

**JANUARY 2021 NEWSLETTER**

Dear pupils, parents/carers and friends of Rattray

Firstly, welcome back to a new term and a new year. I hope you have all managed to stay safe and were able to enjoy the winter break. Again, this term is not what we wished for or expected, we can only hope that ‘normal service’ will resume in schools sooner rather than later.

Secondly, a huge thank you from all at Rattray Primary School. Thank you for your support and engagement with home learning. We feel very proud of how we, as a school community, are working through these challenging times together.

As lockdown continues, as a school staff we are aware that within our school community there will be many families experiencing different challenges from the norm. We really do appreciate that some families are juggling working from home, home learning, caring for relatives alongside the huge stressors related to the economic challenges that are being encountered by many during this difficult period. It is important to us that you know our school and staff are here to support in whatever way we can.

**Thank you**

I would like to thank all the parents, relatives, staff and pupils who participated in our Christmas events. These were a great success, from our alternative to the Winter Fayre - the Pupils Festive Funday and Raffle our profit after expenses was £1074.94. Given our current predicament this is an amazing total, therefore thanks to everyone who contributed.

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.

**Remote Learning**

We are now into our third week of our second stint of remote learning, longer than any of us would have wished for. As you will be aware, we predominately use Microsoft Teams for home learning, supplemented by other online platforms such as Education City or Oxford Owl. Class teachers continue to work extremely hard in planning remote learning and uploading weekly and daily. Our teaching staff are doing their very best to ensure that your children’s learning is as engaging as it is at school, and that remote learning is an enjoyable experience for them.

It is vitally important that as parents you try to encourage your child to engage regularly with the learning that our class teachers are providing, as this will help reduce any delays in learning when your child returns to school. Each week new learning concepts will be added to your child’s class team page alongside consolidation tasks. Your child’s class teacher will indicate on their class teams page core literacy, numeracy and other tasks and activities which must be undertaken daily or weekly, alongside additional activities to supplement learning. lt is a council expectation that at **the very least 75% of these core learning tasks are completed over the week**. Attached with the newsletter is further information regarding home engagement with remote learning.

It is a legal requirement for our school to maintain contact with you, to ensure your children are engaging in learning and to keep you up to date with your child’s learning. It is also a requirement of me, by the Scottish Government to record pupil participation in remote learning, which means that if your child does not participate in **at the very least 75% of their classes core learning tasks weekly,** without any reasonable explanationthey will be marked as absent from remote learning**.** Therefore, if your child is unable to participate in remote learning on any particular day (e.g. due to sickness), please make contact with the school office in the usual way to inform us that they will not be participating in learning that day.

Please also expect pastoral calls from school staff to check in on pupil wellbeing, remote learning and to support you further during this period.

