

**JANUARY 2023 NEWSLETTER**

Dear pupils, parents/carers and friends of Rattray

Welcome back to a new term and a new year. I hope you were able to enjoy the winter break and weren’t affected by all the bugs and illnesses doing the rounds during the holidays. Despite less than 3 weeks into term we have had a few visitors to our school. Alice Arnott from Sustrans visited us with a smoothie bike, where each class used pedal power to make themselves delicious drink. Our three upper school classes had a visit from PC Hunter, who talked to each of the classes about internet safety, inappropriate videoing and general social media etiquette. Some of our children have been working with Lawrie Mitchell on the SFA school of football project, a group of older girls have been working with Amanda from Alternatives Dundee around the themes of friendships, body confidence and self-esteem.

We have a few events happening in the coming weeks, these were 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, Panto and Raffle were a great success. This brought in £1565, however after Christmas expenses, including food, materials, bouncy castle, panto costs our profit was only £120, which will be transferred to school funds**.** 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 had five new school pupils joining us since our last newsletter Maksym Rybchyn in Primary 1, Riley Gunn in P1/2, Wojciech Marcinkowski in P2/3, Hannah Adekunle in Primary 3 and Jayden Gunn in P4/5. We have twelve new nursery pupils who have joined us recently Rhuben Johnstone, Alfie Adams, Miles Massi, Emilia Loveii, Marykate Main, Roseanne Glover, Leo Henderson, Charlotte Ritchie, Blythe McCue, Emma-Rose Russell, Leon McDonald and Molly Mearns.

In our Early Childhood Centre, we have a few new staff faces joining the nursery team. These are Play Assistants Mrs Dickson, Mrs Paven and Mrs Witkos.

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

**Temporary Staffing Changes**

As previously shared, Mrs Fiona McCarthy will be our new acting Depute Headteacher until the return of Mr Craig Brown who has transferred temporarily to Angus Council. Ms Helen Gregg, will she take over as Acting Principal Teacher for Upper School and will now work alongside Mrs Sarah Russell, our Acting Principal Teacher for Early Years to lead on a number of areas across the school. On the back of Mrs Mc Carthy’s secondment, Ms Emma Byrne will teach our P6/7 class until the summer.

**Rattray Early Childhood Centre – Care Inspectorate Report**

Our Early Childhood Centre had an unannounced inspection prior to Christmas. This took place on 6 December 2022 between 9.30am and 5.15pm. The inspection was carried out by two inspectors from the Care Inspectorate.

Please follow the [link to the inspection report](https://www.careinspectorate.com/berengCareservices/html/reports/getPdfBlob.php?id=313833) which has now been published. I’d like to thank and congratulate all our early years team for the hard work and commitment to our school and pupils which is so evidently reflected in this report. I am incredibly proud of them all.

**Global Play Day – Wednesday 1st February 2023**

*“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. A further letter will accompany this newsletter. We are very excited about this great learning opportunity for our pupils to learn about social skills, innovation and creativity through play in a fun atmosphere.

**Scots Afternoon – Friday 3rd February 2023 – 2pm to 3pm**

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/CCSnLvytYE**](https://forms.office.com/e/CCSnLvytYE)

***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.***

**P6/7 Skiing – 6th to 10th February 2023**

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.

Our 5-day outdoor adventure takes place from **Monday 6th to Friday 10th February.** The total balance is due by the end of January. Payments can be made via ParentPay.

**Inset Days and Public Holidays**

A reminder that our school will be closed to pupils next month on **Wednesday 15th February** and to both pupils and staff on **Thursday 16th and Friday 17th February.**

**Rattray Primary School Registration 2023**

If your child is turning five up to and including the 29 February 2024, they are eligible to start school on **Wednesday 16 August 2023** 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 2023/24 is **Wednesday 15 March 2023**. 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 2023**

Applications for places in the Council’s nursery classes and early childhood centres in 2023/24 are now open.

Please follow this link and complete forms as required [Online application for school year 2023/2024](https://my.pkc.gov.uk/AchieveForms/?mode=fill&consentMessage=yes&form_uri=sandbox-publish://AF-Process-06215943-40f4-43c3-a194-3d1d0b0537c1/AF-Stage-a714c69c-22c1-444e-95a2-d7471f68fb0a/definition.json&process=1&process_uri=sandbox-processes://AF-Process-06215943-40f4-43c3-a194-3d1d0b0537c1&process_id=AF-Process-06215943-40f4-43c3-a194-3d1d0b0537c1&referrer=MyPKC_Web)

This form should also be used if you are applying for an additional year of ELC to defer entry to primary school.

