



## NOVEMBER 2021 NEWSLETTER

Dear pupils, parents/carers and friends of Ratray

It's hard to believe that the hectic Christmas Season is almost upon us. As we race towards the end of another term it is going to be a very busy December for Ratray Primary School. At the moment, we are hoping that our Christmas celebrations are not hampered by pandemic restrictions, however if they are, similar to last year we will endeavour to be as creative as possible. The staff have once again been busy thinking about how to make this a magical time in school for all our pupils and families, and I would like to thank them all for their efforts. Mrs Johnstone (otherwise known as Mrs Christmas) has pulled together a wonderful array of festive fun for the children this year. Alongside these winter events, there are several other items I wish to draw to your attention.

### **Severe Weather Guidance**

Accompanying this newsletter is guidance on our school closure procedures, in the event of severe weather or other emergencies.

### **Parent Survey**

As a school we are keen to find out from you how you feel about our school. Can we please ask that an adult from every family please complete this **very short** survey related to your experiences as a parent at Ratray, following this link – [Parent Survey – Relationships](#). Thank you in advance of completion.

### **Pupil Council**

The Pupil Council this term looked and discussed the feedback pupils gave, in relation to the relationships survey that was carried out. Pupils were very positive about relationships. This term our focus has been on "feedback that helps me learn." Pupils shared good examples of feedback that they have received from their teachers, and how this was used to support them in their learning. This was then shared with teachers, and they are thinking about to use the good practice in other classes in their own class.

### **Ongoing School Refurbishment and Extension**

Our extensive school refurbishment continues, and many parts of the school are already looking fantastic. Our office areas and all classrooms from P3 to P7 have been fully decorated, recarpeted, refloored and refurnished. Our P1, P1/2 and P2 classes are currently decanted from their classrooms, whilst their rooms are being refurbished. This project will last until Summer 2022. The school and nursery will look very different when the works have been completed, and we do hope that you will be able to visit our school to see the ongoing works very soon.

### **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 Government's commitment to raising standards across Scottish Education. Testing of our P4 pupils will take place this term. Further details can be found at the web link below. <https://www.education.gov.scot/parentzone/Documents/parent-leaflet-assessing-progress.pdf>

### **Primary 6 and 7 Skiing Trip**

Mr Brown has added a video chat about the ski trip between Cally Gordon and himself onto your child's class Teams page. This includes key information about clothing and what children should expect from the trip. Information was recently sent out, to collect details about shoe size etc for those going on the trip. **Can you please return this by Friday 17<sup>th</sup> December.** This date will act as the cut off for deciding whether to take part in the trip. If you have added funds to the Parent Pay item for skiing and decide your child does not wish to go, please contact the office.

### **ParentPay**

As per our App message last week, any pupil not signed up to ParentPay have been given activation codes home with them. ParentPay is the school's online payment system. Rattray Primary 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. In order to access the system, can we please ask you to log on to ParentPay and activate the account using the codes in the activation letter. **We have lots of activities and fun days coming up and all details will be sent to parents on ParentPay, which means you might miss some events for your child.** Please contact the school office if you require any help with this.

### **Poppies and Armistice Day**

Thank you to everyone who has purchased a poppy, our school have raised £64 so far for the Poppy Scotland appeal.

### **Parent Council Dress Up/Dress Down Day**

Thanks to everyone who dressed up for this event, the parent council raised £135 towards their funds. It was lovely to see all the fantastic costumes and made for a very different day here at Rattray.

### **Home Learning**

As some of you may be aware, each class teacher from P3 upwards, has set up a Microsoft Team and some classes used it last term to communicate homework. This term more of our classes will be putting activities and tasks on their Teams page so please make sure you have access to it and check it regularly. All pupils should have been added to their class team however you will find the Teams codes for each class below. **If you are unsure of your child's password and login details, please make contact with the school.**

P3 – 4h0ebbg

P3/4 – 50n0ni0

P4/5 – mdkpdlz

P5 – s2ra133

P6 – xq0ks2a

P6/7 – k00d76c

P7 – 3xbm2cl

### **Appropriate clothing for the weather**

Please can we ask that your child comes to school each day with a coat and appropriate footwear. Currently due to Covid 19 restrictions, there is less movement around school which means the children are spending longer periods of time in their classrooms. It is important that our pupils get plenty of exercise and fresh air, so children will be outdoors for break and lunchtimes in all weathers (except torrential rain and high winds).

### **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?**

### **Christmas Cards**

Thanks to all families who have purchased Christmas cards, this has raised £261 for school funds. Thanks to the class teachers who in supporting this allowed Christmas to come early in their classes. A huge thanks to Mrs Russell of P3, 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.

### **Christmas Light Switch On**

Our school have been asked to lead the singing on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> November in the Wellmeadow at the Christmas Light Switch-On. This event was greatly missed last year, and we are delighted to have been asked to take part. Our pupils and staff are busy learning four Christmas songs for the occasion, it is sure to be fabulous!

