

**MARCH 2022 NEWSLETTER**

Dear pupils, parents/carers and friends of Rattray

Another term is drawing to a close however, we are delighted that the loosening of covid restrictions means that we are now beginning to reintroduce some of our ‘pre-covid’ activities and events. Skills group and after school clubs can recommence, visitors are coming into school (police talks, sports coaches, therapets, play leaders) and we can now go on class excursions (Lendrick Muir, Bannockburn and Sensation). We are looking forward to our whole school assemblies and the **‘topsy turvy/crazy hair’** dress up day for Comic Relief on Friday 18th March too. Our future dates section at the end of this newsletter is still sparse, but we hope that we can add more items each week for all classes, allowing us to return to ‘normal’ school life. We will as always communicate any changes to you via Parentpay and our school app.

**Welcome to our school**

We have had one new pupil join us since our last newsletter – Jacob Lilley in P6, alongside Jacob, Mrs Downie has joined the school staff temporarily as a pupil support assistant from our nursery. We hope both our new starts will enjoy their time at Rattray Primary School.

**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:

**Primary 1 – Lucy Ritchie, Axel Hamilton and Arlo Downie**

**Primary 1/2 – Daniel Low, Grace Pick and Perrie Watson**

**Primary 2 – Helena Detlaf, Arya Cochrane and Johnny Gregg-Bailey**

**Primary 3 – Max Pirie, Sophia Dingwall and Holly Smeaton**

**Primary 3/4 –Sophie O’Malley, Leon Suchomski and Shaih Kempton**

**Primary 4/5 – Lacey Colville, Faith Crich and Sophie Norman**

**Primary 5 – Beau Duncan, Lewis Fyfe, Danny-Lee Whyte**

**Primary 6 – Robert Crisan, Stevie Grant and Ellie Galloway**

**Primary 6/7 – Abigail Coventry, Ell Maidens and Murray Donaldson**

**Primary 7 – Andrew Boyle Scullion and Mihai Nastase**

Congratulations to all who participated in this event, and thanks to parents for helping their children learn their poetry. Certificates will be presented at our next whole school assemblies.

**Ski Trip**

P6 and P7 pupils had a fantastic time on the slopes of Glenshee. We had to rely on man-made snow, but that didn’t stop the pupils enjoying their week. From having no ski experience at the start of the week, all pupils were able to confidently ski down the slopes without support.

**P7 Residential – Lendrick Muir**

Our 5-day outdoor adventure takes place from **Monday 16th to Friday 20th May.**  The booking of places is now closed, and the total balance should now be paid. Payments can be made via Parentpay. Further information will be sent out soon to all children participating.

**Bike ability**

P7 pupils have been completing their Level 2 Bikeability course, to help them to be able to stay safe on the road. Well done to all the children who have taken part recently!

**Global School Play Day**

On Wednesday 2nd of February P1-7 really enjoyed our annual Global School Play Day (GSPD). This was a great success, and we recently shared some photos and these quotes on our school Facebook page:

**“I have enjoyed playing with my Cowboy toy with Liza.” (Maisy P1/2)**

**“I liked playing and dressing up my build a bear.” (Georgia P3)**

**“I have enjoyed working with my friends to make jumping ramps for my cars.” (Crawford P3/4)**

**Play Sessions with Sarah Milne (PKC Play Leader) – Every Thursday**

This term we have been working with PKC Play Leader Sarah Milne to promote positive play experiences in our school. Every Thursday Sarah works with individual classes, developing children’s co-operative play and games skills in an outdoor play context. The play leader is also working each week with our P6 pupils and is training these children to become school play ambassadors to support outdoor play with our younger aged children. Eventually our play ambassadors will buddy our nursery children too, to support their transition into Primary One.

**Young Carers Day – Wednesday 16th March**

On Wednesday 16th March we will be celebrating Young Carers Action Day.  This is a day to celebrate and raise public awareness of the important role that Young Carers undertake; we will not only investigate the role of a Young Carer, but also ways we can support our Young Carers.  We will be using the slogan “I care” as a way to create discussions and explore what it means to be a Young Carer.  Please feel free to continue this discussion when your child comes home; we are immensely proud of all of our Young Carers each and every day.

