



MAY 2023 NEWSLETTER

Dear pupils, parents/carers and friends of Ratray

We are now in the final term of the school session, and we have many things planned for our school. There are lots of dates for your diary in the section at the end of this newsletter, don't forget to check this. We have had several visitors supporting learning across the school this term which has been most beneficial to our pupils. All P3 and P4 pupils have had weekly tennis coaching sessions with local coach Susan Whiteford, P6 and P7 pupils will participate in Rugby coaching, whilst P5 and P6 are enjoying cricket coaching with cricket development officer Calum Garden. These sessions will culminate in a local tennis and cricket tournament, unfortunately we can't take all the children along to these tournaments, but we will let you know who has been selected. We have SSPCA learning workshops arranged for all our classes focussing on respecting animals and Generation Science will be visiting our P1 to P3 classes. We also have a block of go-kart building and racing arranged for our P7 pupils. We are also in the process of arranging excursions for all our pupils based on classroom learning. We will inform you of these in due course.

Welcome to our school

We have had 8 new pupils join us since our last newsletter. In P1 Mark Kazanchuk and Alice Buturuga, P2/3 Matuii Petrovski, P4/5 Liliana Petrovska and Liza Kazanchuk, P6 Jasmine Kunga, P7 Roman Kazanchuk and Liza Petrovska. We hope all our new starts will enjoy their time at Ratray Primary School.

Session dates and school closure

The school holiday dates up to June 2023 are available at the [following link](#). Please note there is an additional public holiday on **Monday 8th May** for King Charles III coronation. This means school will be closed to pupils and staff on both these dates.

Rag Bag Collection – Tuesday 9th May

Please bring your rag bag or other bag to school by 9am on the morning of **Tuesday 9th May** and leave it in the school entrance corridor. Our school will be paid for every kilogram recycled. We can help raise hundreds of pounds with each collection made. Items that can be recycled are wearable clothes, paired shoes, handbags and belts.

Rugby Coaching Sessions

From this coming Thursday 11th May, all P6 and P7 pupils will have a 7-week block of Rugby coaching led by Blairgowrie Rams coaches. Please ensure all children involved are appropriately dressed as the coaching sessions will take place outdoors.

ParentPay Difficulties and Drop-in – Thursday 11th May

Miss Duncan in the office is offering a Parentpay drop-in session all day on Thursday 11th May, this is for nursery and school parents and could be to help with activation of your account, change of email address, explaining payment items or accessing communications from school. If you are struggling with Parentpay please do pop along then or contact the school at any time and the office staff will happily guide you through things,

Blairgowrie Rotary Club Quiz

Huge congratulations to some of our P7 pupils who participated in a general knowledge quiz earlier this term against 9 other schools in the Blairgowrie area. We won the event and will now progress to the regionals finals which take place on **Saturday 13th May**. Well done to Charlotte Findlay, Gabriel Detlaf, Poppy Duncan and Corey Meikle who represented the school so wonderfully. Thanks to the staff who supported this event too and lots of luck to these children for finals.

UNICEF Rights Respecting School – Bronze Award

We have recently been awarded Rights Respecting School Bronze Award; this is largely due to the efforts of Miss Johnstone and her RRS pupil group. At Rattray we put the rights of our children at the heart of our school ethos and culture to improve well-being and help each child reach their full potential. Our pupils learn about their rights on a regular basis and these rights are also a focus of our school assemblies. We are well on our way to achieving our Silver Award, so a huge thanks is due to Miss Johnstone and these pupils.

Glee Challenge 2023

Our small but mighty Glee choir performed brilliantly at the Tayside Glee finals, after winning our sectional last term. Yet again, they sang beautifully but unfortunately, we didn't make the final three as there was some very strong opposition. Our girls were heartbroken which was difficult to see. Regardless, we are incredibly proud of every single one of our 15 girls and of course Mrs McCulloch and Mrs Newlands. Thanks to all the parents and staff who came along to the Caird Hall to support us.

Reading Schools Award

Our school is working towards Reading School accreditation which we hope to achieve quite soon. To support this our Reading School Pupil Ambassadors, meet fortnightly and organise events for their school mates and staff. So far, the ambassadors have designed posters and created reading comprehension questions and are planning a special community reading activity for later this term, so watch this space!

School Inspection – Public Meeting

As you may know a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited our school in February. During the visit, the inspection team talked to parents/carers, children, staff, school partners and the school management team.

Education Scotland's evaluations for our school, a more detailed document called summarised inspection findings and the summary of our questionnaire results can be found at [Reports page | Inspection reports | Education Scotland](#).

After a government inspection, every school must offer parents and community members a public meeting to discuss the report, the inspection findings and share their plans for continuous improvement. For our school this meeting will take place on **Thursday 25th May at 6pm** in our school assembly hall. All parents, carers and friends of the school are welcome to attend. It would be helpful to let us know of your intention to attend in order to prepare for the evening, please do by contacting the school email address below.

Pupil Council

Our focus at our last Pupil Council meeting was Wellbeing and the group discussed and graded how well the school responded to the wellbeing of the pupils. They identified what the school did well e.g. the class fruit bowl, daily emotional check-ins and our class worry boxes. They also discussed that they would like to see the return of the daily mile. This has now been discussed and will return during Health Week at the beginning of June. The group's next focus will be on Learning and Achievement with a focus on our CLIK Awards.

Parent Council

HAMPER DONATIONS NEEDED The Parent Council are looking for donations for some hamper items that we'll be raffling off at Tesco on 20th May and at our school sports day on 31st May (weather permitting). Can any donations please be handed into the school office or to a member of the parent council before 18th May. All donations welcome. This is to raise funds for the parent council to allow us to help fund with some of the fun items and events the school provide for the pupils. Any donations big or small will be greatly received.

