



AUGUST 2024 NEWSLETTER

Dear pupils, parents/carers and friends of Ratray

This is our first newsletter of the school year, therefore on behalf of everyone at Ratray School I welcome you all to session 2024/25. We do hope you have all had a wonderful summer, despite the weather! It was lovely to see all our pupils (and staff) return to school refreshed and ready for the new school year last week. All our pupils looked fantastic in their new uniforms, and we hope this will continue throughout the school year.

At the end of this letter there will be several dates which we hope will be of assistance in planning busy family routines. Also attached is a useful information and reminders document which will be handy for our new families or even as a reminder for our existing families. 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 ratray@pkc.gov.uk



Welcome to our school

We 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 pupil Neive Colville – P3 and Zoe Charitou – P5. We also have a number of some new staff joining us too (see below). We hope all our new starts and returnees enjoy their time this school year at Ratray Primary School.



Staffing Update

There are several staffing changes to share with you for the coming session.

As shared prior to the summer, sadly leaving Ratray were Mrs Diane Johnstone (Class Teacher), Mrs Gillian Newlands (Class Teacher) and Mrs Miriam Lain (ECP). They will be missed, and we wish them all the best in their new posts.

Joining our teaching staff and covering our vacant posts in P6/7 and P4/5 are Mrs Estelle Bruce and Miss Erin Cassells. Miss Danielle McAlpine returns to our infant classrooms from her stint in nursery, whilst Ms Dee Wigmore will take on the role of our Nursery Teacher. Mr Craig Brown has returned from his 18-month secondment to Angus Council, to his substantive post of Ratray Depute Headteacher (DHT). Whilst Mrs Fiona McCarthy has been appointed to an Acting Principal Teacher post (temporary PEF funding).



I am delighted to announce that Mrs Kylie Gill was successful in interview and will take on the role of our new Pupil Care and Welfare Office (temporary PEF funding). Mrs Gill (DJ Kylie) will be a superb asset to our school support team, and we are very pleased with this appointment. Also, in relation to our school support staff, remaining at the school temporarily are Miss Jenny Gregg and Mrs Nicola Tuer (Pupil Support Assistants), whilst Mrs Jenni Downie moves from her pupil support role to an admin post joining recently appointed Mrs Natalie Aitken and Miss Vickie Graham in our school office.

In the nursery, alongside Mrs Laing, we said goodbye to temporary Early Childhood Practitioner (ECP) Lynne Micheals but have welcomed the return of ECP Louise Cameron and modern apprentice Kaitlyn Clark. Remaining on their temporary contracts are Jacqui Prebish (ECP) and Play Assistants Jade Hampton and Charley Martin.

School Uniform Expectations

This academic session the wearing of school uniform by all pupils will be expected every day. Since Covid and particularly last session, there was a significant downturn across all classes in the wearing of school uniform.

Considering this, children will not be encouraged to come to school for PE in their sports clothes. All pupils will change either in their classroom or in the hub changing rooms (age dependent) for class PE lessons.

Through the Parent Council, Mantalk and Pupil Equity Funding every child in the school has been given a labelled gym bag and t-shirt in their house colours. These will be kept in your child's new classroom this year. For PE lessons, children will be expected to wear black shorts/leggings, house coloured or white t-shirt and trainers/gym shoes. For outdoor PE, tracksuit bottoms or leggings, a warm top and trainers will be needed. Children will no longer be able to wear football or sports strips. PE Kits can be stored in their house colour gym bag and can be collected as and when required.



All classes have begun their PE lessons, so please ensure that your child now has sportswear that can be stored in their gym bag at school. We will not be sharing a timetable of PE days for each class as this allows teachers flexibility during the school week if they need to change their PE slot for any reason.

GOING FORWARD PLEASE SUPPORT THE SCHOOL BY ENSURING YOUR CHILD WEARS SCHOOL UNIFORM EVERY DAY AND BRINGS SUGGESTED SPORTS KIT TO KEEP IN SCHOOL TO CHANGE INTO ON THEIR PE DAYS.

