

**SEPTEMBER 2022 NEWSLETTER**

Dear pupils, parents/carers and friends of Rattray

It has only been a few weeks since our last newsletter and those weeks have been remarkably busy here at Rattray. In this brief time scale, our Primary 6 pupils ably represented our school against other local schools at a Mini-Olympics event organised by the Blairgowrie Rotary Club. They enjoyed athletics events alongside hockey and boccia. Ten of senior pupils had the wonderful opportunity of four weeks of outdoor learning, where they got to experience canoeing and gorge walking. Some of our pupils are participating in the Go Fitba project twice a week, whereby they get one hour of expert football coaching followed by a hot meal and learning about healthy eating. Callum Garden, the cricket development officer has been coaching our P7 pupils once a week this term and after the October break will start to coach some of our younger classes too.

This school session we are continuing to work with PKC Play Leader Sarah Milne to promote positive play experiences in our school. Every Tuesday Sarah works with individual classes, developing children’s co-operative play and games skills in an outdoor play context. Our P7 pupils took part in willow weaving sessions, which they will share with the community later. P2/3 visited Blairgowrie Church and enjoyed a mouse hunt as part of their doors open day. We were visited by Imagination Gaming who collaborated with senior pupils to develop social and communication skills through board games and activities, our upper school pupils then transferred their learning by leading an afternoon session for younger pupils in the school. Afterwards they shared their learning with teachers at their staff development session.

The P4 to P5 classes took part in European Day of Languages event this week, organised by Ms Gregg. The children counted to ten in at least seven different languages, made European flags and tasted food from Turkey, Greece and France. Also, this week P6 to P7 classes took part in Anne Frank workshops where they explored discrimination and prejudice.

We have also been visited by our woodwind musical instructor Fran Baker and our new bagpiping tutor Scott Methven. Things now feel ‘normal’ in school again and we are so pleased about this.

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. Look out for the annual data collection forms coming to you soon and return these as soon as you can.**

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 rattray@pkc.gov.uk

Although the return to school this year has been very different, I am proud to say that

our pupils have shown courage, resilience and positivity in the first few weeks of term.

Young people seem to be very good at taking changes in their stride and I a

**Staffing Update**

There are a couple of staffing changes to share with you for the coming weeks. Ms Emma Byrne will remain in P1/2 covering the absence of Ms Wigmore. Mrs McCarthy will begin a planned absence next week and P6/7 will be covered by Miss Brogan Campbell.

**Our School Therapet Bud**

We were very saddened to hear last week that Bud, our wonderful therapet passed away. Bud visited us most Mondays, with Carol his owner, for quite a few years. He loved his time at Rattray, just as much as our pupils loved reading to him. Our sincere condolences to Carol. Bud will be missed incredibly here at Rattray.

**Open Afternoon – Thursday 29th September**

We are delighted to be able to invite parents/carers into the school this week on Thursday afternoon **2:30pm to 3.15pm**. This is an opportunity for you to find out what the children have been learning, alongside letting you see how our refurbished school is looking. We really do hope you join us on this afternoon.

**Rag Bag Collection – by Monday 3rd October**

Please bring your rag bag or other bag to school by the afternoon of **Monday 3rd October** and leave it in the school entrance corridor. Our school will be paid for every kilogram recycled. We can help raise hundreds of pounds with each collection made. Items that can be recycled are wearable clothes, paired shoes, handbags and belts.

**House Captains**

Our house captains have been selected this year; each captain completed an application form and participated in an interview to gain selection. 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. This year’s house captains are:

Glasclune – Lexi Coventry, Arran Ford and Corey Clunie.

Glen Ericht – Gabriel Detlaf, Stevie Grant and Kane Warner.

Parkhill – Poppy Duncan, Robert Crisan and Emily Gruneberg.

Strathmore – Aaron Campbell, Olivia Dingwall and Ayla Meikle.

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

**Pupil Council**

All classes were asked to nominate and select pupils to represent them on our Pupil Council. Congratulations to these children. The new class representatives are as follows:

P1/2 Urte Griciute

P2/3 Arlo Downie

P3 Hope Skelly

P4 Max Pirie

P4/5 Luca Fotheringham

P5 Charlie Anderson

P6 Joey Gill

P6/7 Keegan Ferguson and Robert Crisan

P7 Leia Legvari and Cody Meikle

Already this term the Pupil Council have been busy. They have ordered new playground equipment, completed a walk around the school to see the class charters in all the classes and completed a survey to find out how children get to school. They also have helped to make our Quality Improvement Plan into a child friendly version. Next term the pupil council will be creating a survey and taking focus groups to find out what pupils think about homework, outdoor learning and writing in school.

**Rights Respecting Schools**

At the end of last term children from each class applied to be part of the RRS Steering Group. Congratulations to the children below who have been selected:

P7 – Gabriel Detlaf / Jakob Finlay

P6/7 – Tamzin Cummings

P6 – Lacey Colville

P5 – TJ Milne

P4/5 – Skye Taylor

P4 – Estella Cronshaw

P3 – Helena Detlaf

P2/3– Sara Fergusson/ Ellie Wimpenny

P1/2 – Urte Griciute

P1 – Halle McDonald

This term the children have helped to ensure that every class in the school has a class charter which links to children’s rights. The representatives from the upper school Gabriel Detlaf, Jacob Findlay, Tamzin Cummings and Lacey Colville have also helped to lead an assembly informing the whole school about the importance of children’s rights. The group are currently in the process of creating a whole school and playground charter which we will be sharing at assembly at the beginning of next term.

