



OCTOBER 2024 NEWSLETTER

Dear pupils, parents/carers and friends of Ratray

Please take the time to read this newsletter and as always, if you have any queries or concerns (no matter how trivial) please get in touch via our school office 01250 871980 or ratray@pkc.gov.uk

We will continue to keep you updated in our usual ways – Parentpay, school app, text messaging and our school Facebook page. **Therefore, please ensure your Parentpay account, email address and your mobile phone numbers are all up to date.**

Staffing Update

Sadly, I must share that Mr Chris Wallace from our nursery will be leaving our school team to take up a promoted post at Pitlochry nursery. Mr Wallace has been at Ratray for four years and will be greatly missed by all in our school. However, our loss is Pitlochry's gain, and we wish Mr Wallace good luck and our warm wishes in his new post.

Open Afternoon

Thanks to all the families who managed to come along to our open afternoon last Thursday. We were delighted that so many took the opportunity to find out what your children have been learning and to see how our classrooms and school areas are looking. Family turnout for the event was 82% so thanks again for supporting our school, the staff and especially your children really appreciate this.

Parent Council Halloween Disco – Tuesday 29th October

All children (and staff) are invited to attend a disco on Tuesday 29th October. This will take place in the school assembly hall from 6pm to 6.45pm for P1 to P3 classes, and from 7pm to 8pm for P4-7 classes. Entry is £2 per child and all proceeds will go to Parent Council funds. Costumes or dress down (play clothes) can be worn. If you can assist with supervision on this night, it would be greatly appreciated.

Afterschool Clubs

Some of our afterschool and lunchtime clubs have started this term and will continue next term. 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 Ratray 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. **Attached to this newsletter is the after-school clubs offered for next school term.**

Parent Helpers

Our school is always open to parents and visitors. Therefore, if you can offer your support in any way to the school, whether long-term, short-term, or one-off for an hour, afternoon, morning or full day, we would be delighted to have you. We are always looking for extra hands in our classrooms, lunch hall, playground, skills groups or on school trips. If you can support us in any way, please do contact the school office at ratray@pkc.gov.uk

Friday CLIK Sessions

Our pupil CLIK (Creativity, Learning, Inventiveness and Knowledge) skills sessions are based around life skills which we do not necessarily develop in class time. Our skills sessions include activities for our pupils such as touch typing, gardening, sewing, coding, DIY skills, first aid and games to develop social skills.

Our pupils really enjoying skill times as they learn new things and get to mix with different children and school staff. If you can volunteer your time to support these Friday afternoon sessions which continue after the October holidays please get in touch, we would be happy to have you.

Holiday dates

School closes for the October holidays on Friday 4th October at 3.20pm and reopens for pupils on Monday 21st October at 9am. The school holiday and term dates up to June 2027 are available at [this link](#).

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 Governments commitment to raising standards across Scottish Education. Testing of our P7 pupils will take place next term.

Bikeability

Final reminder from Mr Brown for **P7 pupils** to sign up for the bikeability sessions next term. Please do so by completing this form <https://forms.office.com/e/SftD3zue1x>

Just2Easy Parent Portal

From November 2024, Rattray Primary are going to use the Just2easy Parent Portal to share with you what your child is learning in class and home learning. The Parent Portal can also be used as communication tool to send home school information too. Additional information regarding Just2Easy was sent out to all parents last week via Parentpay. To enable us to share your child's learning with you a consent form must be completed for all children. Consent forms have been sent home to all those who did not manage to complete on the open afternoon. **Please complete and return these forms as a matter of urgency.** Further information can be found by scanning the QR codes and further communications will be sent out to families regarding sign up to Just2easy Parent Portal next term.



What is J2e?



Parent Portal Info



Privacy Policy

Parent Council

Our Parent Council had their first meeting two weeks ago and have already raised a substantial amount of money and planned a few events. The blueberry picking and Tesco raffle collectively raised £674.58, a huge amount so early in the school disco. Additionally, the arranged Halloween Disco goes ahead on Tuesday 29th October. If you can assist with supervision on this night, it would be greatly appreciated.

