDS since 1994. We thank her for all her dedication over the years to RMDS and in particular for all her work both in mainstream education but also,

in particular, Special Needs education within the school over the years. We wish her well as she starts some new adventures in this exciting chapter of her life.

We have had a very active year here in RMDS as you will re-discover as you turn the pages of the news from across the classes. During the year we achieved our fourth Green Flag for travel, we were awarded the Plaque of STEM Excellence, we had the inaugural performance of our school Orchestra Ensemble who just started this year and we had great success in sport to name but a few activities.

Our child-centred focus is always to the fore as we place the social and emotional wellbeing of the children in priority as academic achievement can only be attained when the child is happy and in a good place. This is something we strive to achieve, in partnership with parents and families.

Finally, I would like to extend my good wishes to those of you who have suffered illness or bereavement over the course of the year. You are in the thoughts and good wishes of all at RMDS.

Have a wonderful summer. Enjoy making great memories and I look forward to seeing you all back here on the 30th August.

Rosemarie Stynes

Junior Infants



A few of our favourite things!

Who can believe we are finishing our first year in RMDS. We have experienced so many things. Here is a list of the things we enjoyed the most.

Miss Coogan: I have enjoyed everything with this high energy and very clever class. They love to work hard and play hard too. Every morning we had our Aistear activities which gave us an opportunity to learn through play, socialize and have fun too! I think my favourite memory this year was meeting Thomasina the lamb with our favourite farmer Anne.

Ann: I loved coming in every morning. I loved seeing all the things the children were doing and making during Aistear, and getting to know them.

Mr Perera was here every morning, except Friday, and he was so much fun. He knows so much about football and his Gaeilge is amazing!

Toby: I loved the scary hand game at Halloween and apple bobbing.

Ethan: I liked when we did the Easter Egg hunt with our buddies.

Lorna: I loved making the conker animals with our buddies.

Rachel: I loved the game that Isabel's mum showed us with the grape on the flour.

Finn: I liked drawing pictures and making maps.

Iris: I loved the apple on the string game with Mr. Perera.

Arlo: I love everything especially when we go outside to do things.

Paul: At Halloween I loved the scary hand game that Matthias' Mum showed us.

Lucy Mc: I loved meeting new friends.

Estelle: Playing with friends on yard and after school.

Kalyssa: I loved playing chasing and running with my friends.

Mabel: I loved everything especially being at my table with my friends.

Elise: I loved the Christmas Play. It was really fun.

Aisha: I loved making stuff with my buddy Rebecca.

Arthur: I love coming to school. I love learning and art.

Hal: My favourite thing in school was making friends and swapping Pokémon.

Aron: I loved bobbing apples at Halloween.

Shay: I loved everything about school especially art.

Roxy: I loved the rainbow cloud experiment we did in school.

Francesca: I loved the rainbow cloud experiment too.

Isabel: I loved playing with my friends and doing art.

Matthias: I loved when we made a monster in Junk Art.

Lucie: When we visited the library and my Mummy was there.

Bronwyn: I loved going to Linear park for the Easter Egg Hunt with my buddy.

Jake: I loved Paul, Ethan, Kalsaa and Lucie's party and the foam art we did.

Freddie: I loved my buddy Cal and playing with Lego.

We are all ready for our summer holidays now, and are looking forward to Senior Infants and our new teachers.

Senior Infants



When Ms Brennan asked us what our favourite memories of the year were we had so many that we had to leave some out!

Mr. Teddy's adventures to all of our homes each weekend was a lot of fun and created excitement every Friday. Thank you Romy for being so patient as she had to wait until the very end (May!!) for her turn. Mr Teddy took a trans-Atlantic flight with Bella, swam in the Forty Foot and even went home with Ms Styne's!

Our choice of favourite art activities were making monsters and turtles from clay, designing a pair of shoes using collage, looking at and trying to recreate Georgia O'Keefe's style with pastels, printing with bubble wrap, as well as making bird's nests and fairy houses while at Forest School.

At Forest School, this last term, we loved learning outdoors and especially getting hot chocolate each week from Caroline. Sipping hot chocolate and chatting while sitting on our logs in Base Camp was so special. We wrote and drew pictures in our Forest School diaries every week also. It was so warm outside one week that Caroline gave us juice instead of hot chocolate! We liked being given responsibilities and carried them out well. Of course the group that stayed in the class had fun too and did PE, Maths activities and Circle Time.

Simon, our GAA coach, taught us a lot of new skills in Gaelic football, which we had started learning in Junior Infants. We looked forward to PE and Drama each week with Mr. Fairbrother.

Our favourite song this year was "I am the Earth", which we sang at the Christmas concert. The theme of the concert was Creation and we told the Native American story of "How the Earth was Made".

We are able to sing in rounds too which requires concentration! In Music we learned how to waltz (1,2,3, 1,2,3....) and played rhythms with percussion instruments in different groups.

Some of our themes during the year were: Endangered Animals, Under the Sea, The Inuit People and all about Plastic Pollution. Seachtain na Gaeilge was a busy week and we learned some Irish dancing for the Céilí Mór. Did you know that we are authors too? We are so proud of the work we put into drafting and re-drafting our books for the school Write – a – Book project.