**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 Wednesday |
| P6 | Miss Johnstone | Monday and Thursday |
| P6/7 | Mrs McCarthy | Monday and Tuesday |
| P7 | Mr Masterton | Monday and Thursday |

**School Quality Improvement Plan 2022/23**

This year’s school improvement priorities were shared at our most recent Parent Council meeting and a simplified version is attached with this newsletter. A paper copy is also available from the office or on request by email. We are currently looking at alternative ways of sharing our improvements. Please get in touch should you wish to discuss further.

**Parent Council Halloween Disco – Thursday 27th October**

All children (and staff) are invited to attend a disco on Thursday 27th 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 £1.50 per child and all proceeds will go to Parent Council funds. Costumes or dress down (play clothes) can be worn.

**Afterschool Clubs**

Our afterschool and lunchtime clubs have been a remarkable success again this term, 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. We will be offering further after school opportunities next term; will we inform you in due course of the arrangements for these.

**School Playground Entry**

A reminder that all parents can enter our school playground now, there is no longer a requirement to wait on the Common or on the High Street to collect your children at the end of the school day. These restrictions were only place due to covid.

**Parent Helpers**

Thankfully, our school is fully 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 rattray@pkc.gov.uk

**Friday Skills Sessions – starting after the October holidays**

Our pupil 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 sessions which restart after the October holidays please get in touch, we would be happy to have you.

**P6/7 Ski Trip**

Following on from the notes of interest, Mr Brown will now organise for the Ski Tripp to be added to Parent Pay for you to sign your child up. The closing date for signing up with be 11th November. Mr Brown will organise a meeting with Cally Gordon before this date for you to be able to find out more about the trip and ask any questions you may have.

As a reminder, the trip is non-residential, with pupils travelling from Rattray to Glenshee daily. The cost is approximately £240, which includes transport, tuition, ski pass and equipment hire. Children do not have to have any skiing experience, and indeed usually this is the first time for most children skiing.

**School Refurbishment Update**

We have been informed that the last phase of the school refurbishment will be completed by Friday 7th October, and that all snagging work in our school building will take place during the October holidays. We are hopeful that the building contractors’ compound will be removed shortly after, meaning that the full school playground and staff carpark should be fully usable from Monday 31st October. I would like to thank you for your patience and understanding during the upgrade and extension project. Thankfully, the end is now in sight.

**Annual Data Collection**

This week children will be coming home with their annual data check form. This is a pre-populated form generated from our system that contains personal information pertaining to your child(ren). It is important that you check this over and let us know of any changes as this information is vital in case of emergencies. After reading over the form for any discrepancies you have three options:

1. The information is complete, and no changes are required. In which case you do not need to do anything else.

2. Changes are required. You can write anywhere on the form the changes that are required and return to school with your child using the same envelope.

3. Changes are required. You can write anywhere on the form the changes that are required, take a photo using your phone and email it to us at rattray@pkc.gov.uk

Please ensure the form is returned in an envelope, the same one from school is fine.  This protects your personal information. **Please return forms by Tuesday 4th October.**

**Parent and Pupil Surveys**

Prior to the summer break we asked for your feedback through a parent survey. We had twenty-six responses to this survey. We really appreciate that you took the time to share your views and value the positive feedback we received as a school. We will continue to work hard to improve on our strengths and develop areas of need. During this time we also surveyed our pupils. Attached to this newsletter are the results of both our parent and pupil surveys.

**Holiday dates**

School closes for the October holidays on Friday 7th October at 3.20pm and reopens for pupils on Monday 17th October at 9am. The school holiday and term dates up to June 2023 are available at the [following link.](https://www.pkc.gov.uk/article/21553/School-term-and-holiday-dates-2022-2023)

**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 advised 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.

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 do not hesitate to contact the school office or the email address below.

Yours faithfully



Joanna Robertson

Headteacher

rattray@pkc.gov.uk

01250 871980

Rattray Primary School Key Dates

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

**Other dates will be added.**

**September 2022**

Thursday 29th – Open Afternoon (2.30pm)

**October 2022**

Friday 7th – School closes for October holiday

Monday 24th - Back to School

Thursday 27th – Parent Council Halloween Discos

*6pm to 6.45pm for P1 to P3 classes/ 7pm to 8pm for P4 to P7 classes*

**November 2022**

Tuesday 8th - Parent Contact 1 (4pm to 6.30pm)

Wednesday 9th – Parent Contact 2 (5pm to 7.30pm)

**Thursday 10th – Inset Day school closed to pupils**

**Friday 11th – Inset Day school closed to pupils**

Monday 14th - Odd socks day (anti-bullying)

Monday 14th – 20th – Bookweek Scotland

Wednesday 23rd (5.30pm – 6.30pm) – HT- parent drop-in session (contact school office)

**December 2022**

Thursday 1st - Winter Fayre (6.30pm)

Wednesday 7th – Flu Immunisations

Friday 9th – Hopscotch Theatre (Jack and the Beanstalk)

Tuesday 13th - Infant Nativity (9.30am and 1.30pm)

Wednesday 14th (PM) in Hub- Nursery PM Party

Thursday 15th (AM) in Hub - Nursery AM Party

Friday 16th - Carols in the Playground (3pm)

Monday 19th - Christmas Jumper day and Christmas Lunch

Monday 19th - Nursery Christmas Activity Day and Song

Tuesday 20th – Whole School Christmas Party Day

Wednesday 21st - End of term Church service (10.30am)

Thursday 22nd (noon) – School closes for Winter Break

**January 2023**

Monday 9th - Back to School

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

**February 2023**

Wednesday 1st - Global play day

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

Friday 3rd – Upper School Scots Assembly (PM)

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

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

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

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

**March 2023**

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

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)**

Wednesday 7th (1.30pm) – School Sports Contingency Day

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

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

Tuesday 13th (1.45pm) – Nursery Sports Contingency Day

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

