



OCTOBER 2025 NEWSLETTER

Dear pupils, parents/carers and friends of Ratray

As we approach the October break, our traditional “tattie holidays”, we’re reflecting on what has been a busy and rewarding start to the school year. Our pupils have taken part in a wide range of ‘outside the classroom’ activities that have enriched their learning and helped them connect with the wider community.

Highlights from this term include tree planting sessions for our P4, P4/5, and P5 classes, where pupils learned about sustainability and caring for the environment. Our P6/7 and P7 pupils completed First Aid training, gaining valuable life skills. P4 pupils visited Stormont Lodge care home, sharing time, songs and stories with residents, while P4 and P4/5 also enjoyed a historic town walk and a visit to the local library. We held a fun and friendly house football tournament, and our P1-3 families had a great time at the Parent Council’s Beetle Drive.

Looking ahead, our P6 and P7 pupils are excited to visit Blairgowrie High School to watch the high school’s performance of School of Rock, a fantastic opportunity to experience live theatre and get a glimpse of secondary school life.

We’d like to thank all our pupils, staff, and families for their continued support and enthusiasm this term. We hope everyone enjoys a well-deserved rest over the holidays. **School will reopen on Monday 27th October**, and we look forward to welcoming everyone back for another exciting term of learning and opportunities.

Open Afternoon – Thursday 9th October

We are delighted to invite you to our first Open Afternoon of the school year. This is a great opportunity to visit your child’s classroom and see your child’s learning in action. We know how much the children enjoy welcoming their families into school and sharing what they’ve been working on.

As part of the afternoon, we’re also pleased to welcome a number of our partner agencies, who will be available in the school assembly hall from 1.30pm to 4.00pm. Each organisation will have an information table where you can find out more about the support and services they can offer to families in our community. Our visitors include:

Welfare Rights Team
Community Development Team
Aberlour
Future for Families
Community Support and Empowerment
NHS Nursing Team
Parenting and Family Learning Team
Community Green Space

The school will be open from 1.30pm (entry through assembly hall double doors) and classrooms will be open for family visits from 2.15pm, so please feel free to drop in and see your child’s learning environment. We look forward to welcoming you and hope you find the afternoon both enjoyable and informative.

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, CLIK sessions or on school trips. If you can support us in any way, please do contact the school office at ratray@pkc.gov.uk

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.

Holiday dates

School closes for the October holidays on Friday 10th October at 3.20pm and reopens for pupils on Monday 27th October at 9am. The school holiday and term dates up to June 2027 are available at [this link](#).

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 Governments commitment to raising standards across Scottish Education. Testing of our P7 pupils will take place next term.

Parent Council

We're pleased to share that our recent Parent Council fundraising events—blueberry picking, the Braemar Day stall, and the Primary 1–3 Beetle Drive—have now concluded, raising a total of **£515**. These events were a great opportunity for our school community to come together, and we're incredibly grateful to everyone who took part. A special thank you goes to our volunteers who gave up their time to help make each event run smoothly. Your support makes a real difference to our school.

Our parent council are a very small hardy group of parents who work tirelessly and thanklessly to raise funds which benefit **all the pupils** in our school. They are desperate to grow their numbers in order that the wonderful job they do is less burdensome on so few. All parents and carers can be part of our parent council. Even if you can't manage meetings, you can support our parent council in different ways. Attached is a leaflet to give further information about the Parent Council.

If you want further information or can support their work, please visit their Facebook page. <https://www.facebook.com/Ratray-Primary-Parent-Council-1486611214939520/>

Parent Council Halloween Disco – Thursday 30th October

All children (and staff) are invited to attend a disco on Thursday 30th 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 £2 per child, and all proceeds will go to Parent Council funds. Costumes or dress down (play clothes) can be worn. If you can assist with supervision on this night, it would be greatly appreciated.

House Captains

Our house captains have been selected this year; each captain ran a worthy campaign. They completed an application form, participated in an interview to gain selection, made campaign posters and gave speeches to their fellow house members. The captains were voted for by both staff and pupils. All P7 pupils who applied should be very proud of themselves, regardless of selection or not. Ideally it would have been lovely if we could have given all our applicants a captaincy role, but sadly that is not the case. This year's house captains are:

Glasclune – Molly McLean, Lewis Moffat Lena Widz

Glen Ericht – Daniella Griffin, Hudson Scott and Honor Wight.

Parkhill – Jude Downie, Georgia Irvine and Max Pirie.

