

**JANUARY 2024 NEWSLETTER**

Dear pupils, parents/carers and friends of Rattray

I hope this (later than usual) January newsletter finds you well and that you had a joyful and restful holiday season. As we bid farewell to the twinkling lights and festive celebrations, we find that Rattray is once again buzzing with the energy and enthusiasm of our pupils. Our dedicated staff have already embarked on another term of learning, where your children will have an array of exciting activities, projects and special events planned. I encourage you to stay connected with our school community through newsletters, our school app, ParentPay, Facebook alongside participation in our school events. Here's to a fantastic term ahead!

We have a few events happening in the coming weeks, these as always are in our annual dates at the end of each newsletter, but I would like to add more detail to these.

**Thank you**

I would like to thank all the parents, relatives, staff and pupils who participated in our Christmas events. Our school nativities and ‘Christmas songs in the Hub’ were well attended and at capacity. Your food bank donations as an entry fee were overwhelming. Our Pupils Festive Funday, Disco, and Raffle were a great success. This brought in £1051, however after Christmas expenses, including food, materials, panto costs etc... we had a small profit of £1! The money raised has gone a long way to making Christmas so enjoyable for our Rattray children.

Finally, on behalf of the staff, I would like to thank you for the gifts which were given to each of us personally and handed into the staffroom during the festive season. Each gift was gratefully received.

**Welcome to our school**

We have a few new school pupils joining us since our last newsletter Sebastian Nastase who returns to rejoin our Primary 3 class, and twins Dhanuja and Dhanudha Berendenia joining Mrs Russell in Primary 2.

There are a couple of staffing changes to share with you. As you aware our office has been short on staff since the departure of Miss Hilary Duncan to Blairgowrie High School. This week we have Mrs Nicola Tuer joining the office team, who along with Ms Vicky Graham and Ms Valeryia Hvazdzetskaya will be available daily in the school office or in person. Mrs Shauna Scott has moved from our office to support children in the school, taking up the post of a Pupil Support Assistant. In our Early Childhood Centre, we have a few new staff faces joining the nursery team. These are Play Assistants Jade Hampton and Charley Martin who will start in February.

We hope all our new starts (pupils, visitors and staff) will enjoy their time at Rattray Primary School.

**Christmas card to local care homes**

Unless, you have an older child at school you may not be aware that our upper school classes send a personalised Christmas card with a lovely letter attached to every person resident in Blairgowrie care homes. This totalled 140 cards. We have received lovely emails, phonecalls and letters from the care home staff and residents thanking the school pupils and staff for their endeavours. However, I wanted to share with you an email we received from Hope Park House, which shows how much this means to residents of these care homes.

***This email is in response to the Christmas Cards that were sent to Hope Park House from Primary 7. We read all your lovely cards and letters to our residents and the cards were displayed on the walls within Hope Park for all to see such great artwork. Here are some comments from our residents:***

“***Your card is lovely and is very much appreciated”***

***“Hope you had a lovely Christmas”***

***“It was lovely to have such a nice card sent for Christmas”***

***“I hope you had a lovely Christmas holiday”***

***“Such a great effort went into all these cards”***

***“Your card made me smile”***

**Mantalk Thankyou**

A huge thankyou to Terry Comiskey and Mantalk team who held a raffle at their Santas grotto prior to Christmas. From this raffle they donated £100 to school funds. We are absolutely delighted to receive this and it will help with our school outdoor learning plans.

**Scots Afternoon – Friday 2nd February 2024 – 2pm to 3.20pm**

Our Scots Afternoon (poster also attached) will be led by our upper school pupils from P6, P6/7 and P7. During the afternoon all our classes will entertain parents/carers and relatives with Scots poems, songs and dancing in Rattray Community Connect. We hope you can join us on this celebratory afternoon but do remember to wear something tartan or Scottish and bring your dancing shoes - there may also be some shortbread on offer! **Use this link to book your tickets** [**https://forms.office.com/e/pvmX7ZGg5j**](https://forms.office.com/e/pvmX7ZGg5j)

***On this afternoon you will have the opportunity to hear our Scots poetry winners from each class. Parents of these children will be informed separately, and we will ensure that seating is kept at the Scots afternoon for 2 family members of each winning child.***

**P6 Skiing – 5th to 8th February 2024**

We are still hopeful that the ski trip will go ahead this year. In preparation, can I remind you, if you haven’t already, to return the form that shares your child’s height/weight/shoe size etc. Also, to remind you that if you need to hire clothing from Cally Gordon, to contact him soon and arrange visiting him to organise. His contact number is 07720126638.

Please remember that we leave the school at 8.30am every morning and return at about 4.30pm. A message will be posted on Facebook (if we have sufficient signal!) to advise of arrival time each day.

**Global Play Day – Wednesday 7th February 2024**

*“You can discover more about a person in an hour of play than in a year of conversation.” – Plato*

At Rattray Primary School we value the importance of play and for the last 5 years we have celebrated Global School Play Day (GSPD). GSPD has been promoted by psychologists and is being celebrated in schools around the world. We are inviting all pupils to bring in things to play with on this special day e.g., dress up, board games etc.