We remember trips to Rathmine's Library (October) where we listened to stories and to The Ark (December) where we attended a magical performance of music and singing called Tracks in the Snow. In the spring we had a visit from Anne, the farmer, who let us hold her little lamb and her hens.

We happily welcomed Lina to our class this year, just before Easter, and it now feels like she has always been with us. A big thank you to all our mums and dads who helped us with so many things while we were in Senior Infants and we hope they can see that we have grown up and developed in lots of ways this year!

We are really excited now about our Zoo trip on the 21st June where we will see some of the endangered animals we learned about this year. Coming back in September will be terrific as we head upstairs to First Class but most of all right now we are excited about the summer holiday adventures ahead!

Slán and have a great summer! and a little rest too!

Rang a hAon



We had a busy year growing up tall and adjusting to the longer day in school.

It was our first year going to the park at yard time and having PE class in Mountpleasant which we loved! We had some amazing trips including Imaginosity, the Iveagh gardens and the Ark.

Rathmines Library is so close to RMDs that we visited many times during the year to read lots of wonderful books. We really enjoy reading books and have read books about dragons, fairies, flags and adventures of Tom Gates and Captain Underpants to name but a few! We read our first class novel called The Giggler Treatment. We debated if the Giggler Treatment was fair to use on adults. Parents watch your steps!

Seachtain na Gaeilge was a busy week. We learned an Irish dance for the Céilí, participated in a fashion show and we performed the Haka Gaelach for the school!

The Write-a-Book project was so much fun this year. We really enjoyed writing our own stories and sharing them with the class.

Memories in Rang 1 include learning about India, trying on a Sari and tasting samosas, taking an imaginary trip on the Titanic, learning all about Ranelagh and building our own dream houses out of Lego.

Our favourite time of the day was lunch time! Mindfulness was part of our day in Rang 1 when we practiced our breathing and still space. We had many colouring competitions and show and tell opportunities. Daniel won 8 books for our class library. Well done!

We would like to thank Leo's Dad for coming into our class to talk to us about Global Warming and the effects of plastic on the environment. He inspired us to experiment with how materials break down over time. We made our own compost and investigated the breakdown of plastic, fruit peel and paper. We developed green fingers this year! We planted runner beans, strawberries and mint, creating our own mini garden on the roof garden. Some of us got to pick and taste fresh strawberries. They were delicious!

It has been a fantastic year and we are looking forward to our summer holidays and a well deserved break! We wish everyone a brilliant summer!

Rang a Dó



What a busy year we have had in Rang a 2.

We tried to write a list of all the things we have learned, seen, tasted, drawn, sung, listened to and played but the whiteboard was not big enough! Here is just a short selection of some of the things we did.

In English we wrote in lots of different genres including report writing, explanatory writing, narrative writing and procedural writing. We also did our Write-a-Book project this year and worked very hard on our editing, redrafting and illustrations. We read lots of poetry during silent reading time and read some of our favourite poems to the class. Ms. Farley read us lots of novels and *Indian in the Cupboard* by Lynne Reid Banks was our class favourite.

In Maths we did Maths Stations and used the laptops to play Manga High. We played lots of different Maths games like Zap it, Bagel, Pico, Fermi, Back to Back and 101 and out.

We learnt about Islam and Judaism and we built sukkas in Linear Park. All Muslims try to go to Mecca on a pilgrimage at least once in their lives. We also learnt a lot about plastic pollution and how plastic is recycled. Do you know the 5 Rs – Refuse, reduce, reuse, recycle and rot? We talked about our families, feelings and drew jealousy monsters.

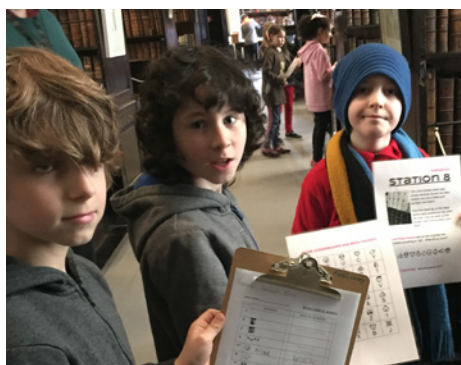
In Visual Art some of our favourite projects were making dream catchers, polka dot pumpkins inspired by Yayoi Kusuma and homes we made for a small figure.

In the second term we went off to Iveagh Gardens for 8 weeks to do Forest Schools with Caroline the Forest School leader. We used knives, loppers, peelers and bow saws.

Every Thursday we went to Swan Leisure to swim. A big thanks to all the parents who helped out. We have all improved a lot.

In Gaeilge we painted pictures of birds, tried a science experiment, played snakes and ladders, learnt lots of songs and learnt skipping rhymes as Gaeilge. We started reading and writing as Gaeilge and we did a play as Gaeilge and performed it for the school during Seachtain na Gaeilge. The whole school made a video for a competition. We hope we win!

All in all we've had a great year in Rang a 2 and we are looking forward to our school trip to Causey Farm.



We had a really fun time in R3.

