

SUMMER 2023



RMDSNEWS

Ranelagh Multi-Denominational School



From The Principal's Desk:

On behalf of all the pupils and staff, I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude as we approach the end of a busy, yet enjoyable and fulfilling, school year. Thank you for your unwavering support throughout the numerous events and occasions that are part and parcel of the school year. It has been wonderful to experience a sense of normality this year, and to feel that we have finally returned to where we truly belong – together.

From The Principal's Desk:



I would like to extend special thanks to all of you who have dedicated your time and efforts to serving on the various school committees this year. It simply would not be possible to run our school without the generous voluntary support of our parents and families. We are incredibly fortunate to have families who contribute their time, expertise, and talents so freely. In addition to your vital financial support, our school community thrives and remains vibrant, continuously growing stronger.

What a busy year it has been!

The year began with a transition to using everyone's first names throughout the school for all staff, and by now, I think everyone has adjusted. This practice has significantly enhanced the culture and ethos of respect and equality held deeply within our school.

As we come to the end of our school year, we prepare to bid a final farewell to Rang 6 as they embark on new paths, knowing that bright and exciting futures await them. We also say goodbye to Estelle (R4) who is moving to Scoil Bhríde, Emilia (R1) who is moving to Rathdown School, and Matthew (R1) who is moving to St. Mary's. We wish them all the best in their new chapters ahead.

We wish Alannah Nic A'Bhaird the very best of luck as she takes leave for an exciting year ahead.

This year has been incredibly busy and active at RMDS, as you will discover while flipping through the news from various classes. We have worked diligently with our Student Council, Green School Committee, Active School Committee and Wellbeing Committee. We participated in Peace Proms, celebrated Grandparents' Day, staged our Rang 6 Musical 'Oliver,' engaged in Forest School, facilitated Choir, Orchestra and Rock Band through the year and held an amazingly imaginative and enjoyable Creative Week, amongst many other activities. Throughout the year, we pursued our diverse interests in sports, including GAA, rugby, cricket, dance, swimming and soccer, to name but a few.

As always, our child-centered focus remains paramount, prioritising the social and emotional well-being of our students. Academic achievement can only be attained when a child is happy and in a good place, and we strive to achieve this in partnership with parents and families.

Finally, I extend my well wishes to those who have faced illness or loss over the course of the year. You are in the thoughts and good wishes of everyone at RMDS.

Have a fantastic summer filled with wonderful memories, and I look forward to seeing all of you back here on 31st August.

Rosemarie Stynes

Junior Infants



Junior Infants settled so well into RMDS this year! We have had so much fun and one of our favourite parts of the day was Aistear where we had lots of fun exploring different themes through various play stations such as Space, Under the Sea, Dinosaurs and The Flower Shop to name a few.

We enjoyed learning all of our sounds and tricky words and now we love to read words and sentences all by ourselves. We even wrote our very first story by ourselves and got a certificate from Rosemarie! We learned cúpla focail agus frásaí as Gaeilge and loved practicing these throughout the day. Peter Parrot sometimes woke up and helped us practice our Gaeilge. In maths we learnt all about our numbers, colours, shapes and even counted the whole way to 100 — we are great!

The best part of Junior Infants is getting to know and playing with our Rang 6 Buddies! They looked after us so well and we had so much fun with them throughout the year going to the park, doing yoga, dancing, painting, planting seeds, reading books and playing games with them - thank you Buddies for being so kind.

GAA was lots of fun and we learnt some new skills. We always looked forward to P.E with Paul on Mondays and Wednesdays and we had the best trip to Airfield in May.

We have all grown so much this year, made great friends, learnt so much and became more confident each term. Junior Infants has been a fantastic year and Maria and Therese are so proud of everything we have achieved.

We cannot wait for Senior Infants and all that's to come!



Senior Infants



We've had lots of fun this year in Senior Infants.

We loved Forest School, making fairy fires and necklaces and painting using dye we made ourselves.

We did lots of science experiments even using magnets and eggs! We enjoyed the Write a Book project. We illustrated our stories and wrote about ourselves in the biography.

Lots of grandparents came to visit our class on Grandparents' Day. We even had videos from Grandparents who live overseas. We sang songs and did a play especially for them. Is maith linn Gaeilge!

We've had lots of fun with our buddies from Rang a 5. We dressed up for World Book Day and we decorated our scooters for Scoot to School Week.

We enjoyed Creative School Week and we had lots of visitors to our class showing us their creative skills. Everybody loves Aistear and we've learned about the farm, the doctor's surgery, under the sea, the zoo and transport all through play and activities. We can't wait for Rang a 1!

We can't wait for Rang a 1! 🕶️

Rang a hAon



We had a great year in Rang 1!

We walked to Rathmines Library. A librarian gave us a tour.