**Inset Days and Public Holidays**

A reminder that our school will be closed to pupils on **Wednesday 14th February** and to both pupils and staff on **Thursday 15th and Friday 16th February.**

**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 registrar online following this link. [Apply online.](https://www.pkc.gov.uk/article/21194/School-enrolment) 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 2024/25 is **Friday 15 March 2024**. If submitting a placing request, you should not register your child at the local catchment school.

**Rattray Early Childhood Centre Registration 2024**

Applications for places in the Council’s nursery classes and early childhood centres in 2024/25 are now open.

Please follow this link and complete forms as required <https://www.pkc.gov.uk/nurseryregistration>

**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](https://www.pkc.gov.uk/media/32309/Rattray-Primary-School-Handbook-2024-25/pdf/Rattray_PS_Handbook_2024-25.pdf?m=1702997161297)

**Parent Council Update**

The next Parent Council meeting will take place on Thursday 22nd February 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/Rattray-Primary-Parent-Council-1486611214939520/>

**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.

**Assessing Children’s Progress**

As you may be aware National Standardised Assessments have been in place across Scottish schools for a few years, 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 P4 pupils will take place this term. If you require further information, could you please contact the school office.

**Appropriate clothing for winter weather**

Please can we ask that your child comes to school each day with a coat and appropriate footwear. It is important that our pupils get plenty of exercise and fresh air, so children will be outdoors for break and lunchtimes in all weathers (except torrential rain and high winds). During the school week, children will spend periods learning outdoors too, therefore it’s always best to be prepared.

**Rattray School 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 have opened the app, search for Rattray Primary School and download the app. You will be asked for a username – rattrayps, and our pincode is 1980.

**URGENT - School and nursery open afternoon**

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 21st March from 2.15pm.**

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

Lastly, across Perth and Kinross all school have began or will begin to work towards their Nurturing schools accreditation. To promote a shared understanding of the Nurturing Relationships programme with parents and carers the council have created a sway which shares some general information around the project, the rationale and what it entails etc. <https://sway.office.com/27uaVhGrhZjW7FzD?ref=Link>

Rattray 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 – 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.** 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 email address below.

Yours faithfully



Headteacher

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Rattray Primary School Key Dates

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

**Other dates will also be added.**

**February 2024**

Friday 2nd – Upper School Scots Assembly (PM)

5th to 8th - P6 Skiing to Glenshee

Wednesday 7th - Global play day

Thursday 8th – P7 NHS vaping and smoking workshop

Thursday 8th – P1 NHS weight and height sessions

Friday 8th – P7 girls Wellbeing workshops commence.

**Wednesday 14th – Inset Day school closed to pupils**

**Thursday 15th – Public Holiday school closed to all**

**Friday 16th - Public Holiday school closed to all**

Thursday 22nd - Parent Council Meeting (4pm)

Tuesday 27th (AM) – P7 Transition Event at Blair High

Tuesday 27th – Glee Choir Heats at Caird Hall, Dundee (PM)

**March 2024**

Wednesday 6th – P1-3 Generation Science Workshop

Wednesday 6th (5pm to 7.30pm)– Parent Contact 3

Thursday 7th (4pm to 6.30pm) - Parent Contact 4

Friday 15th March – Comic Relief Day

Monday 18th March – Young Carers Day

Tuesday 19th – P4-5 Generation Science Workshop

Thursday 21st (2.15pm) – Open Afternoon

25th to 28th – Health Week

Thursday 28th - School closes for Spring holiday

**April 2024**

Tuesday 16th - Back to School

**May 2024**

Monday 6th - **Public Holiday school closed to all**

Monday 20th to Friday 24th – P7 residential to Lendrick Muir

Friday 24th (12 noon to 1pm) – School Summer BBQ (all welcome)

Wednesday 29th (1.30pm) – School Sports day **(more information to follow)**

**June 2024**

Thursday 6th/ Friday 7th – P1 / P7 Transition Days **(more information to follow)**

Monday 3rd June (2pm) – Strong Start 2 sports day in courtyard

Tuesday 4th (1.45pm) – Nursery Sports Day **(more information to follow)**

Wednesday 5th June (1.30pm) – School Sports Contingency Day

Monday 10th June (2pm) – Strong Start 2 sports day in courtyard Contingency Day

Tuesday 11th (1.45pm) – Nursery Sports Contingency Day

Wednesday 19th June – Nursery Fun Day

Wednesday 19th – Moving up Morning/meet new class teachers

Friday 21st June (10am) – P4 – P7 Prizegiving (by invitation)

Friday 21st June (2pm)– P1-P3 Prizegiving (by invitation)

Monday 24th June (9.30am) – Nursery Graduation (by invitation)

Monday 24th June (2pm) – P7 Leaver’s Assembly (by invitation)

Tuesday 25th June (PM) – P7 Leaver’s Party (pupils only)

Wednesday 26th June – End of term fun day / staff v pupils netball/Rattray’s got talent. etc

**(more information to follow)**

Thursday 27th June –P7 Shirt Signing (pupils only)

Thursday 27th June (12 noon) – School closes for Summer Break