Strathmore –Sophia Dingwall, Lily-May Drummond and Jacob McFadden.

Our Captains will soon be signing their duties and responsibilities contract; we are certain they will be a great asset to the school this year.

Just2Easy Parent Portal

From November last year, we have been using Just2easy Parent Portal to share your child's learning in class and eventually home learning. The Parent Portal is being used as communication tool to send home school information too.

If you have not logged into Just2Easy yet you will have been sent an email with a link. Please follow this link to ensure you have access to your child's learning progress and communications from the school.

Ratray Primary School Key Dates – Session 2025/26

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

October 2025

Thursday 9th – Open Afternoon (Class Focus) (2.15pm)
Friday 10th – School closes for October holidays
Monday 27th – Back to School
Tuesday 28th (PM) – P4/5 to Stormont Lodge
Wednesday 29th – P4 to Ratray Community Garden
Wednesday 29th – Author Visit (Meg Downie) to P3 and P6
Thursday 30th – Nursery Autumn Activity Afternoon and Next Steps celebration

November 2025

Tuesday 4th (AM) – Show Racism the red card workshops (P7 and P6/7)
Wednesday 5th – P4/5 to Ratray Community Garden
Thursday 6th to 13th – Scholastic Book Fair
Monday 10th – Odd socks day (anti-bullying)
Week beginning the 11th and 17th – Nursery Parent Contact Sessions
Tuesday 11th – Parent Contact 1 (5pm to 7.30pm)
Wednesday 12th – P5 to Ratray Community Garden
Wednesday 12th – Parent Contact 2 (4pm to 6.30pm)
Thursday 13th – Inset Day school closed to pupils
Friday 14th – Inset Day school closed to pupils
Monday 17th – 23rd – Book week Scotland
Monday 17th/Thursday 20th – Mini-medics session for P7 and P6/7 pupils
Wednesday 19th – Tempest Photographer
Friday 21st – Author visit (Ewain Black) to P1, P1/2 and Nursery
Tuesday 25th – Flu Immunisations
Tuesday 25th (PM) – P5 to Stormont Lodge
Wednesday 26th – P6/7 to Ratray Community Garden
Thursday 27th – Tree Planting Workshops for P4, P4/5 and P5

December 2025

Wednesday 3rd – P7 to Ratray Community Garden
Monday 15th (AM) – Nursery AM Christmas Party
Monday 15th (PM) – Nursery PM Christmas Party
Tuesday 16th December – Infant Nativity (9.30am and 1.30pm)
Wednesday 17th (PM) – Christmas Activity Day
Thursday 18th (All day) – Christmas Activity Day
Thursday 18th – Christmas Lunch
Thursday 18th (PM) – Nursery Winter Activity Afternoon and Next Steps Celebration
Thursday 18th – Christmas Disco – P1 to P3: 6 – 6.45pm; P4 to P7: 7 – 8pm
Friday 19th (2pm) – Carols in the Hub
Monday 22nd – Whole School Christmas Party Day
Tuesday 23rd (noon) – School closes for Winter Break

January 2026

Wednesday 7th – Back to School
Thursday 8th – All P7s Swimming sessions begin (thereafter every Thursday)
Monday 26th – Thursday 29th – P6 Skiing Week
Friday 30th January – Scots Assembly (PM)

February 2026

Wednesday 4th – Global play day
Wednesday 11th – Inset Day school closed to pupils
Thursday 12th – Public Holiday school closed to all
Friday 13th – Public Holiday school closed to all

March 2026

Week beginning 9th and 16th – Nursery Parent Contact Session

Wednesday 11th (5pm to 7.30pm)– Parent Contact 3

Thursday 12th (4pm to 6.30pm) - Parent Contact 4

Monday 16th March – Young Carers Day

Friday 21st March – Comic Relief Day

Wb 30th March – Health Week

April 2026

Thursday 2nd – Nursery Spring Activity Afternoon and Next Steps Celebration

Friday 3rd - School closed for Good Friday

Monday 20th - Back to School

May 2026

Monday 4th - **Public Holiday (May Day) school closed to all**

Monday 25th to Thursday 28th – P7 residential week Lendrick Muir (pupils only)

Friday 29th – **Inset Day school closed to pupils**

June 2026

Thursday 4th (12 noon to 1pm) – School Summer BBQ (all welcome)

Thursday 4th – Open Afternoon - Class Focus (2.15pm)

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./Rattray'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