



## OCTOBER 2023 NEWSLETTER

Dear pupils, parents/carers and friends of Ratray

It has been several weeks since our last newsletter and this term have been remarkably busy here at Ratray. All our P7s have had swimming lessons at the 'Reccy', and weekly outdoor sessions with 'Biscuit'. Ten of senior pupils will also have the wonderful opportunity of four weeks of outdoor learning starting this week, where they will get to experience canoeing and gorge walking. Callum Garden, the cricket development officer has been coaching our P6/7 and P7 classes once a week and after the October break he will coach some of our younger classes too.

The P6 to P7 classes took part in Anne Frank workshops where they explored discrimination and prejudice. P6/7 took part in the Scottish Youth Film Day in Perth and four of our classes visited Blairgowrie Church during their doors open day. We have also been visited by our woodwind musical instructor Fran Baker, our bagpiping tutor Scott Methven and drumming tutor Stuart Foggie.

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

Please take the time to read this newsletter and as always, if you have any queries or concerns (no matter how trivial) please get in touch via our school office 01250 871980 or [ratray@pkc.gov.uk](mailto:ratray@pkc.gov.uk)

### **Staffing Update**

There are a couple of staffing changes to share with you. This week we will have Miss Bobbi Smith joining us a part-time ECP in our P1 class, this class is also supported by visiting outreach teacher Miss Emma Constable. Unfortunately, and very sadly, I must share that Miss Hilary Duncan, from our school office will be leaving our school team to take up a promoted post at Blairgowrie High School. Miss Duncan has been at Ratray for nine years and will be greatly missed by all in our school. Miss Duncan always carries out her role with a cheery smile and I know that many a parent has been supported by her over the years. We wish her well in her new post.

### **Open Afternoon – Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> October**

We are delighted to be able to invite parents/carers into the school this week on Thursday afternoon **2:15pm to 3.15pm**. This is an opportunity for you to find out what the children have been learning, alongside letting meet your child's new teacher and see how our classrooms and school areas are looking. We really do hope you join us on this afternoon.

### **Pupil Council**

All classes were asked to nominate and select pupils to represent them on our Pupil Council. Congratulations to these children. The new class representatives are as follows:

- P1 – Polly Thomson
- P2 – Darcy Laurie
- P2/3 - Rudy Dow
- P3 – Lewis Pirie
- P4 – Ollie Comiskey
- P4/5 – Jax O'Hare/ Jude Downie
- P5 – Sophia Dingwall
- P6 – Sophie Morrison
- P6/7 – Casey Smith and Alix Carmichael
- P7 – Andrei Hunea-Anania and Brooke Phillips

Our Pupil Council has been busy looking at different ways the adults in school can record the positive behaviour they see in the playground and the lunch hall and as we already successfully use Recognition Boards in our classes, they thought it would be a good idea to create these for other spaces. They have created a survey to allow all our

pupils a chance to voice their opinions on their ideas. The Pupil Council's next step will be to collate this information and share the survey's findings with the school.

### **Rights Respecting Schools**

We began this school session by forming our new RRS Steering Group. We are delighted to be keeping some of our existing members and welcoming some new children to the group. Congratulations to the below children who have been chosen:

P1 – Noah Massie  
 P2 – Halle McDonald  
 P2/3 – Xander Kippen  
 P3 – Macy Cunningham  
 P4 – Sara Fergusson  
 P4/5 – Ayra Cochrane  
 P5 – Skye Taylor  
 P6 – Shaih Kempton  
 P6/7 – Lacey Colvill/ T.J. Milne, Iain Houston  
 P7 - Tamzin Cummings, Lewis Fyfe

This term our RRS Group have been involved in helping all the classes to set up an individual class charter which links with children's rights, and we have shared these with the whole school during a special RRS assembly which was led by Lacey Colville, Iain Houston, Tamzin Cummings and Lewis Fyfe. All the representatives from our RRS Group have been attending weekly meetings and have been involved in helping to make decisions about what should be included in our school playground charter this year.

### **PE Times and Kit**

All our classes have two sessions of PE each week. The table below (starting next week) indicates the days that your child will have their PE lesson. **On PE days only** children should come to school without uniform and wearing suitable sportswear on these days. This saves time in school for changing and allows the children to get their full PE time. Please note that on these days, jewellery should not be worn, and long hair should also be tied back.

