

**JANUARY 2020 NEWSLETTER**

Dear pupils, parents/carers and friends of Rattray

Welcome back to a new term and a new year. It is lovely to see the pupils back at school, eager to learn and full of news about their Christmas holidays.

**Thank you**

Thanks to all who purchased books from the book fair last term. Due to your generosity we will be able to spend £81.22 on books to supplement our school library. Thanks also to those who donated items for the recent rag bag collection, this raised £32.80 which will be added to our school funds. I would like to thank all the parents, relatives, staff and pupils who came along to all our Christmas events. Our Christmas Fayre was a great success and we raised £1287.00 on the evening. Thanks to everyone who contributed.

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 three new pupils join us since our last newsletter - Kacper Mikolowski P1W, Jayden Gunn P1W & Mary Whyte P6M. We have six new nursery pupils joining us this term too. I am also delighted to announce that Jillian Ritchie (Early Years Support Teacher) was successfully appointed to the role of our Early Years Centre Manager. Mrs Ritchie has a long-term association with Rattray (from 1993) and its nursery and was the first teacher to work in the nursery when it opened 20 years ago. Mrs Ritchie will be heavily involved with our nursery as it moves forward to becoming a newly refurbished and extended Early Years Centre catering for our community for 50 weeks of the year. We hope all our new starts (pupils, visitors and staff) will enjoy their time at Rattray Primary School.

**Blairgowrie Rotary Club Quiz**

Four of our P7 pupils will be participating in a general knowledge quiz on **Tuesday 21st January.** This will take place at Blairgowrie Community Campus, and we will be competing against other schools in the local area. Good luck to Maddie, Monty, David G. and Tia who we are certain will do extremely well.

**Primary 7 Leavers Celebrations – Monday 27th January**

The class of 2020 are beginning to plan their leavers celebration. It will take place on the evening of Thursday 25th June. To make the night a success they are looking for parents and staff to work with a few of them to plan and organise the event. The first planning meeting will be in school on **Monday 27th January at 3.20pm.** If you are a P7 parent and are interested in being part of this, please get in touch with Mrs Johnstone or the office.

**HT Drop-in Evenings**

The next HT ‘drop-in’ session will be **Monday 27th January 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.

**Swimming Lessons – all P5 pupils**

All P5 pupils in the school have begun swimming lessons at Blairgowrie High School Recreation Centre P5M pupils will have their sessions every Monday morning, and P5 (of P4/5) pupils on Wednesday afternoons. All pupils must have appropriate swimwear with them, for girls a one piece is preferred. Swimming caps are optional. To use the lockers children should have a refundable 20p with them each swimming day. In the interest of health and hygiene, anyone with a verruca or Athlete’s Foot is required to wear special swimming socks; these can be purchased from the recreation centre.

**P6/7 Skiing**

Our 5-day outdoor adventure takes place from **Monday 3rd to Friday 7th February.** The total balance is due by the end of January. Payments can be made via Parentpay. Further information has been sent out to all children participating. All that is needed now is snow!

**P7 Parents Information Evening**

Blairgowrie High School is to hold an information evening for P7 pupils and their parents on **Monday 3rd February at 6pm** in our school hall.

**Young Carers Day – Thursday 30th January**

Young Carers Awareness Day on **Thursday 30th January** raises awareness of the challenges faced by young carers and campaigns for support for them. Caring for someone can be isolating, worrying and stressful. For young carers this can negatively impact on their education. In our school we have several recognised young carers, to show our support of these children, and the work of PKVAS – our local carers organisation, as a school we felt that Young Carers Day could not go unnoticed. Therefore, on the above date we would like to encourage all pupils and staff to come to school wearing something purple along with their school uniform, please do not go to the expense of purchasing something if you do not have a purple item for your child. The children will make badges in class, which they will also wear.

**Burns Afternoon – Friday 31st January (2pm)**

On our upper schools Burns afternoon, our P6/7 pupils 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!

