



## MARCH 2025 NEWSLETTER

Dear pupils, parents/carers and friends of Ratray

As spring blossoms and Easter approaches, we're excited to share the latest news from Ratray as we prepare for a fantastic break! We encourage parents and guardians to stay connected with us as we progress through the rest of the school year. We have several upcoming events in the next few weeks that we'd love to inform you about.

We have had a number of events which have happened in our school since our last newsletter. All pupils benefitted from participating in Global Play Day and World Book Day. Our P3/4 and P4/5 pupils visited Stirling Castle which enhanced their Mary Queen of Scots learning, whilst as part of their World War 2 topic P5 visited the War Museum at Edinburgh Castle. We are in the process of arranging excursions for some other classes based on classroom learning, and we will inform you of these in due course.

Additionally, we have had several visitors supporting learning across the school which has been most valuable to our pupils. Our P7s are currently working with SCYD (Blairgowrie youth group) on a drug education programme. Our upper school classes have also had informative talks with St. Johnstone around racism, the Police and Community Warden around safe choices and have participated in First Aid sessions. They also joined in Generation Science workshops around the theme of sustainability.

Our P6s are currently taking part in a Salmon project facilitated by Perthshire Wildlife, which has a biodiversity focus on the falling numbers of salmon returning naturally to our river systems. The project is twofold to attempt to increase the successful falling number of salmon to return and spawn naturally as well as to educate children about climate change and potential contributing factors. As part of the project the class will be able to visit a salmon hatchery.

In the coming weeks all P3 and P4 pupils will have weekly tennis coaching sessions with local coach Susan Whiteford, whilst P6 and P6/7 are enjoying cricket coaching with cricket development officer 'Reg'. 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 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, four P6 pupils (**Jude Downie, Nathan Kemp, Liza Kazanchuk and Liliana Petrovska**) will take part in the Euros Quiz, whilst four P7 children will participate in the annual Rotary Quiz (Max Downie, Finlay Mackenzie, Shaih Kempton and Sophie Wemyss). Alongside this Sophie and Max will also take part in the 'Perform in Perth' instrumental competition. We wish all our school representatives the best of luck, we will update you in due course.

### **Thank you**

We would like to thank all the parents, relatives, staff who used the Asda rewards app to raise money for the school. We have been given £130 from the Asda's Cashpot for Schools project which will go into our school funds to support school events.

### **Welcome to our school**

We have had three new pupils join us since our last newsletter, Niko Shek and Iwobe Imongan in Mrs Russell's P2 class. Alongside Olivia Shek in P4/5 with Miss Salmond. We hope our new starts will enjoy their time here at Ratray Primary School.

### **Staffing Update**

We have one staffing change to share with you and that is that our much-loved Mrs Coles had decided to hang up her Ratray boots and take early retirement. Mrs Coles is Ratray through and through, having lived in the community all her life, been educated here, sent her children (and grandchildren) to school here and worked here for nearly 25 years. Mrs Coles is Ratray institution and will be missed considerably (and more than she realises) by both current and historic pupils, parents and staff. We plan to have a wee Ratray goodbye from the pupils and

staff on the afternoon of Friday 4<sup>th</sup> April for Mrs Coles, which her family have been invited to. We would have liked to have made this an open invitation to all, but our GP room capacity restrictions do not allow. However, should you wish to attend Mrs Cole's send-off please contact the school office who will advise whether we can accommodate you.

### **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	Miles Massie	Lexi Low
P1b	Emily Whyte	Emily Townsley
P2	Saad Shahadat	Noah Massie
P3	Lachlan Stewart	Darcy Laurie
P3/4	Axel Hamilton-Smith	James MacDonald and Xander Kippen
P4/5	Grace Pick	Hannah Adekunle
P5J	Zoe Charitou	Esme McCulley and Helena Detlaf
P6S	Keane Phillips	Georgia Irvine
P6/7	Lewis Moffat	Lilianna Petrovska
P7N	Daryl Mullen	Sophie Wemyss

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.

