



Diary Dates

5 March	World Book Day (dress-up day)
10-12 March	P7 Annie
16 March	Community Event (ticketed)
17 March	St Patrick's Day (closed)
18 March	Staff Development Day (closed)
20 March	Red Nose Day (accessorise)
21 March	Park Pedal @ Ward Park 1.30pm
27 March	PTA Easter Fun Day (12.15pm finish & non uniform)

Additional Closures not on School Calendar

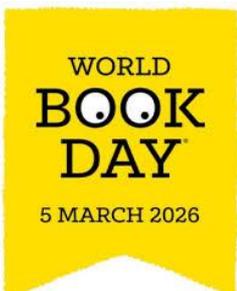
Please note the additional school closures to aid staff training for the new DE Transform Ed Programme: - *Wednesday 18 March 2026*
- *Tuesday 5 May 2026*

As already outlined, we have added these to existing school closures to minimise disruption.

Parent Teacher Consultations

Thank you to both staff and parents for prioritising and valuing our February Consultations. These conversations are an important element in our partnership with you and crucial at this time of year. We hope you found them informative and supportive.

World Book Day



At Rathmore Primary School, we are celebrating our love of reading during 'Book Week'. Thank you for your pre-loved book donations. During this week, each class will be enjoying a range of book related

activities and storytelling experiences. To celebrate, children may choose to bring a copy of their favourite book to school to share with their class on Thursday 5 March 2026. Every child will receive a £1 World Book Day Book token which can be spent in-store or online. Please refer to the attached poster for more information on World Book Day.

P7 Annie



Our P7s will be performing their play 'Annie' on Tuesday 10, Wednesday 11 & Thursday 12 March 2026. Tickets are now on sale and can be bought at £8 each from the office (cash only).

Good luck to all our P7 performers!

Red Nose Day



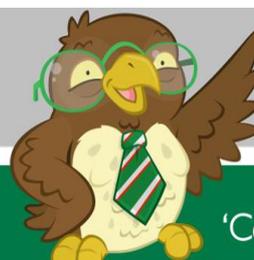
On Friday 20th March 2026, we will be supporting Comic Relief, Red Nose Day.

On this day, children can accessorise their school uniform with something red like red noses, red socks, red hairbands or they might even like to make their own nose red with red face paint.

To bring laughter to the day and to help us do something funny for money, children will have the opportunity to share jokes with each other. If your child would like to be part of this, then please help prepare your child with a joke they can share with their class on Friday 20th March. A suggested donation of £1 will be made available on School Money.

Park Pedal – Saturday 21 March 2026

Following the success of our 'Ditch the Dark' Walking Bus, we have been invited as VIPs to the first ever Park Pedal in Ward Park. The event is organised by Park Pedal CIC in partnership with the Ards & North Down Cycle Campaign. All are invited on Saturday 21 March 2026 from 1.30 – 3.30pm. Bring your family, friends and bikes to enjoy a cycle around the park. More information will follow closer to the date.



Raffy's Thought for the Month:

'Forgiveness is the best form of love'



'Article of the Month'

Article 30: The right to a culture, language and religion

This month, our school will be exploring Article 30 of the UNCRC, which states that every child has the right to enjoy their own culture, use their own language and practise their own religion or beliefs. This right applies to all children and helps ensure that every child feels confident, valued and proud of who they are.

In school this month, we are especially looking forward to our School Community Day on Monday 16th March, a wonderful opportunity for pupils, staff and families to come together and celebrate the diversity within our school. We always enjoy sharing and recognising the many languages, cultures and traditions that make our community so special. Throughout the month, pupils will continue to explore the rich mix of backgrounds and identities within our school. Through stories, symbols, languages and cultural traditions, children will learn more about one another and strengthen the understanding, respect and sense of belonging that lie at the heart of our shared and inclusive school environment.

At home, you might like to chat with your child about your own family customs or celebrations. Talking about the languages spoken in your family, special occasions you enjoy or beliefs that matter to you can help build your child's confidence and deepen their appreciation of what makes them unique. It also supports them in recognising and valuing the traditions of others.

Together, let's continue to ensure that every child in our school feels respected, included and celebrated for who they are.

Rathmore Welcomes Northern Ireland's Commissioner for Children and Young People.



In February, our Rights Respecting Ambassadors proudly showcased their ongoing work as we welcomed Chris Quinn, Northern Ireland's Commissioner for Children and Young People. During the visit, pupils demonstrated how children's rights are embedded throughout school life—how they learn, how they treat one another and how they take action in their community.

To recognise their outstanding leadership, each Ambassador received a special 'Rights Defender' badge from the Commissioner. The visit was an inspiring and encouraging experience for pupils and staff alike, celebrating our continued commitment to fostering a caring, inclusive and rights-respecting environment for all.