In December the whole school went to watch Matilda the Musical. We really enjoyed it! For our Winter Concert we learned about the story behind the Chinese New Year which we turned into a play. We made art for the background and brought in clothes to make our costumes.

We did lots of fun stuff with our Rang 4 buddies. We read with our buddies once a week. We also did Irish dancing which we got to show off at the Céilí for Seachtain na Gaeilge. We made a nature mandala with them and the rest of the school in Linear Park. During Wellness Week we ran lots of laps around Dartmouth Square together. Conor and Aoileann showed both classes how to make a Bulgarian Martenitsa.

Creative Week was really fun. We especially liked architecture with Doug (Alice & Mani's dad), illustration with Sarah (Luke's mum) and music with Therese. This year we all wrote and illustrated a book, which was hard work but it was all worth it for the beautiful books we made. We read our books to our Rang 4 buddies and showed them all our hard work.

In May we went to Fort Lucan. We loved it there! There were water slides, forts, mini golf and a vending machine. We all got an ice pop! We took part in Incredible Edibles. We planted a mixture of vegetables and herbs on the yard with Rang 5. We also won tickets to Bloom!

Thank you to all the teachers, parents and students who made this year so fun! 👍

By Robin and Tess

Rang a Dó



We had a great time in Rang a Dó. A lot of us liked different things.

Joni especially liked Creative Week. In Creative Week we did drama, dancing, shadow puppets and learnt about wind turbines. We had a great time in Creative Week. Emilia and Poppy also loved Creative Week. Maeve liked everything but especially liked her Creative Week stop motion film. Ellis made a model of Mount Nyangani in Zimbabwe.

Rang a Dó really enjoyed watching Rang a Sé in the musical Oliver! Benjamin says "They got the acting perfect and I think all the characters suited their roles". Lauren and Stella loved going to see Matilda in the cinema. The whole school went! Jessie really liked Movie Night in school.

In February, we headed off to Forest School. Arlo, Robert D. and Alex liked Forest School. We made fairy fires, bread and s'mores. Shane and Luca liked playing with their friends.

On Thursdays, we went swimming. James and Ava loved swimming. We have fun doing all the strokes. Iesha really enjoyed swimming too.

We did lots of projects this year. Judy, Thomas and Oisín enjoyed our Write-a-Book project. Oisín's story was about a killer clown, Judy's was about a birthday party and Thomas wrote about an abandoned factory. Tara enjoyed writing the newspapers and putting on the shadow puppets theatre. Ferdia liked the newspapers too. Conn and Robert O'H. liked the Chinese New Year project. We made presentations. Beatrice and Iris are really enjoying the Africa project. Flynn is loving learning about Angola (so much that he could hug it!).

Ellen thinks that all the kids in Rang a Dó did brilliantly this year and should feel very proud of all their hard work!

We had a great time in Rang a Dó this year. 🏊‍♂️ 😊 🧑‍🎨

By Jessie & Joni

Rang a Trí



Rang a Trí has been a hive of excitement and learning this year.

We began the year with an art-filled adventure when we visited the Hugh Lane Gallery. The children got to see stained glass created by Harry Clarke, works by Claude Monet and even a recreation of Francis Bacon's studio! The children loved to see their own artwork proudly displayed in the gallery.

As autumn came, Rang a Trí took to the forest for Forest School. Claudia provided amazing opportunities to explore the wonders of nature, stepping into the enchanting world of trees, leaves, and woodland creatures in Iveagh Gardens. From building cosy dens to crafting nature-inspired artwork, Rang a Trí discovered the great outdoors while developing their teamwork and problem-solving skills. There was lots of running, exploring, crafting, hot chocolate and s'mores!

During Junior Achievement Day, we had the privilege of welcoming volunteers who shared their insights about our city's diverse industries. Learning about the different industries in Dublin was a great experience and we even got to build our own city!

Rang a Trí proudly participated in the Peace Proms 2023 choir. The children were very dedicated and put lots of hard work into the choir practices. Working together with Rang a Ceathair, we learnt lots of new songs, old songs, some ISL and dance moves to perform in the RDS in front of 2,000 people! We sang with hundreds of children from many different schools across Ireland to help spread a message of unity and understanding.

Our end of year trip took us to Lullymore Heritage and Discovery Park. Rang a Trí were able to travel through time to see hedge schools, bog butter and even some fairies! We were given a tour of the historical park and a train ride around gardens, with plenty of time left to explore the farm and mini-golf.

Rang a Trí spent Creative Schools Week immersed in many different creative pursuits with the help of lots of amazing volunteers. We began the week by learning to sew - a week long project that ended with each of the children sewing their very own pouch. A coding workshop inspired the children to create their own "Fifa Rang a Trí" on scratch and we got to explore some great beats in a drumming workshop. The week ended with an assembly surrounding our school wide collaborative mandala and a spontaneous dance session!

