

Diary Dates

3 February	P6 Showcase Afternoon
3-7 February	Children's Mental Health Week
6 February	Safer Internet Day
7 February	Happy Friday (<i>non-uniform wear a colour or something that makes you feel happy</i>)
10-14 February	Half Term
27 February	Group & Team Photographs
27 February	Cash for Clobber Collection
3&4 March	Nursery Parent Consultations (no classes)
3-6 March	P1-P6 Parent Consultations (1.10pm finish all week)
7 March	P1 – P7 finish @ 1.10pm

P7 Transfer Consultations

Post Primary Applications Now Open

Applications for post primary school places for the school year September 2025 are now open.

[Apply Now – EA Connect](#)

The EA Transfer portal is open from noon Tuesday 28 January – noon Thursday 20 February for parents to complete online applications for their secondary school choices.

www.eani.org.uk/parents/pupil-applications-and-grants/admissions/applying-for-a-school-place

Please refer to the Seesaw Information Pack. We are here to help you with this process so please keep in touch with us throughout the month.



Go GoRathmore Sports

Congratulations to our Hockey and Football Teams who were in action last week.

Representing Rathmore outside school is a great honour and we are proud of your attitudes, behaviour and presentation both on and off the sports' field.

Football

The boys and girls represented Rathmore for the first time this year at Clandeboye Football club playing in the school football league. The children enjoyed an afternoon of fun and they worked really well as a team.



Hockey

The girls' hockey team took part in an Ulster Hockey Blitz at Regent House, alongside 14 other schools from North Down. A huge thanks to all our supporters for coming along to cheer us on!



Raffy's Thought for the Month:

Honesty is the best policy.

So always tell the truth.



Trampolining

We are super proud of Pippa, P5 who braved Storm Éowyn to travel to Newcastle upon Tyne to represent Rathmore PS in the Zonal Schools BSGA competition.

Rathmore Dance Team

Good Luck to our Dance Team who are currently putting the shine to their routines for the Ulster Fusion Championship. Enjoy the experience and 'Good Luck!'



P6 Showcase

We are looking forward to welcoming P6 family members into school for our first ever 'P6 Showcase' on Monday 3rd February. P6 have been busy planning and preparing for this event which will give an insight in to P6 life. The children are extremely excited for their premiere. This is a ticketed event and commences at 2pm.



We will be recognising Children's Mental Health Week from the 3 – 7 February 2025 in school. The children will take part in different activities during the week to support their mental health. The theme for this year is 'Know Yourself, Grow Yourself.' The aims are to encourage children to embrace self-awareness and explore what it means to them. This will help them grow and develop resilience to cope with what life throws at them.

On Friday 7 February we would like the children to come to school in an outfit or colour that makes them feel **HAPPY!**

Please keep an eye on Seesaw and Facebook to see what we have been up to during the week.



You may be aware that Internet Safety Day falls on the 11th February. As we will be off for half term, we have decided to have our Internet Safety Day on the 6th February. This will involve your children participating in learning based around the theme 'Too good to be true? Protecting yourself and others from scams online.'

We would encourage to take this opportunity to talk to your children about the potential risks they might encounter online. If you have not already done so, please download the Safer Schools NI app which will provide you with age-appropriate safeguarding information and advice, just follow the four steps below –

1. Download the Safer Schools NI App
2. Create an account with Safer Schools
3. Search and select Rathmore Primary School
4. Enter the code 3954

The NSPCC have published tips to help you improve your family's online well being. They provide a guide on how to talk to your child about what they are doing online as well as a quiz you can play together. This is available at the following link-

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/online-wellbeing/positively-online/>

Brownies World THINKING DAY is a celebration of 10 million girls worldwide that has taken place on every 22 February since 1926. It remains a day for all Girl Guides and Girl Scouts to think of each other and celebrate their sisters all around the world.



Parent Safety Reminders

Please ensure children are not dropped off alone before 8.45am as there is no staff supervision in our playgrounds until this time.

Please park with courtesy and care when dropping off or collecting your child from school. Our car park is primarily for staff. Blue badge holders may use if necessary.

P1 – P6 Parent Teacher Consultations

We are looking forward to our Parent Teacher Consultations next month 3 – 6 March 2025 and the opportunity to meet with you again.

Arrangements will be sent home via school bags on Friday 7 February. Please return the reply slip to your child's teacher by Thursday 20 February 2025.

P1 – P6 classes will finish each day that week (Monday – Friday) at 1.10pm and there will be no after school activities.

P7 Parents – please note that your children will remain in school until 3pm Monday to Thursday and will finish at 1.10pm on Friday with the rest of the school.

Integration Update

We received the disheartening news that our development proposal to become integrated was turned down by the Education Minister. While extremely disappointed, we remain immensely proud of the culture and ethos we have grown in our school community. We have no doubt that despite this disappointment, Rathmore PS and Nursery will continue to thrive. We will continue to care and educate our children, providing excellent learning opportunities under the UNICEF Rights Respecting ethos. Our sincerest thanks for your strong support throughout the transformation journey.

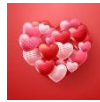
Board of Governors

Our sincerest thanks to outgoing Governors Deborah Colville (24 years) and Catherine Johnston (4 years). We are so grateful for their wisdom and service. A special thanks to Deborah who has played a pivotal role in Rathmore's development and improvement. After 24 years, many as Chair, we thank her for her heart for Rathmore and her central focus on children in every decision the Board has made.



PTA News

Valentine Competition



This year the PTA are running 'Name the Teddy Bear' competition.

We ask for completed entries to be returned to Class Teachers before Tuesday 4th February 2025.

Each Key Stage group winner will be announced at our Assemblies on Thursday 6 & Friday 7 February 2025 with prizes to be won.

£1 per entry is available on school money accounts.

Follow us on Facebook to see your winners and their amazing efforts! **GOOD LUCK!**



Community Afternoon



Cash for Clobber

We have a Cash for Clobber collection booked in for Thursday 27 February 2025 so if you have unwanted clothing items to donate, please bag them up and leave at our school reception before 9am on 27.02.25

School Fund 2nd Instalment £10

Thanks to all those who have kindly donated to School Fund. These donations are crucial for the future of our school in a really tough financial time for NI education, so please if you haven't managed to donate yet then please consider clicking on School Money to donate this month.

Follow us on Facebook.

Twitter @PtaRathmore &

Instagram @rathmorepspta

for updates and events this year!!!

Help support us for your children's future!