

**MARCH 2020 NEWSLETTER**

Dear pupils, parents/carers and friends of Rattray

Another term is drawing to a close however; we still have a few very busy weeks ahead with lots of exciting things happening. There are several items I wish to draw to your attention prior to our Spring break.

**Thank you**

Thank you to all who supported recent school events such as our young carers day, global play day and crazy mixed up dress down day. It was wonderful to see the children all having so much fun on these days.

Thanks to our P6 and P7 parents who managed along to see our wonderful Scots afternoon, it certainly was a ‘braw’ treat. However, we were a wee bit disappointed nobody turned up in their kilt, we should make it a condition of entry for next year.

**Welcome to our school**

We have had three new pupils join us since our last newsletter – Hannah Horrocks P6 and Ella Davidson P5. We hope all our new starts will enjoy their time at Rattray Primary School.

**Blairgowrie Rotary Club Quiz**

Well done to four of our P7 pupils who participated in a general knowledge quiz last month. We didn’t win the event, but we did exceptionally well missing out on a top three spot by a couple of points. Congratulations to Maddie, Monty, David G. and Cara Donaldson who represented the school so wonderfully.

**Scots Poetry Competition**

Many of our children made the effort to learn Scots Poetry for our recent competition. The teachers had great difficulty judging all the entries, but finally choose some worthy winners who were:

**Primary 1 – Sophia Dingwall, Marcus Miezitis and Max Pirie**

**Primary 1/2 – Georgia Irvine, Shaih-Nicole Kempton and Szofi Liston**

**Primary 2 – Louise Miezitis, Leon Suchomska and Sophie Wemyss**

**Primary 3 – Lacey Coville, Ava Graham and Nikodem Szabowki**

**Primary 3/4 –Lewis Fyfe, Ayla Meikle and Cody Meikle**

**Primary 4/5 – Abigail Coventry, Olivia Dingwall and Ellie Galloway**

**Primary 5 – Bethany Assenti, Charlotte Brierley and Calum Ireland**

**Primary 6 – Hannah Galloway, Anya Kozlowska and Patrick Mucha**

**Primary 6/7 – Agata Maj, Imogen O’Hare and Martyna Siemieniuk**

**Primary 7 – Maddie Brown, Ross Fyfe and Cameron Low.**

Congratulations to all who participated in this event, and thanks to parents for helping their children learn their poetry.

**Primary 7 Leavers Committee**

This dedicated band of pupils, parents and staff are holding a bingo tea in the school assembly hall on **Monday 30th March** to raise funds for the annual P7 leavers event. Doors will open at 6.30pm with eyes down at 7pm. Admission is £1, books and raffle tickets will be on sale on the night. Please bring your own mug!

The leavers event is beginning to take shape and it will take place on the evening of Thursday 25th June. To make the night a success the group are meeting regularly. The next meeting takes place on **Monday 16th March at 3.20pm.** If you are a P7 parent and are interested in being part of this, please come along or get in touch with Mrs Johnstone or the office.

**HT Drop-in Evenings**

The next HT ‘drop-in’ session will be **Wednesday 18th from 5.30 – 6.30pm** in the school, where I will be available to discuss any issues, concerns or perhaps just a chance to meet and have a chat. Please contact the office if you plan to pop along on that evening. I am conscious that it may not always be easy to meet with me; however, I can always be contacted via the school office.

Teaching staff are available at the end of the school day on most days to discuss any general matters or concerns you have. However, if you are concerned about your child’s education or welfare at any time please do not hesitate to contact the school office as soon as possible.

**COVID 19 (Coronavirus)**

To date there have been no confirmed cases of COVID-19 in any Perth & Kinross school (staff or pupils). However, I fully understand that you may have concerns and therefore would urge you to note and follow the national advice being given. General public advice can be accessed via [www.NHSInform.Scot/coronavirus](about:blank) . I would ask that you always check their website for the latest version of publications. The Council social media streams will also be updated at [http://www.twitter.com/perthandkinross](about:blank) and [http://www.facebook.com/Perthandkinross](about:blank)

At Rattray, national guidance is being followed and we are reinforcing good hand and respiratory hygiene among pupils and we would ask for your support in this. As already shared the following links may be useful at home. [https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/51698180?fbclid=IwAR0HWXnuVtq1RduXYxRlgxYolACJr8obPB-jmmn8jQR7q49Kg2e9dlZg774](about:blank) , and [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WwQMtSI3i5I](about:blank)

**P7 Residential – Lendrick Muir**

Our 5-day outdoor adventure takes place from **Monday 18th to Friday 22nd May.**  The total balance should now be paid. Payments can be made via Parentpay. Further information has been sent out to all children participating.

