

**AUGUST 2022 NEWSLETTER**

Dear pupils, parents/carers and friends of Rattray

This is our first newsletter of the school year, therefore on behalf of everyone at Rattray School I welcome you all to session 2022/23. I do hope you have all had a wonderful summer and taken full advantage of the glorious weather we have had. It was lovely to see all our pupils (and staff) return to school refreshed and ready for the new school year yesterday. This newsletter contains many of our usual ‘housekeeping’ items, apologies if they are repetitive for some families, but they are very useful for our new families or even as a reminder for our existing families. At the end of this letter there will be several dates which I hope will be of assistance in planning busy family routines.

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. Look out for the annual data collection forms coming to you soon and return these as soon as you can.**

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 [rattray@pkc.gov.uk](mailto:rattray@pkc.gov.uk)

Although the return to school this year has been very different, I am proud to say that

our pupils have shown courage, resilience and positivity in the first few weeks of term.

Young people seem to be very good at taking changes in their stride and I a

**Welcome to our school**

I would like to extend a very warm welcome back to school for our P2 – P7 pupils and a special welcome to our new P1s and other new pupils (Mila Hogg – P2/3, Laiton MacIntyre – P4/5, Chloe Sinclair – P6, Liza Bila – P6 and Jamie Walls - 6/7). We also have a number of new staff joining us too (see below). We hope all our new starts and returnees enjoy their time this school year at Rattray Primary School.

**Staffing Update**

There are a number of staffing changes to share with you for the coming session.

Sadly, leaving Rattray are Mrs Debbie Wilks (Probationer Teacher) who has another teaching post within the council, Miss Michaela Arnold (P2 Class Teacher) who will return to studying, Mrs Marie Abeledo (P3 supply teacher) who has decided to retire from teaching and Mr Jack Alexander aka Sporty Jack (Active Schools Modern Apprentice). Sadly, Miss Gillian Rae (Nurture Teacher) will be based at another school, however we are certain that she will still visit our school occasionally.

Joining the Rattray school team is probationary teacher Miss Robyn Gunn (P3 Class Teacher) and Ms Emma Byrne (P1/2 supply cover). In the nursery Ms Katie Henderson (Senior ECP) and Mrs Louisa Clark (ECP) will shortly be joining the staff. Remaining at the school temporarily this year are Mrs Gillian Newlands (Class Teacher), Mrs Carla Tunnicliffe (Class Teacher), Mrs Olga Inkster (ECP), Mrs Louise Cameron (Office), Mrs Jenny Downie and Miss Jenny Gregg (Pupil Support Assistants). Continuing in their promoted Principal Teacher posts this year are Mrs Sarah Russell (P2/3 Class Teacher) and Mrs Fiona McCarthy (P6/7 class). Mrs Jennifer Alexander (ECP) and Miss Danielle McAlpine (class teacher) will move temporarily from the nursery to the infant classrooms this school year, whilst Ms Karen McCulloch will become our nurser teacher for the year. We are also delighted that Mrs Katie Case has returned to school after maternity leave.

Congratulations to Mrs Aleks Linton-Smith who was recently appointed to nursery pupil support assistant and to Ms Heather Mardon who was appointed to Family Worker. Mrs Diane Johnstone (Acting Principal Teacher) has also been seconded to an Acting HT post for the coming year, which we wish her lots of success with. Miss Climie and Ms Whyte (ECPs) were married in the summer and will now be known as Mrs Miller and Mrs Buist.

**Pupil Absence and Lateness**

Absent - If your child is to be absent from the school for any reason, please contact the school (01250 871980) as soon as possible on the morning of the absence and before 9.30am. **If the phone is not answered by a staff member, please do leave a message on our voicemail system.** If there has been no parental contact by 9.30am staff will send a text message to enquire as to your child’s absence. This is normal procedure across Scotland. Your support in this is much appreciated.

Sickness/Diarrhoea - NHS advise that they should not attend school for at least 48 hours after the last bout. This helps stop the spread of infection. Please also see your local GP for advice.

Lateness - If your child is going to be late, please call us to let us know their lunch choice for that day as we have to report to the kitchen by no later than 10.15am. Late lunch choices cannot be accommodated after this time, due to kitchen deadlines. This also includes children who change their mind midway through the morning.