### **Comic Relief (Red Nose) Day – Friday 21<sup>st</sup> March**

On the above date, our P7s will be raising funds for comic relief. On this day the pupils and staff can come to school in **'topsy turvy clothes, dressed in red or have whacky hair.** Your child can come to school dressed however they want. They may choose to wear red, mismatched clothes or clothes back to front. The P7s are asking for a £1 donation per child for this and ask that this is paid on Parent Pay in advance of 21st March. We also have Red Noses for sale available on Parent Pay priced £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 20th March to ensure they are not lost before Red Nose Day! Our P7s will be offering Red Nose Face painting on Friday 21st March 2025, and this will be 50p cash on the day.

### **Health Week**

Our Health Week will take place from Monday 31<sup>st</sup> March until the last day of term. Miss Johnstone and the health week team 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.**

### **Parent Council**

Our Parent Council met on Thursday 20th February and discussed several items on their agenda Including their Upcoming fundraising events starting with a spring disco on Thursday 24th April. They will also be in attendance at the school BBQ/Open Afternoon & Sports Day(s) doing their usual hamper raffles. Donations would be greatly received to the school office any time prior to the 16th of May. They are also currently focusing on some other exciting fundraising events over the course of the year, so keep your eyes peeled for further updates on these.

The next Parent Council meeting will take place on Thursday 8th May at either 4.30pm or 5.30pm, time still TBC in the school staff room. All parents and carers are welcome to attend the parent council meetings, and as a school we would urge you to think about coming along to meetings.

It would be very sad for such a thriving school community not to have an equally thriving Parent Council to support the children and to help parents have their say. Please think about joining them even for one or two meetings a year! If you have any items for the agenda or want further information about our Parent Council, please visit their Facebook page. <https://www.facebook.com/Ratray-Primary-Parent-Council-1486611214939520/>

The parent council have also put together a collection pot and card for Mrs Coles Retirement. This is our chance to thank her for all the love and support she has shared with our school community. If you'd like to leave a note of thanks and contribute to the collection, please do so at the below link: <https://app.collectionpot.com/pot/3328851>

## **School Handbook 2025/26**

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.

## **Tesco School Uniform Donation**

A reminder that we received a huge donation of school uniforms (30 boxes) and some school shoes from Tesco. We will hold onto these until the end of the school year, which will hopefully help families financially when it comes to new uniform purchases. **In the meantime, if your child has outgrown or damaged their uniform at any time this school year, please do not go to the expense of buying new items.** If you give our school office a call, we can likely supply you with what you need.

## **Just2easy**

As you are aware we are using this 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 term all our primary school pupils 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.

By the end of this school year, we hope to be sharing most school information through Just2EasyMessage. Eventually we will be sharing Homework through Jusy2 easy too. We appreciate that there are now many forms of school communication, however we are hopeful that Just2Easy will eventually lead to the streamlining of this.

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

## **Wednesday afternoon Inter-generational Group – Blethers with Bairns**

We have had several intergenerational sessions already this school year, and eight local residents have been coming along regularly to chat and play games with our pupils. This has been organised by our pupil support teacher Mrs Brodie. This group will continue to run every Wednesday afternoon from 2pm. Please get in touch or pop along if you know someone who would fancy a tea/coffee, biscuit and a blether with our pupils.

## **Literacy update**

Ratray Primary School achieved the Reading Schools award just after Christmas and we are continuing our good work by having class reading buddies. P5 and P3 read together every Friday, and this is proving to be a positive learning experience for all involved.

Using money raised from our Scholastic Book Fayre, Ms Gregg ordered a class set of books for P7, new dictionaries and thesaurus for the whole school and a small selection of Scottish History books for the library.

We recently entered a poetry competition, where P1 to P7 wrote their own poems. P1 to P3 were very successful and certificates will be sent home soon.

The whole school were involved in a writing project where they wrote a short story about a castle. This has formed a lovely display in the library and the display was recently joined by P3/4 and P4/5's model castles. It makes a wonderful display...

On March 6th, the school celebrated World Book Day by having special activities in classrooms. Children enjoyed the day and could discuss their favourite books with their teachers and peers.

