



MARCH 2026 NEWSLETTER

Dear pupils, parents, carers, and friends of Rattray,

As we move into spring and look ahead to the Easter break, we're delighted to share some updates from across the school. This is a busy and exciting time of year, and we'd love for families to stay connected as we head into the final months of the session. Over the coming weeks, we have several events and activities planned, and we look forward to keeping you informed and involved.

Recent Highlights from Around the School

Our pupils have enjoyed a wonderfully busy few weeks filled with hands-on learning and opportunities to connect with our local community. Our P7s have been strengthening their transition links with Blairgowrie High School through both visits to the high school and visits from their staff, helping to prepare them confidently for the move in June.

Meanwhile, pupils in P4, P4/5 and P5 rolled up their sleeves for two fantastic tree-planting sessions on Rattray Common with Catherine from Perth and Kinross Countryside. These outdoor learning experiences not only supported class projects but also gave pupils the chance to make a real and lasting contribution to our local environment.

Upper school pupils have been growing their confidence on two wheels through Bikeability training and a bike-maintenance workshop. Twenty P7 pupils completed their Bikeability Level 2 award, developing key road-safety skills and gaining confidence cycling on the roads. They also took part in a Dr Bike session, learning simple fixes for common bike problems and how to keep their bikes in good working order.

Big congratulations to four of our P7 pupils (Nathan Kemp, Amelia Peebles, Honor Wight and Hudson Scott) who represented the school at Blairgowrie Rotary Club Quiz only last night. The quiz was particularly tough, even Mrs Robertson didn't know Taylor Swift's middle name or what the floor of a boxing ring was called! However, we scored 68 points overall which we were delighted with, and we came a very respectable 5th place. Congratulations too for Newhill primary who won the event this year.



Ongoing Learning Experiences Across the School

Our P4 pupils are currently taking part in energetic weekly Pickleball coaching sessions with Nicola Whiteford, and the buzz in the hall has been brilliant to hear. In the upper school, pupils are enjoying weekly football coaching from Blairgowrie and Rattray Community Football Club, developing teamwork and resilience.

Music continues to be a strong feature of the week at Rattray. All P4 pupils are working with Zoe Penman from the PKC Music Department on choir and singing sessions - something they look forward to each week. Many upper school pupils are also immersed in weekly musical tuition including bagpiping, drumming and woodwind, giving them the chance to explore new talents and interests.

Our P7s continue their programme with SCYD, focusing on drug education and making positive life choices. Alongside this, our *Incredible Years* parenting sessions run weekly in school until June, supporting families with children aged 3-6. Across the school, our Friday afternoon CLIK life skills groups remain a highlight, offering every pupil valuable opportunities to build confidence, creativity and real-life skills in mixed-age settings.

Weekly swimming lessons for P7 at the 'Reccy' are also well underway, helping pupils develop a vital life skill while having great fun together.

Looking Ahead — Upcoming Events and Opportunities

The next few weeks are shaping up to be just as exciting. Our P3 and P4 pupils will soon begin their tennis coaching sessions with local coach Susan Whiteford, which will culminate in the Blairgowrie Schools Tennis Competition for selected pupils. Eight enthusiastic learners from P4 and P5 have also been chosen to take part in outdoor learning sessions with PKC's Outdoor Learning team, an excellent opportunity to develop teamwork, confidence and problem-solving skills.

As part of our Health Week celebrations, all classes will be visiting **Sensation**, giving every pupil a chance to explore interactive science and wellbeing experiences. P4 and P4/5 are also heading off on a much-anticipated trip to Glamis Castle to enrich their current topic work.

We also have a special smoking and vaping awareness drama workshop planned for P5, delivered in an engaging, age-appropriate way to support pupils' understanding of healthy choices.

We are delighted to be restarting our inter-generational connections, with fortnightly visits to Stormont Care Home set to resume shortly, as well as our weekly visits to the Rattray Community Garden for the younger children in our school to plant seeds and bulbs. These experiences continue to be deeply meaningful for both pupils and the wider community.

