



## MARCH 2024 NEWSLETTER

Dear pupils, parents/carers and friends of Rattray

With spring in full swing and Easter just around the corner, we're thrilled to bring you the latest updates from Rattray as we gear up for an egg-cellent break! We invite parents and guardians to stay connected with us as we navigate through the remainder of the school year. Your support and involvement play a crucial role in shaping our school community, and we're grateful for your continued partnership. We have a few new events happening in the coming weeks which we would like to share with you.

Later this week, we have a local artist coming to work with 12 of our upper school pupils around the theme of remembering the pandemic, these children will contribute to a permanent piece of community artwork. After a very successful visit to our infant classes, Generation Science return to our school next week to visit our P4 and P5 classes. In sporting events, we have a couple of football games coming up against Newhill, this coming Monday 18<sup>th</sup>, some of our boys will be competing down at Davie Park, and on the 25<sup>th</sup> of March it will be the turn of our girls to play it out against Newhill. On the 26<sup>th</sup> of March we have 12 pupils from P6 and P7 representing the school at the PKC cross country championships, and on the same evening 4 of our P7 pupils will be participating in the annual Blairgowrie Rotary Club quiz. Good luck to all the pupils participating in these competitive events.

Lastly don't forget our **OPEN AFTERNOON** on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March at 2.15pm, where your children will be showcasing this term's classroom learning. All parents and other family members are welcome to attend. All these dates and others remaining for this term are in our annual dates section at the end of each newsletter.

### 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:

<b>P1W</b>	<b>Ella Watson</b>	<b>Polly Thomson</b>
<b>P2R</b>	<b>Aubrey Scott</b>	<b>Halle McDonald</b>
<b>P2/3</b>	<b>Daisy Anderson</b>	<b>Lucy Peebles</b>
<b>P3C</b>	<b>Nina Wilkinson</b>	<b>Lucy Ritchie</b>
<b>P4J</b>	<b>Ollie Comiskey</b>	<b>Johnny Gregg-Bailey</b>
<b>P4/5</b>	<b>Arya Cochrane</b>	<b>Marlowe Kippin</b>
<b>P5J</b>	<b>Marcus Miežite</b>	<b>Sophia Dingwall</b>
<b>P6S</b>	<b>Amelia Robertson</b>	<b>Nithini Premarathna</b>
<b>P6/7</b>	<b>Faithful Lucky-Agofure</b>	<b>Ethain Clark</b>
<b>P7N</b>	<b>Jock Moffat</b>	<b>Brooke Philips</b>

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.

### BOOKMARK FESTIVAL @ Rattray

All our pupils enjoyed a day of book-themed activities on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> March, thanks to the BOOKMARK festival's Authors in Schools programme. The Blairgowrie and Rattray book festival has supported the school through its outreach programme, which aims to foster a love of literature from an early age. Last week, authors Molly Arbuthnott, Michaela Morgan and Paul Bristow entertained and enthralled pupils at our school, and we also had the opportunity to enjoy sessions with Inspire Theatre Workshops where the children got to create their own superheroes and storylines. They also participated in a creative writing competition, which was judged by the Authors in Schools group. Those stories selected as best were given a book token. The winning authors were Nithini Premarathna, Niko Szabowski, Helena Detlaf, Libbi Stewart, Charlotte Norman and Daisy Anderson. Runners up who received a reading badge were Katie Saunders, Lewis Moffat, Jock Moffat, Hannah Adekunle,

Ashleigh Townsley, Dawid Fourth, Lacey Colville, Eila Watson and Dhanudha Berendenia. Congratulations to all these pupils.

### **World Book Day**

On 7th March we celebrated World Book Day by having a Drop Everything And Read event. The whole school either read their own book or were read to at 12:00 for 20 minutes. The day was to celebrate reading and books in our school. The children were each given a book token for a £1 book.

### **Global School Play Day**

On Wednesday 7th of February P1-7 really enjoyed our annual Global School Play Day (GSPD). This was a great success here are some quotes from our children:

**If you bring toys in you learn how to play better. You play and learn. (Darcy L, P2R)**

**I like to share my toys when I play, it has been fun. (Jaimee, P2/3)**

**I like showing my friends my toys, they are so cool. (Alexander, P2/3)**

**I like it Global Play Day because you can play with your friend's toys. (Makcim, P4J)**

**I like to Global Day because it's a good way for to children to express themselves through play. (Penny, P4J)**

**It's fun playing darts in class. I am using maths to add. (Hudson, P4/5)**

**Play can help you learn and build things. (Lewis, P4/5)**

### **Glee Challenge 2024**

Our fantastic Glee choir performed brilliantly at the Tayside heat, but unfortunately, we didn't make the finals this year as there was some very strong opposition. Our girls were heartbroken but still very proud of their achievements. We too are incredibly proud of every single one of our girls and boys and of course want to thank Ms McCulloch, Mrs Newlands and Mrs Johnstone for ongoing commitment to this group. The time and effort it takes to get our singers ready for the staff is immeasurable and these staff members have gone above and beyond. Thanks also to all the parents who helped with hair, costumes and music and lastly thanks to all the parents and staff who came along to the Caird Hall to support us.

### **Comic Relief (Red Nose) Day – Friday 17<sup>th</sup> March**

On the above date, we 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 crazy hair.** We ask that each family donate £1 (or more if you can) for the day, you can do this through parentpay.

