



## MAY 2026 NEWSLETTER

Dear pupils, parents/carers and friends of Ratray

We've had a lovely start to the summer term, with some sunshine brightening our days. Staff have made the most of the better weather by taking learning outdoors, and it has been a joy to see the children enjoying their playtimes and engaging so enthusiastically in activities under blue skies.

In this newsletter, you'll find highlights from the past few weeks, along with important information about upcoming events, including our Sports Day and Summer Barbeque. We hope you enjoy reading about all the exciting learning and experiences taking place across our school community.

### Recent Highlights from Around the School

As part of our Health Week celebrations, staff and pupils thoroughly enjoyed a packed week of activities organised by school staff and visiting specialists. Activities included yoga and nature walks, a smoothie bike, silent disco, healthy tuck shop, football tournament, spring run and time spent in our nature garden. A huge thank you goes to all staff involved, particularly Miss Johnstone and Mrs Russell, who coordinated the week. As part of Health Week, all classes visited Sensation, giving pupils the opportunity to explore interactive science and wellbeing experiences.

Congratulations to four of our Primary 6 pupils - Hannah, Nathan, Mikolaj and Helena - who represented Ratray so well at the annual Euroquiz. Competing against 24 schools, the team achieved an impressive 9th place in a challenging event.



Our school choir, Rattay Remix, took part in the Glee Challenge back in March and represented the school magnificently. The group received exceptional feedback from the organisers, praising their teamwork, choreography, strong vocals and stage presence, with the performance described as a personal favourite of the evening. Members of Rattay Remix were Macy, Jessica-Rose, Amelie, Grace, Esme, Aleska, Darcy L, Lachlan, Sky, Annabelle, Lucy, Hope, Alaina, Daisy and Rhea.

We were delighted to welcome several senior visitors to our school recently, including David Macluskey (Head of Education), who received letters from our P7 pupils questioning why schools did not receive a holiday to celebrate Scotland's World Cup games. Mr Macluskey responded with a gracious and humorous reply that pupils enjoyed greatly. We also welcomed Neil Craik-Collins (Quality Improvement Manager) and Nick Thomson (Quality Improvement Officer), who were impressed by the learning taking place across the school.

Following several weeks of specialist coaching, 32 upper school pupils attended the Strathmore Cricket Festival at Meigle Cricket Club. Despite the rainy weather, pupils showed great enthusiasm and resilience. Of our four teams, we achieved **1st and 3rd place in both the boys' and girls' competitions**. Unfortunately, this meant our teams played each other in the semi-finals. The winning boys' and girls' teams (16 pupils) have now progressed to the **regional finals in Perth next month**. Well done to all pupils involved and thank you to staff for their support.



In other sporting news, a huge well-done to 17 of our upper school children who took part in the annual PKC cross country event. Our P6s girls (Amelie, Hannah and Sara), P6 boys (Nathan, Makcim and Ben), P7 girls (Liliana, Liza, Lena, Estella and Sophia) and P7 boys (Lewis M., Nathan, Marcus, Alexander and Riley) represented the school with determination and pride. Thank you to the staff and parents who supported with transport on the day.

Our Primary 7 pupils have been very busy. They successfully organised a Red Nose Day fundraising event, selling Red Noses through ParentPay at £2 each. On the day, they also ran a Dress Crazy Day, along with red nose tattoos and face painting. Thanks to everyone's generosity, they raised £530 for Comic Relief. More recently, they have been preparing for their leavers' party by writing to local businesses to ask for support and by organising and supervising infant and upper-school discos to raise funds for their celebrations. The discos took place last week and raised £280.

Last Friday, our P4–P7 pupils enjoyed a powerful live performance of *Hope* by the Take Away Theatre Company. Through drama and music, the production explored important themes such as bullying, peer pressure and respect. Our pupils were captivated and took away valuable messages about kindness and supporting one another. We are very grateful to our Parent Council for funding this event through their recent participatory budgeting grant.

### **Looking Ahead — Upcoming Events and Opportunities**

The rest of the term is shaping up to be just as exciting, with a wide range of opportunities planned across the school.