Teachers will be available online during the normal school working day Monday to Thursday (9am to 3.15pm) and Friday (9am to 12noon), Fridays are shorter as teachers have a contract entitlement to non-contact class time each week. However, the school management team will be available on Friday afternoons. Please be mindful, that teachers may not respond to a message/email instantly. You can make contact with your child’s teacher by the email below or when writing in the class teams page, if you use @MrsJohnstone (the teachers name) they will be alerted that you have sent them a message. Please find below the contact email addresses for all class teachers which can also be used to support you with home learning and accessing teams. Teachers can reset Glow passwords if needed too.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Teacher Name | Class | Teacher email address | Class team code |
| Miss McAlpine | Nursery | gw18mcalpinedanielle@glow.sch.uk |  |
| Ms McCulloch | P1M | gw17mccullochkaren@glow.sch.uk | v0sr4ry |
| Miss Wigmore | P1/2 | gw19wigmoredonna@glow.sch.uk | Mhla9mj |
| Mrs Russell | P2R | gw16russellsarah@glow.sch.uk | 2v3gr5k |
| Ms Gregg | P3 | gw18gregghelen@glow.sch.uk | hgjoyqr |
| Miss Johnstone | P3/4 | gw18johnstonelyndsey@glow.sch.uk | 98ez4oq |
| Mrs Strachan | P4/5 | gw14strachandebbie@glow.sch.uk | idezka9 |
| Mrs Case | P4/5 | gw19casekatie@glow.sch.uk | idezka9 |
| Ms Garrett | P5 | gw09garrettsusan@glow.sch.uk | kyhpn8e |
| Mr Masterton | P6 | gw16mastertonross@glow.sch.uk | krreouw |
| Mrs Johnstone | P6/7 | gw09martindiane2@glow.sch.uk | 7x2qy0v |
| Miss Rae | P6/7 | gw19raegyl@glow.sch.uk | 7x2qy0v |
| Mrs McCarthy | P7 | gw14mccarthyfiona@glow.sch.uk | 0gr8ki5 |
| Mrs Brodie | Pupil support | gw09brodiesandra@glow.sch.uk |  |
| Miss Rae | Nurture | gw19raegyl@glow.sch.uk |  |
| Miss Arnold | RCT teacher | gw20arnoldmichaela@glow.sch.uk |  |
| Mrs Murray | RCT teacher | gw19murraycaroline@glow.sch.uk |  |
| Mr Brown | Depute Head | rattray@pkc.gov.uk |  |
| Mrs Robertson | Headteacher | rattray@pkc.gov.uk |  |

During the time of remote learning, your child may require jotters or stationary for tasks, we have placed these in the community larder outside Rattray Hub and at Scotmid on Hatton Road. Please let us know when a top up is needed. As a school we applied for Scottish Government funding for IT and from this we have distributed 53 ipads to families in our community, we have exhausted our school supplies, however we have applied for an additional 40 ipads to be able to support families further during this period.

We appreciate that you may have IT questions and problems, if this is the case please do contact the school email rattray@pkc.gov.uk or call the school office with any queries. The school email will be checked and responded to daily, and the school office will be manned between 9am and 3pm. Likewise if we can support you in any other ways, be it learning on not, please don’t hesitate to make contact.

**PKC Remote Learning Hub**

Central education staff within Perth and Kinross have created [The PKC Remote Learning Hub (google.com)](https://sites.google.com/pk.glow.scot/pkcdigitalschoolshub/home) parents, pupils and staff to access key information and guidance whilst working and learning from home during school closures. It has been updated to reflect the most recent closure of schools to pupils. This site is definitely worth a visit as it gives many suggestions of ways to support remote learning.

**Critical Childcare at Rattray**

Currently we have over 55 pupils aged between 2 and 11 years old accessing critical childcare each week at Rattray. Some of these children attend every day and others only part of the week. Whilst in school these children undertake remote learning alongside their peers at home and engage in live lessons and class check-ins too. These children are supervised by support staff.

To be offered a critical childcare place, families have to meet the following criteria (taken from PKC and Scottish Govt guidance):

Children can only attend school, or nursery on the days that parents are required to be at work **if all of the** following apply:

**1.Both parents are key workers, or the parent is a lone parent and a key worker**

**2. Both parents, or a lone parent, are required to attend their place of work (if an adult is working from home then the child should stay at home).**

**3. There is no one else available to look after a child. If there is a relative or friend who can reasonably provide childcare through an informal essential childcare arrangement, children should not be sent to school.  Informal essential childcare arrangements are permitted within Level 4 restrictions.**

This means that children of shift workers should only be in school on the days that parents work and are not at home. It also means, that if key workers are working from home then children should be at home with them.

As a school we have had numerous enquiries about critical childcare, and we have had to turn more families down for places than we would have liked too. We are being asked by our council and the Scottish Government to keep our numbers down in schools to prevent infections, and that critical childcare from school should be the last resort for families when all other avenues have been exhausted.  We are being asked to stick to the above criteria and to justify every space we are allocating to our community, and with such high numbers already in school we have no flexibility for families who don’t meet the criteria. We hope you can appreciate the predicament we are in as a school, and I am in as a Head Teacher having to make decisions regarding entitlement of places, which I know are hard hitting for families financially and emotionally, it is not a role I want to do, or even expected to be doing.