## **ParentPay**

We still have a small number of families who are not signed up to ParentPay. We will send out individual activation codes this week. If you do not currently use ParentPay please check your child's bag for the activation letter. ParentPay continues to be the main communication channel between the school and families; therefore, it is important everyone is up and running with it as soon as possible. If you need some support with setting up ParentPay please give the office a call or pop in and we can help with this.

## **Pupil Safety and Wellbeing**

The safety of our children is everyone's responsibility, parents, pupils and staff. **Therefore, we appeal to all parents and carers regarding the habits/incidents below which are happening most days and ask you to consider the consequences of your individual actions on the safety of all children coming and going to school.**

Please help us keep our children safe by following the rules below:

- No parking or waiting in the staff car park. 24 Hour access is required for emergency services and deliveries. If you require access to the disabled bay and you have a blue badge, please phone in advance to our school office and we will open the car park gates.
- No drop off/collection on the white zig zags outside the school gates. These areas are monitored by Police Scotland and tickets will be issued.
- No dogs in the school playground, regardless of how young or how friendly your dog is. We have several children who are frightened of dogs, and we also do not want dogs fouling the playground.
- No smoking or vaping in our school playground.

**We appreciate and expect your assistance in these matters. If a friend or family member drops off/collects your child(ren) on your behalf, please can you share this important information with them?**

## **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**

The council have recently released the school term dates for the next two school sessions. Follow this link - [School term and holiday dates - Perth & Kinross Council](#)

## **Holiday dates**

School closes for the Easter holidays on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> April at 3.20pm and reopens for pupils on Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> 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  
Headteacher  
[rattray@pkc.gov.uk](mailto:rattray@pkc.gov.uk)

01250 871980

## **Future Dates**

### **March 2025**

Friday 21<sup>st</sup> March – Comic Relief Day  
Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> – Schools Cross Country Event  
Wb 31<sup>st</sup> March – Health Week

### **April 2025**

Friday 4<sup>th</sup> - School closes for Spring holiday  
Monday 21<sup>st</sup> - **Public Holiday (Easter Monday) school closed to all**  
Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> – **Inset Day school closed to pupils**  
Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> - Back to School

### **May 2025**

Monday 5<sup>th</sup> - **Public Holiday (May Day) school closed to all**  
Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> – P6 cricket festival at Meigle CC.  
Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> – P3 and P4 Tennis Tournament  
Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> – P2 and P3 trip to Deer Centre  
Monday 26<sup>th</sup> to Friday 30<sup>th</sup> – P7 residential week Lendrick Muir (pupils only)  
Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> (12 noon to 1pm) – School Summer BBQ (all welcome)  
Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> May – Open Afternoon - Class Focus (2.15pm) (all welcome)

### **June 2025**

Thursday 5<sup>th</sup>/ Friday 6<sup>th</sup> – P1 / P7 Transition Days (**more information to follow**)  
Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> June (1.30pm) – Strong Start 2 sports day in courtyard  
Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> (1.45pm) – Nursery Sports Day (**more information to follow**)  
Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> June (1.30pm) – School Sports day (**more information to follow**)  
Monday 9<sup>th</sup> June (1.30pm) – Strong Start 2 sports day in courtyard Contingency Day  
Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> (1.45pm) – Nursery Sports Contingency Day  
Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> (1.45pm) – Teddy Bear’s Picnic (Current and New P1 pupils)  
Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> – Moving up Morning/meet new class teachers  
Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> June (1.30pm) – Nursery Fun Day  
Friday 20<sup>th</sup> June (1.30pm) –Prizegiving (by invitation)  
Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> June (9.30am) – Nursery Graduation (by invitation)  
Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> June (2pm) – P7 Leaver’s Assembly (by invitation)  
Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> June (PM) – P7 Leaver’s Party (pupils only)  
Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> June – End of term fun day / staff v pupils netball. /Rattray’s go talent. etc  
**(more information to follow)**  
Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> June –P7 Shirt Signing (pupils only)  
Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> June (12 noon) – School closes for Summer Break

**\*FURTHER DATES WILL BE ADDED\***