Primary 3 and 4 pupils have had tennis coaching sessions with local coach Susan Whiteford, leading towards the Blairgowrie Schools Tennis Competition for selected pupils next week.

We are continuing our inter-generational links, with fortnightly visits to Stormont Care Home, alongside weekly visits to the Rattray Community Garden, where our younger pupils are planting seeds, learning about plant life cycles and tracking their growth each week. We are also pleased to announce that we will be working with Blairgowrie and Rattray Community Football Club for another year. Many children benefit from their activities both in school and outwith school.

Over the coming weeks, pupils will have the opportunity to enjoy a range of creative performances and workshops. Among these is BIG, a lively comedy show for Nursery children preparing to move into Primary 1, which will also be attended by Primary 1 pupils to help foster a welcoming atmosphere for our new starters. Primary 5 pupils will take part in a smoking and vaping awareness drama workshop, delivered in an engaging and age-appropriate way to encourage healthy choices.

Our P5 and P6 classes will be taking part in Junk Trunk Music Workshops organised in partnership with Perth Festival of the Arts. This fantastic, eco-friendly program blends creativity, music, and sustainability. Professional musicians will visit our school to work directly with the children, guiding them to transform everyday household recycling into fully playable musical instruments.

All our Primary 4 pupils will attend the Big Sing at George Duncan Stadium in Perth. The Big Sing event marks the end of an exciting period of musical learning for our Primary 4 pupils. Over the past several weeks, the children have participated in focused class music sessions, expertly guided by Zoe Penman of PKC Music Service. At George Duncan Stadium, our pupils will come together with Primary 4 children from schools throughout PKC.

Our Primary 7 pupils have been strengthening their transition links with Blairgowrie High School through a range of visits, including trips to the high school and visits from high-school staff. In June they will venture back to high school for a 2-day induction. They will also attend the annual SCYD community event, a day-long program preparing them for secondary school through positive choices, personal safety, and community responsibility. Activities include visits to SCYD, fire, and police services, supervised walks, and involvement from these community groups to build confidence and foster trusted relationships.

Most of our Primary 7 pupils will soon head off for a week-long residential at Lendrick Muir, while other pupils will represent the school at the local athletics championships at Blairgowrie Community Campus and the PKC Relay Championships in Perth. Additionally, all our upper-school pupils will take part in healthy relationships sessions delivered by Women's Aid.

This term, several classes will be attending educational excursions linked to classroom learning, with P1, P1/2, P2 and P3 visiting Brechin Castle, and P5 to P7 heading to the Scottish Football Museum at Hampden Park in Glasgow.

We are also preparing a range of Primary 1 induction events, including parent-child sessions, classroom visits, drama experiences and a teddy bears’ picnic, to ensure our new starts feel welcomed, confident and excited about beginning their journey at Rattray.

Rattray’s Got Talent will be held again this term, so if you have a budding magician, singer, dancer, comedian or Rubik’s cube finisher! Please encourage your child to take part and showcase their talents. We are also greatly looking forward to our Summer BBQ and Open Afternoon, where families will be invited to join their children for lunch and visit classrooms to see learning in action.

Finally, across the school through our class learning, we will be celebrating the Scottish men’s football team qualifying for the World Cup this year and the Commonwealth Games being held in Scotland. We are planning some events to mark these exciting and memorable occasions, with further details to follow. To start off, we are delighted to have secured a visit from musician **Nick Morgan**, of *No Scotland No Party* fame, as part of his World Cup-themed tour of Scottish schools (see further information below).

### School Changes

We have had several new pupils join us this term. In P1 and P7 siblings Louise and Grace Welsh, alongside in P4/5 and P6/7 Blake and Amileigh Hunter, as well as Mason and Jessica White in P1/2 and P4. Also joining us in P4/5 is Ares Otincilescu. We hope our new starts will enjoy their time here at Rattray Primary School.

### Session dates

The school holiday dates up to June 2027 are available at the [following link](#).

### Rattray Shine again in the PKC Sumdog Competition!

Six of our classes took part in the March Sumdog Maths Competition. More than 60 classes from across Perth and Kinross entered, and all our classes finished in the top half. Our P7 and P4/5 classes achieved an impressive 5<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> place overall.