**Global Play Day – Wednesday 5th February 2020**

*“You can discover more about a person in an hour of play than in a year of conversation.” - Plato*

On February 5th our school will be participating in Global Play Day (GSPD) 2020. GSPD has been promoted by psychology and is being celebrated at schools around the world. We are inviting all students to bring in things to play with on this special day e.g. dress up, board games etc. A further letter will be sent out.

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.

**Parent Council**

For many years the Rattray Parent Council have been involved in fundraising for the school to fund playground improvements, school trips, extra resources for classrooms and much more. They also have a say in how we run the school and improve what we do.

Sadly, over the last few years there has been a steady decline in the number of parents attending meetings and taking a role on the committee Our Parent Council have funds, and decisions need to be made about how that money is spent it is necessary that there are a minimum number of parents involved in this decision making. If we cannot find more members, we won’t be able to do this. For example, Rattray Parent Council currently have funds of over £1500, that they have raised for the children. However, they need a minimum number of parents at a meeting to agree any spend and so if the school, or the children ask for the Parent Council to support anything, they are unable to agree to support this as not enough parents are at the meeting.

Rattray Parent Council Meetings last 60-90 minutes - you can bring your children and you can leave sooner if you need to! We have tried several time slots and it is very hard to find the right combination of day and time to suit everyone. We are open to suggestions about how to get this right.

The next meeting is **Tuesday 11th February at 2.15pm,** and all parents and carers are most welcome to attend. 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/>

**Inset Days**

A reminder that school will be closed to pupils next month on **Wednesday 12th February** and to both pupils and staff on **Thursday 13th and Friday 14th February.**

**Getting it Right…Keeping Your Child Safe’ - Thursday 5th March 2020**

Perth and Kinross Council and partners are providing a free event for parents, carers and professionals broadly based around online safety and the theme of ‘Keeping Your Child Safe.’  Presentations from experts in their field will include:

• Cyber awareness – understanding the risks to you, your home and your family.

• A personal account of online grooming and Child Sexual Exploitation

• Boing! Supporting resilience in a digital world

The event will be **free of charge** and will be held in the Perth Playhouse Cinema. Unfortunately, due to the content of some of the presentations, no persons under the age of 16 will be permitted entry. Attendees can register for one of 3 identical seminars:

 9.30 -11.30am

 1– 3pm

 5.30 -7.30pm

Places can be booked via Eventbrite using the link below:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/getting-it-rightkeeping-your-child-safe-2020-tickets-88840972741?aff=utm_source%3Deb_email%26utm_medium%3Demail%26utm_campaign%3Dnew_event_email&utm_term=eventurl_text>

**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](https://my.pkc.gov.uk/en/AchieveForms/?form_uri=sandbox-publish://AF-Process-8bbb4a0e-e061-4664-ba18-f779e32e0086/AF-Stage-8f392938-1882-4490-8cb2-32603513fcd9/definition.json&redirectlink=%2Fen&cancelRedirectLink=%2Fen&consentMessage=yes) . Alternatively, download a [pupil registration form [556Kb]](https://www.pkc.gov.uk/media/10349/Primary-Pupil-Registration-Form/pdf/Pupil_Registration_Form_FINAL.pdf?m=637038110256170000) 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](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. 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>

**Welfare Rights**

Would you like to know if you’re missing out on any entitlements? Perth & Kinross Council’s Welfare Rights Team offer a free, confidential and impartial welfare rights service to the residents of Perth & Kinross.

“Don’t miss out, contact the Council’s Welfare Rights Team if you would like free, confidential and impartial benefits advice or representation on 01738 476900 (option 1) or via email: WelfareRights@pkc.gov.uk.  The team can advise on the following:

* Benefits advice
* Challenging benefit decisions
* Debt advice
* If you’re struggling financially, they can advise on your options e.g. Crisis Grants or other help
* If you’re struggling to pay for school trips

You can also check out their webpages including this page where there is information about help available for families: [www.pkc.gov.uk/benefitsforfamilies](http://www.pkc.gov.uk/benefitsforfamilies) and the general page about the Welfare Rights Team: [www.pkc.gov.uk/wrt](http://www.pkc.gov.uk/wrt) Further details can be found on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/PKC-Welfare-Rights-Team-927765370610029/>