**Comic Relief (Red Nose) Day – Friday 18th March**

On the above date, we will be raising funds for comic relief, this will be organised and overseen by our P7 Prefects. We are awaiting delivery of red noses which can be purchased from school. On this day the P7s want to have a **‘topsy turvy/crazy day’**, whereby all pupils and staff come to school dressed in mismatching clothes, perhaps back to front and hair looking all crazy, they all ask that each family donate £1 for the day. We will provide further details about the day soon, alongside information about donating to this charity event and the purchasing of red noses on Parentpay.

**Friday Skills Sessions**

We are delighted that changes in covid restrictions means that we can recommence our weekly skills sessions. Skills sessions are based around life skills which we don’t necessarily develop in class time. The children really enjoy skills times as they learn new things and get to mix with different children and school staff.

Our skills sessions will involve children being involved in blocks of sessions which are led by staff members. These sessions include skills such as touch typing, gardening, sewing, coding, DIY skills, first aid and games to develop social skills.

As covid restrictions further ease we would hope parents, family members or community members could volunteer their time to assist the staff. We will update you when this becomes feasible.

**Afterschool Clubs**

Similarly, we are pleased that we can also restart our afterschool and lunchtime clubs. This term we are running several after school clubs, detailed at the end of this newsletter. All children attending our after-school clubs this term will exit our school building via the High Street gate. Children can be collected from the High Street playground. There will be no collection and exit via the Rattray common playground gates. We will be offering further after school opportunities later this session; will we inform you in due course of the arrangements for these.

**Pupil Council**

This term we have been looking at how the school promotes healthy lifestyles. The pupil council did an audit of the health and wellbeing message around the school and looked at what they found helpful. The pupil council also took part in a survey looking at how they learn about health and wellbeing in school, and the results of this have been fed back to all the teaching staff.

**Parent Council**

The most recent parent council meeting was held via Zoom at the start of February. Matters discussed were progress around our school improvement plan, school refurbishment, staffing, swimming lessons and instrumental tuition. It was felt, that current covid guidance was still hindering fundraising events, however the plan was to meet early next term to review this in light of any guidance changes.

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/Rattray-Primary-Parent-Council-1486611214939520/>

**School Refurbishment and Nursery Extension**

Our extensive school refurbishment commenced in June 2021, and parts of the school are already looking fantastic. All classrooms have been fully decorated, recarpeted, refloored and refurnished. We have shared photos on our school Facebook page of the newly refurbished areas.

Currently our nursey is decanted to our spare classrooms at the rear of the school, whilst the new Early Childhood Centre is being built. As you know, our nursery space is to be extended to accommodate more families in local community with extended hours and weeks. I will share photos of the Early Childhood Centre as the build progresses.

This extensive project will last until Summer 2022. school and nursery will look very different when the works have been completed, and we do hope that you will be able to visit our school to see the ongoing works very soon.

**Home Learning through GLOW and Teams**

Many classes are using GLOW and Teams to set and complete homework. Individual expectations for each class will be reissued shortly. We would advise that you check your child’s Teams page regularly. **If you are unsure of your child’s password and login details, please contact the school as soon as possible.**

**COVID 19 Update**

There have been some changes recently to Scottish Government national school guidance, however there are still some mitigations that remain in place for schools.

* Nursery, P1, P1/2 and P2 Rattray children (and siblings) accompanied by one designated adult per family can enter the playground via the High Street school gates at any time.
* Primary 3 pupils and upwards can enter the school from Rattray Common gates at any time.
* No parents from Primary 3 pupils and upwards should enter the school playground, unless these children have younger siblings.
* If entering the school playground, please wear a mask (unless medically exempt), stand 1 metre from other parents, and stand back from the pupils in our school lines.
* On exiting the playground, please leave promptly.
* All school pupils should wear school uniform every day other than PE days. On PE days pupils should wear clothing suitable for outdoor PE.
* Face coverings to be worn by all staff in communal areas and corridors.
* Enhanced cleaning, ventilation, hygiene and hand washing measures will continue.
* If your child tests positive for COVID-19, then they should isolate as previously advised.