For those families who require critical childcare but have not met the criteria, there is an PKC central appeal process which can be accessed, please do email the school for further information.

**Critical Childcare Attendance and Remote Learning**

For those key worker families who have a critical childcare place at our school, can I please ask that you consider the necessity of your child’s place each week and only have your child in school on the days when both parents or a lone parent are physically in their place of work during school hours.

Therefore, if the hours/days you require your child in the school has changed for next week and going forward each week, please can you email this address RattrayECC@pkc.gov.uk or call 01250 871981 or alternatively contact the school office. We need to know how many children will be in our building by 4pm on the Thursday prior to the week of attendance, in order to create a staff rota and meet the strict staffing ratios.

For all families who have a critical childcare place at our school, there is an expectation that when your child is not in school, they will undertake remote learning at home in line with their peers. As previously mentioned if a child does not participate in remote learning whilst at home, they will be marked absent from learning. There is requirement of the school, by the Scottish Government to record pupil participation in remote learning. Therefore, if your child is unable to participate in remote learning on the days they don’t attend school (e.g. due to sickness), please make contact with the school office in the usual way to inform us that they will not be participating in learning that day.

**Parent /Carer Communication**

We are working hard to ensure our communication in this current situation is clear, relevant and timely. We will continue to post regular updates from PKC with links to documents for our families through ParentPay (specific and personal communication), our school app (general and generic communication) and our Facebook page (general and generic communication). Can we please ask that any day to day communication with the school is still made through the school email address rattray@pkc.gov.uk. This email address in checked regularly and any issues/queries can easily be relayed to the relevant person. If you require a call back from the school, please leave a phone number on which we can contact you too.

It is crucial that the we have your most current email address, as this is our only means of communication with you at the moment. Can you also please ensure that your email address is up to date on Parent Pay, as communication personal to you can be sent through this facility. Please do not assume that as you have registered for an older sibling you need not have to do it for a younger sibling.

**School Social Media Pages**

A reminder that our school Facebook page is being updated regularly. This is a good way to hear about pupil learning, school and community events and general information. We are also sharing current PKC updates. <https://www.facebook.com/Rattray-Primary-School-496557997081831/> We can receive private messages through Facebook messenger, but would prefer emails as whilst some staff have administration rights to our Facebook page, we can’t guarantee that it will be checked throughout the school day. However, all comments we receive on Facebook are very welcome, and we do try to respond to them, albeit not immediately.

**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 given a username (you should leave this blank) and our password is 1980.

**School meal provision**

For those not at school, PKC will provide direct payments to families entitled to free school meals with the first payment. Payments will be made to parents fortnightly.

If you have not made an application for free school meals previously because of automatic entitlement (likely to be Primary 1 to Primary 3 pupils) parents should email ecsschools@pkc.gov.uk.

If you are now in a position where financially you need to apply for free school meals. An application can be made by completing an online application and providing evidence of qualifying benefit criteria, by following this link <https://www.pkc.gov.uk/article/17410/Free-school-meals-and-school-clothing-grants-primary-and-secondary> If a family has a tax credit letter or a universal credits statement, pictures of this can be sent as proof. If an application is completed quickly together with proofs of benefits, families can be processed for free school meals within a matter of days.

In light of the current situation, any prepaid school meal funds will remain in pupil accounts until schools reopen. Alternatively, parents/carers can request a refund of any prepaid school meals funds by emailing SchoolMealRefunds@pkc.gov.uk stating each pupil's name, class and school.

**Community Support**

Several local organisations have continued in response to the current situation. As a school we can put you directly in touch with them or arrange for items to be delivered to your homes. Therefore, if you are struggling in anyway please do get in touch with us. We can also refer families for foodbank support too. Please also access the community larder which is outside the Rattray Community Connect.