<b>Class</b>	<b>Teacher</b>	<b>PE days</b>
P1	Miss Wigmore	Tuesday and Wednesday
P2	Mrs Russell	Wednesday and Thursday
P2/3	Ms McCulloch	Wednesday and Thursday
P3	Mrs Case/Mrs Murray	Tuesday and Thursday
P4	Miss L. Johnstone	Tuesday and Thursday
P4/5	Ms Gregg	Monday and Thursday
P5	Mrs D. Johnstone	Wednesday and Thursday
P6	Mrs Strachan	Tuesday and Friday
P6/7	Mr Masterton	Monday and Tuesday

### **Parent Council Halloween Disco – Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> October**

All children (and staff) are invited to attend a disco on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> October. This will take place in the school assembly hall from 6pm to 6.45pm for P1 to P3 classes, and from 7pm to 8pm for P4-7 classes. Entry is £1.50 per child and all proceeds will go to Parent Council funds. Costumes or dress down (play clothes) can be worn.

### **Afterschool Clubs**

Some of our afterschool and lunchtime clubs have started this term, but most will recommence next term. All children attending our after-school clubs will exit our school building via the High Street gate and children can be collected from the High Street playground. There will be no collection and exit via the Rattray common playground gates. A reminder that as staff give up their free time to run these clubs, these can be cancelled at short notice dependent on staff sickness or other personal reasons, therefore please do not rely on our afterschool clubs as childcare. We will be offering further after school opportunities throughout the school year; will we inform you in due course of the arrangements for these.

## Parent Helpers

Our school is always open to parents and visitors. Therefore, if you can offer your support in any way to the school, whether long-term, short-term, or one-off for an hour, afternoon, morning or full day, we would be delighted to have you. We are always looking for extra hands in our classrooms, lunch hall, playground, skills groups or on school trips. If you can support us in any way, please do contact the school office at [rattray@pkc.gov.uk](mailto:rattray@pkc.gov.uk)

## Reading Schools Award

New Reading Ambassadors have been chosen for this year. We hope to get together soon to develop reading in the school. We are still completing the application for the Reading Schools Award and to help us with this could you discuss your favourite book with your child. If they could then draw or take a photo of the book to bring to school, we could make a display in our library. Also, if anyone would like to assist in our library, sorting, labelling, reading to the children then please could you contact the school. We have a lovely library which is developing rapidly, and any support would be greatly appreciated.

## Friday CLIK Sessions

Our pupil CLIK (Creativity, Learning, Inventiveness and Knowledge) skills sessions are based around life skills which we do not necessarily develop in class time. Our skills sessions include activities for our pupils such as touch typing, gardening, sewing, coding, DIY skills, first aid and games to develop social skills.

Our pupils really enjoying skill times as they learn new things and get to mix with different children and school staff. If you can volunteer your time to support these Friday afternoon sessions which continue after the October holidays please get in touch, we would be happy to have you.

## P6 Ski Trip

Following on from the notes of interest, Mrs McCarthy will now organise for the Ski Trip to be added to Parent Pay for you to sign your child up. The closing date for signing up will be 10<sup>th</sup> November. Mr Brown will organise a meeting with Cally Gordon before this date for you to be able to find out more about the trip and ask any questions you may have.

As a reminder, the trip is non-residential, with pupils travelling from Rattray to Glenshee daily. The cost is approximately £250, which includes transport, tuition, ski pass and equipment hire. Children do not have to have any skiing experience, and indeed usually this is the first time for most children skiing.

We would really love for all P6s to attend and have subsidies available for those who find the cost prohibitive, if this is the case, please do get in touch via the school email address.

## Assessing Children's Progress

As you may be aware National Standardised Assessments have been introduced across all schools in Scotland, and each year pupils in Primaries One, Four and Seven are assessed in schools locally and nationally. This is part of the Scottish Government's commitment to raising standards across Scottish Education. Testing of our P7 pupils will take place next term.

## Annual Data Collection

We are still waiting on some forms being returned. Please ensure the form is returned in an envelope, the same one from school is fine. This protects your personal information. **Please return forms by Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> October.**

## Holiday dates

School closes for the October holidays on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> October at 3.20pm and reopens for pupils on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> October at 9am. The school holiday and term dates up to June 2023 are available at [this link](#).

## General Updates/Reminders

- Please ensure that your child comes to school on PE days in appropriate clothing that can be worn both indoors and outdoors. No jeans, jeggings please.
- **Please ensure your child wears full school uniform on the days they do not have PE.**
- Mobile phones or devices are not permitted for pupils in school. Senior pupils are advised not to bring them to school, and if they do, they must hand their phone into their class teacher during the day.
- Whilst we do not want to ban football or Pokémon cards, we would like to remind you to reinforce to your children that the trading of cards should not take place in the school building or playground. As you can imagine we have had a few squabbles about this which spill over into the classroom.

On behalf of all the staff I would like to thank you for your continuing support. If you have any questions or queries regarding any of the items within this newsletter, please do not hesitate to contact the school office or the email address below.