The revised guidance means that groupings of pupils (or class ‘bubbles’) are no longer required. There is provision, in individual cases, for parents to visit school premises to support their child. This will only be where this has been **agreed in advance with the Headteacher** and each request will be subject to a risk assessment. Support provided from other Services/Organisations can resume in school where necessary, however, provision of the support will continue remotely via virtual means where appropriate.

**Morning Playground Supervision**

Due to the loosening of covid restrictions, pupils can now enter the school playground prior to 8.55am. However, a reminder, that there is no adult supervision in the playground prior to 9am. Staff members are however available in school for any emergencies should they occur. Those transported by school taxis are supervised within school as soon as the bus arrives.

**Staggered breaks and lunchtimes**

The staggered timings we have followed from the start of term will continue until further notice; this is in line with PKC guidance. Staggering our classes over breaks and lunchtime helps to alleviate congestion in the playground too, as we have restricted space due to the ongoing building works. We will review this on a regularly and inform you of any changes.

**Rattray Primary School Registration 2022**

If your child is turning five up to and including the 28 February 2023, they are eligible to start school on **Wednesday 17 August 2022** and you should register your child for primary school. However, nearer to the start of the school year you may wish to delay your child's entry to school if you think that they are not ready to start. You can registrar online following this link. [Apply online](https://my.pkc.gov.uk/service/School_registration). Please note, you will need to provide:

1. your child's birth certificate
2. your current Council Tax notice and
3. a recent utility bill

Although it is usual for children to attend their local catchment area school, you have the right to make a [placing request](https://www.pkc.gov.uk/article/17301/Placing-request) asking that your child be granted a place in a school other than your local catchment area school. The closing date for submitting a placing request for session 2021/22 is **Tuesday 15 March 2022**. If submitting a placing request, you should not register your child at the local catchment school.

For further information or support, please go to <https://www.pkc.gov.uk/article/21194/Primary-and-Secondary-school-enrolment> or contact the school office.

**School Handbook 2022/23**

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](https://www.pkc.gov.uk/media/32309/Rattray-Primary-School-Handbook-2022-23/pdf/Rattray_handbook_2022-23.pdf?m=637751794844930000)

**Breakfast club**

Our breakfast club is currently operating from 8am daily. Please note there may be a reduced number of places available therefore it is highly recommended that places are booked in advance for the required days. Currently, places can be booked by either emailing our designated breakfast club email RattrayBreakfastClub@pkc.gov.uk.

**School Book Amnesty – Urgent**

We recently audited our reading books and reading novels and we have a very large number missing. Could you please check at home and return any books belonging to the school, they will be stamped with a Rattray stamper. We would really appreciate your help in this matter, to replace these book takes a huge amount of money from our school budget.

**School Meals**

In Primary schools a two-course meal is free for all P1 to P5 pupils and £2.15 daily for P6 and P7 pupils. The menu is designed to encourage healthy eating habits from an early age. The meals provide approximately one third of a young person’s daily nutritional needs. Taking school meals and understanding their value is intended to also reap benefits in later years. Menu information is available at: [www.pkc.gov.uk/schoolmeals](http://www.pkc.gov.uk/schoolmeals) and <https://www.tayside-contracts.co.uk/catering> (this site also includes an [interactive primary school menu](https://www.tayside-contracts.co.uk/_assets/_user/files/Catering/School-Catering/Primary_School_Meals_Service/Interactive%20Menu%20update%20%2021-22_27.08.21.pdf) which provides ingredient and recipe information which can also help allergy sufferers self-manage their meal choices).

**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 of 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.

**Water in Class**

Children are encouraged to drink freely from their school or other water bottles in school, however we ask that **only** water is brought into school to drink during class time. Can you please ensure that your child brings their own filled water each day to school? We have some children who repeatedly come to our office requesting a glass of water, which is disruptive for our office staff. The staff will endeavour to ensure that water bottles return with pupils each evening to be washed and refilled.