We went on many cool school trips which we loved! Our favourites include the Ark, where we watched 'Tracks in the Snow' and Airfield, where we met all the animals and even ate our breakfast there! We went to the library many times and one of them was Marshes Library. We did an engineering workshop there and lots of fun activities like trying to find hidden lego figures! One day Farmer Ann came to RMDS to show us her farm animals along with even some stuffed animals! It was so hot that day that the baby lamb needed lots of water and milk from the bottle. This year we did a special Ancient Egyptian project after performing our Christmas play on the creation theme. We really enjoyed working in groups and presented our finished projects to the class. We got to go to the historical National Museum to visit the Ancient Egypt room. Zip-It is our big trip before of Summer holidays- we are so excited.

Our class are so creative and thoroughly enjoy art, music and drama. We were inspired by Picasso, Van Gogh and Kandinsky this year. One of our favourite art pieces was constructing our Inuit villages which we learned all about in Core curriculum. This year Mr. Fairbrother taught us the recorder for the first time and we loved playing wink wink murder during drama in the seomra spraoi. We were so lucky that the PA won money for our class from the pub quiz. We decided to buy lots of new board games for the class and also had an amazing drumming workshop with Dave.

Ms. Reilly came to teach us during the year and she introduced Dojo points which were super fun. We worked hard to win our Green Flag for travel this year, walking, scooting and cycling to school- well done everyone. News2day even came to film us raising the flag in the yard. We were also stars of the Gaeilge video, Rud Eigin Mar Seo!

We are sport fanatics in R3 and experienced our first Santry athletics competition. Simon spent the year helping us develop our Gaelic football skills and the importance of playing as a team. We got to try out cricket and really look forward to more in R4. PE was the best this year, playing tag rugby, soccer, hockey, athletics as well as gymnastics in the hall. We completed Forest Schools in R3. We had so much fun in Iveagh gardens and will always have fond memories of our trips and activities there- Thank you Caroline!

Even with all of these exciting things we did so much work in the classroom. Maths lessons were full of tables, multiplication, division, fractions and so much more! We learned lots of poetry, wrote fabulous creative stories for our write-a-book projects and joined handwriting has taken over our copies! We discussed the importance of disability awareness during core curriculum lessons as well as birth/death customs and feasting/fasting in different countries. We also all completed the Stay Safe programme.

A big thank you all the wonderful Mums and Dads that helped us throughout the year and to Ms. Neylon, Anne and Christina who worked so hard with Ms. Desmond. We appreciate all your time and effort in making RMDS a fabulous school for us. We say a special farewell to Ms. Neylon who will be leaving us this year. We hope you have enjoyed working with us this year and we wish you a happy retirement! We will miss you!

Enjoy the Summer of 2018 everyone and continue making memories with your family and friends!

Rang a Ceathair



What a year Rang 4 has had! Busy, fun-filled and lots of adventure!

Our first week back after Easter holidays, we had a trip to Ranelagh Gardens. We had a tour and nature walk guided by Eanna Ní Lamhna where we learned about the various animals and creatures that inhabit these gardens.

We were straight into planning, drafting and typing for our 'Write a Book' projects. Congratulations to every student who took part. During this time, we also started working on Google CS first, where we were introduced to coding through the online resource Scratch. Rang 4 learned how to play cricket this term and we also were lucky enough to brush up on our GAA skills.

A trip we were really looking forward to was the National Concert Hall in May. The children got to work with the very talented Mary Curran who is part of the Whistle Blast Quartet. The children were very much part of this interactive workshop based on percussion instruments. Afterwards, we had our lunch under the sun and enjoyed a run around the Iveagh Gardens.

Throughout this term, we were working on our projects based on Japan and we then presented them to the class. In Science, we designed, made and tested a parachute for an egg, we created the water cycle in a bag and we built a rocket. While some of our class were very busy training for Santry, the rest of us decided to put our Engineering hats on and explore the world of We Do Lego. We were given instructions, a set of Lego and a tablet and were challenged to build robots. Next, the task was to programme the robots in order to make them come to life and move. We also had the opportunity to work with some K' Nex sets on the same day and we sure had lots

of fun with these. We loved this so much, that we were fortunate to have the ADAPT Research Centre visit our class. This workshop was based on Ozobots. These are pocket-sized smart robots that are programmable through hand-drawn colour coded lines. We had to use our problem solving, logic and computational thinking skills throughout the workshop. All of these activities helped us to improve our communication, collaboration and team-building skills.

We decided to take another trip back to the RDS. However, this time we were there as visitors and not participants. We went along to the Junior Entrepreneur Showcase Day where the children met other children their own age and learned what was involved in choosing, developing and producing a product or service from scratch. We had a great day out!

The trip Rang 4 had been waiting for all year, finally arrived and we set off to Clara Lara early one Thursday. What a day we had filled with lots of adventures, laughter and of course many memories to cherish. Many thanks to Christina who went above and beyond to support us this year, from helping and caring for us when we got injured to teaching us how to respect each other.

Sadly, we say goodbye to Ms. Neylon this year. She has been the most amazing support to Rang 4 and she will be greatly missed not only in our class but in our school. She will never know the immeasurable extent of the impact she has had on the children she has taught. We will always remember the help she gave us, the respect she showed us and the guidance she provided us. It takes a big heart to teach little minds and Ms. Neylon certainly has that!