**Strong Start Twos -** Registration is open for Strong Start Two local authority nursery places.Please check the [Funded early learning and childcare for 2 year olds (Strong Starts)](https://www.pkc.gov.uk/article/21504/Funded-early-learning-and-childcare-for-2-year-olds-Strong-Starts) page for eligibility information and follow this link [Apply online for Strong Start Two for session 2023-2024](https://my.pkc.gov.uk/service/ELC_Apply?referrer=MyPKC_Web)

Please note: If your child currently attends our nursery and you wish to keep this, please complete the online form to confirm the new pattern of attendance.

**Home Learning through GLOW and Teams**

Many classes are using GLOW and Teams to set and complete homework. We would advise that you check your child’s Teams page regularly. **If you are unsure of your child’s password and login details, please contact the school as soon as possible.**

**School Handbook 2023/24**

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-2023-24/pdf/RattrayPS_Handbook_23-24.pdf?m=638061046263570000)

**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.

**PE Times and Kit**

All our classes have two sessions of PE each week. The table below (starting next week) indicates the days that your child will have their PE lesson. **On PE days only** children should come to school without uniform and wearing suitable sportswear on these days. This saves time in school for changing and allows the children to get their full PE time. Please note that on these days, jewellery should not be worn, and long hair should be tied back.

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **Class** | **Teacher** | **PE days** |
| P1 | Miss McAlpine | Tuesday and Thursday |
| P1/2 | Miss Wigmore | Monday and Friday |
| P2/3 | Mrs Russell | Wednesday and Thursday |
| P3 | Miss Gunn | Monday and Thursday |
| P4 | Ms Gregg | Wednesday and Thursday |
| P4/5 | Mrs Case/Mrs Murray | Tuesday and Thursday |
| P5 | Mrs Newlands | Monday and Tuesday |
| P6 | Miss Johnstone | Tuesday and Thursday |
| P6/7 | Mrs McCarthy | Monday and Tuesday |
| P7 | Mr Masterton | Monday and Wednesday |

**Afterschool Clubs**

Our afterschool and lunchtime clubs have been a great success this school year, with opportunities ranging from card games to sewing, ukulele to cricket. All children attending our after-school clubs will exit our school building via the High Street gate and children can be collected from the High Street playground. There will be no collection and exit via the Rattray common playground gates. A reminder that as staff give up their free time to run these clubs, these can be cancelled at short notice dependent on staff sickness or other personal reasons, therefore please do not rely on our afterschool clubs as childcare. At the bottom of this newsletter is an overview of all the after-school clubs we are offering this term alongside sign up instructions.

**Home Lunches– urgent communication**

Recently some of our pupils have indicated that they are home lunches and have then gone to local shops to buy their lunch. We have several concerns regarding this including safety of children, quality of food being eaten and brought into the playground to share with others, vandalism and ‘cheek’ in local community, supervision of these children and lastly parents not even knowing that children are leaving the school grounds at lunchtime.

Considering this, 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. If this is the case your child will not be able to enter the school playground until 1.20pm when lunch break is over, unless they are accompanied by a parent/carer. If you give your child permission to go to local shops and allow them to indicate that they are going home instead, we can not be held accountable for their safety. I am happy to discuss individual circumstances which may require a different approach. Please call or email the school to discuss further.

**General Updates/Reminders**

* Please ensure that your child comes to school on PE days in appropriate clothing that can be worn both indoors and outdoors. No jeans, jeggings please.
* Please ensure your child wears full school uniform on the days they do not have PE.
* 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.
* Whilst we do not want to ban football or Pokémon cards, we would like to remind you to reinforce to your children that the trading of 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, school app, 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 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



Joanna Robertson

Headteacher

rattray@pkc.gov.uk

01250 871980

Rattray Primary School Key Dates

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

**Other dates will also be added**

**January 2023**

Monday 30th – Monday 6th February – National Storytelling Week

Tuesday 31st – P1 and P7 Dental Inspections

**February 2023**

Wednesday 1st - Global play day

Wednesday 1st – ibike event – P1-4 scooter sessions (in-school event)

Wednesday 1st (5.30pm – 6.30pm) – HT- parent drop-in session(contact school office)

Wednesday 1st/ Thursday 2nd – ibike event – P1-4 scooter sessions (in-school event)

Friday 3rd – Scots Afternoon – Rattray Community Connect (2pm to 3pm)

Monday 6th – Friday 10th – P6 and P7 Skiing Trip

Monday 13th – P7 Show the Racism the red card workshop (in-school event)

**Wednesday 15th – Inset Day school closed to pupils**

**Thursday 16th – Public Holiday school closed to all**

**Friday 17th - Public Holiday school closed to all**

Thursday 23rd 6.15pm – Glee Choir performing at Dundee Caird Hall

Tuesday 28th – NHS well good event for P7s (in-school event)

