

February 2026



Newsletter Rathmore

February Diary Dates

- 2 - 6 Love & Friendship Week
- 3 P6 Showcase Afternoon
- 6 Happy Friday (*non-uniform wear a colour or something that makes you feel happy*)
- 9 - 15 Children's Mental Health Week
- 10 Safer Internet Day
- 9 - 13 Closed for Half Term
- 16 PTA Committee Meeting
- 20 & 23 Nursery Parent Consultations (no classes)
- 23 - 26 P1 - P6 Parent Consultations (1.10pm finish all week inc Friday 27)
- 26 Group & Team Photographs

Love & Friendship Week 2-6 February 2026



The theme for Children's Mental Health Week 2026 is 'This is My Place', and our aim is to support the systems around children and young people to help them

feel they belong. Children's Mental Health Week takes place every February. It was started in 2015 to give a voice to all children and young people and to raise awareness of children and young people's mental health. This year we have included this teaching in our 'Love & Friendship Week'

On Friday 6 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.

P7 Applications to Secondary Schools

As our P7 children and parents start the EA process of selecting secondary schools for next year, the staff want to express how proud they are of each child as they continue to journey through primary. It has been a pleasure to meet with all P7 parents last month to discuss options and we wish you well as you choose the next step for your child.

The EA Transfer portal is now open for parents to complete online applications for their secondary school choices. It will close 12 noon on Thursday 19 February: -

<https://www.eani.org.uk/parents/admissions/post-primary-admissions-guide>

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.

P1 - P6 Parent Teacher Consultations

We are looking forward to our Parent Teacher Consultations this month 23 - 26 February 2026 and the opportunity to meet with you again. Arrangements were sent home via school bags last Friday 30 January 2026. Please return the reply slip to your child's teacher by Thursday 5 February 2026.

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.

Raffy's Thought for the Month:

Honesty is the best policy.

So always tell the truth.



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'Caring, learning, excelling together.'



You may be aware that Internet Safety Day falls on 10 February. As we will be off for half term, we arranged our ICT Safety Awareness during the week 2 – 6 February 2026.

Our learning will be based around the theme 'Smart tech, safe choices – Exploring the safe and responsible use of AI'.

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 –

- Download the Safer Schools NI App
- Create an account with Safer Schools
- Search and select Rathmore Primary School
- 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/>

P6 Showcase – 'Out of This World'

We are looking forward to welcoming P6 family members into school for our 'P6 Showcase' on Tuesday 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.



Brownies

World Thinking Day 2026, will be celebrated on Sunday 22 February, marking the 100th anniversary of the event, with the

theme "Our Friendship", focusing on the global Guiding/Scouting movement and local connections for Brownies, Guides, and Scouts.



'Article of the Month'

Article 19: The Right to be Safe

This month, our school will explore Article 19 of the UNCRC, which states that every child has the right to be safe and protected from harm. This includes staying safe at home, in school, in the community and—especially relevant this month—online.

Throughout Safer Internet Week, pupils will learn about making responsible choices online, recognising unsafe situations and knowing who they can talk to if something worries them. We will be discussing how kindness, respect and awareness help keep everyone safe in the digital world.

In school, we will encourage children to think about how they use technology, what good digital choices look like and how they can take responsibility for themselves and others online.

This month, why not chat with your child about how they stay safe on the internet? Talking openly about apps, games and online behaviour is a great way to build their confidence, strengthen their awareness and help them develop positive online habits for life.

🌿 Eco Council News! 🌿



Our Eco Council were delighted to receive a brand-new water butt for our outdoor area, kindly donated from NI Water. This will help us collect and reuse rainwater, care for our plants, and continue our journey toward a more sustainable school environment. 💧💚

This supports UNCRC Article 24, which highlights every child's right to a clean and healthy environment — including access to clean water and learning how to protect our world.

