



## Staff Update

Congratulations to Emma & Johnathan Henry on the birth of their daughter Olivia in July. We cannot wait to meet her.



We are delighted to welcome Miss Amy Gibson to the staff team this year. Miss Gibson will be teaching P4 during Mrs Kirstie Currie's maternity leave.



Congratulations to Trish Rankin who married Bryan in July and is now Mrs Martin.



## A New Year at Rathmore

We are so pleased to welcome you to a new school year at Rathmore. To our new parents in the Nursery and P1 we extend a very special welcome to the Rathmore family. In June, 82.3% of parents voted for Rathmore to start the Transformation process to becoming an Integrated School by September 2025. We look forward to partnering with you in this exciting journey.

Congratulations to Emma Dickie who married Luke in August and is now Mrs Greene.



## Parent Information Meetings

Our Parents' Information Meetings for P2 - P7 will take place 4 - 7 September 2023 in your child's classroom. At these meetings, your teacher will outline the necessary information for the year. We encourage you to attend. Please enter your child's classroom via the playground doors. Further details and reminders will be sent via Seesaw.

- P2 – Monday 4 Sept at 1.25pm
- P3 – Tuesday 5 Sept at 1.25pm
- P4 – Tuesday 5 Sept at 2.30pm
- P5 – Wednesday 6 Sept at 2.30pm
- P6 – Thursday 7 Sept at 2.30pm
- P7 – Monday 4 Sept at 2.30pm

## New School Year - Important Reminders

The children are welcome at their classroom door at 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. To develop independence, we encourage P3 – P7 Parents to leave their children to the playground gate, when possible, to allow the children to journey to class by themselves. It will take a few days for children to become confident about their journey and class door. We are here to help, direct and welcome them with a smile. Lessons begin promptly at 9am so please do all you can to bring your child to school on time. Late arrivals should enter through the main office entrance. Nursery & P1 Children are brought directly to their class door each day.

### Pedestrian Entrances

The main entrance (Rathmore Road), field entrance (Lyndhurst Avenue) and side entrance (Killeen Pathway) will remain two-way, with pedestrians staying to the left of their path and respecting others' journey.

### Finishing Times Reminder - September 2023

	Monday - Thursday	Friday
P1	See P1 Induction Pack	
P2	1.55pm	1.55pm
P3	1.55pm	1.55pm
P4	Monday – Wednesday 3pm Thursday 1.55pm	1.55pm
P5	3pm	1.55pm
P6	3pm	1.55pm
P7	3pm	1.55pm

### 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. Mrs Andrews, Killeen Avenue, and Mr Hodgen on Rathmore Road. Duties are from approx. 8:40-9:05am, 1:30-3:05pm. Please set a good example for your child, and others, by using the designated crossings.

### Communicating with School

Often parents want to clarify or discuss issues with school staff. You can contact the school office by email/phone/letter or by note to the teacher via your child (school-bag post). Face to

face meetings will be accommodated as the need arises, following a phone call. As staff are teaching throughout the day, please allow 48 hours for a response to your query.

Thank you for signing up to your new 2023-24 Seesaw. This will be used throughout the year for teachers to communicate with parents.

Our School Office can be contacted by:

E: [info@rathmoreps.bangor.ni.sch.uk](mailto:info@rathmoreps.bangor.ni.sch.uk)

T: 028 91 270399

Nursery: 028 91 469192 (direct telephone)

### Change of Pick-Up Time

Teachers do not have telephones in their rooms and so last minute changes cannot be accommodated. If you have a scheduled appointment for your child, please inform the teacher or office with at least 24 hours' notice so arrangements can be made for their safe collection from the school front door, at the agreed time.

### Absences

Our Educational Welfare officer has asked school to remind families that all children should attend school when they are well enough to do so. Note: School should also be notified (by email or phone to the office) of any reason for absence on the first day of absence with a prediction of how long the absence may be.

