

October 2026

# Newsletter Rathmore



## October Diary Dates

- 5 Closed for Staff Development Day
- 8&9 Nursery – P7 School Photographs
- 15 P3 Harvest Celebration
- 19 PTA F&F Christmas Card Design
- 19-22 N – P7 Parent/Teacher Consultations (1.10pm finish & no after school clubs)
- 21 PTA F&F Pumpkin Judging
- 23 Age NI Slip into Slippers Day
- 26-30 Half Term Holidays

**Save the Date:**

**RathMORE Together at Christmas**  
**24.11.26 from 6-7pm**

## European Language Week



We wish to say a big thank you for all the effort you put into making our European Languages

Week and in particular, our Dress Up Day such a massive success. It is wonderful for our children to celebrate and learn about such a rich variety of cultures.



## Raffy's Thought for the Month

"We all need friends.

Treat others the way you want to be treated"



**'Be Kind, Belong, Become Your Best'**

[www.rathmoreps.co.uk](http://www.rathmoreps.co.uk)

## Supporting Charities



Thank you to everyone who took part in our Skip-a-thon during Fit4Life Week. We were delighted to present Northern Ireland Children's Hospice £2000 last month.

Rathmore staff raised £167 for Macmillan Cancer on their Coffee morning on 25.09.26.



This year's P3 Harvest Assembly will be held on Thursday 15 October 2026. Doors will open at 9.15am to our P3 families.

Our food donations this year will go to support the work of Storehouse North Down. We would appreciate contributions of jars, tins, prepacked food, rice, cooking oil, diluted juice, tinned pies and long-life milk for distribution. If you are able, please leave any contributions into school by Friday 9th October 2026.

Thank you for your ongoing support in our charity work. We know this collection will be greatly appreciated by Storehouse.

### Slip into Slippers

On Friday 23rd October, all children are welcome to carry slippers to school in their school bags to support Age NI!

£1 donation payable via School Money

## Rights Respecting School

### *Article of the Month'*



*Article 12: Every child has the right to express their views and their views should be listened to.*

This month, our school proudly celebrated Article 12 of the UNCRC – the right of every child to express their views and be heard. We've elected our new Rights Respecting Schools (RRS) Ambassadors, Digital Leaders, Eco Team and School Council members, giving pupils a powerful platform to shape their school community. We're excited to see the positive impact these young leaders will make! Encourage your child to share their thoughts and opinions during family discussions and let them know their voice matters.

## Rathmore Hockey

Congratulations to our Boys' and Girls' Teams who represented Rathmore at the first friendly Ulster Hockey Blitz last month in Bangor Grammar School. The Boys' Team remained unbeaten and the Girls' Team won 4 of their 5 matches. What a start! They all displayed fantastic skill, teamwork and determination.

## Intergenerational Celebration

This week our P5s were excited to welcome their guests to the Intergenerational Celebration. Invited family members were served refreshments and entertained by the children. The morning finished with the children and adults sharing their experiences in the P5 classrooms. Thank you for your support of this special event.



## After School Clubs

Clubs commenced on Tuesday this week. We remind you that if your child is not able to attend their club, that you inform the teacher in charge of the activity. That way, we can ensure that all children are present and correct.

## School Photographs

Photographs of your child/ren as individuals, siblings, councils and P7 classes will be taken by 'Cool for School' on 8 & 9 October 2026. Please ensure that your child/ren are wearing their full school uniform and are prepared to smile.

Ordering service is directly through Cool for School so it is important to log in and book.

<https://orders.coolforschoolphotography.com/register/?code=RATHMORE26>

## PTA F&F Children's Christmas Cards

This year our PTA Family & Friends are organising a Children's Christmas Card fundraising event.

The letter and template will be sent home on 6 October 2026. Please refer to this letter for the design guidance to ensure the best results for your child/ren's cards.

The deadline date for the return is Monday 19 October 2026. Please return all completed artwork to your child's Class Teacher. Your School Money account will go live next week should you wish to buy a pack or multiple sets as required. We appreciate your support.

## Parent Teacher Consultations

Our first formal consultations for this year will take place from Monday 19 - Thursday 22 October 2026. Please note that school will finish for all N-P7 pupils at 1.10pm each day this week, including Friday 23 October 2026. Thank you for specifying your preferred days for Consultations. Confirmation of your Consultation time will be sent home tomorrow, 2 October 2026. There will be no Afterschool Clubs during this consultation week.