Thank you to NI Water for helping our pupils make a real difference! 💙🌍

Ditch the Dark



A huge thank you to everyone who took part in our Walking Bus and Ditch the Dark walk to school last Friday morning. 🚶🚶

It was absolutely brilliant to see so many of you joining in and starting the day with energy, smiles, and bright colours. 🍌

A big shoutout to Tom from Walk Wheel Cycle Trust for leading the walk and helping make the event such a success. 🚲

This links [Article 19](#) of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, which says that every child has the right to feel safe and be protected. By walking together, staying visible, and supporting one another, we are helping children learn safe habits and feel confident on their journey to school.



Shared Education P4



What a fantastic day our P4 children had at Shared Education alongside the P4 pupils from Ballyholme and Bangor Central! The children had so much fun taking part in activities together, chatting, learning and playing as one big team. It was wonderful to see new friendships being made, with the children showing such kindness, confidence and enthusiasm throughout the day. This links perfectly with [UNCRC Article 15](#) – the right to meet with friends and join groups, which was clear to see in every activity. We're already looking forward to Day 2!



Active Youth NI, Bangor Central Integrated Primary, School Ballyholme Primary School Bangor, Origin Gymnastics

Trampoline Update



Well done to Pippa, P6 representing Rathmore PS in Macclesfield at the Northern Zonals. She came 4th in her category and will be heading to the finals in March.

We are so proud of her as this is the 1st time competing in this category.



Cross Country

In January we took a group of children to the cross country at Campbell College. The children showed determination, teamwork and a willingness to try their best. A great example of the children's Right to Participate and enjoy sport as set out in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child linked to [Articles 12 and 31](#). Thank you to all our parents who supported and encouraged the children.



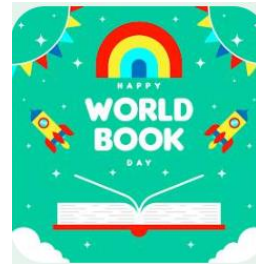
A special well done to Helena, Thomas and Katie who won medals - a fantastic achievement.



Football



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



Non-Uniform World Book Day, 5 March 2026

We're excited to celebrate World Book Day on Thursday 5 March 2026! Children are invited to dress up as their favourite book character and bring a love of reading to life. Costumes can be simple and fun—creativity encouraged. We can't wait to see the stories come alive!

Counselling Update - Family Works

Sincere thanks to Christina Laing, our School Counsellor for all of her hard work at Rathmore Primary School. We wish Christina well in her new post.



Rathmore sends a warm welcome to Mrs Claire McLaughlin, who will commence her new role as our School Counsellor on Wednesday 4 February 2026.

Welcome to Rathmore Claire!

To access the School Counselling service, please use the self-referral link below:

<https://forms.office.com/e/Q4m0uydYMK>

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 and collecting from school.

Our car park is primarily for staff. Blue badge holders may use if necessary.

PTA News

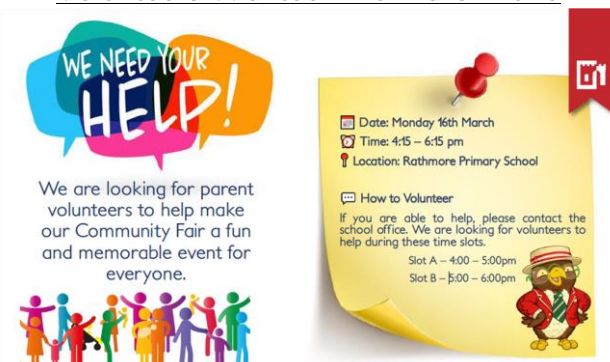
Love and Friendship Week

Rathmore will be running a Love and Friendship Week taking place from Monday 2nd to Friday 6th February 2026. The aim of this week is to help children understand the importance of kindness, respect and empathy in their relationships with others. It is to encourage positive friendships, promote inclusion and teach children how to build, maintain and repair friendships. The children will build on practical maths skills by having the opportunity to use real money.

We are looking forward to a week full of interesting and exciting activities including links to Safer Internet Week and Children's Mental Health Week.

An outline of the main events taking place in school during the week has already been circulated via Seesaw.

RathMORE Community Fair Volunteers Wanted - 16 March 2026



Our PTA Friends & Family Committee will meet on 16.02.26 @ 4pm to plan our 2026 Committee Fair. Please phone the office if you are able to volunteer during the above time slots.

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.