Rang 3 has been full of great memories. 🌿 🎨

Rang a Ceathair



We had an action packed year in Rang a 4 and we had so much fun. Here are some of the things we did this year.

We did workshops in Soccer against Racism, being an entrepreneur, fighting climate change and hip hop dance.

We love doing art and we did lots of different art projects over the year. Sally (Arlo's mum) came in and we did a HUGE whole class mixed media piece on the Greek myth Proserpine. We studied the artist Yayoi Kasuma, the Princess of Polka Dot and made dotty pumpkins. One of our favourite projects was our Eric Carle inspired animals.

We did lots of mindfulness and learnt new skills to mind our wellbeing from Weaving Wellbeing. Shaking mindfulness and walking mindfulness are our favourites.

Rinnemar dráma Fionn agus an Fathach trí Ghaeilge le haghaidh Seachtain na Gaeilge. Bhí an-chraic againn ag an gcéilí agus d'fhoghlaimíomar Ballaí Luimnigh, Ionsaí sa hInse, Baint and Fhéir agus Tonnta Thoraigh

Peace Proms was an amazing experience. We spent lots of time learning the songs and making up dances. We visited Griffith Barracks MDS and practised with them. There were over 2,000 children singing at the concert and a full symphony orchestra. We really enjoyed it. We learned how to play the recorder this year and learnt lots of other songs as well. We really enjoyed The Irish Rover and I've been Working on the Railroad.

We worked really hard on our Write a Book projects this year. We took a lot of time to make great covers and write blurbs about the author. We swapped our books with Rang a 3 and enjoyed reading their books. We are very proud of our work. We read the novel Holes by Louis Sachar and then we watched the film. They were both great.

Creative Schools Week was great fun. We loved creative homework. Brian (Lucy's dad) did two different experiments with us - lava lamps and lemon batteries. Gráinne (Iris's mum), Sara and Rosaleen taught us how to sew and we all made a bag! Our dance workshop was super! Our teacher Jordan was great fun. We created a fabulous whole school mandala and sang and danced on Thursday for the end of Creative School Week.

Rang a 4 has been a blast. We can't wait for our school tour next week! Slán! 🚌 📖

Rang a Cúig



It was a busy year for Rang 5. We took part in lots of different activities and had fun along the way. The class worked in groups to write about their favourite parts.

Lina, Katherine and Nina enjoyed art. "This year in art we tried a bunch of new styles including clay, drawing, sketching, painting and felt. We learned new skills like sewing, camouflaging and designing and learned about artists and their unique styles."

One of the class's favourite lessons was PE. Max, Emmett and Alex wrote; "We played rugby with Ken and did cricket which were both extremely enjoyable. We also played games with our teacher. The class favourite was rounders and football."

Beau, Romy and Ella wrote about our projects. "This year we did lots of different projects. Those included the Famine project, the desert and our country report. We enjoyed them very much and learned a lot :)"

During Seachtaine na Gaeilge, Rang 5 hosted a Bake Sale. Dominic, Oliver and Odhran wrote; "During the Bake Sale, we raised over

€280 for Our Lady's Hospice. We spoke as Gaeilge to Senior Infants, R2, R4 and R6. We had a lot of fun."

Dylan, Róisín and Seán enjoyed Drama. "We did a lot of Drama starting with the Christmas play. We performed the story of Rama & Sita. We practised for a few weeks before, and put together an amazing play. Our class also created modern fairy tales. Slán go fóill!"

Edie, Edith and Mary wrote about Write a Book. "This year, we really enjoyed the annual Write a Book project. We created wonderful stories with beautiful illustrations and excellent plots. Some of us got prizes but we were all winners in the end."

Ollie, Cameron and Onni wrote about taking part in the Hockey and Football World Cups. "This year, the school did two World Cups. Most people in the class signed up and we had a lot of fun. We would like to thank Rang 6 for setting them up."

Juno, Mia and Cleo wrote about Creative Week. "We really enjoyed Creative Week. For homework week we did a creative project. Nina's mum did a felt workshop and Beau's dad talked to us about production. We also did a dance workshop. We really enjoyed it all!"

A highlight of the year was visiting our buddies. Charles, Rowan and Morgan said "This year everybody was paired with somebody from Senior Infants. We did fun activities with them like going to the park, seeing a movie and a sports day. It was a great experience!"

⚽ 🌻 *Have a great summer!*

Rang a Sé



Our final year in RMDS has certainly been one to remember. It is hard to pick only a handful of events to tell you all about so the following are simply the highlights, the parts that we will forever remember. We have grown so much, with each one of us reaching the end of primary school with lots of reasons to be so proud of our achievements.

