



## Rights Respecting School – GOLD!



We are absolutely delighted to share the wonderful news that Rathmore Primary School has been awarded **UNICEF UK's Gold: Rights Respecting School Award**, the highest level of recognition possible within the Rights Respecting Schools programme. This is a truly outstanding achievement and reflects the dedication, passion and commitment shown by our entire school community.

We are especially proud to be one of only eight primary schools (at present) in Northern Ireland currently to hold this prestigious award.

The accreditation report recognised that children's rights are fully embedded throughout every aspect of school life, describing Rathmore as a place where rights are "lived and breathed" and where every child feels "valued, safe and heard." Assessors praised the strong culture of respect, inclusion and pupil voice across the school, as well as the way our children confidently champion the rights of others both locally and globally.

This achievement belongs to everyone, our pupils, staff, parents, governors and wider community, whose support and commitment have helped make our Rights Respecting journey such a success. We are incredibly proud of all that has been achieved together and look forward to continuing to build on this important work in the years ahead.

A huge congratulations to our Rights Respecting Ambassadors, to Mrs Wood our RRS Leader and to the entire Rathmore family on this fantastic accomplishment!

### Annual Reports

Our Nursery – P7 Reports will go home via 'school bag post' on Monday 22 June 2026 so please check their bags.

Reports will be posted on the last day of term if your child is not in school.

### June 2026 Diary Dates

- |        |  |
|--------|--|
| 1      | Group & Team Photographs                                 |
| 4      | Musical Evening 7pm                                      |
| 5      | Girls' Football Tournament                               |
| 8 & 11 | North Down Athletics                                     |
| 11     | International Day of Play                                |
| 12     | Boys' Football Tournament                                |
| 16     | New P1 Induction   |
| 17     | New Nursery Induction                                    |
| 18     | Sports' Celebration Afternoon                            |
| 19     | Music Exams (Trinity & ABRSM)                            |
| 22     | Moving on Day & Reports Home                             |
| 26     | P7 Leavers' Assembly                                     |
| 29     | Nursery Leavers' Day                                     |
| 30     | P1 – P6 Last Day of Term<br>(12.15 finish & non-uniform) |



Raffy's Thought for the Month:

'Be proud of your achievements'.

## Fit for Life Week

Our 'Fit for Life' week last month focused on promoting a healthy lifestyle amongst pupils through diet, exercise and being mindful of their feelings. This was a tremendous week for the children and staff.

Our sponsored activity was 'Rathmore's Super Skipping Session' raising funds for Northern Ireland Hospice and PTA Family & Friends Funds. Please send any further donations this week.

## House Sports' Day

Thank you for your support of our House Sports' Days. The House colours, events, music and team points made the event so exciting.



Thank You For Your Support

## 2026 - 2027 Induction

On 16 & 17 June 2026 we welcome the parents of our new P1 and Nursery pupils into the school to begin their introduction to life at Rathmore.

Our current P1 pupils will finish school at 12.30pm on 16 June 2026 to facilitate the P1 meeting visit.

Our P1-P6 children will meet their new teacher on Monday 22 June 2026 at the 'Moving On' morning to support the children in this transition process

## Secondary School Taster Days

During 'Fit for Life' week our P6s had the opportunity to spend a full day in 'big school.' Our girls went to Glenlola Collegiate and our boys to Bangor Grammar School. They were able to spend time in PE, Science, Music, Drama, Art etc and even used the playground and canteen spaces.

Our whole P7 Year group have been invited to Bangor Academy & Sixth Form Centre on 24 June 2026 to spend a full day experiencing the timetable, subjects and organisation of a secondary school.

We are so grateful to our local partner schools in supporting our 'Rathmore Readiness Programme' for the children's transition to secondary level education.

## Let's Dance



Rathmore's Dance Team thoroughly enjoyed attending 'Let's Dance!' where they enjoyed three professionally led dance workshops.

Thank you to Ballymagee Primary for this wonderful opportunity!

## Digital Leaders' Platinum Award

We are incredibly proud of our Digital Leaders who have successfully completed their training with the *Microsoft Dream Space Ambassador Programme* and have been awarded the Platinum Certificate! This year our Digital Leaders developed their knowledge and skills in coding, using Micro:bit, exploring AI, and learning how to stay safe online through Internet Safety lessons. At their graduation ceremony, the children had a fantastic day showcasing their creativity and skills through coding and hands-on learning. From exploring innovative ideas with *Sphero Indi cars* to building and creating in *Minecraft*, it was a truly inspiring experience! Their enthusiasm, teamwork and dedication have been outstanding. Well done, Digital Leaders – you should be so proud of your achievements!



