

# Newsletter Rathmore



September 2019

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P2 – P7 Curriculum Meetings  
2 – 5 September

PTA AGM  
9 Sept @ 7pm

The Ark Programme  
for P1 Parents  
12 & 19 September

## 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 three new teachers; Joel Robinson (P5), Holly Armstrong (P4) and Lynsey McCorry (P4). Finally we would like to congratulate Kirstie McCorkell who married Billy Currie in July and so becomes Mrs Currie (P2).

## YMCA Afterschool Club

We are delighted to commence our Afterschool Club in partnership with YMCA and West Church, quality, affordable childcare for our primary school aged children. Registered with South Eastern Trust, with flexible booking options. Registration is now open.



Joel Robinson (P5), Holly Armstrong (P4)  
and Lynsey McCorry (P4).

For more info. and to register  
T:07591840361

E: [afterschool@northdownymca.org](mailto:afterschool@northdownymca.org)  
F: [facebook/ymcaafterschoolclub](https://www.facebook.com/ymcaafterschoolclub)



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 8.45am 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 allow the children to play and socialise with peers. Our Junior Playground remains a 'Child Zone'.

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 A phonecall is not required.

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. A Welfare Officer monitors monthly attendances.

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 Mrs Crawford, 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.

Bangor Cares Week

Rathmore Primary School will be supporting Bangor Cares 'Mental Health Awareness Week' 23 – 27 September. Details will follow.

### Break, Breakfast and Lunch

Breakfast Club opens at 8am each morning at a cost of £3 per day. Breakfast Club is paid in advance using our School Money system.

Orders close on Sunday night for the week ahead. 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 is no longer available under EU scheme.

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 in advance using our School Money system. Orders close on Sunday night for the week ahead. If dinners are not booked, a packed lunch will be necessary.

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.

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 in through the main entrance.

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.

### 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 £20,000 with which we will purchase 4 more ActivPanels and P1 – P4 Core Reading Scheme. 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 Voluntary School Fund of £20 per child which will go live on School Money from Friday 30 August (today).

### Curriculum Meetings

Our Parents' Curriculum Meetings for P2-P7 will take place 2-5 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 3 September at 1.15pm  
P3 - Wed 4 September at 1.15pm  
P4 – Wed 4 September at 2.20pm  
P5 - Tues 3 September at 2.20pm  
P6 – Thurs 5 September at 2.20pm  
P7 - Mon 2 September at 2.20pm

## Diary Dates:

School Photographs Nursery – P7  
24 & 25 September

European Language Week  
23-27 September  
(Dress up day – Fri 27 Sept)

Exceptional Closure  
Mon 30 September 2019

### 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 6 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 29 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 23 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 4 September with pupil sign up forms.

## PTA News

Information regarding our PTA Annual General Meeting and Election of Committee will follow. Our Voluntary School Fund of £20 per child is used by PTA to target their fundraising for 2019-2020.

This year School Fund will be added to School Money Accounts for Term 1. We greatly appreciate all funds raised which will enhance your child's learning environment.