The first mention has to go to our Buddies. At the start of the year, we were matched with a child from Junior Infants. This child was to be our buddy for the rest of the year. We have loved looking out for them and it really has been something we looked forward to every week. We meet most Fridays and each week we do something different with our buddy. Some buddies were a little unsure at the start but now we are all so happy and have made such great bonds with them. We have played games, made cards and crafts, gone on walks, completed a run, danced, made a nature Mandala and sat in a nature circle under the trees. We remember our own buddies so well from when we were in Junior Infants so it was great to be able to fulfil this role in return. I hope we will stay in touch with our buddies long into the future.

We really enjoyed Creative Week. However there was one project that stood out the most for us - that was making short films. Lenny (Nell's dad), came in to explain some things about how films are made. We learnt a lot about how to plan them and use camera angles. We were given a task of creating a 90 second long film. Our films were about: a monster in the bathroom, a spider, a fear of shadows and a reality TV skit. You can guess what they were about from the description and



we are looking forward to showing them to you all at our graduation / leaving assembly. No spoilers! Watch this space for future Oscar winning directors and actors!

For many of us, if not all of us, the highlight of the year was the musical, *Oliver*. We just loved every minute of it! We worked so well as a team, each person adding their individual touch to make the show happen. We sang *Food Glorious Food*, *Consider Yourself*, *I'd Do Anything*, *Pick a Pocket or Two*, *Be Back Soon*, *Who Will Buy* and *Oomm Ppah Ppah*. Some people took on leading roles with such gusto and supporting roles were displayed with enthusiasm. We loved dressing up as people living in the Victorian times and learning what life was like for people in that era. Our design team created the backdrop and programme which were essential parts to the whole production. If we could, we would do it all over again!

Last but not least, our last adventure together was Delphi, an adventure centre in Mayo. We were surrounded by mountains so beautiful they looked unreal and we were so lucky to have blazing sunshine. After an early start we got the train to Westport and bus to Delphi. With no time to spare, we jumped into wetsuits and were out on the sea, canoeing and raft building. We dived off the pier (some of us were pushed!) into the Atlantic Ocean which was so refreshing after a long day in the sun. Later that evening, we went on a forest walk to wind down and wrap up the day. Our bravery was challenged the next morning with the high ropes and the midges that almost

ate us alive! The high ropes involved climbing up wooden poles high into the sky, jumping and eventually falling. In the afternoon we had an archery tag game where we shot rubber arrows at each other. It was a laugh hitting teachers and friends with arrows! We unlocked our inner explorers when we went orienteering, even though a certain teacher (who will not be named!) stole our maps - we still survived! The evening was completed with a trip to the grub hub and an energetic campfire. Finally on the last morning, we went abseiling / rock climbing. Some overcame their fears and felt a huge sense of achievement.

Even with the midges, lack of sleep and uncomfortable heat by times, we all had a blast. It was the best school trip we ever had and one we will not forget.

Overall we have loved Rang 6 and as we get ready for secondary school we are reflecting on how much we will miss RMDS.

Goodbye from us all. 🙌

Sports Day 2023



Student Council



The Student Council is made up of children from Rang 3 – Rang 6. Rebecca and Julian from Rang 6 were Co-Chairs of the Student Council for the year.

This year on the Student Council we discussed the use of the courts on yard and found the best way of making sure there is a balance between football and other activities so that everyone can enjoy their break.

Rebecca and Julian represented the Student Council at Comhairle na nÓg at the Mansion House where there was a really good discussion around mental health in young people.

The Lord Mayor also gave a speech and they did lots of activities around mental health and talked about what would help the community.

The Student Council also worked with the Parents' Association to organise treats when all the classes went to see Matilda the movie and help with some of the organization for Movie Night.

We also worked with the Parents' Association to help organise all the fundraising raffles such as the Halloween Raffle and the Easter Raffle.

The Student Council added new games to the yard to make it more fun. We also helped introduce the Lunch Bag to the school and help with its organisation each morning.

Later in the year the Student Council went to Dublin Castle to hear about and help launch the new Primary Curriculum Framework and met the Minister of Education Norma Foley. After that we got a tour of the Dublin Castle.

On the Student Council we had some great fun and helped the school out. We feel lucky to be on the Student Council this year and we hope that the future Student Councils will enjoy it as much as we did.

Student Council Members:

Chairs: Julian and Rebecca. **Term 1** – R6: Owen and Cormac, R5: Rowan and Róisín, R4: Ben and Francesca, R3: Joseph and Fay. **Term 2** – R6: Nicholas and Zoe, R5: Nina and Charles, R4: Paul and Lorna, R3: Juno and Izyan. **Term 3** – R6: Oscar and Isabelle L., R5: Oliver and Mary, R4: Isabel and Jake, R3: Patrick and Edie

Childcare



Hi All...

On behalf of the Childcare team - Ines, Rebecca, Irene, Senna and myself, I would like to thank you all for your support in the past year. We feel incredibly fortunate to have such a dedicated and cohesive Childcare team that always prioritises your child's well-being throughout the day. Our staff joined us last year and have settled so well into our school and childcare community.