*Have a lovely, fun and relaxing
summer from all of us in Rang a
Ceathair!*

Rang a Cúig



What a wonderful year in Rang a Cúig!

This has been a great year and now we are here to talk about our last term in 5th class.

This term we went on our big end of year school trip to Baltinglass Outdoor Education Centre. In Baltinglass, the guides split us into two groups, one group went orienteering first so they got in a mini bus to go to the forest while the other group went zip lining and then we switched over. After all that we went up to the cafeteria and ate sausages, chips and some people had baked beans as well. We had a great day!

We also went to the Breadwinner movie in the cinema because we read the novel the first term. This was really enjoyable!

A few weeks back we got a new interactive smart board since our old board had loads of dust inside it so it was all speckled on the screen. We couldn't be happier with our new board and are really grateful to the PA for helping raise the money for it.

We made pizza from scratch including making the base. We had a lot of fun doing this and they turned out delicious.

In art this term, we did marbling inks, a spring background and we designed book covers to our favourite books and lots more. We really enjoyed the marbling ink art. It was a lot of fun!

The Gardaí came back again this term and they set up a mock crime scene in our classroom. This was really great fun! We can't wait to work with the Gardaí again next year.

We had a great trip to the Irish Aid Centre this term and enjoyed dressing up and playing the drums with our guide Michael!

News2day came to film because of all the work we put in to getting our Green Flag and we sang our green song for them.

This term we had to study for our end of year tests. For example we all had a big Irish test last week and we did both of our Drumcondras a while back.

Our class got split into pairs for our country projects. We were given a week to do a PowerPoint on our chosen country and present it to the class. The presentations have begun and they are fantastic so far.

Every year each class does Write-a-Book so of course we did it this year and Éabha won for the second year in a row! It was nice to be able to read everyone's stories after the assembly.

Sports for All day is coming up soon and it is going to be really fun with all the fun sports and the climbing frame and everything is going to be fun, fun, fun.

Since we are Rang 5 we get to plan the Rang 6 graduation disco, party, and their cards. It will be such a fantastic day.

All in all we've all had a wonderful time in Rang 5 and we are sure everyone's looking forward to a nice long summer break. We wish everyone in the school a great summer holiday and hope the sun shines!

Rang a Sé



Rang 6 News

Rang 6 has been the best year ever! We have done so many cool and interesting things and have gone on fantastic trips. We have learned so many new things and facts e.g. how to make a robot, have a debate, sew on a button, paint on glass.

This term was really exciting for us in Rang a Sé and there have been many highlights!

- As soon as we got back from Easter Break we started auditioning for parts in *The Wizard of Oz*, our class musical, making props and practising really hard.
- We only had three weeks rehearsing and learning our songs before we had our dress rehearsal which went really well. The singing, choreography and excellent acting made for a fantastic show and we really enjoyed ourselves. The performance for the parents was brilliant!
- After the musical was over we got assigned our countries for the European Union projects, which we had loads of fun with! We invited our parents to come in and take a look while they got to try some of our AMAZING baked goods from those countries.

We had loads of school tours this term, it was GREAT!

- Our first trip of the term was to a part of the Cinemagic events taking place around Dublin. We went to Cineworld on Parnell St. and saw *Coco*. While we were there, a man from Disney came to talk to us about films, and a lady from Cinemagic talked to us about illegally downloading films.
- We really enjoyed our trip to Glasnevin cemetery and learned lots of history.
- One of the nice surprise trips we got was a trip to the Irish Immigration Museum, also known as EPIC. It was a great addition to our knowledge and had some really fun interactive things to do.
- Thanks to Cyan's mother we went on a visit to the Dáil, where we went on a tour and got to see the parliament sitting! Thanks to Senator Bacik for the treats afterwards.
- And we bet you've all heard about our AMAZING trip to Delphi in Co. Mayo! We travelled by train to Westport and stayed two nights at Delphi adventure resort and had tons of fun!

Student Council



We were so lucky that the sun shone for the whole time. Some of the activities included kayaking in Killary harbour, walking through a thick bog, and a 40ft (10m) free fall. We also had an adventure walk and a campfire and did abseiling. The rooms in the new hostel were very comfortable and the food was delicious! That was a trip the students and the teachers will never forget!

We loved meeting our buddies and it will be hard to say "goodbye" next week. We are looking forward to our Graduation. We will be sad to leave RMDS and all the happy memories but are looking forward to new beginnings and starting secondary school in September.

Goodbye from us all!



It has been a busy year for the RMDS Student Council.

In September, Rang 6 elected Joanie and Julien to attend Comhairle na nÓg on our behalf. They also acted at the Chairpersons of the Student Council for the year. Comhairle na nÓg is a youth parliament for Dublin City. They spent the day there and got to know a bit about being on a committee and the kinds of issues young people are concerned about in their lives.

Here are just some of the activities we were involved in over the year...