**Parent Council**

A message from the Parent Council

***Thanks to all the parents who gave up their time and attended our parent council meeting on the afternoon of the 11th February. It was a better turnout than our last few meetings. Lots of things discussed, some good ideas put forward and a good update by Mrs Robertson on the refurbishment of the school.***

A couple of fundraising events have been arranged for the coming weeks. On **Thursday 26th March**, there will be an Easter Disco for all pupils, 6pm to 6.45pm for P1-3 pupils and 7pm – 8pm for P4-7 pupils. On **Thursday 30th April**, a fundraising Bunny Drive has been arranged, this will commence at 6pm and should be finished by 8pm at the latest.

The next Parent Council meeting is **Thursday 14th May at 3.25pm,** and all parents and carers are most welcome to attend. Childcare will be provided for those who will have children with them. We would urge you to think about coming along, it would be very sad for such a thriving school community not to have an equally thriving Parent Council to support the children and to help parents have their say. Please think about joining us even for one or two meetings a year! If you have any items for the agenda or want further information about our Parent Council, please visit their Facebook page. [https://www.facebook.com/Rattray-Primary-Parent-Council-1486611214939520/](about:blank)

**Lost Property and Lost Uniform**

There will be a table with lost property, in the assembly hall at the end of the school day on Thursday 26th March. This will remain there for the disco in the evening. Please come in and have a rummage and claim anything which belongs to your child. If you can’t manage along on this date, please pop in at the end of any school day or contact the school office with a description of any missing items. Anything clothing remaining prior to the Easter break will be handed into local charity shops.

**Primary School Registration 2020**

If your child is five between 19 August 2020 and 28 February 2021, they are eligible to start school on **Wednesday 19 August 2020** 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](about:blank) . Alternatively, download a icon[pupil registration form [556Kb]](about:blank) and return to the school. Please note, you will need to bring:

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](about:blank) asking that your child be granted a place in a school other than your local catchment area school. Placing requests for school session 2020/21 starting 19 August 2020 **must be submitted by Sunday 15 March 2020.** If submitting a placing request, you should not register your child at the local catchment school.

**School Handbook 2019/20**

Our school handbook for next session is available to view on the council website or in paper form from school office. Visit

[https://www.pkc.gov.uk/media/32309/Rattray-Primary-School-Handbook-2020-21/pdf/Rattray\_handbook\_2020-21.pdf?m=637110714968230000](about:blank)

**School Social Media Pages**

A reminder to new and existing parents that our school has Facebook [https://www.facebook.com/Rattray-Primary-School-496557997081831/](about:blank) and twitter accounts [https://twitter.com/rattrayprimary](about:blank) where pupil learning, school and community events and general information is posted. We will endeavour to update these media platforms regularly.

**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.

**Pupil Council**

This term our Pupil Council have been busy helping us with our Self Evaluation. Using “How good is OUR school” they have been carrying out a pupil survey to find out what the relationships are like in school. Comments so far have included;

“When we are upset the teachers help make us feel better”

“Teachers are good at noticing you are sad and try to talk to you about why.”

“We get given time to talk through our problems.”

We invited Kim Ewan from Tayside Contracts to talk with the Pupil Council about recycling in the school and how we can be eco-friendlier. We shared some ideas that we had, and she also gave us some suggestions which we will look at. All these activities will help us plan our School Improvement Plan from next year.

**School Crossing Patroller Update**

As you will know, the school will no longer be provided with a School Crossing Patroller after the Easter holidays. Vehicle Activated Signs are being installed from the Alyth side in March and the 20mph speed restriction will be a permanent (i.e. not just during school hours) road speed restriction from Easter. Over the last few weeks of this term, Willie will cease his normal duties, and instead support children in using the crossing facility correctly. As a school we will try to mark Willie’s retiral in some special way, but if you have any suggestions please do get in touch with the school office.

In school, each class are learning about using our school crossing by themselves and will have a chance to ‘practice’ crossing the road in school time. All children will soon come home with a leaflet about using a puffin crossing. The following video link [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w8rDH7ms18U](about:blank) may also support yourself and the children.