**BARI Food – Lockdown Lunches**

Blairgowrie and Rattray Independent Food Project (BARI Food) are offering all our pupils a free midweek lockdown lunch **this week.** This is to give our kids a well-deserved pat on the back and say well done for adapting to home schooling and all the changes Covid-19 has made to their lives. If your child would like a midweek lockdown lunch please email barifood@discoverblairgowrie.co.uk with your child’s name, age, address and a contact number. Lunches can be collected or delivered.

**Global Play Day – Wednesday 3rd February 2021**

*“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 3 years we have celebrated Global School Play Day (GSPD). This year will be slightly different, but it would be great if we could still celebrate this at home. This is an opportunity to learn social skills, innovation and creativity through play in a fun atmosphere. If you could use part of Wednesday 3rd February to participate in some play activities and share this to your class Teams page. We encourage children to play with toys that are not electric e.g. board games, dolls, Legos, blocks, trucks, cars, racetracks, playing cards, empty cardboard boxes, markers, jigsaw puzzles etc.

**Inset Days and Public Holidays**

A reminder that school (as previously planned) will be closed to pupils next month on **Wednesday 10th February** and to both pupils and staff on **Thursday 11th and Friday 12th February.** This means that class teachers will not be available online and providing remote learning on these days.

**Getting it Right…Keeping Your Child Safe Event - Thursday 4th March 2021**

Perth and Kinross Council and partners are providing a **free online event** for parents, carers and professionals broadly based around online safety and the theme of ‘Keeping Your Child Safe.’  The speakers will be providing interesting, relevant and up-to-the-minute information about keeping children safe in our digital environment.

This event will be held online via Microsoft Teams Live Events. There will be three identical presentations over the course of the day:

            9.15 - 11.30am

            12.45 - 3.00pm

            5.15 – 7.30pm

Those registering for the second and third session will view a recording of the morning session.   It will not be possible to access the event without registering in advance. Places can be booked via Eventbrite using the link below:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/getting-it-rightkeeping-your-child-safe-2021-registration-136267903969?aff=ebdssbeac>

Unfortunately, due to the content of some of the presentations, no persons under the age of 16 will be permitted to attend.

**Online safety - message from Police Scotland**

As we are now in a new lockdown and education establishments are closed, our children and young people will be spending more time Online, so as a parent or carer please take time to enhance your knowledge in terms of the support that is available to protect your child or young person in the Online world.

The internet is an amazing place for children to learn, create, have fun, game and communicate with friends, but they may occasionally have to deal with a variety of related challenging issues being Online can bring and there are positive things you as a Parent or Carer can do to equip yourself to support your child or young person if they face such issues.

As a Parent or Carer, there is support there to enhance your children or young persons’ safety and security Online, such as the links below, which are very informative, easy to follow and will also open up the opportunity for you to start the discussion about online safety.

Thinkuknow is the online safety education programme from the National Crime Agency (NCA) and their website has home activity packs from the ages of 4yrs to 14+yrs to take support from. <https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/Support-tools/home-activity-worksheets/>

CEOP, NSPCC and Internet Matters, at the links below, have created a number of fantastic free to use advice hubs to help you learn more to support you and your child or young person with Online issues. <https://www.ceop.police.uk/safety-centre/>

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/>

<https://www.internetmatters.org/advice/>

**Rattray Primary School Registration 2021**

If your child is turns five up to and including the 28 February 2022, they are eligible to start school on **Wednesday 18 August 2021** 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 2021/22 is **Monday** **15 March 2021**. 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.

**Rattray Early Childhood Centre Registration 2021**

Applications for places in the Council’s nursery classes and early childhood centres in 2021/22 are now open.