**House Captains**

Our P7 pupils will soon be applying for our house captain roles. Each applicant will complete an application form and participate in an interview to gain selection. We are encouraging all our P7s to apply. We will update you as soon as our new house captains have been selected.

**School Prefects**

All our P7s will have the privilege of becoming school prefects again this academic session. All our prefects will be given Rattray prefect hoodies/zoodies to wear throughout their final school year. There is no cost to parents/carers for this. We would like all parents/carers to encourage our P7s to wear their prefect hoodies to school every day (where possible). There are a number of responsibilities and expectations which come with the prefect role, and I sure our P7s will rise to the challenge this year and be wonderful role models for our younger pupils.

**PE Times and Kit**

All of 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.

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| **Class** | **Teacher** | **PE days** |
| Nursery | Ms McCulloch |  |
| P1 | Miss McAlpine | Tuesday and Thursday |
| P1/2 | Miss Wigmore | Monday and Friday |
| P2/3 | Mrs Russell | Wednesday and Thursday |
| P3 | Miss Gunn | Monday and Thursday |
| P4 | Ms Gregg | Wednesday and Thursday |
| P4/5 | Mrs Case/Mrs Murray | Tuesday and Thursday |
| P5 | Mrs Newlands | Monday and Wednesday |
| P6 | Miss Johnstone | Monday and Thursday |
| P6/7 | Mrs McCarthy | Monday and Tuesday |
| P7 | Mr Masterton | Monday and Thursday |

**School Day Timings**

A wee reminder that our school day this year will revert to pre-covid timings. The school day will start at 9am and finish at 3.20pm. Lunchtime for all pupils will be from 12.20pm to 1.20pm.

**Breakfast club**

Our breakfast club is currently operating from 8am daily. It is highly recommended that places are booked in advance for the required days, as our numbers are capped, we may not be able to accommodate those who have not booked places in advance. Currently, places can be booked by either emailing our designated breakfast club email [RattrayBreakfastClub@pkc.gov.uk](mailto:RattrayBreakfastClub@pkc.gov.uk).

**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. The staff will endeavour to ensure that water bottles return with pupils each evening in order to be washed and refilled.

**URGENT - Books from the last academic year**

Can we please ask that all reading books from last academic session are brought in to school, as soon as possible. To replace any missing books is considerably costly for the school, so please have a good search for books.

**School Uniform and Lost Property**

It is lovely to see the children at school so smart in their new school uniforms, thank you for making this effort. Over the school year we accumulate a considerable amount of lost property. To alleviate this, it would be really helpful if your child’s name or initials could please be written on the labels of school clothing.

**After School Clubs**

Our very successful after school clubs will recommence shortly, further information will be sent out soon.

**Behaviour/ Relationships**

Over the last two sessions we made some changes to our behaviour approach, involving a greater emphasis on teaching specific but very simple guidelines across the school. With consistency and fairness at its heart, the approach included frequent positive feedback and structured consequences, to encourage children to make the right choices about their behaviour and to ensure they are always learning and always safe. We also used class-wide rewards more often, whilst consequences of recorded ‘warnings’, time working alone and phone-calls/text messages home. These consequences will also be used to ensure support for children is delivered early.   
  
We are keen to inform you as early as possible when even low-level behaviour issues are affecting progress and when necessary, it will be your child’s class teacher who will contact you in the first instance. We hope this approach will improve behaviour, relationships and attitudes to learning and lead to even higher achievement. We look forward to your continued support and if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to speak to myself or your child’s class teacher.

**School Refurbishment Update**  
Unfortunately, due to issues outwith the Council’s control, the opening of our new nursery was delayed until 18 July. This delay has impacted progress on works to the areas of the school which the nursery used during the construction of their facilities. While the contractors have been onsite throughout the holidays, these rooms were not be completed prior to the start of the new term.

However, on a more positive note, all the classrooms were completed prior to Christmas last year and the contractor has been working in the corridors, the halls and plant room over the holidays. New ceilings have been installed in some areas, a significant amount of redecoration and reflooring has been completed. In addition, remedial work has been done to remove the old heating system while the new system connections are being completed. New wall bars and court markings have also been installed in the Community Connect building to improve the PE facilities for the school.