We are also delighted to celebrate Winner Tanimoyo from P4/5, who finished 4<sup>th</sup> overall out of 556 pupils. Callum Simpson (P4/5), Lena Widz (P7), Marcus Miezitis and Fionn Nastiuk (P4/5) also placed in the top 20. These are outstanding individual achievements, and the children should be very proud of their success in maths.

POSITION	NAME	CLASS	QUESTIONS	ACCURACY	SCORE
4th	Winner T	<a href="#">Primary 4/5, Rattray Primary School</a>	700	94%	660
14th	Callum S	<a href="#">Primary 4/5, Rattray Primary School</a>	700	89%	621
15th	Lena W	<a href="#">Primary 7, Rattray Primary School</a>	700	86%	603
17th	Marcus M	<a href="#">Primary 7, Rattray Primary School</a>	700	83%	584
19th	Fionn N	<a href="#">Primary 4/5, Rattray Primary School</a>	685	85%	580

### Pupil Council

As part of creating a travel plan for the school, the Pupil Council recently carried out a survey about how pupils travel to school. This revealed that less than half of pupils who travel by car are regularly using the Park and Stride on Hatton Road. The Pupil Council would like to encourage as many people coming to school by car to use this, as it helps to reduce congestion around the school gates, improves safety for all pupils and families, and promotes a healthier, more active start to the day. By parking a short distance away and walking the final part of the journey, we can all play a part in making our school environment safer and more welcoming for everyone.

### Parent Council

**HAMPER DONATIONS NEEDED** - Our Parent Council are looking for donations for the hamper that they’ll be raffling off at our school barbeque (4<sup>th</sup> June) and our school sports day (17<sup>th</sup> June - weather permitting). Any donations would be most welcome and can be handed into the school office or to a member of the parent council prior to Friday 12<sup>th</sup> June.

Our Parent Council last met on the 30<sup>th</sup> of April and discussed several items on their agenda; they were delighted to support the disco fundraiser organised by our P7s to raise funds for their leaver celebrations. The parents also spoke about how they planned to spend the PB funding windfall that we received recently. This funding will cover a school/nursery trip for every Rattray child next academic session.



Our Parent Council is looking for new members, as three of our very active parents will soon be leaving when their children move on from the school. All parents and carers are welcome to attend meetings, and we would encourage you to consider getting involved. A strong Parent Council plays an important role in supporting our children and ensuring parents have a voice in school life. Even attending one or two meetings a year would make a difference. If you would like more information, please visit the Parent Council Facebook page.

Lastly, I would like to thank our Parent Council for everything they have done this session. This small group has worked tirelessly to raise significant funds for the school, benefiting every child at Rattray. Many of these extras would not be possible without their support. I would also like to offer a heartfelt thank you to Caroline Dingwall, Sylvia Donaldson and Claire Moffat, who are leaving as their youngest children move on to high school. Between them, they have given more than 25 years of service to the Parent Council - an incredible commitment to our school community. We are deeply grateful for their dedication, time and support over so many years.

### **P7 Residential – Lendrick Muir**

Our 4-day outdoor adventure takes place from **Monday 25<sup>th</sup> to Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> May**. Further information will be shared with those P7s attending the week prior to departure. Correspondence has already been sent out to our current P6s regarding next year's P7 residential. Notes of interest are due soon, so please look out for this email and make your deposit payment via ParentPay. If you have any questions, please contact the school.

### **Assessing Children's Progress**

As you may be aware National Standardised Assessments are used 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 P1 will take place this term.

### **PIRLS**

Our Primary 5 pupils have been selected to take part in the Progress in International Reading Literacy Study (PIRLS). This international assessment takes place every five years and gathers information from more than 60 countries, including Scotland. It looks at the reading skills of children aged 9 to 10, and the findings help governments review and improve education systems. Our P5 pupils will complete the assessment on 12<sup>th</sup> June.