Finally, our P7s are busily organising a Red Nose Day special events programme for **Friday 20th May**, and we look forward to sharing more details with you soon - they have some brilliant ideas up their sleeves!

Additionally, we have several upper school pupils representing our school in the coming weeks. At the PKC cross country championship next Tuesday, seventeen pupils will pull on the burgundy sportswear, six P6 pupils (Nathan Scaife, Makcim Dieiev, Ben Watts, Amelie Cruickshank, Hannah Adekunle and Sara Fergusson) and ten P7 pupils (Lewis Moffat, Nathan Kemp, Marcus Mieztis, Alexander Stewart, Riley Bruce, Liliana Petrovska, Liza Kazanchuk, Lena Widz, Estella Cronshaw and Sophia Dingwall). Four P6 pupils (Mikolaj Sloka, Helen Detlaf, Nathan Scaife and Hannah Adekunle) will also take part in the Euros Quiz. We wish all our school representatives the best of luck, we will update you in due course.

Welcome to our school

We have had some new pupils join us since our last newsletter, Julia Wronecki in Miss McAlpine's P1 class and Hannah Halcrow in Miss Salmond's P6 class. We hope our new starts will enjoy their time here at Rattray Primary School.

Staffing Update

I would like to share a few staffing updates with you. Firstly, in Primary 2, we are pleased to welcome Miss Ritchie, who will now teach the class full-time. In Primary 4/5, we are delighted that Mr Masterton has returned. He will teach the class from Monday to Wednesday and on Thursday mornings, with Mr Thomson continuing on Thursday afternoons and Fridays. This ensures consistent support for the class.

We also said a fond farewell to Mrs Downie, who has left our school office. We thank her sincerely for her hard work and the kindness she has shown to families over the years. We look forward to welcoming Miss Wilkie, who will be joining our office team soon.

In our nursery, we welcome Mrs Lynne Michaels, Miss Shannon Downie, Miss Michaela Gibb, and Miss Samantha Davidson (Supply ECPs), who will be supporting the team until the end of term. Their arrival will help alleviate current staff absences.

We also said a warm farewell to Mrs Stewart, our Equity and Excellence Lead, who recently retired. Mrs Stewart has been part of our team for the past seven years, supporting the opening of our new Centre and leading a range of improvements. We wish her a long, happy, and healthy retirement.

I am delighted to share that Mrs Katie Lamb (Senior ECP) was successful in interview and will be covering Mrs Stewart's vacant Equity and Excellence Lead post. Following this, Mrs Mary Murray (ECP) will be stepping into Mrs Lamb's previous role as Senior ECP. Congratulations to both of our long-standing staff members, who will bring a wealth of experience to their new posts. These nursery arrangements will remain in place until the summer break.

Promoting Respectful and Positive Language

In recent weeks, we have noticed an increase in the use of inappropriate language (swearing) among a small number of pupils. As always, the school will address any incidents on an individual basis and continue to reinforce our expectations around respectful communication. We would really appreciate your support in discussing this at home and helping children understand the importance of using positive and considerate language. Working together helps ensure a safe and nurturing environment for everyone.

Comic Relief (Red Nose) Day – Friday 20th March

The Primary 7 class are organising Comic Relief this year on 20th March 2026. They have Red Noses for sale available on Parent Pay for £2 each. If your child wishes a red nose, please order on Parent Pay as soon as you can as we have a limited number of noses available. These will not be issued until Thursday 19th March to ensure they are not lost before Red Nose Day!

The Primary 7s are planning to do a dress crazy day in school for £1 - also available on Parent pay and will be offering to paint red noses on faces for 50p cash donation to be brought into school on Friday 20th March.

Celebrating Lewis's Judo Success!



We are absolutely delighted to share some wonderful sporting news from one of our pupils. Lewis Moffat recently took part in the British Schools Judo Championships in Sheffield on Sunday 8th March, proudly representing Rattray Primary School. This was a fantastic achievement, and we are thrilled to announce that Lewis finished 3rd place at the Championships — an incredible result at a national-level event.

