

School Talk



Photos: © Rathcoole NS

Dragon Company. Batteries, photocopier toner and computer printer cartridges are gathered and taken by one of our teachers to the excellent recycling centre in Millstreet. We recycle milk cartons and paper in the Dry Recycle bin for weekly collection.

The highlight of our year is the Sherkin Island Marine Station Environmental competition. We research and enter projects on the theme: "What is important to me in the Environment". Above is a photograph of some of last year's entries.

We studied pigs, hedgehogs, snails, bees, hens, horses and many more. The trip to the Carrigaline Court Hotel to collect our wonderful prizes and view all the other entries is a great day out. We are already planning this year's entries. We recommend that every national school pupil in Munster enter the competition and support Matt Murphy's marine station in its excellent work of promoting care for the environment.

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Rathcoole NS

Rathcoole National School is a rural village school located in the Barony of Duhallow in North Cork. The school is a five-teacher school with 99 pupils. It is overlooked by the forested hills of Laught and nestles in the valley where the Aubane and Blackwater Rivers merge. One of our claims to fame is the Rathcoole airfield which can be found if you google it on the internet.

Our pupils are very interested in the environment. We proudly boast an organic school garden which grows vegetables and flowers of all varieties - from aubergines to sunflowers. The Third, Fourth, Fifth and Sixth classes work very hard in the school garden. They dig, plant, weed and harvest the crops. The school community enjoys dishes from the organic produce of the garden at an annual harvest lunch. We have tasted vegetable and pumpkin soup served in a scooped out pumpkin saucepan and delicious colcannon made from potatoes and cabbage grown in our garden. Our school garden is a great place to conduct a mini beast hunt and nature walk - Mrs. Healy's First and Second class and Mrs. Lynch's Infants can tell you all about it.

Near our school vegetable patch are

By Susan O'Connor, Principal

two compost bins with worms that eat all our uncooked food waste, egg shells and teachers' tea bags. These two bins provide wonderful nourishment for our school garden, window boxes and newly planted fruit trees. Our newly renovated front garden patch has bushes to attract butterflies. So we look forward to the summer and a great variety of coloured butterflies. Pupils can already identify birds, which feed regularly at our bird table.

Aluminium cans are gathered in the school and collected by the Blue

Right: Our Harvest Display
Below: Hard at work in the vegetable garden!



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