

# Newsletter Rathmore



September 2018

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**P2-P7 Curriculum Meetings**  
3-11 September

**PTA AGM**  
10 Sept @ 7pm

**The ARK Programme  
for P1 Parents**  
13 & 20 September  
Evenings begin at 7pm



*Rathmore welcomes two new teaching staff to the school family this year, Katy McCarey (P4) and Brenna McEwen (P6).*

## **A New Year at Rathmore**

Welcome to a new year. It is great to see the school up and running. To our new parents in the Nursery and P1 we wish to extend a very special welcome to the Rathmore family. We look forward to partnering with you over the incoming years. This year, we have added a number of new staff to the school team. We have been joined by two new teachers; Brenna McEwen (P6) and Katy McCarey (P4). We are delighted that Anna Griffin is back with us in P5 and welcome Janeen Best (P5) back from her maternity leave. Finally, we would like to congratulate Hilary (P4) and Oliver Watson on the birth of their third daughter, Eowyn, in July.

## **'Early Owls' Breakfast Club**

We are excited to commence our Early Owls Breakfast Club on Mon 3 September. The club will be run by Rathmore Kitchen (under EA) and existing supervision staff.

Time: 8:00am

Cost: £3

Booking: On line system. Monthly.

Information regarding booking, procedures and the Breakfast Club Policy have all been communicated, so please contact the office if you require any further details.



Raffy's Thought for the Month: 'Celebrate each other'

## **We Are All Special**

[www.rathmoreps.com](http://www.rathmoreps.com)

**'Caring, learning, excelling together.'**

## **Important Reminders for the Start of the New School Year**

The start of the school day – Members of staff are on duty from 8.45 am each day. For reasons of safety, no child should arrive for school before this time as there is no supervision of the children prior to 8.45am. Parents should leave their children to the playground, then withdraw to allow the children to play and socialise with peers.

The classroom doors open at 8.45am for P1 children who go straight into class (until 12 noon for Sept). Children in P2–P7 remain in the playgrounds until the bell at 9.00am when they are collected by their teacher. On wet days children should plan to arrive between 8.45am and 9.00am and go directly to class through their external classroom door.

### **Absences**

If your child misses any school, a note must be sent to the class teacher, outlining the reason on their return. Illness spreads very easily in a primary school environment. If your child is ill and/or receiving medication, please keep them off school until they are well enough to return.

### **Outdoor Play Equipment**

The outdoor play equipment is to be used solely by children during school time, when they are supervised by staff. Please ensure that when you are leaving or collecting children from school that no child under your supervision uses this equipment.

### **Road Crossing Patrol**

EA advises parents that the responsibility for safety of the children coming to and going home from school remains with parents at all times. Rathmore has two crossing patrols to assist with road safety. Mr English, Killeen Avenue, and Mr Armstrong, Rathmore Road are on duty from approx. 8:40–9:15am, 1:40–2:15pm and 2:45–3:20pm.

Please note: There is no crossing patrol on duty for children staying in school for after school activities, clubs, etc. Please take this into consideration when giving permission for your child(ren) to stay in school. Please set a good example for your child, and others, by using the designated crossings.

### **Severe Food Allergies**

We have a number of children in school who suffer from life threatening allergies. Please do not send any products, containing nuts, into school.

### **School Car Park**

Only staff, visitors and parents with school passes are allowed into the car-park. This helps to ensure the safety of your children. Should your child arrive 'slightly' late for school you should still park at the road side and walk into the school grounds.

### **School Parking**

Whilst most parents show consideration for the safety of the children leaving the site, we still receive weekly complaints from residents or concerned people when parents park over the zig-zag lines and residents' driveways. Please show consideration to each other and our local residents.

### **School Uniform**

The children are looking fantastic in their new uniforms. Please make sure you have every item named. Jewellery: We remind you that children are permitted to wear one signet ring and stud earrings only. These items must be removed during PE and swimming lessons.

### **Break and Lunch**

We encourage our children to eat a healthy break and ask for your assistance in this. Please pack one item e.g. fruit, scone, pancake, crackers, cheese, vegetable sticks for your child each day. We do not permit children to swap items due to the prevalence of serious food allergies.

Milk – orders must be returned by Wednesday 5 September. Please note amendment, milk costs 22p per day. Total for term is £15.18.

Water – Please continue to send a filled water bottle to school each day as we encourage water breaks.

Packed lunches – Glass bottles and fizzy drinks are not permitted.

School Dinners – This year school dinners cost £2.60 per dinner. Dinners are paid for using our Cashless School Money system.

### **Free School Meals/Uniform Grant**

If you have not already done so, and think you may qualify for Free School Meals, please call into the school office to check qualifying benefits and to pick up an application form. We encourage all parents (P1–P7), who may be eligible to apply as soon as possible.

Even if your child does not choose to take dinners, the school receives additional funding on the basis of children registered for Free School Meals.

### **Smoke-Free School Gates**

Rathmore is part of the Smoke-free School Scheme. We remind parents not to smoke in our grounds or around our school gates.

### **PTA Fundraising Success**

We are so grateful for your generosity last year and, as reported in June, our grand total raised was a huge £15,000 with which we will purchase 4 more ActivPanels and replenish our class guided reading books. Each Activ Panel Touch costs around £3,000 to replace and with the reduction of government funding, our children will be relying on your support again this year. We encourage you to support our School Fund and PTA events with this in mind.

### **Curriculum Meetings**

Our Parents' Curriculum Meetings for P2-P7 will take place 3-11 Sept in the Assembly Hall. At these meetings, our teachers will outline the necessary information for the year, including the curriculum content that will be covered. We encourage you to attend.

- P2 - Tues 4 September at 1.15pm
- P3 - Wed 5 September at 1.15pm
- P4 - Tues 11 September at 2.20pm
- P5 - Mon 3 September at 2.20pm
- P6 - Wed 5 September at 2.20pm
- P7 - Tues 4 September at 2.20pm

## **Diary Dates:**

**School Photographs P1-P7:**  
12 & 13 September

**European Language Week:**  
24-28 September  
(Dress Up Day - Fri 28 Sept)

**Exceptional Closure:**  
Mon 1 October

### **Dog-Free Grounds**

We remind parents not to bring dogs on to our school grounds.

### **Homeworks**

Written homeworks will begin for P2-P7 children from Friday 14 September. This is an important part of the learning process for our pupils and we would urge all families to establish a good routine for their completion each week. As usual, the homework will be sent home on Friday afternoons, so each family can organise their time in a way which is most suitable to the demands of their family life. If you are having any difficulty with this process, please arrange to speak to your teacher as soon as possible. The last written homework of the term will be given on Friday 30 November.

In the meantime, we would recommend all our children to spend time reading and revising number bonds (FS & KS1) and/or table facts (KS2).

### **After School Activities**

There will be 8 weeks of activities this term, starting on the week beginning Monday 24 September. This gives four weeks of activities before our Parent Teacher Consultations and half term, with a further four weeks after. We are currently finalising the different activities and further information will be sent home on Wed 5 September with pupil sign up forms.

### **PTA**

Information regarding our School Fund and PTA Annual General Meeting will follow.

### **School Contact Details**

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