- We led the Halloween walk around Ranelagh village which we really enjoyed.
- We jointly organised the Spring Clean Up with the Green School Committee and with the Parents Association in April.
- In May, we all went to visit the Office of the Ombudsman for Children. This was a really interesting workshop where we learned a lot about children's rights. Unfortunately Niall Muldoon, the Children's Ombudsman was away that day but we were still really well looked after.
- We carried out a sports survey in each of the classes to promote activity within the school.
- We were involved with fundraising activities within the school such as the Halloween, Easter and Christmas raffles.

All of the Student Council have enjoyed working on behalf of the pupils in the school and making sure that our voices are heard.

We wish you all a lovely summer.

The Student Council

Term 1 – Sam & Anna BC (R3), Lenna & Max (R4), Lina & Leo (R5), Patricia & Lua (R6) **Term 2** – Susannah & Jess (R3), Katie & George (R4), Joshua & Clara (R5), Sadhbh & Harper (R6) **Term 3** – Harry & Darragh (R3), Muireann & Christopher (R4), Emma & Donncha (R5), Evie & Rebecca (R6)

Green School Committee

Over the past year, our Green School Committee has accomplished many goals in helping our planet's environment. We were presented with a green flag near the end of the school year to show our commitment to travelling in a green way. Our presentation was filmed by the news crew from news2day.

To get the green flag we had to do a lot of work, including:

Woolly Hat Walk: We encouraged students to walk to school whilst wearing a woolly hat.

Surveys: We surveyed the ways in which students came and left school. We did a number of surveys and were happy to see that there were more students travelling in a green way than before.

Green Trees: We set up a green tree competition between neighbouring classes to see which class travelled more in a green way.

Walk on Wednesday: On National Walk to School Day (which happened to be a Wednesday), we encouraged people to walk, scoot, and cycle even more (if that's even possible!)

Plastic Free day: On Friday 8th June we had a Plastic Free Day. The whole school tried really hard to not bring in or use any soft plastics. Noah in Rang a hAon went to great effort on his birthday to reduce the amount of plastic he used by using reusable plastic cups for his jellies for the class!

During the year the Green Schools Committee also visited the RDS who were hosting the Green Schools Expo. We learned lots and enjoyed it a lot.



RECEIVING OUR GREEN FLAG

A few weeks ago Ms Shackleton and three children from the Green School Committee visited the Helix to receive our Green Travel Flag along with 60 other schools. The presentation started with a Green Rap, followed by speeches from Dublin Green School. We proudly took our flag home to show it off to the classes!

We had a flag presentation ceremony where news2day team (a kids' news TV show) came in to film us raising the flag. We sang our green transport song we had written and raised the flag. Three members of our green schools committee were interviewed and shown on TV that night!

The Green School Committee has worked so hard this year! We would like to thank the members of the committee, and the Green School teachers, Ms. Shackleton, Ms. Dillon, and Ms. Halpin Duffy.

Have a green and happy summer!

RMDS Green School Committee.

Childcare



Hi Everyone...

It's that time of the year where we say goodbye to some old faces, Andries and Patricia, whom we have had the pleasure of looking after since Junior Infants.

We also have to say goodbye to our ad hoc regulars Andrew, Josh, Cyan and James. Thank you guys for been a part of our childcare. You all will be missed by Leanne, Eimear and me.

We want to wish Senior Infants well, going into Rang 1.

Throughout the year we ran three very successful camps at Halloween, February midterm and Easter.

We are now running our Summer Camp in July and the applications are outside the office with limited places.

Our trips for Summer Camp are Week 1 – Rathbeggan Lakes, Week 2 – Fort Lucan, Week 3 – Tayto Park and Week 4 – Glenroe Farm.

We are now taking names for September. Please get in touch through email or phone for more information if you are interested. We have had some great activities in the afterschool throughout the year with baking, art & crafts, gymnastics and loads of outdoor activities which the children enjoy.

The childcare service has been running since 1998 and full childcare since 2007. In September we will be celebrating our 20th Anniversary of RMDS Childcare. That is an achievement in itself. Thanks to all the parents and teachers for their support throughout those years and especially to the Board of Management and staff over the years that have encouraged and supported us. We would like to say from all the Childcare Staff, Leanne, Eimear and myself (Caroline) - Thank You!

Hope you all have a great summer and look forward to meeting some old and new children alike on the 30th August.

Enjoy the summer!

Caroline Carroll-Percival
Childcare manager

From the PA

The RMDS Parents Association would like to extend their enormous thanks to the entire school parent body for their support over the 2017/2018 school year. We had a very busy, and hugely successful year, and this is accredited to all who joined the committee, volunteered their time in running various events and especially to those who turned out on numerous occasions to support the PA events.

The Parents Association endeavours to involve all the parents somewhat in school life, be it through fundraising events, or just fun events! On a fundraising level, we organise events with a specific project to support in mind. On a fun level, we aim to provide a social platform for parents to get together and catch up. Where we can combine the two, we do, and thanks to you all, we usually have a very successful outcome! As well as the social and fundraising aspects, we also like to include a social awareness project and an informative session for parents. We are always open to suggestions from the parent body for these, and for all other events. The PA also focus on enriching the school calendar for the children, and we engage in many activities that add a little extra to the enjoyment of the school year. We have had great feedback from the children thus far, and events such as the Cinema Night and Sports Day are firm favourites with the children.