### **Health Week**

Our Health Week will take place from Monday 25<sup>th</sup> March until the last day of term. We 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 29<sup>th</sup> February and discussed several items on their agenda. Upcoming fundraising events are a spring disco on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> April, hamper raffle and possible beetle drive.

The next Parent Council meeting will take place on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> May at 4pm, 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. Therefore, a creche will be provided in our Early Childhood Centre to support attendance.

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/>

### **Pupil Council**

This term the Pupil Council have been focussing on their learning experiences in school. Through discussion they have created some great questions to use in a school survey which they hope to use to gather the views of pupils across the school. They want to get pupils' views on areas such as what they feel makes a good lesson and what a good jotter should look like. Once the survey is complete, we will share the results with our school during our Friday Get Togethers.

## **Rattray Primary School Registration 2024**

If your child is turning five up to and including the 28 February 2025, they are eligible to start school in **August 2024** 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 register online following this link. [Apply online](#). 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](#) 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 2024/25 is **Friday 15 March 2024**. If submitting a placing request, you should not register your child at the local catchment school.

## **School Handbook 2024/25**

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 have posted 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.

## **P7 Residential – Lendrick Muir**

Our 5-day outdoor adventure takes place from **Monday 20<sup>th</sup> to Friday 24<sup>th</sup> June**. Payments can be made via Parentpay. Further information will be sent out soon to all children participating.

## **Session dates**

The school holiday dates up to June 2025 are available at the [following link](#).

## **URGENT - School and nursery open afternoon – Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March 2.15pm**

Please note that there has been a change to the date of our open afternoon, due to a clash with our Health week. This will now take place on **Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March from 2.15pm**.

## **Holiday dates**

School closes for the Easter holidays on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March at 3.20pm and reopens for pupils on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> April at 9am.

## **URGENT – Other date changes**

Due to unforeseen circumstance the following events have been rearranged to different dates:

- Nursery Graduation (by invitation) – Friday 21<sup>st</sup> June (10am)
- P7 Leaver's Assembly (by invitation) – Friday 21<sup>st</sup> June (2pm)
- P4 – P7 Prizegiving (by invitation) - Monday 24<sup>th</sup> June (10am)
- P1-P3 Prizegiving (by invitation) - Monday 24<sup>th</sup> June (2pm)

## **Wednesday afternoon Inter-generational Group**

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.

## **Nurturing Schools – Parent Survey - <https://forms.office.com/e/M7Wwe5yT6q>**

Across Perth and Kinross all schools have begun or will begin to work towards their Nurturing schools accreditation.

Ratray primary school has recently begun this journey and have undertaken baseline surveys for pupils and staff. We also need to have baseline data for our parents which will help us plan the direction of our Nurturing schools programme. Can we please ask that you take the time to complete this short survey to support us. The link is <https://forms.office.com/e/M7Wwe5yT6q>

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

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joanna Robertson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a small dot above the 'i' in Joanna.

Joanna Robertson  
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## Future Dates

### March 2024

Friday 15<sup>th</sup> March – Comic Relief Day  
Monday 18<sup>th</sup> March – Young Carers Day  
March 18<sup>th</sup> March (3.45pm) – Boys Football game at Davie Park  
Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> – P4-5 Generation Science Workshop  
Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> (2.15pm) – Open Afternoon  
25<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> – Health Week  
March 25<sup>th</sup> March (3.45pm) – Girls Football game at Davie Park  
Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> March (AM) – PKC cross country championship  
Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> March (4pm) – Blairgowrie Rotary Quiz  
Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> - School closes for Spring holiday

### April 2024

Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> - Back to School  
Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> April – Parent Council spring disco

### May 2024

Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> May (4pm) – Parent Council Meeting in school staffroom (creche provided)  
Monday 6<sup>th</sup> - **Public Holiday school closed to all**  
Monday 20<sup>th</sup> to Friday 24<sup>th</sup> – P7 residential to Lendrick Muir  
Friday 24<sup>th</sup> (12 noon to 1pm) – School Summer BBQ (all welcome)  
Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> (1.30pm) – School Sports day (**more information to follow**)

### June 2024

Thursday 6<sup>th</sup>/ Friday 7<sup>th</sup> – P1 / P7 Transition Days (**more information to follow**)  
Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> June (2pm) – Strong Start 2 sports day in courtyard  
Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> (1.45pm) – Nursery Sports Day (**more information to follow**)  
Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> June (1.30pm) – School Sports Contingency Day  
Monday 10<sup>th</sup> June (2pm) – Strong Start 2 sports day in courtyard Contingency Day  
Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> (1.45pm) – Nursery Sports Contingency Day  
Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> June – Nursery Fun Day  
Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> – Moving up Morning/meet new class teachers  
Friday 21<sup>st</sup> June (10am) – Nursery Graduation (by invitation)  
Friday 21<sup>st</sup> June (2pm) – P7 Leaver's Assembly (by invitation)  
Monday 24<sup>th</sup> June (10am) – P4 – P7 Prizegiving (by invitation)  
Monday 24<sup>th</sup> June (2pm) – P1-P3 Prizegiving (by invitation)  
Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> June (PM) – P7 Leaver's Party (pupils only)  
Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> June – End of term fun day / staff v pupils netball/Rattray's got talent. etc  
(**more information to follow**)  
Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> June –P7 Shirt Signing (pupils only)  
Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> June (12 noon) – School closes for Summer Break

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