**After School Clubs**

This term we are still running several after school clubs, detailed at the end of this newsletter. We will be offering further after school opportunities later this session; will we inform you in due course of the arrangements for these.

**Glee Challenge 2020**

Once again Rattray Primary School will be competing in the Perth and Kinross Glee Challenge in the Perth Concert Hall on the 1st April. Mrs Johnstone and Ms McCulloch and their final 30 singers sound amazing (the pupils have had a sneak preview)! For all pupils and staff involved, the term I believe is ‘break a leg’. I am certain you will do the school proud once again.

Tickets for the event are available at the following link [https://www.horsecross.co.uk/whats-on/glee-primary-school-choir-challenge-heats-2020-99802?fbclid=IwAR1RTKqVKjcuiWlDwI2RoD7NzNXmiG5BDDh098BQZy-gvetpLOgxjk\_-Rvk](about:blank)

**Friday Afternoon Skills Sessions**

We began our skills sessions, earlier this session and the children are thoroughly enjoying the activities they are undertaking. Skills sessions are based around life skills which we don’t necessarily develop in class time.

Our skills sessions will involve children being involved in blocks of three-week sessions which are led by staff members. These sessions include skills such as touch typing, gardening, sewing, coding, cooking, DIY skills, first aid and games to develop social skills.

For these sessions to be a success we would hope parents, family members or community members could volunteer their time on a Friday morning (infants) from 11am to 12 noon or Friday afternoon (upper school) from 2pm to 3pm to assist the staff. This may only be now and again or perhaps you are able to commit yourself for longer.  Thank you in advance for your time.

**Schools Cross Country – Wednesday 18th March**

Several our pupils will be running in the rural school’s race at Perth Race Course on Wednesday 18th March.

Robbie Robertson Rory Morgan Imogen O’Hare Maddie Brown

Mikey Patterson Artur Glaza Calvin McGougan Kade Smeaton

Ross Fyfe Corin Gruneberg Tyler Trefla Brayan Brejski

R J Nesbitt Tiannah Clark Cara Dingwall Cara Donaldson

Tia Ogilvie Ava Fotheringham

They will be competing against other schools in Perth and Kinross. We wish them every success at the event. Thanks to Ms Wigmore and Mrs Russell who have been training these pupils in advance of the race.

**Open Afternoon – Thursday 25th March at 2.15pm**

A reminder that we have an open afternoon on **Thursday 25th March at 2.15pm**, please come along to share the learning that happens in your child’s classroom. I know the children and staff enjoy having visitors and will look forward to seeing you.

On this day, at 2.15pm, in the assembly hall there will be a short presentation (15 minutes) about our play-based curriculum in Primary One and Two. Afterwards, activities will be set up in class for parents/carers to try out with the children. **All current Primary One, Primary Two and Nursery parents are invited to attend this presentation.**

**Take Your Child to Work Day – Thursday 23rd April**

A reminder for P6/7 parents, if you wish you child to participate in this event the application forms will need to be submitted to the school office by 26th March.

**Parent /Carer Correspondence**

Can we please ask that any day to day communication with the school is made through the school email address [rattray@pkc.gov.uk](about:blank) or by telephoning 01250 871980. We have recently received messages through Facebook messenger. Whilst some staff have administration rights to our Facebook page, we can’t guarantee that it will be checked regularly. However, all comments we receive on Facebook are very welcome, and we do try to respond to them, albeit not immediately.

**I Bike Cycling Project**

This year we are working with I Bike to promote cycling and active travel at Rattray Primary. We continue to push cycling in the school, supporting children throughout to develop both their skill and safety knowledge. This term we are supporting children who have not yet mastered their cycling skills, so we are running sessions for those to help them to learn to ride.

We have also taken delivery of a new Bike Pump Station, and the Bike Crew will shortly be making a video on how to use this. It is equipped with 2 pumps that fit Schrader and presta valves and is designed at child friendly height. It has artwork that explains (in child friendly animations/language) how to check your bike over. There is also a frame for posters for the bike crew/bike club to advertise upcoming active travel events.

And finally, we are currently trying to organise the next set of Bikeability sessions-watch out for more information P4 and P6s.

**Morning Playground Supervision**

A little reminder, that there is no adult supervision in the playground prior to 9am. Staff members are however available in school for any emergencies should they occur. Those transported by school taxis are supervised within school as soon as the bus arrives.