We have had a busy year with our daily Childcare and Childcare Camps, which were successfully run and thoroughly enjoyed by all.

Our July Summer Camp is now open for enrolment. However, please note that we are nearly full for week 3 and 4. If you require a place, please email us promptly.

Starting from September, our Childcare is already at full capacity. If you would like to add your child to the waiting list, please email childcare@rmds.ie.

We would like to extend our gratitude to Clodagh Keher, who stepped down from the RMDS Childcare Directors Board this year after serving for a significant period. We thank her for her time and dedication. We warmly welcome David Frame as a new member of the RMDS Childcare Directors Board.

I hope you all have a great summer and we look forward to seeing you again at the end of August.

Caroline Carroll
Childcare manager

Forest School



"Worm, Worm!" is what we hear shouting from the log circle.

"Ugh! Where? Can I see it? It is moving!" It seems such a small moment. But there is so much more to it. When outside (and not only when outside), children have the ability to step into the amazing world of wonder. They are in the moment and they see the tiniest things and get joy from it. Questions may arise for them. In Forest School we are in the world of extremes. Huge trees and tiny little creatures like green flies, woodlice and red spiders. There is sunshine and rain, excitement and there might also be boredom (how healthy is that!).

"Forest School is an inspirational process that offers ALL learners regular opportunities to achieve and develop confidence and self-esteem through hands-on learning experiences in a woodland or natural environment with trees." (Irish Forest School Association)

What is Forest School for me personally?

I understand Forest School not as a way of teaching the children something directly (even if that happens, too), but to make them curious about the outdoors. Posing questions rather than giving them the answers. Planning activities, but being open to their suggestions and ideas, because at that moment they might be interested in something else or something more important is going on. In Forest School learning often happens unseen.

There are many magical moments during our sessions and I want to share a few...

- When the children told their stories. We chatted about birds and they came up with fantastic anecdotes and facts.
- When they "just" play and thread their stories into and around it.
- Growing resilience (e.g. because your best friend is not there and you need to handle this new situation "on your own", but what a chance!)
- When we sit together in a circle and listen silently (and maybe with eyes closed) to the sounds around us. These moments of silence are pure magic!
- When they get dirty and enjoy that.

- When they light their first fairy fire.
- Their glowing faces while sawing.
- To see that they learn with all their senses and are ready to take risks.
- To realise that the creative process is much more important to them than the result.
- When they take ownership. Once, a group came and asked me to sit in a circle because they really wanted to discuss something with their friends that did not go well that day. When we sat down, it was their circle, not mine.

Thanks to all the children whom I can grow with. A huge thanks to Rosemarie for her ongoing support and to the amazing teachers who tap into this different way of teaching and stepping back without a moment of hesitation. Thanks to the parents for their trust and acceptance of their children coming back home with bags full of dirty clothes, sticks and other forest treasures.

Le grá, Claudia



Green School

It has been a busy year for the Green School Committee. We have had children on the Green School Committee from Rang 2 – Rang 6.

Here are some of the things we got up to:

- We did hand towel competitions throughout the school to combat paper towel waste. Every person in the school was asked to bring in their own hand towel. The class with the most towels brought in won.
- We had a litter pick up week where every class had a day to pick up litter in Linear Park.
- We recycled Halloween costumes from second-hand or old clothes and we had a recycled Christmas decoration competition where every person in the school made a decoration using recyclable materials.
- We had a week where everybody could try their best to scoot to school. Everybody scooted around the school or in Linear Park.
- We are having a clothes swap next week where you drop in your old clothes and other people will take other people's clothes home with them to use.

Everybody had a great time on the Green School Committee.

The ACTIVE LINE is a fun, healthy activity we do after yard time. We all line up and do an activity to get our bodies moving. An example would be 10 jumping jacks!

STANDING UP AT DESKS is an experiment that we tried with all the classes in the school. The reason we did this is because it is scientifically proven that standing up is better for your blood circulation. All the classes really enjoyed doing this and we can't wait to try more fun experiments like this.

We are so excited for ACTIVE WEEK next week because we have waited for it all year and it really means a lot to us. One of the things that we are planning is the Walk Around Ireland. We are not actually walking around Ireland but every class in the school has to do a certain amount of kilometres to add up to the total number of kms that it takes to cover the distance.

During Active Week each class will do different activities each day e.g. the climbing frame, basketball and relays. We will need to wear sunscreen, hats and fill our water bottles as it looks like it will be warm!

And remember to always stay active and healthy like us!

By Onni, Cleo and Romy

Wellbeing

The Wellbeing Committee was a committed team made up of all the pupils in Rang 6 who helped raise awareness of mental health and looking after our wellbeing here in RMDS. Each month we had a theme and we learnt about this topic, for example gratitude. We then went around the classes teaching them skills and suggesting things for them to practise such as a gratitude journal each morning. On top of our monthly themes we also organised events such as Kindness Week and Wellbeing Week. During Kindness Week we all had a special person to look out for and be extra kind to. This allowed us to all experience the benefits for everyone of receiving kindness but also giving kindness.

