

**DECEMBER 2020 NEWSLETTER**

Dear pupils, parents/carers and friends of Rattray

It’s hard to believe that the hectic Christmas Season is almost upon us. As we race towards Christmas it is going to be a very busy December for Rattray Primary School; here are several items to bring to your attention. The staff have been busy thinking about how to make this year special in school for all our pupils.

**Welcome to our school**

We have a few new pupils who have joined us or are joining us prior to the Christmas break – Holly Smeaton (P2), Christina Povey (P3/4) and Violet Povey (P6). We hope all our new starts will enjoy their time at Rattray Primary School.

**Congestion around school gates**

A number of worried parents have expressed concern regarding the congestion around the entrance to our school at our main gate. This means adults are having to dodge people on the pavement to get into the school and out of the school. At times, it has been noted that people are having to walk on the road with their children to get past this busy area. In one case, a child narrowly missed being hit by oncoming traffic.

***Can I please ask that parents and carers do not congregate around the high street school gate and either wait in the playground (wearing a mask) or disperse themselves along the pavement in order to alleviate congestion. We don’t want a serious accident to happen.***

**PE Times and Kit**

All our classes have at least two sessions of PE each week. Until further notice, children can come to school without uniform and wearing suitable sportswear (no football colours) on these days. Current advice is that all physical activity can be taken both indoor and outdoor. Changing rooms will not be used. Please note that on these days, jewellery should not be worn, and long hair should also be tied back. **Can we also ask that children bring indoor PE shoes to school on their gym days too?**

**Scholastic Book Fair**

Despite the obvious restrictions we had to put in place for our fair, this continued to be a great success. Our sales totalled £870 which means that with commission from this, we should have a reasonable amount to spend on our school library. Thanks to everyone who purchased a book.

**Children in Need event**

Our Children in Need non-stop activity day was great fun, despite everyone being slightly soggy. We have raised £126 for this charity. Thanks to all the staff who led and joined in with the activities. A huge thanks to everyone who donated and to our wonderfully enthusiastic pupils.

**Christmas Tree**

We have been very fortunate again this year to receive a beautiful Christmas Tree for our dining hall donated by the Miezitis Family. Our pupils have been hard at work like elves making the decorations for it. A winner from each class has been chosen for the best decoration with a prize for each one to follow. The winners are:

P1M Megan, P1/2 Hudson, P2R Jayden, P3 Tianna, P3/4 Nathan, P4/5 Lydia, P5G Summer, P6M Harris, P6/7 Anya, P7M Carmen

**Parent Council**

Our Parent Council AGM took place last week. As it was the end of the Parent Council’s committee two-year cycle, some parents ‘reluctantly’ had to give up their roles. I would like to thank Claire Galloway (chairperson), Claire MacKenzie (secretary) and Caroline Dingwall (treasurer) for the support they have given myself, the staff, the children and the school community during their time in office. I am pleased that all these people will remain on the parent council in a supportive role going forward.

A new committee were voted on therefore I am delighted to announce that our new Parent Council committee are Rachel Scotland (chairperson), Heather Johnstone (vice-chairperson), Caroline Dingwall (secretary) and Tori Brown (treasurer). Thanks to these people for stepping forward to undertake these roles for the next two years.

If you would like further information about our Parent Council, please visit our Parent Council Facebook page. <https://www.facebook.com/Rattray-Primary-Parent-Council-1486611214939520/>

**Primary 6 and 7 Skiing Trip**

Normally we would hold an information event, in order to share more detail about the ski trip, and to answer any questions. Mr Brown met with Cally Gordon this week to ask him lots of questions, and he has put this meeting onto the pupil’s class GLOW page to allow you to access it. In each class a “Ski” channel has been created and in the files section the conversation has been uploaded, which outlines the ski trip and some FAQs.

As a reminder, the trip is non-residential, with pupils travelling from Rattray to Glenshee daily. The cost is approximately £210, which includes transport, tuition, ski pass and equipment hire. Children do not have to have any skiing experience, and indeed usually this is the first time for most children skiing.

We are aware of the issue with Parent Pay and are working hard with them to try and resolve this. We will let you know when this is fixed. We are aware that there may be some people who have not paid and still wish to join the trip. If you have not paid a deposit and still wish to be part of the ski trip, please email rattray@pkc.gov.uk and we can add your child to the list. The deadline for this is 9th December 2020. Glenshee say they can guarantee snow the week we are there; however, if the trip is cancelled due to Glenshee closing/Covid related issues then you will be issued a refund for the trip. If for whatever reason skiing can’t happen, then Cally is able to offer an activity week at a similar cost with bush craft, mountain biking, climbing, abseiling and other activities.

**Christmas Cards**

Thanks to all families who have purchased Christmas cards, this has raised £278 for school funds. Thanks to the class teachers who is supporting this allowed Christmas to come early in their classes. A huge thanks to Mrs Russell of P2, who every year organises us all and makes sure the children’s Christmas card designs are created, sent home and returned to the Cauliflower cards in plenty of time for families to receive them for Christmas.

**Kindness Advent Calendar**

Throughout December we will be posting our Kindness Advent tasks daily on our school Facebook page. Activities may include making a cup of tea for someone in your house, smiling at someone in the shop or using good manners. We would love to see photos of our pupils taking part. These can be posted on the Facebook page in the replies section underneath each day’s task.