This follows on from Lewis's earlier success in November, when he won gold at the Scottish National Closed Championship, demonstrating his dedication, determination, and impressive talent in Judo.



We are extremely proud of Lewis and all he has accomplished. A huge well done from everyone at Rattray — what a brilliant ambassador for our school!

P6/7 Shine in the PKC Sumdog Competition!

A huge well done to our brilliant P6/7 class, who placed 14th in the Perth & Kinross Sumdog Maths Competition, a fantastic achievement with many schools taking part! The class worked extremely hard throughout the contest and should feel very proud of their teamwork and determination.

We are also delighted to celebrate Helena Detlaf, who finished 10th overall across all participating pupils. This is an outstanding individual accomplishment, and Helena has received a Sumdog Certificate of Merit in recognition of her top-10 placing. A wonderful achievement - well done, Helena!



Scots Poetry Competition

Many of our children made the effort to learn Scots Poetry for our recent competition. The teachers had great difficulty judging all the entries, but finally choose some worthy winners who were:

P1a	Emery Irons	Sonny Thomson
P1b	Charlotte Ritchie	Hollie McGregor
P2	Nicole Vrbas	Connor Stewart
P3	Kyan Smith	Alaina Downie
P3/4	Aubrey Scott	Devlin Cameron
P4/5	Fionn Nastiuk	Logan McDonald-Wallace
P5J	Zac McDonald	Macy Cunningham
P6S	Penny Pyott	Aida McLeod
P6/7	Lewis Donaldson	Estella Cronshaw
P7N	Nathan Kemp	Liza Kazanchuk

Congratulations to all who participated in this event, and thanks to parents for helping their children learn their poetry and to those who came along to our fabulous Scots Afternoon.

Health Week

Our Health Week will take place from Monday 30th March until the last day of term. Miss Johnstone and Mrs Russell have planned a huge array of health-related activities for the children to participate in. **During this week all school children should come to school in comfortable and appropriate sportswear which is suitable for both indoor and outdoor wear. The only exception to this is on Monday 30th March when our P4/5 to P7 pupils will wear school uniform to the Sensation school trip— this makes the children easier to find!**

Parent Council

Our Parent Council met on Thursday 26th February and discussed several items on their agenda including upcoming fundraising events starting with a **spring disco on Thursday 23rd April**. However, due to the new PVG legislation, any parents helping or even attending school discos to provide support for their own child will be required to have a PVG certificate. Unfortunately, as the discos are organised by the Parent Council and not the school, any PVG certificates already filed for the school's bank of parent helpers do not count. A separate PVG check needs to be performed under the Parent Council's name as opposed to the schools. We're as frustrated and confused about this as you are, but as I'm sure everyone agrees the safety of the children comes first.

The Parent Council will be sending out a separate email about this soon once we have finalised our PVG enrolment, but please consider volunteering for a PVG certificate. Due to the ratios of adults to children required to run fundraisers like discos there is a real risk that these will not be able to continue without parent support. There is no obligation to help out at every disco (although we can confirm that you get first dibs of the best biscuits if you do!) but even one disco a year can be a big help. The discos are a highlight for many children, and it would be such a shame if we were not able to run them going forward.

The next Parent Council meeting will be held on Thursday 30th April at 5.30pm in the school staff room. All parents and carers are very welcome, and as a school we would really encourage you to consider coming along. In the summer term, we will be saying goodbye to three of our longstanding Parent Council members as their youngest children move on to high school. This will leave us with just three regular members to support the school and help organise important fundraising events.

Ratray has a wonderfully supportive school community, and it would be a real shame for us not to have a Parent Council that reflects that strength. Even attending one or two meetings a year makes a real difference, and new voices and ideas are always welcomed.