**PE Times and Kit**

All our classes have at least two sessions of PE each week. It is very important that children always have the appropriate kit - shorts, t-shirt, socks and gym shoes/trainers in an appropriate gym bag. It is advisable to bring tracksuit bottoms and warm top, as occasionally the children will be outside. Please note that jewellery should not be worn, and long hair should also be tied back. Some classes will be undertaking the daily mile challenge throughout the school week, it is therefore advisable that children bring appropriate footwear for participating in this.

**School Social Media Pages**

A reminder to new and existing parents that our school has Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/Rattray-Primary-School-496557997081831/> and twitter accounts <https://twitter.com/rattrayprimary> 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.

**Nursery Re-Inspection**

Our nursery was re-inspected by the Care Inspectorate prior to the Christmas holidays. If you would like to see a copy of the report please visit this link – [care inspectorate](https://www.careinspectorate.com/index.php/care-services?detail=CS2003017342&q=rattray&message=&spatial_d=&spatial_pt=). If you would like to discuss this report further, please contact Ms. Clark, our Principal EYP in the nursery or myself.

**Pupil Council**

Our new playground equipment selected by our pupil council has been introduced to the playground and appears to be a great success. They took on the views of their classmates and selected items that would appeal to all ages and gender. The pupil council have been discussing what included and engaged means in the classroom, under 3 headings of emotional, behavioural and on task. The Pupil Council will soon take part in learning walks around the school, looking for good examples of included and engaged children. We will keep you updated with the Pupil council progress and their suggestions for fundraising and other ideas.

**Parking Safety**

Please help us keep our children safe by following the rules below:

* **No** parking or waiting in the staff car park. 24 Hour access is required for emergency services and deliveries.
* **No** drop off/collection in the disabled bay in the staff car park without a blue badge.
* **No** parking or waiting in the bus bay outside the school gates. This is a designated safe drop off area/pick up bay for taxis who transport pupils.
* **No** drop off/collection on the white zig zags outside the school gates. These areas are monitored by Police Scotland and tickets will be issued.

**The safest and most convenient location for parking or waiting is the designated Park and Stride on Hatton Road.**

I appreciate your assistance in this very important matter. If a friend or family member drops off/collects your child(ren) on your behalf, please can you share this important information with them?

**School Crossing Patroller Update**

I was recently informed that a decision had been made by the PKC Lifelong Learning Committee to end the provision of a School Crossing Patroller at our school, after the Easter holidays. There are planned additional improvement works of the Vehicle Activated Signs at our school gates later this term and during the last couple of weeks of the Spring term, Willie Kiddie will cease his normal duties, and instead support children in using the crossing facility correctly.

I know that Willie has been crossing Rattray children over the High Street for 11 years, and he will be greatly missed by pupils, parents and staff alike. I personally will miss his football banter, given that he supports a team in navy blue and my team wears tangerine. As a school we will try to mark his retiral in some special way, but if you have any suggestions please do get in touch with the school office.

**Perth and Kinross Football Select Team**

We are delighted to announce that P7 pupil Gus Donaldson has been selected to represent our education authority in national events. Congratulations to Gus.

**Education City**

You will have or very shortly will receive details of how to use this resource at home. All children have their own unique username and password, and we would encourage you to take advantage of this fantastic learning resource.

**After School Clubs**

This term we are still running several after school clubs, detailed at the end of this newsletter. Newly introduced are our GLEE sessions, and P6 and P7 monthly lunchtime club ran by SCYD youth workers. 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 either 30th, 31st March or 1st April (date to be confirmed). Mrs Johnstone and Ms McCulloch held auditions last week and our final 30 singers have been selected for the choir. Both teachers would have liked to have chosen everyone who auditioned but unfortunately there were constraints on the choir size. If your child was not selected please tell them not to be disheartened, encourage them to reapply next year, and reassure them that often priority does go to older pupils. Rehearsals began this week and I am certain we will have another successful Glee year.