**School Book Amnesty – Urgent**

We recently audited our reading books and reading novels and we have a very large number missing. Could you please check at home and return any books belonging to the school, they will be stamped with a Rattray stamper. We would really appreciate your help in this matter, to replace these book takes a huge amount of money from school funds.

**School Meals**

The price of a school meal in Perth and Kinross has been held for a third year! In Primary schools a two-course meal is £2.15 daily. The menu offer has been changing to meet new Scottish Government Regulations which are designed to encourage healthy eating habits from an early age. The meals provide approximately one third of a young person’s daily nutritional needs. Taking school meals and understanding their value is intended to also reap benefits in later years through a wider understanding of healthier eating and good nutrition, which is reinforced through learning and teaching.

The menu provides 3 choices of main item daily and we continue to try and provide a good variety for those who have adapted dietary menus. There are tasting opportunities for young people in our primary schools on a regular basis and occasionally for parents too. We hope pupils enjoy the revised menu which starts straight after the Easter break. Menu information\* is available at: [www.pkc.gov.uk/schoolmeals](about:blank) and [https://www.tayside-contracts.co.uk/catering](about:blank) (this site also includes an interactive primary school menu which provides ingredient and recipe information which can also help allergy sufferers self-manage their meal choices).

**School Refurbishment and Nursery Extension**

I was recently able to share school refurbishment plans and timescales with our Parent Council, and these were also available for viewing at our recent Parent Contact meetings. The extensive refurbishment of the internal school building will commence on the 2nd July and will continue throughout the next academic session (August 2020 to July 2021). Coinciding with the refurbishment, an extension to the nursery will also be built. The refurbishment will include all internal fixture and fittings, alongside new furniture throughout the school. A section of our playground will be unavailable to use during the refurbishment and construction period, but talks are ongoing to try to ensure additional play areas for our pupils.

There is an opportunity for parents, pupils and staff to be involved in a Project group which will be part of some of the decision making around the refurbishment and extension. The group will be limited to 4 pupils, 4 staff members, 4 parent/carers and 2 parent council representatives. If you are interested in being part of this group, please get in touch with the school office by email [rattray@pkc.gov.uk](about:blank) or by calling the school 01250 871980.

**Successful Students**

We know that many of our pupils excel in activities outwith school and we are very keen to celebrate the successes and wider achievements of our pupils, staff and parents. These achievements may take various forms e.g. learning to knit, mastering a skill or after school club success. If there is any news which you wish to share with us, please encourage your child to bring information into school, email the school, or tag us in Facebook (Rattray Primary School) or twitter #RattrayPrimary. Successes can take the form of photographs, certificates, medals, newspaper mentions, cards, or a simple written paragraph. These successes will be displayed within the school and other places. We look forward to hearing about the successes our wonderfully talented pupils.

**End of term Easter Service – Friday 3rd April**

Our end of term Easter service will take place at Rattray Church at 11am on the above date. All are welcome to attend.

**Holiday dates**

School closes for the Easter holidays on Friday 3rd April at 3.20pm and reopens for pupils on Monday 20th April at 9am.

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 school office or the email address below.

I hope each and every one of you have a relaxing and enjoyable Easter break with your family and friends. I hope to see all our pupils bright, breezy and refreshed on Monday 20th April.

Yours faithfully



Joanna Robertson

Headteacher (Interim)

[rattray@pkc.gov.uk](about:blank)

01250 871980

**Future Dates**

**March 2020**

Friday 13th – Learn to Ride Cycle Sessions

Monday 16th – School Leavers committee meeting (3.20pm in staffroom)

Tuesday 17th – Nursery Ladies Day (Room 1 parents)

Wednesday 18th – Primary Schools Cross Country Championships

Wednesday 18th – HT drop-in (5.30pm)

Thursday 19th – Nursery Ladies Day (Room 2 parents)

Friday 20th – Learn to Ride Cycle Sessions

Wednesday 25th – Open Afternoon (2.15pm) for all parents/relatives/carers

Thursday 26th – Parent Council Easter Disco

(6pm to 6.45pm for P1-3 pupils and 7pm – 8pm for P4-7 pupils)

Friday 27th – Learn to Ride Cycle Sessions

Monday 30th – Bingo Tea fundraiser (6.30pm start)