The Project Manager has asked me to express her gratitude to the pupils, parents, carers, staff, and the wider community for their patience and understanding while the works to fully upgrade the infrastructure and furniture within our school and to extend our nursery have been taking place. Every effort is being made to complete the job as quickly as possible whilst maintaining the safety and comfort of the pupils and staff within the school.

**Session Dates**

The school holiday dates up to June 2023 are available at the following link. <https://www.pkc.gov.uk/schoolholiday>

**Term-time Holidays**

A little reminder that whilst we appreciate some family holidays can only take place during term-time, council guidance is that these holidays will be marked in school as an unauthorised absence and no schoolwork will be given. This will be done even if you have told the school you intend to take your child on holiday. Further information can be found at the [this link.](https://www.pkc.gov.uk/media/10239/Family-Holiday-Leaflet/pdf/Family_Holiday_Leaflet.pdf?m=636110894744430000)

**Eastern Perthshire Mini-Olympics**

Our Primary 6 pupils from both our Primary 6 and 6/7 classes will be taking part in the Eastern Perthshire Mini-Olympics festival that has been arranged for Thursday 25th Augustat JJ Coupar Park, Blairgowrie. A programme of around 12 events is being arranged, the proposed events are as follows: football, rugby, cricket, tennis, boxing, hockey, golf, running, javelin, curling, KUBB and Boccia. Spectators are welcome to attend the event which runs from 10am to 2pm.

**P7 Board Game day**

On Thursday 25th August we have Imagination Gaming coming into school to show how board games can be used in the classroom. In the morning p7 pupils will be taught how to play a lot of these games, and in the afternoon, they will be teaching younger pupils. There will be a one off lunchtime club on the 25th for any pupils who wish to play boardgames. If they want to come, can they please bring a packed lunch that day.

**GLOW passwords**

Every new academic year all pupils must change their GLOW passwords. We have done this in school, and children will be required to change their password the next time they log in. Teachers will tell pupils what their temporary password is. P1 children do not have their GLOW accounts updated yet.

**ParentPay**

ParentPay is the school’s online payment system.  Rattray Primary, for the main part, is a cashless school with all dinner money, trips, school shows etc. all paid online.  Most importantly, we send all our school communication and newsletters via ParentPay.  In order to access the system, you need to log on to ParentPay and activate your child’s account using activation codes given by the school.  Please contact the school office if you require a copy of these.

Can we please ask that if you change your email address, please log in to your ParentPay Account using your existing details and change your email address in the Profile Settings section.

**School and Early Childhood Centre Social Media Pages**

A reminder to new and existing parents that our school has Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/Rattray-Primary-School-496557997081831/> where pupil learning, school and community events and general information is posted and celebrated. We will endeavour to update these media platforms regularly.

**Rattray School and Early Childhood Centre App**

Our school app is live in the Apple and Google Play Stores. Using the app you can keep in touch with our events, news and receive important messages from us. To download the app, search ‘PSA’ or ‘PSA primaryschoolapp’ in the play app stores. Once you‘ve opened the app, search for Rattray Primary School and download the app. You will be given a username (you should leave this blank) and our password is 1980. It should be noted that the app can be downloaded by any family member so feel free to use it as a good communication tool for all the family.

**School Improvement Plan 2022/23**

This year’s school improvement priorities will shortly be sent out to you and will be on display in our school foyer. These will also be shared at our next Parent Council meeting. Our Standards and Quality report 2021/22 is available on the Perth and Kinross Council website. Copies are available from the office or on request by email.

**Assessing Children’s Progress**

As you may be award 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 later this term. Further details can be found at the web link below. <https://www.education.gov.scot/parentzone/Documents/parent-leaflet-assessing-progress.pdf>

**Contacting Staff**

Teaching staff are available at the end of the school day on most days to discuss any general matters or concerns you have. Mr Brown (our school depute) or myself (Mrs Robertson, Headteacher) are usually in the playground before the start of the school day and at the end of the school day. However, if you are concerned about something, no matter how trivial, and you are unable to speak to us at these times please do not hesitate to contact the school office and we will contact you as soon as we can.

