

Diary Dates

January

- 7 School Commences
- 24 SEAG Results
- 21 - 29 P7 Parent Transfer Consultations

February

- 3 P6 Showcase Afternoon
- 9 - 13 Half Term
- 20 & 23 Nursery Consultations
- 23 - 26 P1 – P6 Parent Consultations
(1.10pm finish all week)

Happy Retirement Karen



Our school community said thank you and 'Happy Retirement' to Karen Marrow at Christmas. Karen has been a dedicated member of our cleaning team for 36 years. The children had the opportunity to thank Karen during a special assembly and the staff team had their own little celebration too.

We thank Karen for her incredible service and heart for Rathmore, wishing her a healthy & happy retirement.

Happy New Year!



Happy New Year! We hope you had an enjoyable and relaxing Christmas. We are looking forward to seeing our pupils back, refreshed for another term.

Congratulations to all our children who shone during our Christmas events. Our P1 Nativities and Carol Service at St Gall's Church were so well supported. We are very proud of you all.



Raffy's Thought for the Month:
 'Think before you act'

Once words are out, they can't be put back.

Nursery and P1 Enrolment

We remind all parents of prospective Nursery and P1 children that the Education Authority Online Application Process will open on Wednesday 7 January for 2026 Enrolment.

www.eani.org.uk/parents/admissions

EA Help Desk: 02895 985 595

Visit our website to view our enrolment videos, prospectus and criteria www.rathmoreps.co.uk

Nursery Expansion

We are delighted that from September 2026 Rathmore Nursery will be expanding our Nursery provision. This means 52 funded full-time places and two full-time, teacher led classes operating from 8.45am – 1.15pm daily.

Parent Consultations

P7 Parent Transfer Consultations will take place from 21 - 29 January 2026.

P1 – P6 Parent Consultations will take place 23 – 26 February 2026. As is usual practice, school will end at 1.10pm for all P1 – P6 children during this week to facilitate these conversations.

Nursery Consultations will take place on 20 & 23 February and nursery will be closed to facilitate.

Post-Primary Open Days & Evenings

Over the next number of weeks, the Post-Primary schools will be hosting their open days and open evenings for prospective students. Information regarding these dates can be found on the relevant school's website or on your class Seesaw page.

We encourage both P6 & P7 parents to use this opportunity to think about the next stage for your child.

After School Clubs

Our After School Club Programme starts week commencing 13 January 2026. Thank you for signing up last term. Please confirm dates and collection arrangements with those picking up your children.

Inter-Generational Links

As part of our ongoing community partnership, some of our P6 children visited the residents of Oakmount Nursing Home last month.



Our P7 singers and musicians entertained the residents and spread their Christmas cheer!



We are grateful for parent support in accommodating these short visits as they provide additional opportunities to connect with those of a different generation. They are also great fun!



'Article of the Month'
Article 29: To be the best you can

This month, our school will explore Article 29 of the UNCRC, which states that education should help every child develop their personality, talents and abilities to the fullest. It should also prepare children to live responsibly and peacefully, respecting others and the environment.

Pupils will learn how education is more than just learning facts – it's about becoming the best version of themselves and working together to make the world a better place. In school we will be encouraging children to think about their strengths, goals and how they can contribute positively to their community.

This month, why not talk to your child about what they enjoy learning most and how it helps them grow? It's a great way to celebrate their talents and encourage a love of learning that lasts a lifetime.

Thank you Mrs Maker

One of our parents, Kerri very kindly offered to hand paint our window for Christmas.



Daily Mile Santa Run



We enjoyed taking part in our annual Daily Mile Santa Run. Thanks to everyone who joined in and encouraged our pupils to finish the route.



P5 Santa Run!



Thank you for your support of our Christmas Jumper Day. We raised £321 for Save the Children.



Nursery 'Play & Stay'

Thank you to all families who supported our Christmas Play & Stay sessions. The children were so excited to welcome you into their Nursery world and show you around.



House Update: Term 1

Congratulations to everyone who has earned points for their House by representing the school, displaying school values and in our competitions. We ended December with our House Assembly and it was a wonderful celebration of all the hard work our children have put in to Term 1. We reflected on the values that guide us, Respect, Courage, Kindness and Purpose.

A huge well done to everyone who took part in the Christmas Jumper Design Competition! Congratulations to our talented winners who achieved 1st, 2nd and 3rd place. Your creativity was amazing! 

Our current House positions are:



House Competition Winners

P1 Poppy & Alex



P2 Ryan, Lizzie & Anna



P3 Finn, Grace & Archie



P4 Lucy, Vasco & Lisa



P5 Mila, Daniel & Charlotte



P6 Jessica & Daisy



P7 *Ellie, Calista & Avery*



Siblings Trampoline Success



Well done to Pippa, P6 and Nixon, P4 who represented Rathmore last month at the NI schools Championship. Nixon came 3rd in 1-6 novice category and Pippa 3rd in 1-6 intermediate category.



Swimming Success



Well done to Harper, P7 took part in the Swim Ulster Primary School Cup. She won in the 100m IM heat also getting a PB. She was 5th overall in 11 year olds and has qualified for Dublin in March 2026.

Thank you to everyone who donated to the School Fund last term. Your support means we can enhance our children's learning environment. We are looking forward to our 'Love & Friendship Week' next month and our Community Day on Monday 16 March 2026, 4 – 6pm. If you have community connections or would like to join in the planning you are welcome to come to our next PTA meeting on Tuesday 13 January 2026 at 4pm.

PTA News

Thank you for your support of our December 2025 events.



Our PTA Party Day was great fun with every child involved in our games, disco, movie and snack. The profit made through the event was £756 which will go towards our PTA Enhancement Fund.



Thank you PTA for supporting our P1 & Nursery Play & Stay in December. Pictured are Suzanne Morton & Kerry Jeffers.