**Local Care Homes**

At this time of year, a couple of our classes would normally visit our local care homes to sign and entertain the elderly residents with Christmas cheer. This won’t be possible this year. However, our older classes will be making a Christmas card and writing a personal letter to the residents we would usually see in person. This will hopefully brighten up someone’s Christmas!

**Christmas Hampers**

This year we are asking for donations towards our Christmas hampers which will be raffled through tickets bought on Parent Pay. We have four themes for our hampers and would ask that the following classes donate in line with their own theme:

Mrs Hinch Hamper (cleaning) – P6, P6/7 and P7

Pamper Hamper – P4/5 and P5

Food and Drink Hamper – P3 and P3/4

Kids Hamper – P1, P1/2 and P2

Please send any donations into school with your child. Thank you in advance for all your support.

**Pupil Christmas Cards**

As a school, we all know how much children enjoy giving and receiving Christmas cards, and with your support we hope that we have found a way for children to continue to do this in our current Covid climate. We ask that if your child is bringing Christmas cards to school, they do so no later than ***Friday 11th December.*** The cards received for each class will be quarantined for 72 hours and then hygienically given out to children by Christmas elves during the week beginning 14th December. If when your child receives their cards, you wish to further quarantine them for 72 hours at home you can do so. I’m afraid, that if we receive any cards after Friday 11th December, we can’t distribute.

**Winter Fayre**

Normally, our annual Winter Fayre would have taken place and Santa would have visited his grotto here at Rattray. With this in mind, the plan is to hold a Festive Fun Day on ***Thursday 10th and Friday 11th December,*** in school. On this day pupil’s will be able to enjoy a variety of Christmas themed stalls such as Tombola, Reindeer Knockdown, Hoopla and Guess the Sweeties in a Jar. Children will be given 2 tokens to use on the stalls as a gift from the school and parents will be given the opportunity purchase additional tokens through Parent Pay for their children to use. 1 token will equal 50p.

**Pantomime**

The whole school are looking forward to watching the Pantomime, ‘Oh Yes We Are’, live from Perth Theatre on ***Tuesday 15th December.*** On this date the performers from Perth Theatre will be performing exclusively for our school only. The event will take place through Zoom and each class will be able to watch from the comfort of their own classroom. We are also very excited to be taking part in a dance workshop on Monday 14th December in preparation for the performance. Everyone will be learning a dance which will feature during the show.

This event is not free and is costing the school £3 per child which is significantly cheaper than the cost of attending a pantomime in ‘normal’ times. Including transport this would work out at around £12 per child. We hope that in booking this event we are trying to give the children something ‘new’ and perhaps different from their usual Rattray Christmas experience.

We ask that each of our school families contribute £3 minimum for the pantomime, meaning that even if you only have one child there is a considerable saving for your child and this also means that families who have more than one child can contribute and participate too.

**Nativity**

This year’s Nativity will be brought to you in a different way from previous years. It will be filmed and sent out to our school community on ***Friday 18th December***. All our classes will be taking part and you can expect to see the usual high standard of show you have become accustomed to.

**Christmas Parties**

On ***Friday 18th December*** we are going to be holding a whole school Pyjama Day. This will double as a Christmas party day for all our classes. We invite all children to wear pyjamas, onesies or anything else festive that day. This will be worn outside during break and lunch time so needs to be weather appropriate! Please do not go to the expense of buying new clothing for this event.

**Carols in the Playground**

At Rattray, Carols in the Playground is a well-loved tradition and one that we aim to continue this year. Due to current restrictions singing is not possible so we are going to have Dancing in the Playground. All the classes will be invited outside, sticking to social distancing guidelines, and will show off their best moves to a couple of Christmas hits. This will be held on ***Friday 18th December at 3pm.***

Thank you in advance for the support we will receive to make this a festive period to remember!

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.

On behalf of all the staff I would like to thank you for your continuing support.

Yours faithfully

Joanna Robertson

Headteacher

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**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**

**December 2020**

Wednesday 9th – Show Photographs for the Blairie (2pm)

Thursday 10th – Flu Immunisations

Thursday 10th (PM) and Friday 11th – Christmas Activity Days

Monday 14th December (2pm) – Whole school Panto dance workshop (zoom link to follow)

 Tuesday 15th December (10.30am) – Whole school attend virtual Panto live from Perth Theatre

Tuesday 15th December (PM) in Hub- Nursery PM

Friday 18th December – School Nativity released – further details to follow

Friday 18th December (AM) in Hub - Nursery AM

Friday 18th December - Carols in the Playground (3pm)

Friday 18th December – Christmas Party Day

Tuesday 22nd December - Christmas Jumper day and Christmas Lunch

Tuesday 22nd December - Nursery Christmas Activity Day and Songs

Wednesday 23rd December - End of term service (10.30am)

Wednesday 23rd (noon) – School closes for Winter Break

**January 2021**

Thursday 7th - Back to School

Tuesday 26th January (5.30pm – 6.30pm) – HT- parent drop-in session

Friday 29th January – Upper School Burns Assembly (PM)

**February 2021**

w/b 1st February – Provisional dates for Skiing week

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

Wednesday 24th (5.30pm – 6.30pm) – HT- parent drop-in session

Thursday 25th – Open Afternoon (2.30pm)

Tuesday 30th – Upper School Show (afternoon and evening performances)

**April 2021**

Thursday 1st – Easter Church Service (2pm)

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)