If you have any items you would like added to the agenda, or if you would like more information about our Parent Council, please visit their Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/Ratray-Primary-Parent-Council-1486611214939520/>

Pupil Council

The Pupil Council have been investigating how children get to school, and how well the Park and Stride is used. They are keen to remind parents about using the Park and Stride on Hatton Road, and by using this, they will help to lower the busyness around the main road outside the school at the start and end of the day.

New Welfare Rights Support for Ratray Families

We are very pleased to share that Ratray Primary has been selected to take part in a new two-year Scottish Government-funded project aimed at supporting families and helping to reduce the impact of poverty. Following a successful bid by PKC, a Welfare Rights Officer will begin working with our school from 1 April.

The project will run in 11 primary schools and their associated secondary schools, focusing on offering families practical support, advice and guidance. The Welfare Rights Officer will be available to help families with:

- checking and maximising benefit entitlement,
- support with debt and money worries,
- referrals to helpful services such as energy advice and employability,
- applications for Free School Meals, Clothing Grants, Education Maintenance Allowance and other supports linked to the school day.

The poster features a blue bird at the top left and a sun at the top right. A central banner reads 'Perth & Kinross Council Welfare Rights Team Access to Advice in Schools'. Below this, a pink speech bubble says 'Free. Any household can be missing out on entitlements!'. A central text box states 'It's important to contact us when you have a change in circumstances e.g.' followed by a list of scenarios: 'having a baby', 'child starting school', 'child turning 16', 'a health diagnosis', 'moving home', 'a change of job or working hours', and 'taking on caring responsibilities'. To the right, a list of services is provided: 'We can advise on all aspects of the benefits system including: Universal Credit, Disability Benefits, Free School Meals, and Crisis Grants'. At the bottom, contact information is given: 'Call us on 01738 476900 (Option 1) or via online referral @ www.pkc.gov.uk/wrt'. The background includes illustrations of a house, a person with a stroller, a child with a backpack, a person with a laptop, and a person in a wheelchair.

This work aims to strengthen family incomes by addressing the key drivers of child poverty: cost of living, income from benefits, and income from employment.

The project will be led by the Welfare Rights Team, and we hope it will make a positive difference to many of our families. We will share more details next month about how this new support will be delivered in school.

School Handbook 2026/27

Our school handbook for next session is available to view on the council website or in paper form from school office. Follow this link – [school handbook](#)

Lost Property and Lost Uniform

We have a considerable amount of lost property growing in our school, if you think something might belong to your child, please email the school office with a description of the missing item. We will post photos of items on Facebook too, so please let us know by commenting on the photo if something belongs to your child. **It would be incredibly helpful however if children's belongings were labelled or named on the tag, this would allow us to reunite them with their owner so much easier.** Anything clothing remaining prior to the Easter break will be handed into local charity shops.

Just2easy

As you are aware we are using new app as a means of sharing your child's learning with you. This app allows your child's class teacher to correspond with you too.

This session all our primary school pupils (with exception of those classes with teacher absences) will have weekly learning added to their journals and we invite you to discuss these with your child and comment on their posts. Teachers will also be sending weekly messages with you through the app, and school will use this to communicate some information too.

If you are having any problems accessing Just2easy please get in touch, and we will endeavour to support you.

Literacy update

We are continuing to update our library, recently adding new displays and photos of good practise around the school. The library is now well stocked and looking great.

We recently celebrated World Book Day 2026, classes held their own reading sessions, some read with other classes, some children brought in their own favourite books and we joined in with the 'Big Book and Footy Quiz' from The National Literacy Trust.

We have had local storyteller 'Meg Downie' visiting P1, P2, P4 and P6. She enthralled the children with her storytelling magic. We hope she will come back to other classes soon.

Absences

If your child is unable to attend school for any reason, please call the school office on 01250 871980. There is a voicemail facility available to leave a message. We will send a text to the Parents/Carers of any child with an unexplained absence which will then be followed by a telephone call both AM and PM.

School Terms and Holiday Dates 2025-26 and 2026-27

Follow this link - [School term and holiday dates - Perth & Kinross Council](#)

Holiday dates

School closes for the Easter holidays on Thursday 2nd April at 3.20pm and reopens for pupils on Monday 20th April at 9am.