Taking a look at the busy year, we were delighted to have been able to achieve so much, and to have covered such a broad range of activities.

We began with our Welcome Coffee Morning in September. The sun shone, and we had a morning of good coffee and lovely baked goodies in the yard. A great opportunity to introduce the new parents to the PA, as well as to welcome existing parents back after summer break. We use the coffee morning to highlight the PA AGM, also in September, and to encourage (persuade!) new members to join the committee. This year we have also been actively recruiting a new chair for the PA – and are delighted to announce that Rachel Sirr and Oscar Carolan are taking up the post as Joint Chairs in 2018/19.

Following the coffee morning, we booked in the ever popular Parents Quiz Night! The Hill Pub very generously sponsored the night with enormous pub grub platters – which went along way towards keeping the grey matter active. The winning teams earned cash prizes for the classes they represented and J1, R2 & R3 were rewarded later in the school year with Art Supplies, games and work shops! Well done to all of the winning teams, and thank you to all who supported a super night!

This year, the PA took over the organising of the RMDS Craft Fair, which had been organised over previous years by an external fair committee who paid hall rental to the school. By keeping it as an internal event, the PA, along with Rang 6 who ran and staffed the RMDS Cafe at the event, raised over 2.5K. We had over 25 Irish Craft stalls selling beautiful, unique crafts. It was a lovely opportunity to have kept this event associated with the school for another year. If any parent would like to consider taking on this project for November 2018, please email pa@rmds.ie.

Our other fundraising events within the school calendar are the 2 raffles (Halloween and Easter) and of course, the RMDS Christmas Fair! The 2018 fair was another huge success. A small



sub-committee took on the Fair this year, and met once a week to fine tune and improve on an already great day out. I'm sure you all noticed the website which we will update going forward, and the new stalls, which we also hope to keep for the 2018 Fair. Enormous thanks to Daron Clark (Paul JI's dad) who created the fantastic web page – and huge thanks to all the volunteers on the day!

The Parents' Information Evening was pushed out to January in 2018. Paula O'Connor gave a very interesting (and somewhat worrying!) presentation: Don't Be Mean Behind Your Screen. Paula's facebook page has the same title, and is well worth checking into for tips, pitfalls and positives regarding children and their use of social media.

February welcomed back the Cinema Night to the school – a high light in the school calendar for the children. We screened 5 movies in the various class rooms, and served refreshments in the hall for the parents. Thanks to Kieron Walsh who provides a super movie selection, and also to Tim Gill who stepped in as AV technician on the night!

Seachtain na Gaeilge saw the PA host the second yard coffee morning of the year – in Irish! Well almost!. We all tried the cupla focal, and at the very least the coffee morning opened up an interest in parents improving their Irish. Rachel Sirr took the reigns on this, and we will be running an online Irish Improvers course backed up with some evening classes to support the online learning, facilitated by the wonderful Gaelgóir teachers at RMDS. Nach bhfuilimid go hiontach!

The Read-a-thon this year was another huge success. We held this in conjunction with World Book Day – and despite being delayed due to snow, and losing a weeks worth of reading - the children still fundraised their socks off, and we achieved a target of 4.5K. Amazing stuff! We had a breakfast party on the yard along with the ever popular Book Swap to reward the children for their incredible efforts. This year, the fundraising was put towards digital interactive boards for those classrooms still needing the equipment. In keeping with the theme of promoting reading among the children, we also launched the RMDS Little Library in the school yard after the Easter Break. This beautiful wooden structure in the yard is designed for children to take or leave a book, and to enjoy quiet reading time during yard, if they prefer on any given day. It is a fantastic addition to the yard. Massive thanks to Tommy Kenny who's talented workmanship produced this for us.

Our annual RMDS Parents' night is going from strength to strength since the Hill relaunched in 2016! This year's event on

22nd June saw a great turnout! A great opportunity for parents to reflect on a great school year and apprehensively discuss the school holidays! Thank you again to Darragh and Derek in the Hill Pub for the platters... they kept us going till closing!

The Sports Day is the final event of the year. Due to building works in Sandford Park School, we had to find new grounds, The Alexandra College grounds on upper Rathmines Rd provided us with a great setting! A lovely day was had by all – ice cream, hot dogs, football matches, races, tuck shop – sunshine is a bonus!

A final note to thank all of the hard working committee members who did so much on behalf of the PA all year. You were all fantastic! We look forward to hopefully welcoming many new members on board in September 2018. The PA meetings are usually once a month, on the first Tuesday from 8pm in the school. The PA events

are a really enjoyable way of contributing to school life - all those interested in taking part, please email pa@rmds.ie.

Wishing you all a fantastic summer!

Avril Whelan

Chairperson

PA Committee 2017/2018: Rachel Sirr, Cormac O Foghlú, Mary Frances O'Dwyer, Dori Trent Kelly, Melissa Darmody, Lisa Marie Murphy, Catherine Crowe, Inga Ryan, Mary Kearns, Florence Loric, Oscar Carolan, Roisin Boyce-Cantwell, Emma Collins, Caroline Chambers, Jane McDaid, Matt Lyons, Daron Ward, Anna Carroll, Maya Derrington, Lorraine Hackett.