Yours faithfully



Joanna Robertson  
Headteacher  
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### Rattray Primary School Key Dates

**Please note these dates are provisional and may be subject to change.  
Other dates will also be added.**

#### August 2023

Thursday 17<sup>th</sup>/24<sup>th</sup>/31<sup>st</sup> August – P7 and P6/7 cricket sessions

#### September 2023

Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> September – P1 photo taken for Blairgowrie Advertiser

Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> – P6 to P7 Anne Frank workshop (pupils only)

Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> (PM) – Nursery/P1 fun day

Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> (All day) – Bookmark festival (pupils only)

Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> – Flu Immunisations

Friday 29<sup>th</sup> – P6/7 pupils to Scottish Youth Film Day

#### October 2023

Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> – Open Afternoon (2.15pm)

Friday 6<sup>th</sup> – School closes for October holiday

Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> - Back to School

Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> – P7 of P6/7 weekly swimming sessions continue

Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> – P7 weekly swimming sessions continue

Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> – Halloween Disco - P1 to P3: 6 – 6.45pm; P4 to P7: 7 – 8pm

#### November 2023

Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> - Parent Contact 1 (5pm to 7.30pm)

Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> – Parent Contact 2 (4pm to 6.30pm)

Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> - 16<sup>th</sup> – Scholastic Bookfair

**Friday 10<sup>th</sup> – Inset Day school closed to pupils**

Monday 13<sup>th</sup> - Odd socks day (anti-bullying)

Monday 13<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> – Book week Scotland

Monday 20<sup>th</sup> – Ragbag Collection

Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> (AM) – P7 Transition Event at Blair High

Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> – Tempest Photographer (individual and family photos)

#### December 2023

Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> - Infant Nativity (9.30am and 1.30pm)

Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> – Flu Immunisations

Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> (AM) in Hub - Nursery AM Party

Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> – Christmas Disco - P1 to P3: 6 – 6.45pm; P4 to P7: 7 – 8pm

Friday 15<sup>th</sup> (2pm) - Carols in the Hub

Friday 15<sup>th</sup> - Christmas Jumper day

Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> - Nursery Christmas Activity Day and Song

Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> – Whole School Christmas Party Day (pupils only)

Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> – Christmas Lunch

Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> (PM) – Christmas Activity Day (pupils only)

Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> (All day) – Christmas Activity Day (pupils only)

Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> (noon) – School closes for Winter Break

**January 2024**

Monday 8<sup>th</sup> - Back to School

**February 2024**

Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> – Upper School Scots Assembly (PM)

Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> - Global play day

**Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> – Inset Day school closed to pupils**

**Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> – Public Holiday school closed to all**

**Friday 16<sup>th</sup> - Public Holiday school closed to all**

Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> (AM) – P7 Transition Event at Blair High

**March 2024**

Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> – P1-3 Generation Science Workshop

Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> (5pm to 7.30pm)– Parent Contact 3

Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> (4pm to 6.30pm) - Parent Contact 4

Friday 15<sup>th</sup> March – Comic Relief Day

Friday 15<sup>th</sup> March – Young Carers Day

Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> – P4-5 Generation Science Workshop

Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> (2.15pm) – Open Afternoon

Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> - School closes for Spring holiday

**April 2024**

Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> - Back to School

**May 2024**

Monday 6<sup>th</sup> - **Public Holiday school closed to all**

Friday 24<sup>th</sup> (12 noon to 1pm) – School Summer BBQ (all welcome)

Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> (1.30pm) – School Sports day (**more information to follow**)

**June 2024**

Thursday 6<sup>th</sup>/ Friday 7<sup>th</sup> – P1 / P7 Transition Days (**more information to follow**)

Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> June (2pm) – Strong Start 2 sports day in courtyard

Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> (1.45pm) – Nursery Sports Day (**more information to follow**)

Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> June (1.30pm) – School Sports Contingency Day

Monday 10<sup>th</sup> June (2pm) – Strong Start 2 sports day in courtyard Contingency Day

Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> (1.45pm) – Nursery Sports Contingency Day

Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> June – Nursery Fun Day

Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> – Moving up Morning/meet new class teachers

Friday 21<sup>st</sup> June (10am) – P4 – P7 Prizegiving (by invitation)

Friday 21<sup>st</sup> June (2pm)– P1-P3 Prizegiving (by invitation)

Monday 24<sup>th</sup> June (9.30am) – Nursery Graduation (by invitation)

Monday 24<sup>th</sup> June (2pm) – P7 Leaver’s Assembly (by invitation)

Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> June (PM) – P7 Leaver’s Party (pupils only)

Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> June – End of term fun day / staff v pupils netball/Ratray’s got talent. etc

**(more information to follow)**

Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> June –P7 Shirt Signing (pupils only)

Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> June (12 noon) – School closes for Summer Break



**Together We All Can**

**Rattray Primary School**