We will continue to keep you updated in our usual ways – Parent pay, school app, text messaging and our school Facebook page. **Therefore, please ensure your Parent pay account, email address and your mobile phone numbers are all up to date.**

On behalf of all the staff I would like to thank you for your continuing support. We hope you have an enjoyable Spring break with your children, and we look forward to the final term of this school year.

If you have any questions or queries regarding any of the items within this newsletter, please don't hesitate to contact the school office or the email address below.

Yours faithfully



Joanna Robertson
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Future Dates

March 2026

Week beginning 9th and 16th – Nursery Parent Contact Session
Wednesday 11th – Young Carers Day
Friday 13th – Glee Choir at Perth Concert Hall (6pm start)
Wednesday 18th (5pm to 7.30pm)– Parent Contact 3
Thursday 19th (4pm to 6.30pm) - Parent Contact 4
Thursday 19th – NHS smoking/vaping awareness session for P5 pupils
Friday 20th – Comic Relief Day
Monday 23rd – P4 and P4/5 trip to Glamis Castle
Tuesday 24th – P1 to P4 trip to Dundee Science Centre (Sensation)
Tuesday 24th – PKC cross country event (selected P6 and P7 pupils)
Wb 30th March – Health Week
Monday 30th – P4/5 to P7 trip to Dundee Science Centre (Sensation)

April 2026

Thursday 2nd – Nursery Spring Activity Afternoon and Next Steps Celebration
Friday 3rd - School closed for Good Friday and School Holidays
Monday 20th - Back to School
Thursday 23rd – Spring Disco - P1 to P3: 6 – 6.45pm; P4 to P7: 7 – 8pm

May 2026

Monday 4th - **Public Holiday (May Day) school closed to all**
Tuesday 12th - Blairgowrie local schools cricket festival (selected P6 and P7 pupils)
Tuesday 19th – Blairgowrie local schools P4 Tennis tournament (selected P4 pupils)
Friday 22nd – All P4s to Big Sing event at George Duncan Stadium, Perth
Monday 25th to Thursday 28th – P7 residential week Lendrick Muir (pupils only)
Friday 29th – **Inset Day school closed to pupils**

June 2026

Monday 1st – P1 and P1/2 trip to Brechin Castle
Thursday 4th (12 noon to 1pm) – School Summer BBQ (all welcome)
Thursday 4th – Open Afternoon - Class Focus (2.15pm)
Monday 8th– P2 and P3 trip to Brechin Castle
Monday 8th June (1.30pm) – Strong Start 2 sports day in courtyard
Tuesday 9th (1.45pm) – Nursery Sports Day (**more information to follow**)
Wednesday 10th June - School Sports day (**more information to follow**)
Thursday 11th/ Friday 12th – P1 / P7 Transition Days (**more information to follow**)
Wednesday 17th June - School Sports day contingency (**more information to follow**)
Monday 15th June (1.30pm) – Strong Start 2 sports day in courtyard Contingency Day
Tuesday 16th (1.45pm) – Nursery Sports Contingency Day
Thursday 18th (1.45pm) – Teddy Bear’s Picnic (Current and New P1 pupils)
Wednesday 24th – Moving up Morning/meet new class teachers
Thursday 25th (1.15pm) – Nursery Graduation (by invitation)
Thursday 25th – Nursery Summer Activity Afternoon and Next Steps Celebration
Friday 26th June (1.30pm) –Prizegiving (by invitation)
Monday 29th June (2pm) – P7 Leaver’s Assembly (by invitation)
Tuesday 30th June (PM) – P7 Leaver’s Party (pupils only)
Wednesday 1st July – End of term fun day / staff v pupils netball. /Ratray’s got talent. etc (**more information to follow**)
Thursday 2nd July –P7 Shirt Signing (pupils only)
Thursday 2nd July (12 noon) – School closes for Summer Break

FURTHER DATES WILL BE ADDED