From the Board of Management

A quick recap – the Board's primary role is the management and administration of the school, overseeing the school's educational activities, maintenance, delivery of childcare services, delivery of extra-curricular activities and supporting the Principal in the day to day operations of RMDS. The Board comprises parents, the Principal, Deputy Principal and two external community representatives. The BOM meets quarterly with the Executive and the Parents Association to ensure we have good communications and collaboration between the different volunteer groups.

Sadly, for RMDS, Assumpta Neylon has decided to retire and will leave us at the end of June. The Board would like to express sincere gratitude for her service to RMDS and also for the tireless work she has put in within the school, noting in particular Assumpta's work on the Core Curriculum within the school. We wish her every success and happiness in her next adventure.

Voluntary Contributions

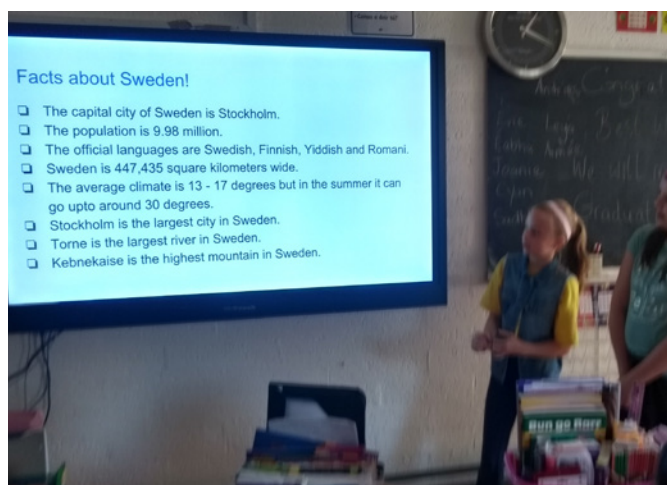
The Board is responsible for how and when your generous and vital Voluntary Contributions are spent during the year. We have a target of raising €40,000 this year and we might yet achieve this. The funding RMDS receives from the Dept. Of Education only pays for 39% of the our current annual spend, so without your support many educational and extracurricular activities would have to end.

For example in 2017/18, the BOM has funded a full time Classroom Assistant focused on Junior and Senior Infants. Our objective is to ensure that every child gets the best possible start to their formal education and this extra resource greatly enhances our capacity to do this. We have also funded weekly swimming in Rang 2, Forest School in Rang 3, Rang 2 and Senior Infants and support for the wonderful RMDS Choir and Orchestra Ensemble to name a few more.

Over the past two years your VC's have funded the upgrade of most classrooms and the school hall.

We have also invested in interactive whiteboards – with two new digital screens installed.

The next big project is the school roof which is continuing to spring multiple leaks and will need significant upgrading.



Extra-Curricular Activities

The ECA programme has once again delivered a comprehensive range of fun and educational activities. New to the ECA program this year was Spanish and Lego.

Child Care

Thanks to Caroline and her team, Childcare continues to provide a much-needed local afterschool service.

And finally, have a great summer, relax and enjoy the break and we look forward to seeing you all in September!

On behalf of the Board of Management:

Will Connor (Chair, Parents Association & Patron Liaison)

Rosemarie Stynes (Principal and Secretary)

Maurice Devitt (Insurance, Hall Rental)

Paul Fairbrother (Health & Safety, Maintenance)

David Harney (School Age Childcare, Voluntary Contributions)

Clodagh Keher (Treasurer)

Henrietta McKervey (Extra Curricular Activities, Recording Secretary)

Gerry Murphy (Enrolment, Educate Together Liaison)

From the Patron

It is hard to believe we have reached the end of another school year, it has flown by again.

The Patron of RMDS is a company limited by guarantee called "The Ranelagh Multi-Denominational School Association". It has served as an independent Patron for RMDS since the school was established, prior to Educate Together being recognised by the Department of Education.

The Patron is managed on an ongoing basis by an Executive Committee. The current members of the Executive Committee are myself (Chairman), **Cormac Callanan** (Treasurer), **Lee Dillon** (Secretary), **Eleanor Murphy-White**, **Conn McCluskey**, **Mairéad Flanagan**, **Vanessa Barcroft** and **Niamh Skelly**.

Thanks to each of those for the commitment and work they have shown over the year and the time they have given to the activities of the Executive Committee.

At the end of school year, Cormac, Niamh and Eleanor will be standing down from the Committee and so a special thank you to them for all of their efforts. We hope to have a number of new members joining the Committee shortly after. If you are interested in joining the Executive Committee, and getting involved in the work of the Patron of the school, we would love to hear from you. Please just get in touch with any of the current members and we can explain what is involved.

Our work over the last year concentrated on the three core areas of responsibility of a school Patron: (a) provision and maintenance of school premises and facilities, (b) oversight of the Board of Management and (c) ethos.