Our school uniform supplier is Border Embroideries who provide a greater range of affordable uniform. 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. You can find all available uniform options (grey and maroon), including Prefect Hoodies at this web address. <https://www.border-embroideries.co.uk/schools/rattray-primary-school.html> You will also find several sporting options too, including our new school sports top and house sports t-shirts. However, there is no expectation to order from this company or have Rattray branded uniform, supermarket uniform in school colours is more than acceptable.

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, grey pinafore, grey trousers, grey culottes or grey shorts

White polo shirt or white shirt/blouse

Red/Maroon gingham dress

Grey/Maroon sweatshirt, cardigan or jumper

Maroon Hoodie (P7 Prefects only)

School Tie

PE – black shorts/leggings, house or plain white t-shirt and trainers/gym shoes.

Free school meals and school clothing grants

Free School Meals are offered to **ALL** pupils in P1 - P5 **without the need for parents/carers to apply**. Don't forget to apply for Free School Meals for your child when they move into P6 as they will no longer be automatically entitled to Free School Meals.

An application form must be completed if you also require a school clothing grant for your child in P1-P7. Parents/Carers in receipt of a qualifying benefit will receive an annual school clothing grant of £126 per child in primary school and £157 per child in secondary school. Please [Apply online](#)

You can claim free school meals (P6 and P7) and a school clothing grant (all ages) for your child(ren) if you are receiving:

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- any income-related element of Employment and Support Allowance
- Child Tax Credit, but not Working Tax Credit, with an income of less than £19,995
- both Child Tax Credit and Working Tax Credit with an income of up to £9,552
- support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- Universal Credit with a monthly earned income of not more than £796
- If you are aged 16 to 18 years and receive any of these benefits in your own right, you can claim free school meals for yourself.

It is also useful to note that for every child who receives a clothing grant, will also bring funding through the pupil equity fund (PEF) to our school. This PEF funding helps provide additional staff, subsidise school trips and events and supports free breakfasts and other initiatives aimed to raise equity and attainment. **THEREFORE, APPLYING FOR SCHOOL CLOTHING GRANT NOT ONLY BENEFITS YOU PERSONALLY BUT THE SCHOOL AS A WHOLE – SO PLEASE APPLY IF YOU THINK ARE ENTITLED TO THIS OR CONTACT THE SCHOOL OFFICE AND WE WILL SUPPORT YOU TO DO THIS.**

For more information regarding free meals and clothing grants please visit the PKC website. [Free school meals and school clothing grants - primary and secondary - Perth & Kinross Council \(pkc.gov.uk\)](https://www.pkc.gov.uk).

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 several 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.



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.

Last year, charges for breakfast club places were removed for any pupils who would be entitled to Free School Meals as part of welfare benefits (not necessarily all P1 to P5 pupils). Therefore, breakfast club spaces for pupils meeting these requirements will be free. Places will continue to be allocated on a 1st come 1st served basis within our current capacity.

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 helpful if your child's name or initials could please be written on the labels of school clothing, especially school ties.

After School Clubs

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

Session Dates

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

School Handbook 2024/25

Our school handbook for this session is available to view on the council website or in paper form from school office. Follow this link – [school handbook](#)

Behaviour/ Relationships

With consistency and fairness at its heart, our relationships approach includes 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 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.

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. 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/Ratray-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.

Ratray 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 primarieschoolapp' in the play app stores. Once you've opened the app, search for Ratray Primary School and download the app. You will be asked for a username (ratrayps) 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 2024/25

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 2023/24 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 aware 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.

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.

Parent Council Fundraiser – Blueberry Picking

Our parent council has kindly arranged blueberry picking slots of the following dates:

Friday 20th September (10am to 1pm)

Thursday 26th September (3pm to 6pm)

All families are welcome to attend this event and payment is by cash only. The blueberry fields are at Thomas Thomson, Ashgrove Road, Blairgowrie, PH10 7EX. The parent council are also looking for volunteers to help us man the table on entry.