### **Exciting School Event – “No Scotland No Party” Tour**

We are absolutely delighted that Rattray was selected (several staff applied!) to be one of the schools for Nick Morgan's **“No Scotland No Party” Tour**. The performance will take place in school on the afternoon of **Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> May** for all school pupils and nursery pre-schoolers. The children (and staff) are beyond excited.



This will be a mini-concert experience for pupils, including music, singing and the opportunity for photos afterwards. The visit will last approximately **15–20 minutes**. Every child will be given a special commemorative ticket (just like a proper concert). The pupils will be able to take these home and use the QR codes to access other world cup activities too.

***On this day, all our pupil and staff across the school/nursery are welcome to wear their own national colours (including tartan). National football/sporting tops/kits are welcome (any country but no club football strips please). We are also on the lookout for Scotland flags and bunting.***

We are really looking forward to what should be a **fun and memorable event for the children**.

### **School BBQ – Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> June**

All parents/carers and siblings are invited to our Summer BBQ on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> June. Nursery children will eat at 11.30am and school children at 12.20pm. The cost per adult BBQ meal is £5.30 and £2.40 for siblings. There is a payment item on your child's ParentPay Account where you can order and pay for your meal. You can order for up to 2 adults and 2 siblings per family (not per child). Orders must be made by and paid for by the end of this week (**Friday 22nd May**) to allow us time to prepare for the BBQ. We are sorry but we cannot accept orders after that date or on the day itself. If you have any additional queries, please contact Ms Graham in the school office.

### **Sports Day – Rearranged Date**

Due to a clash with another school event, the school Sports Day has been rearranged to **Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> June**. All parents/carers are welcome to spectate at **Davie Park from 1.30pm**. Our Nursery Sports Day will still take place on **Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> June at 1.45pm** on Rattray Common. On both days, children should come to school wearing sportswear, preferably in their house colours. **We apologise for the change and hope this gives families enough notice to adjust any arrangements.**

### **P1 and P7 Transition**

Our P7s pupils have already had a visit to Blairgowrie High School, and been visited by high school staff, they will have their final transition visits on **Thursday 11th and Friday 12th of June**. On these same days, our new Primary 1s will have the opportunity to visit their new classrooms and meet their teachers. We have several transition events organised for our new starts and have shared this information with the families of our new P1 children.

### **School Uniform**

It is getting close to the time when you might be thinking about uniforms for our next school session. Our school uniform supplier is Border Embroideries, who provide a range of affordable uniforms. The website allows uniforms to be delivered to your home address if you pay a delivery charge, or it can be sent free to the company's Dundee store. 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> **You will also find several sporting options too, including our school sports top and house sports t-shirts.** However, there is no expectation to order from this company or have Rattray branded uniform.

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  
Black Shorts/House T-shirt for PE lessons

**PLEASE SUPPORT THE SCHOOL BY ENSURING YOUR CHILD WEARS SCHOOL UNIFORM EVERY DAY.**

### **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 more easily.** Anything clothing remaining prior to the summer break will be handed into local charity shops.

### **School Handbook 2026/27**

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](#)

### **URGENT – Reading Book Amnesty**

Can we please ask that all reading books are always returned to school. Reading books can cost anything between £6 and £12 therefore, to replace any missing books is considerably costly for the school. In one class alone this term over 15 reading books have not been returned, totalling roughly £150, if this happened across every class it would cost us £1500 each year just to replace missing reading books, so please have a good search for books in your homes.

### **ParentPay – Urgent Reminder**

Letters have been sent to families who have not yet activated their ParentPay accounts. Please activate your account as soon as possible. Without it, you may miss urgent school communications, including important information about trips, events and activities.

### **Pupil Safety and Wellbeing**

The safety of our children is everyone's responsibility, parents, pupils and staff. **Therefore, we appeal to all parents and carers regarding the habits/incidents below which are happening most days and ask you to consider the consequences of your individual actions on the safety of all children coming and going to school.**

Please help us keep our children safe by following the rules below:

- No parking or waiting in the staff car park. 24 Hour access is required for emergency services and deliveries. If you require access to the disabled bay and you have a blue badge, please phone in advance to our school office and we will open the car park gates.
- No drop off/collection on the white zig zags outside the school gates. These areas are monitored by Police Scotland and tickets will be issued.
- No dogs in the school playground, regardless of how young or how friendly your dog is. We have several children who are frightened of dogs, and we also do not want dogs fouling the playground.
- No smoking or vaping in our school playground.
- No biking or scooting in the playground at drop-off and collection time.