### P1 – P7 Flu Vaccinations 2026

Please note that our annual Flu Vaccinations will take place on Tuesday 1 December 2026. Letters from School Health will be sent home via school bags and are to be returned to the school.

### Election: May 2027

Please note that Rathmore PS has been requested as a Polling Station on Thursday 6 May 2027. When confirmed, we will add this to our annual calendar.

### The School Safeguarding Team



**Dr Mitchell-Barrett**  
Designated Teacher  
for Child Protection



**Mrs Hardy**  
Deputy Designated Teacher  
for Child Protection



**Mrs Davies**  
Deputy Designated Teacher  
for Child Protection



**Mrs Corrigan**  
Deputy Designated Teacher  
for Child Protection

The School Safeguarding Team also includes: the Chair of the Board of Governors, Mrs Scales and Designated Governor for Child Protection, Mr Beggs.

### Familyworks Counselling

Rathmore Primary School are delighted to welcome Beverly Petticrew as School Counsellor for the 2026-2027 year. Referral to the Familyworks Counselling service is made via the online referral form, using this link:

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



The Safer Schools App NI provides age-appropriate safeguarding information and advice for parents and schools. It is a UK wide partnership aimed to inform us to help keep our young people safe. If this is of interest to you, follow the four steps below;

1. Download the Safer Schools NI App
2. Create an account with Safer Schools
3. Search and select Rathmore Primary
4. Enter the code 3954

### Safeguarding our Children On-Line

As we begin a new term, we would like to share EA's new series of short online safety mini webinars for families. Commissioned by the SBNI and developed by online safety experts at Childnet, the webinars were shaped by partner input through the Online Safety Committee, align with the NI Executive's Online Safety Strategy and reflect the real-life concerns and experiences of local families. The series includes six webinars (15-20 minutes each), offering practical tips, conversation starters and signposting to further support parents. Please click the link below for direct access to these 6 free webinars.

<https://onlinesafetyhub.safeguardingni.org/online-safety-mini-webinars-for-parents-and-carers/>

### Mobile Phone Use

Thank you for supporting Rathmore's mobile free environment. We respect that children who require phone use after school keep them turned off and in bags during our school day



Attendance at school is not just essential, it's good in many ways

<https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/campaigns/miss-school-miss-out>

### Well Done Olivia



Olivia from P2 completed her 50th Junior Parkrun on last month, which is a fantastic achievement, especially as she only started taking part in Junior Parkruns in August 2025. Congratulations Olivia!

### Thankyou and Farewell



Our sincerest thanks and best wishes go to Canon Michael Parker from St Gall's Church and Rev Philip Corrigan, Bangor Methodist Church as they leave our Board of Governors and Bangor to commence new jobs as Minister in Woods Chapel & Gracefield and North West District Superintendent.

Revd Canon Parker has served as a Governor for 26 years and Rev Corrigan for 4 years. We thank them both for their time, wisdom and commitment to the Rathmore Community.

## PTA Friends & Family News

Our PTA F&F Annual General Meeting took place on 11 September 2026. We gave our sincerest thanks to the 2025-26 PTA F&F Committee who raised an incredible £17096.73 towards our Classroom Enhancement Fund, new iPads and new Maths and Literacy Resources.

We want to say thank you and farewell to those stepping down from the Committee. A massive thanks to Suzanne Morton (Chair) and Colleen Close (Secretary), Kerri Jeffers and Deborah Davies who have voluntarily given of their time, energy and talents to organise our fundraising events. Our committee will not be the same without you. We know you will continue to support our new committee.

This year we welcome Maria Pares-Renfrew and Ashleigh Cullen-Orr on to the committee and look forward to a successful year as we introduce some new initiatives.

- Terri McKee, Chair (parent rep)
- Julie Hardy, Vice Chair & Finance (teacher rep)
- Maria Pares-Renfrew (parent rep)
- Claire Alexander (teacher rep)
- Janeen Best (teacher rep)
- Kelly McAdams (teacher rep)
- Rhonda Mitchell-Barrett (teacher rep)
- Ashleigh Cullen-Orr (teacher rep)

### PTA F&F Events

We are excited to announce a return of our Pumpkin Crafting Competition and Christmas Card Design Event. More information will be shared next week 06.10.26.

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/>

Help Rathmore Primary School raise FREE funds by using #easyfundraising when you buy anything from your favourite brands like eBay, Just Eat, Trainline, Argos and over 7,500 more. It's an easy way to support Rathmore Primary School.

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