Our parent council are a very small hardy group of five parents who work tirelessly and thanklessly to raise funds which benefit **all the pupils** in our school. They are desperate to grow their numbers in order that the wonderful job they do is less burdensome on so few. All parents and carers can be part of our parent council. Even if you can't manage meetings, you can support our parent council in different ways. Attached is a leaflet to give further information about the Parent Council.

The next meeting of the Parent Council takes place on **Thursday 21st November at 5.30pm** in the school staffroom. All parents and carers are welcome to attend, and children are welcome if you have no childcare. If you have any items for the agenda, want further information or can support their work, please visit their Facebook page. <https://www.facebook.com/Rattray-Primary-Parent-Council-1486611214939520/>

House Captains

Our house captains have been selected this year; each captain ran a worthy campaign. The completed an application form, participated in an interview to gain selection, made campaign posters and made speeches to their fellow house members. The captains were voted for by both staff and pupils. All P7 pupils who applied should be very proud of themselves, regardless of selection or not. Ideally it would have been lovely if we could have given all our applicants a captaincy role, but sadly that is not the case. This year's house captains are:

Glasclune – Charlie Anderson, Alex Duncan and Nithini Premarathna.

Glen Ericht – Alix Carmichael, Ethain Clark and Sophie Wemyss.

Parkhill – Max Downie, Shaih Kempton and Carina Linton-Smith.

Strathmore – Louisa Mieзитis, Amelia Robertson and Leon Suchomski.

Our Captains have signed their duties and responsibilities contract, I am certain they will be a great asset to the school this year.

Wednesday afternoon Inter-generational Group

We have recommenced our intergenerational sessions this school year, and a number of local residents have been coming along to chat and play games with our younger pupils. This group will run every Wednesday afternoon from 2.15pm. Please get in touch or pop along if you know someone who would fancy a tea/coffee, biscuit and a blether with our pupils.

Pupil Voice Groups

We have a number of pupil groups across the school. For each group classes are asked to nominate and select pupils to represent their class. Congratulations to the children in the table below. Further information regarding what each group is working will following in future newsletters.

Class	RRS (1 pupil)	Pupil Council (1 pupil)	Reading Ambassadors (2 pupils)	Digital (3 pupils)	Nurturing Schools (1 pupil)
P1a	Rhuben Johnstone	Nicole Vrbas	Alfie McFadden Sethuni Premarathna	Jayden Milne Leo Henderson Lexi Low	Lainey Bruce
P1b	Emily Whyte	Jayden McDonald	Emily Townsley Henry Cookson	Mila Molnar Marsali Walls	Ayla Grant
P2	Kyan Smith	Liliana McKenna	Jacob Bruce Noah Massie	Rebecca Millington Polly Thomson	Freya Beattie
P3	Ellie McGregor	Logan McDonald –Wallace	Halle McDonald Lachlan Stewart	Robert Mieztis Callum Simpson Alice Buturuga	Max Carr Jaimee Low
P3/4	Lewis Pirie	Aaron Stewart	Charlotte Norman Rudy Dow	Zara MacGregor Ayden Sturrock Daisy Anderson	Olaf Sloka
P4/5	Ellie Wimpenny	Sara Fergusson	Macy Cunningham Hannah Adekunle	Filip Kaminski Matvii Petrovskiy Jessica-Rose Stewart	Arlo Downie
P5	Daniel Low	Helena Detlaf	Esme McCullie Hope Skelly	Shay Grant Dawid Fojuth Marlowe Kippen	Penny Pyott
P6	Max Pirie	Alexander Stewart	Estella Cronshaw Harris Low	Emily Young Jude Downie Marcus Mieztis	Lewis Donaldson
P6/7	Riley Bruce	Jacob McFadden	Lewis Moffat Doris Adebayo	Finlay MacKenzie Molly McLean Jayden Gunn	Finlay MacKenzie
P7	Kaytlin Smith	Charlie Anderson	Amelia Roberston Abi Simpson	Layla Young Nithini Premarathna Ethain Clark	Alix Carmichael

On behalf of all the staff we 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 do not hesitate to contact the school office.

Have a wonderful October break!