Thanks, from the school staff

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

Yours faithfully



Joanna Robertson
Headteacher
ratray@pkc.gov.uk

01250 871980

Ratray Primary School Key Dates

**Please note these dates are provisional and may be subject to change
Other dates will also be added**

August 2024

Wednesday 21st /28th – P7 and P6/7 cricket sessions

September 2024

Wednesday 4th/ 11th/ 18th/ 25th – P7 and P6/7 cricket sessions

Wednesday 4th – P1 photos taken for Blairgowrie Advertiser

Friday 6th - Mobile Library Visit

Monday 16th/ Tuesday 17th – P6 to P7 Anne Frank workshop (pupils only)

Monday 30th – Flu Immunisations

Thursday 26th –Open Afternoon (Class Focus) – (2.15pm)

October 2024

Friday 4th - Mobile Library Visit

Friday 4th – School closes for October holiday

Monday 21st - Back to School

November 2024

Thursday 7th to 14th – Scholastic Book Fair

Tuesday 12th - Odd socks day (anti-bullying)

Wednesday 13th - Parent Contact 1 (5pm to 7.30pm)

Thursday 14th – Parent Contact 2 (4pm to 6.30pm)

Friday 15th – Inset Day school closed to pupils

Monday 18th – 24th – Book week Scotland

Wednesday 20th – Tempest Photographer

December 2024

Tuesday 10th December - Infant Nativity (9.30am and 1.30pm)

Wednesday 11th (PM) in Hub- Nursery PM Party

Thursday 12th (AM) in Hub - Nursery AM Party

Thursday 12th – Christmas Disco - P1 to P3: 6 – 6.45pm; P4 to P7: 7 – 8pm

Friday 13th December (2pm) - Carols in the Hub

Tuesday 17th December – Christmas Lunch

Tuesday 17th December – Whole School Christmas Party Day

Wednesday 18th December (PM) – Christmas Activity Day

Thursday 19th December (All day) – Christmas Activity Day

Thursday 19th December (PM) - Nursery Christmas Activity Day and Song

Friday 20th December (noon) – School closes for Winter Break

January 2025

Monday 6th - Back to School

Friday 31st January – Scots Assembly (PM)

February 2025

Wednesday 5th - Global play day

Wednesday 12th – Inset Day school closed to pupils

Thursday 13th – Public Holiday school closed to all

Friday 14th - Public Holiday school closed to all

March 2025

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

Thursday 6th (4pm to 6.30pm) - Parent Contact 4

Wednesday 13th March – Young Carers Day

Friday 21st March – Comic Relief Day

Wb 31st March – Health Week

April 2025

Friday 4th - School closes for Spring holiday

Monday 21st - **Public Holiday (Easter Monday) school closed to all**

Tuesday 22nd – **Inset Day school closed to pupils**

Wednesday 23rd - Back to School

May 2025

Monday 5th - **Public Holiday (May Day) school closed to all**

Monday 26th to Friday 30th – P7 residential week Lendrick Muir (pupils only)

Thursday 22nd May – Open Afternoon - Class Focus (2.15pm)

Friday 30th (12 noon to 1pm) – School Summer BBQ (all welcome)

June 2025

Thursday 5th/ Friday 6th – P1 / P7 Transition Days (**more information to follow**)

Monday 2nd June (1.30pm) – Strong Start 2 sports day in courtyard

Tuesday 3rd (1.45pm) – Nursery Sports Day (**more information to follow**)

Wednesday 4th June (1.30pm) – School Sports day (**more information to follow**)

Monday 9th June (1.30pm) – Strong Start 2 sports day in courtyard Contingency Day

Tuesday 10th (1.45pm) – Nursery Sports Contingency Day

Thursday 12th (1.45pm) – Teddy Bear's Picnic (Current and New P1 pupils)

Wednesday 18th – Moving up Morning/meet new class teachers

Thursday 19th June (1.30pm) – Nursery Fun Day

Friday 20th June (1.30pm) –Prizegiving (by invitation)

Monday 23rd June (9.30am) – Nursery Graduation (by invitation)

Monday 23rd June (2pm) – P7 Leaver's Assembly (by invitation)

Tuesday 24th June (PM) – P7 Leaver's Party (pupils only)

Wednesday 25th June – End of term fun day / staff v pupils netball. /rattray's got talent. etc (**more information to follow**)

Thursday 26th June –P7 Shirt Signing (pupils only)

Thursday 26th June (12 noon) – School closes for Summer Break