For further information visit [Perth & Kinross Council - Early learning and childcare options](https://www.pkc.gov.uk/article/21334/Early-learning-and-childcare-options)  for more details or contact our Early Childhood Centre on RattrayECC@pkc.gov.uk

**School Handbook 2021/22**

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-2021-22/pdf/Rattray_handbook_2021_-22.pdf?m=637433009665230000)

**Supporting Families – PKC Parenting and Family Learning Team**

Since August, the [PKC Parenting and Family Learning Team](https://www.pkc.gov.uk/parenting?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery) have continued to offer a flexible approach to supporting families including virtual groups, 1:1 virtual and phone support. The support offered is based on information provided by applications and discussions with families, ensuring that the appropriate level of support in place.

The programmes below have continued into 2021 and new sessions have been added. If you are interested in attending please get in touch via our school email or visit the website above for application forms.

* [Incredible Years](https://www.pkc.gov.uk/incredible-years) – We know that this year has been hard for families with a range of challenges being highlighted including emotional health, behaviours and relationships. The Incredible Years programme can help families of children aged between 3 and 12 years by offering support to understand and manage their child’s emotions, support positive relationships, how to use praise and rewards, positive discipline strategies.
* [Peep (0-5 year olds)](https://www.pkc.gov.uk/article/17385/Peep-learning-together-programme) **–** Peep is an early learning programme which celebrates parents and carers as children’s first educators. The programme consists of five themes (Early Maths, Early Literacy, Health & Physical Development, Communication & Language, Personal, Social & Emotional Development). Attending a virtual group offers an opportunity for parents/carers to have fun with their child and learn together as well as sharing experiences and ideas in a safe and supported environment.
* [Eat Well Play Well](https://www.pkc.gov.uk/article/21460/Cook-It?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery) – We are currently working developing this programme so it can be offered virtually to families. This programme promotes affordable healthy eating choices and accessible physical activity for parents and their children.
* [Strengthening Families](https://www.pkc.gov.uk/strengtheningfamilies?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery) (10-14 year olds) –  This programme helps families with young people in **P6, P7 & S1**prepare for their teenage years. Becoming a teenager can be a challenging time for young people and parents alike. Families can attend virtual sessions covering a range of topics including: Positive relationships and communication, how to deal with peer pressure, social media, drug and alcohol.

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.

Please stay safe, take care and do stay in touch with the school in whatever way you can.

Yours faithfully



Joanna Robertson

Headteacher

rattray@pkc.gov.uk

01250 871980

**Rattray Primary School**

 **Key Dates Session 20-21**

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

**Other dates will also be added**

**February 2021**

w/b 1st February – **SKIING Cancelled**

Wednesday 3rd - Global play day

**Wednesday 10th – Inset Day school closed to pupils**

**Thursday 11th – Public Holiday school closed to all**

**Friday 12th - Public Holiday school closed to all**

**March 2021**

Tuesday 2nd - Parent Contact 1 (4pm to 6.30pm)

Wednesday 3rd – Parent Contact 2 (5pm to 7.30pm)

w/b 15th March – **P7 residential week Lendrick Muir - cancelled**

**April 2021**

Thursday 1st – School closes for Spring holiday (3.20pm)

**Friday 2nd - Public Holiday school closed to all**

Monday 19th - Back to School

**May 2021**

Monday 3rd – **Public Holiday school closed to all**

Tuesday 11th May (5.30pm – 6.30pm) – HT- parent drop-in session

w/b 31st May – Health Week

**June 2021**

Wednesday 2nd – Nursery Sports Day

Thursday 3rd – Sports day (Upper School AM/Infant school PM)

10th/ 11th June – P7 Transition Days

Wednesday 16th June (5.30pm – 6.30pm) – HT- parent drop-in session

Thursday 17th June – P7 Prom

Friday 18th June – P7 Leaver Assembly

Monday 21st June – Nursery Graduation

Wednesday 23rd June – Prizegiving (Upper School AM/Infant school PM)

Thursday 24th June – School closes for Summer Break (12 noon)