### School Illness & First Aid

It is vital that we have up to date contact details for your child, so please link with our office urgently if you need to update any details. If your child is unwell during the school day, a staff member will phone, in order of emergency contacts, to arrange your attendance. If your child receives a bump to the head, you will be informed by email, receive the EA Concussion Leaflet and we will monitor their presentation. If they receive First Aid (other than head) your teacher will notify you via Seesaw.

Please refer to PHA guidance on infection control in school settings.

## Medication

Children with EpiPens (two required), inhalers or other essential medication should bring these to school on their first day along with a copy of the current care plan, where appropriate. Please check that medication is in date. All medication should be clearly labelled with the child's name and will be stored safely in school.

To administer any medication in school during the year, parents must first complete and return the "Request for school to administer medicine" form as attached.

## Home Learning

Written homeworks will be established by each year group with start dates and details communicated with you at your Information Meeting and by Seesaw. This is an important part of the learning process for our pupils and we encourage all families to establish a good routine for their completion each week. The homework will continue to be sent home on Friday afternoons, (homework grid will be sent in paper form) so each family can organise their time in a way which is most suitable to the demands of their family life.

Until Home-learning begins, we recommend that our P2 - P7 children spend time reading and revising number bonds (FS & KS1) and/or table facts (KS2).

## Wrap-Around Care

### Breakfast Club

We are delighted that Breakfast Club will start Friday 1 September. 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. Our Breakfast Club Registration Form is attached for those families who wish to attend Breakfast Club. Please complete and return this to the School Office by 31.08.23.

Our School Money System has gone live for your booking convenience today. The named first contact for P1 – P7 will receive an automated text with the link details attached.

## YMCA After-School Club

YMCA have worked throughout the summer with our children and will continue our After-School provision at the end of each school day. YMCA will continue to provide their play sessions alongside our calendar regarding all half days and holidays and will operate usual pick-ups from the playgrounds. Please contact them directly regarding places for your children: -

T: 07591840361

E: [afterschool@northdownymca.org](mailto:afterschool@northdownymca.org)

F: @ymcaafterschoolclub

## School Dinners

School Dinners commence on Friday 1 September 2023. This year school dinner cost remains the same at £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 home packed lunch will be necessary. Please find our School Dinner Menu attached.

*\*\* Children with dietary requirements must complete an EA Special Diet Form (attached) and meet with the Head of Kitchen to discuss our menu before any dinners are booked. Please contact the school office to arrange. \*\**

## Free School Meals/Uniform Grant

We encourage all those who were eligible for Free School Meals or think they are now eligible, to complete the EA online application process on [eani.org.uk](http://eani.org.uk) (Home-Financial Help-Free School Meals). This will ensure you can access Free School Meals as soon as possible.

## 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 as Rathmore is a Nut Aware School.

## Break

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.

### Drinks – Water only

Please send a filled water bottle to school each day as we encourage water breaks. Please note glass bottles and fizzy drinks are not permitted in school.

### After School Activities

We are delighted to commence our After School Activities run by teachers and/or outside agencies on site later this month. Information will be communicated in due course.

### 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. Please note this includes the P1 Outdoor area.

### 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. Nursery-P4 parents with Disability Badges can request a parking pass from the office. Please contact the office if you require one this year.

### School Parking

Whilst most parents show consideration for the safety of the children leaving the site, we still receive 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.

### 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.

### Dog-Free Grounds

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

### PTA Fundraising Success

Thank you for your School Fund and event support during 2022-2023. We are so grateful as your donations raised funds to enhance our outdoor spaces, classroom Calm Corners, curricular areas and purchase a set of iPads with recharging unit and build the KS1 outdoor classroom.

Our amazing Committee kept us motivated and are looking forward to establishing class representations and welcoming new members this year at our first meeting. Our PTA AGM details will be sent home soon.

Our voluntary School Fund remains at £30 per child which will go live next week. If you are in a position to contribute, we appreciate every penny donated as this money is completely ring-fenced for your children's play resources.



'Raffy's Thought for the Month:  
'Celebrate each other'  
We are all special

[www.rathmoreps.co.uk](http://www.rathmoreps.co.uk)

'Caring, learning, excelling together.'