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# Rathfriland High School

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RATHFRILAND, NEWRY  
CO. DOWN, BT34 5PZ

Principal: Mr I Matthews, MEd., BEd.(Hons), PQH (NI)

21<sup>st</sup> October 2020

Dear Parent/Guardian,

I hope you and your family are well in the current challenging circumstances. This year has highlighted the need for effective and quick communication between school and home and I am delighted to be able to introduce two new ways of doing so.

## The SIMS parent app and Rathfriland High School App.

### SIMS Parent App

The new **SIMS parent app and website** are a secure way for you to access information about your child/children.

You can access the system from a smartphone, tablet or PC – anytime, anywhere.

What will you find in the SIMS Parent app:

- *Important information such as your child's attendance, behaviour and achievement*
- *School term, inset dates and contact details available at the click of a button*
- *Access your child's school report and timetable*
- *Receive notifications to remind you about important information such as key dates for your diary*
- *Access to update your contact details, so we always have the most up-to-date information in case of emergency*
- *If you have more than one child at school, you'll have access to information for all your children, from the same app.*

The information that you receive through the app will help you to stay up-to-date with your child's school life as well as support your child's development and progress.

In addition to providing you with up to date information on your child's progress the SIMS Parent app will allow us to share letters, messages and school reports with you electronically, avoiding the need to send home paper versions with your child or post these to your home. This is quicker, more environmentally friendly, more economic and safer. **The system will replace our current text messaging system from the end of Term 1 (Christmas)** so we ask that all parents register for the system as soon as possible and before this time.

I include a number of resources with this letter to help with this process and you will find a short video detailing the features of the parent app on our school website.

1. SIMS Parent App Usage policy
2. Getting started with SIMS Parent App
3. Parent App Guidance

## Rathfriland High School App

The school has launched a new app for both Apple and Android devices. This is available to anyone, parents, staff, pupils, former pupils and those with an interest in Rathfriland High. It allows access to news stories, notices, messages and the school calendar directly from the app. This is an excellent way to stay up to date with all that is happening in school.

The app can be downloaded from the Apple App store and Google Play store by searching for Rathfriland High



The app is free to download and use and no username or password is necessary.

I hope that parents will find the SIMS parent app provides them with easy access to information regarding their child. I am very much looking forward to being able to share future letters and key information with you in this way.

I also hope that our new school app proves a useful way for pupils, parents, staff and friends of the school to stay up to date with life at RHS.

May I take this opportunity to wish you and your family a safe and happy Halloween break.

Kind regards,

I Matthews

Principal

Rathfriland High School