During Wellbeing Week we organised a run, a dance off, a whole school yoga session, drawing completions and practised gratitude each day. We also raised money for Pieta House by hosting a fundraiser where we all gave up our screens for 24 hours. It was a really rewarding and thought provoking experience. We hope that the skills we learnt as a school will benefit everyone and we are happy that our influence that came from the Wellbeing Committee will live on within the school.

We were awarded the Amber Flag from Pieta house as recognition of our achievements.



The Active School Committee is a group of children who take time from their day to make the school a happier and healthier place.

One of the things we have done is SCOOT TO SCHOOL week where the children of the school were encouraged to scoot to school. We also made some fun obstacle courses for all the children in the school to participate in with the scooters. Some classes decorated their scooters with recycled materials.

From the PA



What a great year for the RMDS Parents' Association. The goodwill and generosity of parents was felt throughout a wonderful array of events. September saw coffee mornings and the PA AGM and then we hit the ground running organising the Parents' Quiz in October. As always, prizes for classes were hotly contested and ultimately several classes enjoyed the fruits of their parents' general knowledge. Oscar Carolan stepped in to MC the event and The Hill was a super venue for a great night out.

Hampers for the raffle in October were gorgeous, thanks to the work of Catherine Crowe. The event was so generously supported that we sent the whole school to the cinema a few weeks later with the proceeds. As always, Daron and Clare were on the ball updating rmdsevents.com so as we could sell tickets online, both for this and for the raffle before the Easter break. They also keep this site updated with all fundraising events for the PA. We could not operate so well without their time and expertise.

This year's Christmas Fair was maybe the best yet. Kids and adults were plunged into festive cheer as snow fell and we all caught the Christmas vibe. The wonderful Eimear Marrinan headed up the Christmas Fair committee and did a stellar job at running operations. The event pulled a huge number of volunteers together, whether it was manning stalls or finding raffle prizes. Particular shout outs are owed to Claudia, Orla, Bríd, Lorraine (Murphy), Katy, Churpy, Rachel, Cliona, Gwynne, Aoife, Ronan, Triona, Amanda, Renagh, Claire and Caroline but it is impossible to either commend these people enough or to thank everyone who was involved. As an event, it really allows the spirit of RMDS and of the PA to shine. Tree selling had its final weekend at the fair and was a huge success with the army of volunteers homing gorgeous trees all across the neighbourhood. Tree sellers reported a distinct air of Christmas spirit all around proceedings! Massive thanks to everyone involved in this enormous effort, especially

Juanguis and Rob who were at school at the literal crack of dawn to receive the tree deliveries. Oscar oversaw the proceedings with aplomb and can still be heard muttering facts about norse pines around the yard!

Movie night in March for classes J1 – R4 was a great event, with classic films getting new young audiences mildly interested in old movies and Being In School At Night getting kids wildly excited all week. Parents got a chance to socialise, which was long overdue after years of being kept well apart by the pandemic.

Sports Day finishes out the packed PA calendar, upcoming on Sunday, 11th June in Sandford Park secondary school grounds, from 11am – 2pm. Again, the PA is indebted to the huge number of volunteers that make this event possible and allows us to give the kids a brilliant day out before the summer holidays begin.

As always, the PA is only able to do what it does with the help of all the volunteers. Thank you so very much to everyone who contributed time, expertise, baking or tree selling capabilities. Rachel Sirr deserves a vip mention for all her work and again, we are grateful to the school and to the community for bringing the events calendar to fruition with us. Everyone is always welcome within the PA so if you have anything at all that you can offer, please drop us a line at pa@rmds.ie. Have a great break and see you all in September!



Grainne Fahey & Lorraine Hackett

2022/2023 PA Committee: Grainne Fahey and Lorraine Hackett (Co-Chairs), Matt Davey, (Treasurer), Amanda Holzworth (Secretary), Rachel Sirr, Oscar Carolan, Anna Carroll, Bronagh Hayden, Claudia Rodriguez Morales, Cliona Barnes, Eimear Marrinan, Juan Ververde, Lorraine Murphy, Rosaleen Crushell, Brendan Barrington and Tara Delaney. Many more people make up the committee and we look forward to having even more people join the crew next year!

From the Patron



Sincere thanks to all members of the Executive Committee for their hard work over the past year.

Elaine Cassidy stepped down from the Exec last September and we are very thankful for all the work that she did while serving. Lorraine Galvin stepped down from her role as Chairperson in January after several years. She managed to steer the Exec through some very difficult pandemic times - Lorraine did a fantastic job and was always so generous with her time. I would like to thank her for her dedication to the work of the Exec. I'm delighted that we have several new members now serving on the committee - Hazel Chu, Sophia Purcell, Lorcan Staines and Sara Reilly have all recently joined - and I am looking forward to working with them all. Every parent is most welcome to become involved in the work of the Exec and I would love to hear from you if you would like to join us. It is a wonderful way to get to know other parents and it is great to have now such a high level of involvement from parents in the younger classes of the school in particular.