Tuesday 31st – SCYD P6 and P7 lunchtime club

**April 2020**

Wednesday 1st – Glee choir performing in Perth (6pm)

Friday 3rd – Easter Church Service (11am)

Friday 3rd – Mobile Library visit

Friday 3rd – Learn to Ride Cycle Sessions

**Friday 3rd – School closes for Spring holiday (3.20pm)**

**Monday 20th - Back to School (9am)**

Tuesday 21st – P7 Transition morning at BHS

Thursday 23rd – P6 and P7 Take your child to work day

Tuesday 28th – SCYD P6 and P7 lunchtime club

Thursday 30th – Parent Council Bunny Drive (6pm – 8pm)

**May 2020**

Friday 8th – **Public Holiday school closed to all**

Wednesday 13th – HT drop-in (5.30pm)

Thursday 14th - Parent Council Meeting (3.25pm)

w/b 18th May – P7 residential week

Friday 22nd - **Inset Day school closed to pupils**

Tuesday 26th – SCYD P6 and P7 lunchtime club

Friday 29th – Mobile Library visit

**June 2020**

Wednesday 3rd – Nursery Sports Day

Thursday 4th – Sports day (Upper School AM/Infant school PM)

11th/ 12th June – P7 Transition Days

Wednesday 17th – HT drop-in (5.30pm)

Wednesday 24th June – Nursery Graduation

Thursday 25th June – P7 Prom in Rattray Community Connect

Friday 26th June – P7 Leavers Assembly

Friday 26th – Mobile Library visit

Tuesday 30th June – Prize giving (Upper School AM/Infant school PM)

**July 2020**

Wednesday 1st – School closes for Summer Break (12 noon)

**\*FURTHER DATES MAY BE ADDED\***

**What’s on at Rattray Primary School**

**Below is a list of after school clubs we are currently offering across the school**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Club Name** | **For Who?** | **Staff Member/Coach** | **When** | **Cost** | **Where** |
| Messy Church | P1-P3 | Local Community members | Mondays (every 2nd week)  27th January 10th February etc...  3.20pm – 4.20pm | Free | Rattray  Assembly  Hall |
| Glee | P4-P7 | Mrs Johnstone  and Ms McCulloch | Monday and Wednesday lunchtimes | Free | Classroom/  Hub |
| SCYD lunch club | P6 and P7 | SCYD youth workers | Last Tuesday of every month (28th January 25th February 31st March) | Free | Rattray Community Connect |
| Ukulele | All P6 and P7 pupils | Mr Masterton | Tuesdays  3.20pm – 4.10pm | Free | P3M Classroom Stadia |
| Multisport | All P5 and P6 pupils | Live Active | Tuesdays  3.20pm – 4.20pm | Free | Rattray  Gym  Hall |
| **Multisport can be booked by calling Caroline on 07824 529795**​ **or emailing** [**Clawrie@liveactive.co.uk**](about:blank) | | | | | |
| Football | All P2 – P4 pupils | Blairgowrie and Rattray CFC  and Live Active | Tuesdays 3.20pm – 4pm  **Begins January** | Free | Rattray Community Connect |
| Football - Lisa Evans Soccer Centres | Girls aged 5-9  years old | Blairgowrie and Rattray CFC  and Live Active | Tuesdays 4pm – 5pm  Begins 26th November  (Free until Christmas) | £2 | Rattray Community Connect |
| Football - Fun Fours | Boys born  in 2014 | Blairgowrie and Rattray CFC  and Live Active | Tuesdays 5pm – 6pm  Begins 26th November  (Free until Christmas | £2 | Rattray Community Connect |
| **Football can be booked by calling 01250 871360**​ **or**  **emailing** [**dcurnyn@liveactive.co.uk**](about:blank) | | | | | |
| Drumming  Club | P4-P7 | Tom (helper) | Wednesday lunchtimes | Free | RCT room |
| Bike Club | P1-P7 | Mr Brown, Mrs Russell and parent helpers | Thursdays  Terms 1 and 4  3.20pm – 4.20pm | £1 termly | Playground/  local area |
| Board Games | P3-P7 | Mr Brown | Thursdays  Terms 2 and 3  3.20pm – 4.30pm | Free | Dining Hall |
| Football | P4-P7 | Davie Breen | Friday lunchtimes | Free | Playground/Rattray Common |