

## April Diary Dates

- 1-10 Easter Holidays
- 13 Summer Term Commences
- 15-17 P7 Residential Trip
- 29 P2 Spring Celebration

### Advance Notice - May Closures

- 4 Bank Holiday
- 5 Staff Development Day
- 25 Bank Holiday
- 26 Staff Development Day

### Date Changes - June

- 1 Photographs (Groups & Sports' Teams)
- 18 Sports' Celebration Afternoon (invite only)

### Uniform



In Term 3 children may wear their summer uniform of grey shorts, white polo shirts and summer dresses. This is a family choice, and many children continue to wear a combination of Winter and PE uniform throughout the term.

### Phone & Smart Watch Reminder

We aware that some of our older children have their own mobile phone and/or Smart watch. These devices can connect with the internet, make calls, send messages, record voice and video and take photographs. Our Online Safety and Acceptable Use of the Internet policy states children are not allowed to use personal mobile devices on the school premises without specific permission from staff.

While we understand that parents may wish their child to have access to these devices if they are walking home from school, we remind parents to check that phones and Smart watches are safely stored in children's school bags during school. The devices can be accessed after the children have left the school grounds.

Should you wish to discuss any aspect of our phone and Smart watch guidance, please contact the office and we will be in touch.

P7 'Annie'



Our P7 year group wowed audiences in their musical Annie. It was a true celebration of talent, teamwork and confidence. Our sincerest thanks to the whole staff team, family and friends who made a show on this scale possible. You are all Superstars!



### Parent Feedback to shape our 3-year plan

We are currently in the process of writing a new School Development Plan 2026-2029. Part of our process is seeking the views of our whole school community – children, staff and parents. We have sent an email via our email service yesterday and would be grateful if you could follow the link and complete the questionnaire for parents. This link is now live and will remain open until 12noon on Monday 20 April 2026, when your responses should be submitted. All responses will be collated to shape our 3-year School Development Plan. Thank you in advance for your participation

### Term 3 – After School Clubs

Our After School's programme will run for 6 weeks this term starting on 14.04.26 and finishing on 25.05.26 for P4 – P7. Our clubs are provided by external providers only this term. Thanks for your support.

Raffy's Thought for the Month:

'Be content with what you have'



### Safe Parking

As part of our work to encourage safe parking around our school entrances. Our PTA Friends & Family and Eco-Council have been writing to local partnerships.

We are grateful to Jane Shields from Ards and North Down Policing and Community Safety Partnership which has funded 4 'No Parking' signs for Rathmore PS.

She visited school before Easter with our Neighbourhood Police Officers and MLA Stephen Dunn to gift the signs to our Eco-Council.

Please look out for the new signs this month. We hope that they encourage safe spaces around our school.



### Park Pedal Pioneers!

On Saturday 21 March, our families took part in the first Park Pedal event of 2026 and what a sunny, music-filled afternoon it was! As the official *Park Pedal Pioneers*, we even got to choose the soundtrack for everyone cycling around the park.

It was a fantastic way to get active together, and we'll continue encouraging all our families to enjoy active travel whenever they can. Here's to many more miles in the sunshine!



### Dancing Success

Congratulations to Rathmore's Dance Team who recently performed at Take it to the Floor and won second place. The girls danced beautifully and with such energy, we are so proud of them all! Thank you to all our Rathmore family members and friends for their continued support and encouragement.



### Digital Leaders

Our P6 Digital Leaders have now completed their training with the Dream Space Ambassadors! Over the six training sessions, they've learned how to code, explored how to stay safe online, discovered how to spot scams, and even created their very own games.

We are so proud of their hard work, creativity, and growing digital confidence.



### School Council

'We are the School Council and we helped organise some fun in school for Red Nose Day. We enjoyed meeting together to discuss ideas and make posters to share with the classes around the school. We are delighted that we raised £341. Thank you for your support!'



The School Council is raising money this year to *Twin a Toilet*. At the Community Fair, they ran a fun stall with posters, bunting, and games like Toss the Loo Roll and Guess the Number of Sweets. They did a great job and raised £92.00 – well done! We are looking forward to sharing more about our Toilet Twinning project with the school community soon.



### Eco Council

Our Eco Council were delighted to deliver your child's new hi-vis vest last month. As part of our involvement in the Active Travel Programme, and with funding from the Public Health Agency, the Walk Wheel Cycle Trust has provided one hi-vis vest for every pupil from P1–P7. This supports our ongoing efforts to promote the important message: "Be Bright, Be Seen." We hope your child finds their new hi-vis vest useful, especially during darker mornings and

afternoons, and that it helps them stay safe and visible while travelling to and from school. Thank you for your continued support.