The roles and responsibilities of the Patron of a primary school fall under three main headings:

- To appoint and oversee the operation of the BOM
- To preserve the ethos of the school
- To provide and maintain the school premises

We are always looking for new members. If you have any interest or any questions about the work of the Executive Committee, please feel free to contact any member of the Committee or me at stephenoherlihy@hotmail.com. We will also be holding our AGM near the start of the new academic year and will issue a notice in advance, so please do come along to that if you can.

I would like to thank all members of the RMDS school community - the children, parents and guardians, all staff members and in particular Rosemarie, the Parents' Association and the Board of Management. We have all enjoyed being fully back to normal this past school year, and everyone has put in huge effort to ensure that we cherish and nurture the school's ethos of being child centred, co-educational, democratically run and equality based. There are many things which make RMDS such a unique place for our children to grow and learn, the things that differentiate the school from others. They are small things that may be easily taken for granted, but when considered as a whole all come together to set the school apart - from simple things like parents accompanying children into the school for class in the morning, to the teachers, staff, parents and children all being on first-name terms with one another, from Forest School, to the Christmas Fair, the Sports Day, the Cinema Night, cake sales, raffles, Grandparents' Day, the Pub Quiz, any number of school trips and excursions organised for the children, and all extra curriculums. Everything comes together to define the school. A huge thank from the Executive Committee to EVERYBODY who makes these things possible.

And of course, we wish everybody a fun and relaxing summer break!

Stephen O'Herlihy

Chairperson of the Executive Committee

On behalf of the Executive Committee members:

Hazel Chu, David Clerkin, Andrew Howley, Jason Nebenzahl, Sophia Purcell, Sara Reilly & Lorcan Staines



From the Board of Management

On behalf of the Board of Management, I am delighted to share our annual Summer Newsletter and reflect on the past year now that holidays are rapidly approaching.

I would like to say a particular thank you to the staff who have worked so hard to return the school to its usual vibrant self after a couple of very difficult years. In my role as Chair I have come to learn how RMDS staff deeply collaborate and share ideas and skills to ensure the children have the best and broadest possible learning experience. This collaboration and open communication is led by our Principal, Rosemarie and Deputy Principal, Paul. Our staff are our most valuable resource and we are very grateful to have them.

As a Board we have been busy with general management of the school including overseeing maintenance of the building, ensuring compliance with Department of Education policies, ensuring the school has sufficient funds to operate and deciding how to most efficiently allocate the resources we have in the best interests of all the children.

Focus on Wellbeing

Our overriding priority as a Board for this year was the wellbeing of all the children following the disruption of lockdown. Many in the school community have found themselves negatively impacted in the aftermath of the pandemic in different ways and we are still discovering the impact it has had on the children. There has been a focus on physical activity and sport for all and the establishment of a Wellbeing Committee and a Wellbeing Week. Most recently a number of parents very generously shared their creative skills during Creative Week which the children loved. The school will be issuing a survey to children, parents and staff regarding the impact of the Covid pandemic. As a Board we will continue to be mindful of any additional needs the children may have as they move into the next academic year.

Voluntary Contributions and Fund-Raising Activities

One of the Board's main concerns every year is ensuring we have sufficient funds to run the school. We appreciate the financial pressures faced by everyone at the moment and would like to thank you for your generous contributions and all your hard work and effort in raising funds to support our school.

People are always surprised to discover that less than 50% of funds needed by the school are received from the Department of Education. The remaining funds are received through voluntary contributions and fundraising activities by the Parents Association. This leaves the Board in the unavoidable position of having to ask parents every year to contribute. Of course these contributions are voluntary and we ask only those who are in a position to contribute to do so. A drop in contributions puts not just wider educational opportunities such as swimming lessons and forest school in jeopardy but essential items such as routine building maintenance.

To date we have raised 49% of our annual target of €35,000. The Board has prepared a separate information sheet to answer all your questions on voluntary contributions. Please take the time to look at this.

Joint Committee

Representatives from the Board, the Parents' Association and the Patron meet every term in order to understand the most urgent needs of the school community and plan accordingly. The Board is a huge supporter of the activities of the Parents' Association and is very grateful for the huge amount of work they do. This not only raises essential funds but creates a real sense of a school community and friendship. I would like to make a special note of thank you to Lorraine Hackett and Grainne Fahy as Co-Chairs of the PA for their seemingly endless energy and commitment. Please support the Parents' Association in any way you can.