**Friday Afternoon Skills Sessions**

We began our skills sessions, earlier this term 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 afternoon from 1.15 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.

**Roots of Empathy Project**

P2R are really enjoying Roots of Empathy with Mrs Baird. Our baby is called Alfie - Mrs Kermath’s grandson. So far, we have been exploring our emotions, looking at why babies cry, our proud moments and when I lost my first tooth. Alfie and his mum visits us every month and so far, we have noticed lots of changes. We have seen him grow bigger, start to play with toys and starting to eat solids. Alfie likes it when we sing to him and sometimes, he even falls asleep. Roots of Empathy is an evidence-based classroom program that has shown significant effect in schools. Roots of Empathy can help to reduce levels of aggression, raise social and emotional competences and increase empathy.

**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 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>

**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.

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 (interim)

rattray@pkc.gov.uk

01250 871980

**Future Dates**

**January 2020**

Tuesday 21st – Pipe Band Meeting in school hall (6pm)

Monday 27th – P7 Parents Prom meeting (3.30pm)

Monday 27th – HT drop in session (5.30pm to 6.30pm)

Tuesday 28th – SCYD P6 and P7 lunchtime club

Thursday 30th – Young Carers Day

Friday 31st – Upper school Burns Assembly (2pm)

Friday 31st – Mobile Library visit

**February 2020**

3rd - 7th February – P6 and P7 Ski Trip

Monday 3rd – P7 Pupil and Parent Information Evening (6pm) in School Hall

Wednesday 5th – Global Play Day

Tuesday 11th – Parent Council Meeting (2.15pm) in school staff room

**Wednesday 12th – Inset Day school closed to pupils**

**Thursday 13th – Public Holiday school closed to all**

**Friday 14th - Public Holiday school closed to all**

Tuesday 25th – SCYD P6 and P7 lunchtime club

**March 2020**

Tuesday 3rd - Parent Contact 1 (4pm to 6.30pm)

Wednesday 4th – Parent Contact 2 (5pm to 7.30pm)

Friday 6th – Mobile Library visit

Wednesday 18th – Primary Schools Cross Country Championships (further details to follow)

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

Thursday 26th – Parent Council Easter Disco (further details to follow)

Tuesday 31st – SCYD P6 and P7 lunchtime club

**April 2020**

Friday 3rd – Easter Church Service (11am)

Friday 3rd – Mobile Library visit

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 (further details to follow)

**May 2020**

Thursday 7th – Parent Council Beetle Drive (further details to follow)

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

w/b 18th May – P7 residential week

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

**June 2020**

Wednesday 3rd – Nursery Sports Day

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

11th/ 12th June – P7 Transition Days

Wednesday 24th June – Nursery Graduation

 Thursday 25th June – P7 Prom in Rattray Community Connect

Friday 26th June – P7 Leavers Assembly

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 Johnstoneand 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 | Tuesdays3.20pm – 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** |
| Football  | All P2 – P4 pupils  | Blairgowrie and Rattray CFCand 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 CFCand Live Active | Tuesdays 4pm – 5pmBegins 26th November(Free until Christmas) | £2 | Rattray Community Connect |
| Football - Fun Fours | Boys born in 2014 | Blairgowrie and Rattray CFCand Live Active | Tuesdays 5pm – 6pmBegins 26th November(Free until Christmas | £2 | Rattray Community Connect |
| **Football can be booked by calling 01250 871360**​ **or** **emailing** **dcurnyn@liveactive.co.uk** |
| Bike Club | P1-P7 | Mr Brown, Mrs Russell and parent helpers | ThursdaysTerms 1 and 43.20pm – 4.20pm | £1 termly | Playground/local area |
| Board Games | P3-P7 | Mr Brown | Thursdays Terms 2 and 33.20pm – 4.30pm | Free | Dining Hall |
| Football | P4-P7 | Davie Breen | Friday lunchtimes  | Free | Playground/Rattray Common  |