**Thanks from the school staff**

On behalf of the staff, I have been asked to thank you f**or the** many gifts which were received prior to the summer break. All staff are incredibly grateful and appreciative of your generosity.

On behalf of all the staff I would like to thank you for your continuing support.

Yours faithfully



Joanna Robertson

Headteacher

[rattray@pkc.gov.uk](mailto:rattray@pkc.gov.uk)

01250 871980

Rattray Primary School Key Dates

**Please note these dates are provisional and may be subject to change**

**Other dates will also be added**

**August 2022**

Thursday 25th – P7 Board Games Day (pupils only)

Thursday 25th (10am – 2pm) – P6 Mini-Olympics at JJ Coupar Park

**September 2022**

Friday 2nd (9.15 am and 9.45am) – Litter Talks Assembly with Niamh Anderson

Wednesday 7th (5.30pm – 6.30pm) – HT- parent drop-in session (contact school office)

Monday 26th – P6 to P7 Anne Frank workshop (pupils only)

Thursday 29th – Open Afternoon (2.30pm)

**October 2022**

Friday 7th – School closes for October holiday

Monday 24th - Back to School

**November 2022**

Tuesday 8th - Parent Contact 1 (4pm to 6.30pm)

Wednesday 9th – Parent Contact 2 (5pm to 7.30pm)

**Thursday 10th – Inset Day school closed to pupils**

**Friday 11th – Inset Day school closed to pupils**

Monday 14th - Odd socks day (anti-bullying)

Wednesday 23rd (5.30pm – 6.30pm) – HT- parent drop-in session (contact school office)

**December 2022**

Thursday 1st - Winter Fayre (6.30pm)

Wednesday 7th – Flu Immunisations

Tuesday 13th - Infant Nativity (9.30am and 1.30pm)

Wednesday 14th (PM) in Hub- Nursery PM Party

Thursday 15th (AM) in Hub - Nursery AM Party

Friday 16th - Carols in the Playground (3pm)

Monday 19th - Christmas Jumper day and Christmas Lunch

Monday 19th - Nursery Christmas Activity Day and Song

Tuesday 20th – Whole School Christmas Party Day

Wednesday 21st - End of term Church service (10.30am)

Thursday 22nd (noon) – School closes for Winter Break

**January 2023**

Monday 9th - Back to School

**February 2023**

Wednesday 1st - Global play day

Wednesday 1st (5.30pm – 6.30pm) – HT- parent drop-in session(contact school office)

Friday 3rd – Upper School Scots Assembly (PM)

**Wednesday 15th – Inset Day school closed to pupils**

**Thursday 16th – Public Holiday school closed to all**

**Friday 17th - Public Holiday school closed to all**

**March 2023**

Tuesday 7th (4pm to 6.30pm) - Parent Contact 3 (4pm to 6.30pm)

Wednesday 8th (5pm to 7.30pm)– Parent Contact 4

Monday 20th – Thursday 23rd March (1.30 to 3pm) – P6/7 Bikeability sessions

Thursday 24th (2.30pm) – Open Afternoon

Thursday 30th – Easter Service (2pm)

Friday 31st – School closes for Spring holiday

**April 2023**

Monday 17th - Back to School

**May 2023**

Monday 1st - **Public Holiday school closed to all**

Wednesday 3rd (5.30pm – 6.30pm) – HT- parent drop-in session (contact school office)

Friday 26th (12 noon to 1pm) – School BBQ (all welcome)

Wednesday 31st (1.30pm) – School Sports day **(more information to follow)**

**June 2023**

W/b 5th June – Health Week **(more information to follow)**

Tuesday 6th (1.45pm) – Nursery Sports Day **(more information to follow)**

Wednesday 7th (1.30pm) – School Sports Contingency Day

Thursday 8th/ Friday 9th – P1 / P7 Transition Days **(more information to follow)**

w/b 12th – P7 residential week Lendrick Muir (pupils only)

Tuesday 13th (1.45pm) – Nursery Sports Contingency Day

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