### Rathmore Music



Good luck to our 20 instrumentalists who will sit their Trinity and ABRSM exams this month. We are grateful to Laura Martin who practises pieces, aurals and accompanies each child for their exams.

We look forward to our Musical Evening on Thursday 4 June when the children will showcase their progress and expertise. Thank you to all of our parents who support Rathmore music at home and school.

### Deputation to Ards and North Down Borough Council



We are delighted to share that one of our Rights Respecting School Ambassadors proudly represented Rathmore Primary School at a recent deputation to Ards and North Down Borough Council. Alongside ambassadors from Strangford College, he addressed the Active and Healthy Communities Committee, speaking about the importance of developing a more child-friendly community.

He delivered his part of the presentation with confidence and clarity, explaining how meaningful engagement with children helps to build trust and create safer, more inclusive communities. This work strongly reflects Article 12 of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, which recognises every child's right to express their views and to have those views taken seriously.

He was an excellent ambassador for our school, demonstrating maturity, confidence, and a strong commitment to children's rights. We are extremely proud of his achievement.

### First Holy Communion



We were delighted to celebrate a very special milestone with one of our Primary 4 pupils, who recently received his First Holy Communion. Mrs Wood was especially pleased to be part of this important occasion and to share in such a joyful and meaningful day. It was a wonderful celebration of faith, family and community and we are very proud of him as he marks this significant step in his faith journey.

### Football Success



Congratulations to two of our P7 girls whose Castle Ladies' team got through to the finals of the SBYL premier division Cup for the girls under 12 team.

They beat Ballymoney and Cliftonville to get to the finals which were played on Sunday at Blanchflower football stadium. It was a tight battle with Castle just missing out to Magherafelt who got the win, with Castle Ladies runners-up in the competition.

A great achievement for the girls in their first year playing in the SBYL.

### BBC Star



Congratulations to one of our P6 pupils who was invited to record a special birthday message from children in Northern Ireland with BBC. She starred on TV as part of the 100<sup>th</sup> birthday celebrations for Sir David Attenborough. The programme is available on BBC iPlayer if you want to see her starring role. What an amazing experience!

### Kickboxing



Delighted to share that one of our P6 pupils competed at the ISKA Irish OPEN and returned home ISKA Irish Champion, winning two gold and 1 silver. She has qualified to represent her club and Team Ireland at the ISKA World Championships in Madrid. We are so proud of her work ethic and commitment.

### North Down Sports' Competition

Good luck to all of the Rathmore athletes who have qualified for the annual inter-school primary athletics competition next week. Go Team Rathmore!

### Use of Images:

EA are updating their advice to schools around AI and photographs. Rathmore Primary School understands the potential risks of image use, including the online misuse and manipulation of digital content. Photographs used by the school will not include full names and where possible, images will be taken from a distance. Photographs will not be used without parental permission and photograph consent preferences may be updated at any time during the year, by contacting the School Office.

### Lost Uniform

As the weather becomes warmer, children often remove outer layers. Please ensure ALL uniform items are named so that your child can be easily reunited with any misplaced uniform items.

### Considerate Parking

Sadly, we continue to receive feedback that cars are inconsiderately parked in the neighbourhood. Please respect our neighbours and do not block driveways or pavements.

## PTA Family & Friends News

### Pre-Loved Uniform

Thank you to everyone who has brought 'Pre-Loved' uniform items into school. We have organised and displayed items according to age and are now 'Open' for business.

Please have a look, take what you would like and leave a donation for PTA in our Honesty Box.

Moving forward, School only requires donations of PE kit and Winter skirts/pinafores and shoes/wellies this time. Thank you for your kind donations.

### Supper Skipping

Thank you for supporting Northern Ireland Hospice and our PTA Family & Friends as part of Fit for Life Week. All donations should be sent in to school this week.

### Raffy Rocks Competition

We are excited to announce a new venture for Rathmore PTA Family & Friends. Every child is invited to paint and decorate a rock (which can be held safely in the palm of your child's hand). All entries should be brought into school over Wednesday 17 June & Thursday 18 June 2026. There is a £2 entry charge for the competition which is paid via School Money.

Judging will take place on Friday 19 June 2026 with a prize winner in each class. Please find the poster attached with all of the details.



*Thank you for your ongoing support of our PTA events.*

Follow us on Facebook.

Twitter @PtaRathmore &

Instagram @rathmorepspta

for updates and events this year!!!

**Help support us for your children's future!**