### Rathmore Football

Our boys proudly represented the school at the Gerry Armstrong Cup, held at Clandeboye Football Club. The team performed brilliantly during the group stage, winning three out of their four matches and securing a well-deserved place in the semi-finals.

Although the semi-final didn't go their way, the boys played with determination, great sportsmanship and excellent teamwork throughout the tournament. They supported one another on and off the pitch and were fantastic ambassadors for our school.

Events like this also highlight children's rights, particularly the right to play and take part in sport, helping pupils build confidence, teamwork and friendships.

We would like to extend a sincere thank you to Bangor Football Club for organising such a well-run and enjoyable event and to all the parents and families who came along to support the team. Your encouragement means a lot and helps make opportunities like this even more special.



### Representing Rathmore - Netball



Well done Holly from P7 who recently won along with Bangor Netball Club the ENG Primary Battle of Britain Champions Cup. Holly is now through to the All Star National Finals in May for a chance to represent Northern Ireland at the Home Nations Cup in July.

### Representing Rathmore - Dressage



Congratulations to Vogue from P7 for representing Rathmore Primary School at the recent NI Primary Schools' Dressage event and achieving an impressive 4th place finish in a class of 14. A fantastic achievement — and we believe it may be the first ever

equestrian award in Rathmore's history! She even picked up a special prize for best turned out! Making the bathing and extra work worthwhile. We are so proud of you!

### Representing Rathmore - Trampoline

Pippa from P6 represented Rathmore in the National School Trampoline Finals in Derby Arena last month. This was a competition that had all of the UK finalists in one arena. Well done Pippa who came 7th in her Intermediate category.



### Karate Success



### Representing Rathmore - Swimming

Harper from P7 went to Dublin for her swim at the Irish Minor School on March. She swam 100m IM and won her heat getting another PB 1.25.42 coming 5th overall in 11 year olds in Ireland. We are super proud of her!



Helena from P6 competed at the Karate Northern Ireland Championships in March winning Gold across all her categories, including National Kata and National Kumite Champion. What an amazing achievement Helena!



'Article of the Month'

Article 24: The right to food, water, health and a safe environment

This month, our school will be exploring Article 24 of the UNCRC, which states that every child has the right to the best possible health, clean water, nutritious food and a safe, healthy environment. This right reminds us that children's wellbeing depends not only on access to healthcare, but also on the world around them, how we care for our bodies, our surroundings and our planet.

In school, pupils will be learning about the many ways we can protect our health and the environment. Through class discussions, activities and practical examples, children will explore topics such as healthy lifestyles, staying safe, taking care of our school environment, and understanding how small actions (like recycling, handwashing or choosing healthy foods) contribute to their own wellbeing and the wellbeing of others. We will also be highlighting the important role children play in looking after the natural world, linking this work to our Eco School's journey and our commitment to sustainability.

At home, you might like to talk with your child about daily routines that support health and wellbeing, drinking plenty of water, choosing balanced meals, getting fresh air and taking care of shared spaces. These conversations help children build positive habits and understand why looking after themselves and the environment is so important.

Together, let's continue to promote a healthy, caring and environmentally responsible school community where every child has the opportunity to thrive.

## PTA Friends & Family News

### Community Fair - 16.3.26

A massive thanks for your support of our 'Community Fair'. This event brought together local businesses, community groups and Rathmore Primary School pupils, parents and friends for an afternoon of family fun with a St Patrick's flavour. (Our video is on our socials.)

We welcomed our local churches (Bangor Methodist Church, West Church Bangor and St Gall's), YMCA, Curious Candy, Sundaes Ice-Cream, Chip Stop, Mrs Maker (Kerri), Rathmore Nature Rangers, Galactico Soccer, PSNI, Fire Brigade, Coastal Rescue Service, the Integrated Education agencies, Oakmont Nursing Home and Crossroads Care Northern Ireland.

It was a busy afternoon with traditional fair games, Raffy's Raffle, arts and craft activities, face painting, glitter tattoos, refreshments and sweet treats. Bangor School of Irish Dancing were on stage and entertained everyone getting toes tapping! The event provided the opportunity for parents, families and friends of all generations to come together to enjoy some relaxed family time, with the event culminating in shared community signing on the school playground.

The school are grateful to the PTA Friends & Family committee, the parent volunteers and the school staff for their support and help in making Rathmore Primary School's Community Fair such a great success.

Thank you for your ongoing support of our PTA events.



PTA Friends & Family 'Community Fair'