New Outdoor Space for Primary 3



Thank you for your continued support of our PTA Friends & Family events. The funds we raise together make such a difference to the learning environment at Rathmore. Following the building of our new P3 structure, our team have got to work!



We send a heartfelt THANK YOU to Mr Scott (Mrs Lyons' dad) – better known to many as Builder Scott! The time, skill, and generosity have completely enriched our outdoor learning area, OutLearn.

His craftsmanship and care are now part of every adventure, discovery, and magical moment that happens out there. We are so grateful for your hard work and the love you've poured into this project.

OutLearn (our P3 outside space) wouldn't be what it is without you. Thank you for helping us build something truly special!



P6 Showcase



On Tuesday 3rd February we had our P6 Showcase for parents. This was an opportunity for parents to come in and see what we have been doing in our classes. We presented some poems which we had written about our Magic Boxes and showed AI images we had created to go along with them. We also had videos on the big screen which we had made using Green Screens and 'Animate My Voice' through an app called Adobe. Some of the raps that we made using Garage Band on the iPad were shown and we also had a few online quizzes which parents and children were able to take part in together. It was a great afternoon for us to all be together and celebrate all the hard work we have done in P6 so far.

P7 Hedgegrow



Before Christmas, P7DD were delighted to win a competition to plant a new hedgerow in our school grounds. As part of our prize, we welcomed Emily from Hedgerow Heroes, who came to visit and support us with the project.

After careful planning, we chose to plant the hedgerow in the large playground area. The class worked incredibly hard to plant more than 113 shrubs – it was a big job, but we rose to the challenge!

We are now looking forward to watching the shrubs grow and develop into a thriving hedgerow over time.

Girls' & Boys' Hockey Ards & North Down NI Qualifiers



We are incredibly proud of both our girls' and boys' hockey teams, who represented the school brilliantly at the Ards and North Down area qualifiers for the Northern Ireland Finals.

Our girls' team showed tremendous resilience, determination and character throughout the tournament. Despite battling inclement weather conditions, they played with real grit and exceptional sportsmanship from start to finish. Finishing 4th out of 16 teams is a fantastic achievement and the girls should feel very proud of their performance. In a hard-fought semi-final against Ballyholme, they were outstanding and were unlucky not to progress further on the day. Our boys' team enjoyed much brighter conditions and made the very most of them, delivering an outstanding performance across all matches. Their teamwork, energy and attacking play were superb, earning them a brilliant 3rd place finish out of 17 teams. Impressively, they were also the highest-scoring team in the entire tournament. A special mention must go to our goalkeeper, Thomas, who made three spectacular run-in saves, helping secure their semi-final place with his quick reactions and composure.

A huge thank you to all parents, grandparents and supporters who came along. Your encouragement means so much to the children and teachers.

Well done to both teams, you were fantastic ambassadors for our school!

P4 Sporting Success



Well done to Summer and Savannah, who travelled to Blackpool for the Dance Inspirations finals and achieved 1st place in both their modern duet and group dance.



Congratulations also to Evie, who competed in Dublin at the 21CC Cheer Competition and secured 1st place with her team. We are very proud of all three girls for their fantastic achievements!

Love & Friendship Week



The week before half term, we celebrated Love and Friendship Week across the school. The children thoroughly enjoyed taking part in a range of activities focused on friendship and kindness.

As part of Children's Mental Health Week, everyone came to school wearing something that makes them happy, which brought lots of colour and smiles to our classrooms. The children also had great fun at the year group discos!

Our special friendship postbox was very popular and every child received a friendship card, helping to spread kind words throughout the school. The highlight of the week was a visit to the Love and Friendship Shop, where pupils had the exciting opportunity to buy items using real money.

We are delighted to share that we raised an amazing £773.25 for school funds. Thank you to everyone for your support!



PTA Friends & Family News

Love & Friendship Week

Thank you for supporting our 'Love & Friendship' week. The total raised was £773.76.

Community Day

Tickets are live for our annual PTA Friends & Family Community Fair on Monday 16 March 4.15pm – 6.15pm.

All tickets are £3 (with refreshment). Children's tickets include 5 games and a prize on completion.

We will welcome Rathmore businesses, community groups, pupils, family and friends for an afternoon of fun including:

Games, Activities & Singing
Crafting & Glitter Tattoos
Face Painting
Ice Cream & Chips
Nature Rangers & Emergency Services
The BIG PTA Raffle

Ticket sales will close on Tuesday 3 March 2026.

Our thanks to our PTA Friends & Family Committee and to our staff team for their organisation for this fun event.



PTA Friends & Family

Easter Fun Day

27 March 2026

£2 per child via School Money

Each class will enjoy:

- An easter egg hunt
- Easter class prizes
- Drink and snack
- Easter party games and activities