**We would like to invite all our children and families to join us at 4.15pm that day in the Wellmeadow to join the Rattray choir.**

If you would like to practise at home, please use the following links:

It was on a Starry Night - <https://video.link/w/7QCKc>

Away in a Manger - <https://video.link/w/UQCKc>

When Santa got Stuck up the Chimney - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f63yTrEn7IE>

We Wish You a Merry Christmas - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EOYxzH5IBxo>

### **Wellness Advent Calendar**

Throughout December we will be posting our Wellness Advent tasks daily on our school Facebook page. The activities are designed to increase everyone's wellbeing and may include things such as dancing to a Christmas song, telling a joke or completing an act of kindness. We would love to see photos of our pupils taking part each day. 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 once again asking for donations towards our Christmas Hampers which will be raffled through tickets bought on Parent Pay. Please send any donations into school with your child. Thank you in advance for all your support.

### **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 will be hard at work like little elves making the decorations for it. A winning decoration from each class will be chosen for the best decoration with a prize for each one to follow.

### **Christmas Tree Decorations**

As our Winter Fayre is unable to go ahead and we won't be able to sell our usual delight of handmade goods, each pupil will be given the opportunity to make a tree decoration which can be purchased by a parent or carer through parent pay. More information to follow.

### **Nativity**

This year's Nativity 'It's a miracle' will be brought to you in two different ways. On **Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> December at 9.30am** we will do a live online performance. This will also be recorded to put out to our school community. This year P1-3 will be taking part and you can expect to see the usual high standard of show you have become accustomed to.

### **Winter Fayre**

Unfortunately, due to current restrictions we cannot hold our annual Winter Fayre. However, we do plan to hold a Festive Fun Day for our pupils on **Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> December**, in school. On this day pupils will be able to enjoy a variety of Christmas themed stalls such as Pin the Nose on Rudolph, Christmas Ping-Pong, Higher and Lower and lots more. 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. One token will equal 50p.

### **Carols in the Playground**

At Rattray, Carols in the Playground is a well-loved tradition and one that we will continue this year. All the classes will be invited outside to join together in singing some festive favorites. This will be held on **Friday 17<sup>th</sup> December at 2:45pm**.

### **Christmas Parties**

On **Monday 20<sup>th</sup> 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. 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.

### **Christmas Jumper/ Christmas Lunch**

On **Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> December** we would like to invite everyone to wear a Christmas jumper. Jacqui and her kitchen team will also be serving up Christmas Lunch that day. That can be paid for, as usual, through parent pay.

### **Last day of term**

Our school and early childhood centre closes for our Winter break at **12 noon** on **Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> December**.

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.

Yours faithfully



Joanna Robertson

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## Ratray Primary School Key Dates

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

**Other dates will also be added**

### **November 2021**

Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> – Christmas Light Switch On (4.15pm)

### **December 2021**

Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> - Infant Nativity (9.30am)

Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> - (PM) in Hub- Nursery PM Party

Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup>/ Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> – Festive Activity Day

Friday 17<sup>th</sup> - (AM) in Hub - Nursery AM Party

Friday 17<sup>th</sup> - Carols in the Playground (3pm)

Monday 20<sup>th</sup> – Whole School Christmas Party Day

Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> - Christmas Jumper Day and Christmas Lunch

Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> - Nursery Christmas Activity Day and Songs

Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> (noon) – School closes for Winter Break

### **January 2022**

Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> - Back to School

Friday 28<sup>th</sup> – Upper School Burns Assembly (PM)

### **February 2022**

**Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> – Inset Day school closed to pupils**

**Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> – Public Holiday school closed to all**

**Friday 18<sup>th</sup> - Public Holiday school closed to all**

### **March 2022**

Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> - Parent Contact 3 (4pm to 6.30pm)

Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> – Parent Contact 4 (5pm to 7.30pm)

Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> (5.30pm – 6.30pm) – HT- parent drop-in session

Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> – Open Afternoon (2.30pm)

Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> – Upper School Show (afternoon and evening performances)

Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> – Easter Service (2pm)

### **April 2022**

Friday 1<sup>st</sup> – School closes for Spring holiday

Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> - Back to School

### **May 2022**

**Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> – Public Holiday school closed to all**

Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> (5.30pm – 6.30pm) – HT- parent drop-in session

w/b 16<sup>th</sup> – P7 residential week Lendrick Muir

### **June 2022**

Wb 6<sup>th</sup> June – Health Week

Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> – Nursery Sports Day

Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> – Sports day (Upper School AM/Infant school PM)

9<sup>th</sup>/ 10<sup>th</sup> – P7 Transition Days

Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> (5.30pm – 6.30pm) – HT- parent drop-in session

Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> – Open Afternoon (2.30pm)

Monday 20<sup>th</sup> – Nursery Graduation

Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> – P7 Prom

Friday 24<sup>th</sup> – P7 Leaver Assembly

Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup>– Prizegiving (Upper School AM/Infant school PM)

Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> – School closes for Summer Break (12 noon)