**March 2023**

Tuesday 7th – ibike event – P5-7 Dr Bike/Bike Wash sessions (in-school event)

Tuesday 7th (4pm) – P7 rotary club quiz at Newhill PS (selected pupils)

Tuesday 7th (4pm to 6.30pm) - Parent Contact 3

Wednesday 8th (5pm to 7.30pm)– Parent Contact 4

Monday 20th – Thursday 23rd March (1.30 to 3pm) – P6/7 Bikeability sessions

Thursday 24th (2.30pm) – Open Afternoon

Thursday 30th – Easter Service (2pm)

Friday 31st – School closes for Spring holiday

**April 2023**

Monday 17th - Back to School

**May 2023**

Monday 1st - **Public Holiday school closed to all**

Wednesday 3rd (5.30pm – 6.30pm) – HT- parent drop-in session (contact school office)

Friday 26th (12 noon to 1pm) – School BBQ (all welcome)

Wednesday 31st (1.30pm) – School Sports day **(more information to follow)**

**June 2023**

W/b 5th June – Health Week **(more information to follow)**

Tuesday 6th (1.45pm) – Nursery Sports Day **(more information to follow)**

Thursday 8th/ Friday 9th – P1 / P7 Transition Days **(more information to follow)**

w/b 12th – P7 residential week Lendrick Muir (pupils only)

Wednesday 21st – Moving up Morning/meet new class teachers

Friday 24th (10am) – P4 – P7 Prizegiving (by invitation)

Friday 24th (2pm)– P1-P3 Prizegiving (by invitation)

Monday 26th (9.30am) – Nursery Graduation (by invitation)

Monday 26th (2.15pm) – P7 Leaver’s Assembly (by invitation)

Tuesday 27th (PM) – P7 Leaver’s Party (pupils only)

Wednesday 28th – End of term fun day / staff v pupils netball etc... **(more information to follow)**

Thursday 29th – P7 Shirt Signing (pupils only)

Thursday 29th (12 noon) – School closes for Summer Break

**What’s on at Rattray Primary School - Term 3**

Below is a list of the after-school clubs we are currently offering across the school this term. Please follow the link to the sign-up form for each club. Please note that numbers are limited and will be run on a first come basis.

While ever effort is made to ensure these clubs go ahead at their allocated time, staff absences will mean that a club may be cancelled at short notice. If this were to happen, you will be contacted by the school office and your child will finish school at the usual time of 3.20pm.

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| **Club** | **Led by** | **Age Group** | **Where and when** | **Sign up form** |
| Girl’s football | Lawrie Mitchell | P5-7 | Davie Park - Mondays – 3.30pm to 4.30pm  | <https://forms.office.com/e/0Ai9r1if5F> |
| Messy Church | Messy Church | P1-P3 | GP Room – Mondays 3.20-4.20pm16th January to 20th March  | <https://forms.office.com/e/3q27Cdq8jP> |
| Kapla Club | Mrs McCarthy | P1-P3 | Activity Room – Tuesdays 3.20pm-4pmTuesday 31st January to 23rd March | <https://forms.office.com/e/TiyeUidLvb> |
| Ukulele Club | Mr Masterton | P5-P7 | P7 Classroom – Tuesdays 3.20pm-4pmTuesday 17th January | <https://forms.office.com/e/17KgYQnQW1> |
| Mini kickers | Lawrie Mitchell | Age 3-5 | Community Connect - Wednesdays – 3.30pm to 4.30pm  | Contact Lawrie on 07548619069 or brcfc.cdo@gmail.com  |
| Rights Respecting Group | Miss Johnstone | P1-P7 | P6 Classroom - Thursdays During lunch time | N/A |
| GLEE | Ms McCulloch/Mrs Newlands | P3-P7 | P5 Classroom -Thursdays Every 2nd Lunchtime  | N/A |
| Homework Club | Mrs Tunnicliffe | P4-P7 | P6 Classroom – Thursdays 3.20pm-4pm26th Jan to 23rd March | <https://forms.office.com/e/Pg0FYSpD0Q> |
| Lego Club | Miss Gunn | P1-3 | P3 Classroom – Thursdays3.20-4.20pm26h January to 23rd March | <https://forms.office.com/e/ShWuhrgvK1> |
| Fun Fit Families  | Fun Fit Families |  | Activity and GP roomThursdays - 3:30- 5.00pm 26th Jan -30th March  | Fully booked  |
| Boys Football | Lawrie Mitchell | P5-P7 | Davie Park - Thursdays – 3.30pm to 4.30pm  | <https://forms.office.com/e/0Ai9r1if5F> |