**Session dates**

The school holiday dates up to June 2022 are available at the [following link.](https://www.pkc.gov.uk/media/45508/School-term-and-holiday-dates-2021-2022/pdf/Amended_App_1_2021-2022_Terms__Hols-tm.pdf?m=637726612013870000) Please note that the national May day holiday on Monday 2nd May has been cancelled, and there will be now be a 2 day public holiday in June to celebrate the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee. This means school will be closed to pupils and staff on Thursday 2nd and Friday 3rd June.

**Holiday dates**

School closes for the Easter holidays on Friday 1st April at 3.20pm and reopens for pupils on Tuesday 19th April at 9am.

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



Joanna Robertson

Headteacher

rattray@pkc.gov.uk

01250 871980

**Future Dates**

**March 2022**

Wb 7th March – Afterschool clubs recommence

8th/9th/10th March – P7 Bikeability Training

Wednesday 9th March– P6 to P7 Social Media talks with Tayside Police

Thursday 10th March – Show Racism the Red Card workshop for P7 pupils

Friday 11th March – Skills groups recommence

Wednesday 16th – Young Carer’s Day

Friday 18th – Comic Relief (Red Nose) Day **(topsy turvey/crazy hair day)**

Tuesday 22nd – P5 and P6 trip to Bannockburn

Wednesday 23rd – P6/7 and P7 trip to Bannockburn

**April 2022**

**Friday 1st – School closes for Spring holiday**

**Tuesday 19th - Back to School**

Tuesday 26th – P1, P1/2 and P2 trip to Sensation Dundee Science Centre

**May 2022**

w/b 16th – P7 residential week Lendrick Muir

**June 2022**

**Thursday 2nd –** **Public Holiday school closed to all**

**Friday 3rd –** **Public Holiday school closed to all**

Wb 6th June – Health Week

Thursday 9th – Nursery Sports Day

Wednesday 8th – Sports day (Upper School AM/Infant school PM)

9th/ 10th – P7 Transition Days

Wednesday 15th (5.30pm – 6.30pm) – HT- parent drop-in session

Monday 20th – Nursery Graduation

Friday 24th – P7 Leaver Assembly

Wednesday 29th– Prizegiving (Upper School AM/Infant school PM)

**Thursday 30th – School closes for Summer Break (12 noon)**

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

**What’s on at Rattray Primary School**

**Below is a list of after school clubs we are currently offering across the school**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Club Name** | **For Who?**  | **Staff Member/Coach** | **When** | **Cost** | **Where** |
| Glee | P4-7 pupils | Miss Arnold and Ms McCulloch | Monday 3.10-4.10 | Free | P2 Classroom |
| Story Writers Club | P3-P7 pupils | Ms Gregg | Monday night 3.10-4.10pm | Free | P3/4 class |
| Drama    | All P4-P6 | Mrs Wilks | Monday 3.10-4.10pm | Free | P4-6 |
| P5-P7 Boys Football | P5-P7 Boys | Active Schools | Monday 3.10pm-4.10pm | Free | Playground |
| *Lego Club****\*FULLY BOOKED\**** | *P1-P3 pupils* | *Ms McCulloch* | *Tuesday 3.10pm-3.45pm* | *Free* | *P1/2 Classroom* |
| Homework Club | P5-P7 | Miss Johnstone | Tuesday 3.10-4.10pm | Free | P6 Classroom |
| *Running Club****\*FULLY BOOKED\**** | *P5-P7* | *Mrs Newlands* | *Tuesday night 3.10-4.10pm* | *Free* | *Meet in GP Room* |
| Ukulele | All P6 and P7 pupils | Mr Masterton | Tuesday 3.10-4.00 | Free | P6/7 Classroom |
| P5-P7 Girls Football | P5-P7 Girls | Active Schools | Thursday 3.10pm-4.10pm | Free | Playground |
| *Basketball****\*FULLY BOOKED\**** | *P3-P5* | *Sporty Jack and Mrs Robertson* | *Friday 3.10pm-4.10pm* | *Free* | *Meet in GP Room* |