**We appreciate and expect your assistance in these matters. If a friend or family member drops off/collects your child(ren) on your behalf, please can you share this important information with them?**

### **General Updates/Reminders**

- 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.
- As we approach warmer weather (hopefully) and the classes spend more time outdoors, we would encourage you to put sun cream on your child before coming to school each day.
- Whilst we do not want to ban football cards, we would like to remind you to reinforce to your children that the trading of football 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, Just2Easy, 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, thank you for your continued support. If you have any questions about anything in this newsletter, please contact the school office or use the email address below.

Yours faithfully



Joanna Robertson  
Headteacher  
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01250 871980

## Future Dates

### May 2026

- Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> – Drama Performance 'BIG' for Nursery and P1  
Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> (PM) – P7 Care Home Visit  
Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> (10:50 – 12:10) – P1/2 Community Garden Visit  
Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> – Women's Aid to P6 and P7 classes  
Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> – Junk Trunk Music Workshop for P6 and P5 classes  
Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> (1.45pm) – Nick Morgan's No Scotland/No Party World Cup Tour (pupils only)  
Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> – All P4s to Big sing event at George Duncan Stadium  
Monday 25<sup>th</sup> to Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> – P7 residential week Lendrick Muir  
Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> – Blairgowrie LMG Sports at Blair CC. (selected pupils only)  
Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> (10:50 – 12:10) – P1 Community Garden Visit  
Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> (AM) – P3 and P4 tennis tournament (selected pupils only)  
Friday 29<sup>th</sup> – **Inset Day school closed to pupils**

### June 2026

- Monday 1<sup>st</sup> – P1 and P1/2 to Brechin Castle  
Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> (all day) – P7s to Community Day  
Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> - P5 to P7 to SFA Museum  
Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> (12 noon to 1pm) – School Summer BBQ (all welcome)  
Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> – Open Afternoon - Class Focus (2.15pm)  
Monday 8<sup>th</sup> – P2 and P3 to Brechin Castle  
Monday 8<sup>th</sup> June (1.30pm) – Strong Start 2 sports day in courtyard  
Monday 8<sup>th</sup> June (3.45pm) – Boys Football match against Newhill (Davie Park)  
Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> – Smoking Workshop for all P5 pupils  
Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> (1.45pm) – Nursery Sports Day (**more information to follow**)  
Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> June – Cricket Regional Finals (selected pupils)  
Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> (PM) – P5 Care Home Visit  
Thursday 11<sup>th</sup>/ Friday 12<sup>th</sup> – P1 / P7 Transition Days (**more information to follow**)  
Monday 15<sup>th</sup> June (1.30pm) – Strong Start 2 sports day in courtyard Contingency Day  
Monday 15<sup>th</sup> June (3.45pm) – Girls Football match against Newhill (Davie Park)  
Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> (1.45pm) – Nursery Sports Contingency Day  
Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> – County sports and P7 relays (selected pupils only)  
Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> (PM) – P4 Care Home Visit  
Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> June - School Sports day (**more information to follow**)  
Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> (1.45pm) – Teddy Bear's Picnic (Current and New P1 pupils)  
Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> – Moving up Morning/meet new class teachers  
Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> (1.15pm) – Nursery Graduation (by invitation)  
Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> – Nursery Summer Activity Afternoon and Next Steps Celebration  
Friday 26<sup>th</sup> June (1.30pm) –Prizegiving (by invitation)  
Monday 29<sup>th</sup> June (2pm) – P7 Leaver's Assembly (by invitation)  
Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> June (PM) – P7 Leaver's Party (P7 pupils only)  
Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> July – End of term fun day / staff v pupils netball. /Ratray's got talent. etc  
(**more information to follow**)  
Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> July –P7 Shirt Signing (pupils only)  
Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> July (12 noon) – School closes for Summer Break

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