Ratray Primary School Key Dates

**Please note these dates are provisional and may be subject to change
Other dates will also be added**

October 2024

Tuesday 1st – P3/4 visit to Hope Park Care Home
Friday 4th - Mobile Library Visit
Friday 4th – School closes for October holiday
Monday 21st - Back to School
Wednesday 23rd – P4/5 visit to Hope Park Care Home
Tuesday 29th – Parent Council Halloween Disco
Thursday 31st – Fire Brigade to visit P4s and P5s (Safety Talks)

November 2024

4th to 7th – P7 Bikeability Sessions
Thursday 7th to 14th – Scholastic Book Fair
Tuesday 12th - Odd socks day (anti-bullying)
Wednesday 13th - Parent Contact 1 (5pm to 7.30pm)
Thursday 14th – Parent Contact 2 (4pm to 6.30pm)
Friday 15th – Inset Day school closed to pupils
Monday 18th – 24th – Book week Scotland
Wednesday 20th – Tempest Photographer (Family and Individual Photos)
Thursday 21st – Parent Council Meeting (5.30pm)
Friday 22nd - Mobile Library Visit
Saturday 30th – Ratray Christmas Lights Switch-on

December 2024

Tuesday 10th December - Infant Nativity (9.30am and 1.30pm)
Wednesday 11th (PM) in Hub- Nursery PM Party
Thursday 12th (AM) in Hub - Nursery AM Party
Thursday 12th – Christmas Disco - P1 to P3: 6 – 6.45pm; P4 to P7: 7 – 8pm
Friday 13th December (2pm) - Carols in the Hub
Tuesday 17th December – Christmas Lunch
Tuesday 17th December – Whole School Christmas Party Day
Wednesday 18th December (PM) – Christmas Activity Day
Thursday 19th December (All day) – Christmas Activity Day
Thursday 19th December (PM) - Nursery Christmas Activity Day and Song
Friday 20th December (noon) – School closes for Winter Break

January 2025

Monday 6th - Back to School
Friday 31st January – Scots Assembly (PM)

February 2025

Wednesday 5th - Global play day
Wednesday 12th – Inset Day school closed to pupils
Thursday 13th – Public Holiday school closed to all
Friday 14th - Public Holiday school closed to all

March 2025

Wednesday 5th (5pm to 7.30pm)– Parent Contact 3
Thursday 6th (4pm to 6.30pm) - Parent Contact 4
Wednesday 13th March – Young Carers Day
Friday 21st March – Comic Relief Day
Wb 31st March – Health Week

April 2025

Friday 4th - School closes for Spring holiday
Monday 21st - **Public Holiday (Easter Monday) school closed to all**
Tuesday 22nd – **Inset Day school closed to pupils**

Wednesday 23rd - Back to School

May 2025

Monday 5th - **Public Holiday (May Day) school closed to all**
Monday 26th to Friday 30th – P7 residential week Lendrick Muir (pupils only)
Thursday 22nd May – Open Afternoon - Class Focus (2.15pm)
Friday 30th (12 noon to 1pm) – School Summer BBQ (all welcome)

June 2025

Thursday 5th/ Friday 6th – P1 / P7 Transition Days (**more information to follow**)
Monday 2nd June (1.30pm) – Strong Start 2 sports day in courtyard
Tuesday 3rd (1.45pm) – Nursery Sports Day (**more information to follow**)
Wednesday 4th June (1.30pm) – School Sports day (**more information to follow**)
Monday 9th June (1.30pm) – Strong Start 2 sports day in courtyard Contingency Day
Tuesday 10th (1.45pm) – Nursery Sports Contingency Day
Thursday 12th (1.45pm) – Teddy Bear's Picnic (Current and New P1 pupils)
Wednesday 18th – Moving up Morning/meet new class teachers
Thursday 19th June (1.30pm) – Nursery Fun Day
Friday 20th June (1.30pm) –Prizegiving (by invitation)
Monday 23rd June (9.30am) – Nursery Graduation (by invitation)
Monday 23rd June (2pm) – P7 Leaver's Assembly (by invitation)
Tuesday 24th June (PM) – P7 Leaver's Party (pupils only)
Wednesday 25th June – End of term fun day / staff v pupils netball. /Rattray's got talent. etc
(more information to follow)
Thursday 26th June –P7 Shirt Signing (pupils only)
Thursday 26th June (12 noon) – School closes for Summer Break