Parent Helpers

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 get in touch with the school office or send an email to rattray@pkc.gov.uk

Afterschool Clubs

Our afterschool clubs are a great success. A reminder that all children attending our after-school clubs this term will exit our school building via the High Street gate, unless activity is in community connect building. Children can be collected from the High Street playground. There will be no collection and exit via the Rattray common

playground gates. If your child is signed up for a club and can't attend, please contact the school office and let us know.

P7 Residential – Lendrick Muir

Our 5-day outdoor adventure takes place from **Monday 12th to Friday 16th June**. Final information will be sent out soon to all children participating.

Assessing Children's Progress

As you may be aware National Standardised Assessments are used 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 Governments commitment to raising standards across Scottish Education. Testing of our P1 will take place this term.

Sports Day and Health Week

Our Sports Day with parents/carers welcome to spectate will be on **Wednesday 31st May**, we hope to have a full programme of events at Davie Park **from 1.30pm**. Our contingency date should we be rained off is Wednesday 7th June at the same time. Our Nursery Sports Day will take place on **Tuesday 6th June from 1.45pm** on Rattray Common. Our wet weather contingency date is Tuesday 13th June at the same time. Our Health Week will take place from Monday 5th June, we are currently in the process of organising this. More details will follow for both the sports day and health week.

P1 and P7 Transition

Our P7s pupils have already had a visit to Blairgowrie High School, and been visited by high school staff, they will have their final transition visits on **Thursday 8th and Friday 9th of June**. On these same days, our new Primary 1s will have the opportunity to visit their new classrooms and meet their teachers. We have several transition events organised for our new starts and have shared this information with the families of our new P1 children.

School Uniform

We have recently changed our school uniform supplier to Border Embroideries who provide a greater range of uniform which is more affordable for parents. The website allows uniform to be delivered to your home address if you pay a delivery charge, or it can be sent free to the companies Dundee store. Nearer the summer, we will send out information for ordering via the school office, which will negate delivery charges. You can find all available uniform options (grey and maroon) at this web address. <https://www.border-embroideries.co.uk/schools/rattray-primary-school.html> **You will also find several sporting options too, including our new school sports top.**

As a reminder our school uniform is a combination of grey, maroon and white. All children's belongings should be named or have some mark of identification.

Grey skirt, pinafore, trousers, culottes or shorts

White polo shirt or white blouse/shirt

Red/Maroon gingham dress

Grey/Maroon sweatshirt, cardigan or jumper

Maroon Hoodie (P7 Prefects only)

School Tie (can be purchased from Doigs in Blairgowrie)

Dressing Appropriately for School

Please ensure that your child comes to school on PE days only in appropriate clothing that can be worn both indoors and outdoors. No jeans, jeggings, earrings and preferably no crop tops. Please ensure your child wears full school uniform on the days they do not have PE.

Can we also request that children do not come to school with nail extensions, these prevent pupils from being able to write alongside other things.

School Handbook 2023/24

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](#)

URGENT – Reading Book Amnesty

Can we please ask that all reading books are always returned to school. Reading books can cost anything between £6 and £12 therefore, to replace any missing books is considerably costly for the school. In one class alone this

term over 15 reading books have not been returned, totalling roughly £150, if this happened across every class it would cost us £1500 each year just to replace missing reading books, so please please please have a good search for books in your homes.

General Updates/Reminders

- Mobile phones or devices are not permitted for pupils in school. Senior pupils are recommended not to bring them to school, and if they do, they must hand their phone into their class teacher during the day.
- P5-7 pupils will not be allowed to leave the school grounds at lunchtime unless the parent has called the school to indicate that their child will have a home lunch.
- As we approach warmer weather (hopefully) and the classes spend more time outdoors, we would encourage you to put sun cream on your child before coming to school each day.
- Whilst we do not want to ban football cards, we would like to remind you to reinforce to your children that the trading of football 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.

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. 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



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Future Dates

May 2023

Monday 8th - **Public Holiday school closed to all**
Tuesday 9th – RagBag Collection
Saturday 13th (2.45pm) – Rotary Club Quiz Finals at Blairgowrie CC
Wednesday 19th – P7 Leavers Photograph
Saturday 20th – Parent Council raffle in Tesco
Thursday 25th (6pm) – Inspection Results Public Meeting
Friday 26th (12 noon to 1pm) – School BBQ (all welcome) **(more information to follow)**
Wednesday 31st (1.30pm) – School Sports day at Davie Park

June 2023

W/b 5th June – Health Week **(more information to follow)**
Tuesday 6th (1.45pm) – Nursery Sports Day **(more information to follow)**
Thursday 8th/ Friday 9th – P1 / P7 Transition Days **(more information to follow)**
w/b 12th – P7 residential week Lendrick Muir (pupils only)
Wednesday 21st – Moving up Morning/meet new class teachers
Friday 24th (10am) – P4 – P7 Prizegiving (by invitation)
Friday 24th (2pm) – P1-P3 Prizegiving (by invitation)
Monday 26th (9.30am) – Nursery Graduation (by invitation)
Monday 26th (2.15pm) – P7 Leaver's Assembly (by invitation)
Tuesday 27th (PM) – P7 Leaver's Party (pupils only)
Wednesday 28th – End of term fun day / staff v pupils netball etc... **(more information to follow)**
Thursday 29th – P7 Shirt Signing (pupils only)
Thursday 29th (12 noon) – School closes for Summer Break

FURTHER DATES WILL BE ADDED