

**MARCH 2023 NEWSLETTER**

Dear pupils, parents/carers and friends of Rattray

Another term is drawing to a close and it has been a very different term for the school team. As you will know the school was inspected by HMIE over two weeks from the 20th of February. Our school had not been inspected in over 16 years, so rightly so this inspection was rigorous. The inspection team visited classes, observed lessons, analysed our school data, assessed children, read our own evaluations alongside speaking to teachers, pupils, parents and other agencies to get a clear picture of what we do well here at Rattray and what we can do next to improve. A report will be published within 10 weeks. Early indicators suggest that our inspection was positive, and we all look forward to reading the HMIE report, which I will share with you as soon it’s released. I’d like to thank all our staff team for the extra efforts they made leading up to and during the inspection, the parents who completed the inspection questionnaire and those who were able to meet with the HMIE inspection team, and lastly our pupils who were so welcoming to our visitors.

**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 – Fionn Nastiuk and Logan Wallace**

**Primary 1/2 – Fearne Restrick and Nina Wilkinson**

**Primary 2/3 – Grace Pick and Libbi Stewart**

**Primary 3 – Helena Detlaf and Arya Cochrane**

**Primary 4 – Arlo Downie and Harriet Crich**

**Primary 4/5 – Sophie Morrison and Georgia Irvine**

**Primary 5 – Layla Young and Alex Duncan**

**Primary 6 – Iain Houston and Demi Mullen**

**Primary 6/7 – Chloe McCullie and Ellie Galloway**

**Primary 7 – Aaron Campbell and Mason Forbes-Whyte**

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.

**P7 Residential – Lendrick Muir**

Our 5-day outdoor adventure takes place from **Monday 12th to Friday 16th June.**  Payments can be made via Parentpay. Further information will be sent out soon to all children participating.

**Global School Play Day**

On Wednesday 1st 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:

**“It is about showing people your toys and sharing. (Nina, P1/2)**

**“I liked to play with other people’s toys and mine. I felt happy.” (Amelie, P2/3)**

**“I enjoyed playing and making board games.” (Helena, P3G)**

**“It was fun and I was drawing.” (Leon, P5N)**

**“It was really fun to play with out toys altogether. Global play day makes me feel really happy.” (Ava, P6J)**

**“It was good because I was playing with my friend.” (Stevie, P7M)**

**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 Tuesday 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.

**Childsmile Appointments – Monday 20th and 21st March**

We will be visited by the Childsmile team on the above dates, if you haven’t done so, please complete and return the necessary paperwork which was sent out from school in order for your child to be treated.

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

On Thursday 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 “Making time for our young carers” 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 17th 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.

**Parent Council - Thursday 16th March at 6.30pm**

The next Parent Council meeting will take place on Thursday 16th March at 6.30pm 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/Rattray-Primary-Parent-Council-1486611214939520/>

**Rugby Coaching Sessions**

From this coming Thursday 16th March, all P4 and P5 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.

**PE Times and Kit**

In light of the above Rugby sessions, there will be changes to class PE sessions. The table below (commencing 13th March) 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 be tied back.

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| **Class** | **Teacher** | **PE days** |
| P1 | Miss McAlpine | Tuesday and Friday |
| P1/2 | Miss Wigmore | Monday and Thursday |
| 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 Thursday |
| P6 | Miss Johnstone | Tuesday and Thursday |
| P6/7 | Mrs McCarthy | Monday and Tuesday |
| P7 | Mr Masterton | Monday and Wednesday |

**Tempest Photos**

We have arranged for the local photographer from Tempest to be in school on Tuesday 28th March, further details to follow.

**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>

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)

**Rattray Primary School Registration 2023**

If your child is turning five up to and including the 29 February 2024, they are eligible to start school on **Wednesday 16 August 2023** 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 2023/24 is **Wednesday 15 March 2023**. 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 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](https://www.pkc.gov.uk/media/32309/Rattray-Primary-School-Handbook-2023-24/pdf/RattrayPS_Handbook_23-24.pdf?m=638061046263570000)

**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.

**Session dates**

The school holiday dates up to June 2023 are available at the [following link.](https://www.pkc.gov.uk/schoolholiday) Please note that alongside the national May day holiday on Monday 1st May, there will be now be 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.

**Change of Dates**

Please note that due to threatened strike action our Parent Contact evenings have been rearranged to the evenings of Tuesday 21st and Wednesday 22nd March. We were due to have an open afternoon that week, however we have now moved that date to Thursday 27th April at 2.30pm.

**Holiday dates**

School closes for the Easter holidays on Friday 31st March at 3.20pm and reopens for pupils on Monday 17th April at 9am.

**General Updates/Reminders**

* Please ensure that your child comes to school on PE days in appropriate clothing that can be worn both indoors and outdoors. No jeans, jeggings please.
* Please ensure your child wears full school uniform on the days they do not have PE.
* 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.
* Whilst we do not want to ban football or Pokémon cards, we would like to remind you to reinforce to your children that the trading of 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. 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

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**Future Dates**

**March 2023**

~~Tuesday 7~~~~th~~ ~~(4pm to 6.30pm) - Parent Contact 3~~ (cancelled due to threatened strikes)

~~Wednesday 8~~~~th~~ ~~(5pm to 7.30pm)– Parent Contact 4~~ (cancelled due to threatened strikes)

Thursday 16th– Young Carer’s Day

Thursday 16th – SCYD substance use project with P7s (in-school)

Thursday 16th (6.30pm) – Parent Council Meeting

Friday 16th – Red Nose Day – Topsy Turvey Day

Monday 20th/Tuesday 21st – Nursery to P4 Childsmile appointments (in-school)

Tuesday 21st (4pm to 6.30pm) - Parent Contact 3 (rearranged date)

Wednesday 22nd – P7 NHS workshop (dangers of smoking)

Wednesday 22nd (5pm to 7.30pm)– Parent Contact 4 (rearranged date)

Thursday 23rd (AM) – P7 transition morning to High School

~~Thursday 23~~~~rd~~ ~~(2.30pm) – Open Afternoon (~~cancelled due to Parent contact)

Tuesday 28th – Tempest Photographer (nursery to P7 photos)

Thursday 30th – Art of friendship project with P4/5 (in-school)

Thursday 30th – SCYD substance use project with P7s (in-school)

Friday 31st (3.20pm) – School closes for Spring holiday

**April 2023**

Monday 17th - Back to School

Monday 17th (9.30 – 11.30am) and every Monday thereafter – P7 Swimming block

Tuesday 18th (AM) – Tennis sessions for P3 and P4 classes (in-school)

Tuesday 18th (4pm) – P7 rotary club quiz at Newhill PS (selected pupils)

Thursday 27th (2.30pm) – Open Afternoon (rearranged date)

**May 2023**

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

Tuesday 2nd and Tuesday 9th – SSPCA workshops with all classes (in-school)

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

Monday 8th- **Public Holiday school closed to all**

Monday 18th – Generation Science Workshops (P1-3)

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)**

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\***