School Premises/Facilities

We continued to support the work of the Board of Management in implementing the programme of planned maintenance of the school. A number of projects were undertaken over the Summer, both in classrooms and common areas, and you will have seen the improvements at the start of the year.

This work can only be carried out with your support – from voluntary contributions and fundraising at school events. Thank you again for your support this year.



Oversight

We continued to work with the Board of Management on the areas of oversight expected of a Patron. I must acknowledge here the great work over the course of the year by the Board of Management, and the time given by all of the members of the Board, to assist with the smooth running of the school. Thank you to the Board.

I also take the chance to mention here a few other thank yous. The Parents Association again arranged an excellent programme of activities this year to ensure the active involvement of parents and guardians in the children's school experience. And, of course, thanks to the teachers and staff for all they have done this year for the children and school.

Ethos

This year, we dealt with a number of smaller initiatives regarding school ethos.

The great news is that we are now in a position to get underway with the planned major review of school ethos. Preparatory work for the project has begun and you will hear a lot more about it during the next school year. It is a number of years since there has been a review of the school ethos. This review will examine how the ethos is "lived" within the school and will be facilitated over the course of the coming school year by an external expert.

Input to the review from all of the school community will be sought and welcome. An Ethos Review Committee is being put in place and we look forward to hearing more as the school year progresses.

Hopefully, you can make it to the Sports Day organised by the Parents Association, on the 24th June at the Alexander College Grounds on Rathmines Road. And, one of the first dates for your diary in the new school year will be the Annual General Meeting of the Patron company in September. The date and time will be circulated with a notice of the AGM before the end of this school year.

It just remains to wish you all a very enjoyable Summer and we look forward to seeing you at the start of the new school year.

David Phelan
Chairman

Other info...

Second level schools

This year, Rang 6 move to the following second level schools:

SECONDARY SCHOOL	GIRLS	BOYS
The High School, Rathgar	6	2
Sandford Park, Ranelagh	1	1
Loreto, St Stephens Green	1	
St. Mac Dara's Community College	1	
Dublin South City ETSS	4	6
Muckross Park, Donnybrook	3	
Our Lady's School, Templeogue	1	
St. Conleth's, Ballsbridge		1
Wesley College, Ballinteer	1	
Gonzaga College, Ranelagh		1

It is advisable to contact the second level schools of your choice as soon as children start in primary school, in order to be more informed about their enrolment policies.

Dates for 2018–2019

(provisional)

School re-opens: Thursday, 30th August 2018
at 8.30am

October Mid-Term Break: Monday, 29th October to
Friday, 2nd November (inclusive)

Christmas Holidays: School closes on Friday 21st
December 2018 at 12 midday and re-opens on Monday
7th January 2019 at 8.30am

February Mid-Term Break: Monday, 18th February to
Friday, 22th February (inclusive)

St. Patrick's Day (in lieu): School closed Monday 18th March

Easter holidays: School closes on Friday, 12th April at 12
midday and re-opens on Monday, 29th April*

Public holidays: School closes for Friday, 6th May to
Monday, 3rd June (Inclusive)

School closes for Friday, 1st June to Monday, 4th June
(Inclusive)

Summer holidays: School closes on Thursday 27th June
at 12 midday.

* Unless changes are required as part of contingency arrangements to make up for time lost due to unforeseen school closures, in which case the school may reduce the length of the Easter break.

Remember – Junior Infants

Junior Infants are going home early for the first 7 days so from Monday, 10th September., normal closing time of 1.10 p.m. will apply.

Staffing 2018–2019

Class teachers:

Junior Infants: Aoileann Farley

Senior Infants: Maria Halpin / Caroline O'Dowd

Rang 1: – TBC

Rang 2: – Therese Coogan

Rang 3: – Colette Desmond

Rang 4: – TBC

Rang 5: – TBC

Rang 6: – Rita Brennan

Support teachers:

Amal Perera

Louise Ormiston

Marguerite Ryan

Therese Curran

Paul Fairbrother – Deputy Principal

Principal:

Rosemarie Stynes

Special Needs Assistants:

Anne McCullagh

Christina Dowling

Classroom Assistant:

Ann Maguire

Secretaries:

Mary Holder

Eleanor Murphy-White

Pre-enrolment:

Pupils are accepted on a first come, first served basis. This applies to all pupils, including siblings. There is a significant demand for places, so please put siblings names down on the pre-enrolment list within weeks of their birth.

School requisites and school tours payments for 2018/19 can now be made online. Go to the school website at www.rmids.ie and click on the contact button. Scroll down to the Easy Payments Plus button for school activities and items. Follow the instructions. Voluntary contributions can also be made online or contact Mary in the school office with any queries.

Please ensure we have updated contact details for you and your children for 2018/19. The onus is on you to let us know of any changes – in particular contact details for minders and creches.

Newsletter Imagery:

Special thanks to Michelle O'Sullivan,
Sally Caulwell and RMDS Staff



At RMDS we will continue to implement a strict NO NUTS policy in the lunchboxes. We have two children in the school who have a severe nut allergy. No peanut butter, nutella or actual nuts should be used in the lunch boxes. A strict no sharing of lunches policy will also be promoted. If in doubt, please leave it out. We very much appreciate everyone's co-operation.