Our school is quite unique in having a parent-controlled patron body to oversee the ethos of the school and ownership of our building. We are very grateful to Stephen O'Herlihy (Chairperson of the Exec), David Clerkin (Treasurer of the Exec) and the Executive Committee as a whole for undergoing that role.

RMDS Childcare

Thanks to Caroline and her team in Childcare who continue to provide an invaluable and highly regarded local afterschool service. The children vote with their feet and spaces always book out quickly!

New Board - December 2023

The current Board will complete its 4-year term on 31st November 2023. We will be looking for parent volunteers to fill various positions on the Board. Please do consider this opportunity. It is very rewarding and the school is completely dependent on volunteers to continue operating.

Looking Ahead

The Board looks forward to supporting the Principal and staff in the implementation of the new primary school curriculum. We will continue to examine how the school's resources can be best used to ensure the most holistic and inclusive educational experience possible for our children.

I hope you all have a fantastic summer. See you at the end of August ready to do it all again!

Lorraine Murphy

On behalf of the Board of Management:

Rosemarie Stynes (Principal)

David Frame (Treasurer)

Mairead Flanagan (Patron Representative)

Alannah Nic A'Bhaird (Teacher Representative)

Niall Byrne (Parent Representative)

Sarah Reid (Parent Representative)

Anne Fitzpatrick (Community Representative)

Other info...

Second level schools

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

SECONDARY SCHOOL	GIRLS	BOYS
The High School, Rathgar	1	
Sandford Park, Ranelagh	3	4
Harold's Cross ETSS	1	4
Muckcross Park, Donnybrook	5	
Gonzaga College, Ranelagh		3
Sandymount Park ETSS		3
St. Louis High School, Rathmines	1	
Rathdown School		1
Newpark Comprehensive School	1	1

It is advisable to contact the second level schools of your choice in time, in order to be more informed about their enrolment policies.

Dates for 2023–24 (provisional)

School re-opens: Thursday, 31st August at 8.30am

October Mid-Term Break: Monday, 30th October – Friday, 3rd November (inclusive)

Christmas / Winter Holidays: School closes on Friday, 22nd December at 12 noon and reopens on Monday, 8th January 2024 at 8.30am

February Bank Holiday: Monday, 5th February

February Mid-Term Break: Monday, 12th February to Friday, 16th February (inclusive)

St. Patrick's Day Holiday: School closed Monday, 18th March

Easter / Spring Holidays: School closes on Friday, 22nd March at 12 noon and reopens on Monday, 8th April* at 8:30 am

May Bank Holiday: School closed on Monday, 6th & Tuesday, 7th May

June Bank Holiday: School closed on Monday, 3rd June

Summer Holidays: School closes on Friday, 28th June at 12 noon.

* 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/Spring break by remaining open up to and including Wednesday, 27th April 2024.

Remember – Junior Infants

Junior Infants go home at 12.00 p.m. for the first seven days. From Monday, 11th September, normal closing time of 1.10 p.m. will apply.

Staffing 2023–2024

Class teachers:

Junior Infants: Maria Dillon

Senior Infants: Sara Reilly

Rang 1: Anna Shackleton

Rang 2: Ellen Fitzgerald

Rang 3: Neysa Healy

Rang 4: Aoileann Farley

Rang 5: Emily Mortell

Rang 6: Annie Blayney

Special Education teachers:

Therese Coogan – JI/SI

Therese Curran – R1/R2

Paul Fairbrother – R3/R4

Mainstream Inclusion Teacher /

Deputy Principal

Rita Brennan – R5/R6

Special Needs Assistants:

Anne McCullagh

Christina Dowling

Classroom Assistant:

Ann Maguire

Principal:

Rosemarie Stynes

Secretaries:

Mary Holder

Barbara Gallivan

Childcare Manager:

Caroline Carroll

Childcare Team:

Ines Istokovic

Irene Quidiello Beltrán

Senna Sheridan

Rebecca Fitzgerald

Notices

Pre-enrolment: In light of the Education (Admission to Schools) Act 2018 which commenced on 1st February 2020, a new Admissions/Enrolment Policy for our school was drafted in consultation with our Patron, staff and parents of children attending our school. It can be accessed on our website under "Ethos and Policies". Annual admissions processes will begin no earlier than October of the year previous to the school year the application is for, i.e. the annual admission process for September 2024 will open after 1st October 2023. Pre-enrolment waiting lists will be honoured up to 2024.

School requisites and school tours payments for 2023/24 can now be made online. Go to the school website at www.rmids.ie and click on the **PAYMENTS** cloud. Scroll down to find the three PAY buttons. Click on the "Payment for School Activities and Items" button and follow the instructions to register and log in.

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 2023/24. The onus is on you to let us know of any changes – in particular contact details for minders and crèches.

Newsletter Credits:

Photography Michelle O'Sullivan, Robbie McGrath, and RMDS Staff,
Cover illustration Sally Caulwell



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.**

