

**MAY 2021 NEWSLETTER**

Dear pupils, parents/carers, and friends of Rattray

Apologies in advance for the bumper edition newsletter, please take a break whilst reading it if you need to!

This last term should be a period of celebration and reflection for any school, and at Rattray the staff have worked hard to ensure that we can still continue the Rattray annual traditions in a way which include the children and yourselves, which is a real challenge given the restrictions we still find ourselves under. We have, however, tried to pull together a programme of end of year school events which allows the children to come together safely. Unfortunately, we can’t invite parents, carers, and family members along to events this year, but where we can (if data protection laws allow), we will share photographs and release videos of events to you.

We feel very proud of how we, as a school community, are working through these challenging times together. I hope you have all managed to and continue to stay safe. This school year is not what we hoped for or expected, we can only hope that next year will be very different.

**Blairgowrie Rotary Club Quiz**

Well done to four of our P7 pupils who participated in an online general knowledge quiz earlier this month against 8 other schools in the Blairgowrie area. We didn’t win the event, but Rattray did exceptionally well only missing out on first place by one question. Congratulations to Hannah, Malcolm, Michal and Callum who represented the school so wonderfully. Thanks to the staff who supported this event too.

**John Muir Award**

We are delighted to share that Sarah Pillinger in P7 has been working really hard on the Discovery part of The John Muir Award over lockdown and received her certificate of completion.  She has completed 32 nature-based challenges over 7 weeks, this equates to over 32hours of investigating, walking round wild spaces, researching wildlife, and making posters, fact files, bird feeders, video and rain gauges. Sarah says she has had great fun doing the challenges and thinks others would really enjoy the award too. Congratulations Sarah we are very proud of you!

**Holiday dates**

School closes for the Summer holidays on Thursday 24th June at 12 noon and reopens for pupils on Wednesday 18th August at 9am. Further details to follow regarding a take-away packed lunch option supplied by Tayside Contracts.

**PE Times and Kit**

All our classes have at least two sessions of PE each week. This term children can come to school without uniform and wearing suitable sportswear (no football colours) on their PE days. We can undertake PE indoors now but the preferred option by PKC and the Scottish Government is weather permitting, PE should still be outside. Please note that on these days, jewellery should not be worn, and long hair should also be tied back.

**URGENT – School Reading Books**

Can we please ask that all library and reading books that you have at home are brought in to school, as soon as possible, in a plastic bag? To replace any missing books is considerably costly for the school, so please have a good search for books.

**School Lunches when running late**

We do appreciate that on occasions for whatever reason, children can be late for school. However, if you are running late and your child requires a school lunch, you need to call the school office by 9.30am at the latest and let them know to put in an order. There have recently been several occasions when it was too late to order a lunch for a child.

**Mobile Phones in school**

We have had a couple of incidents lately whereby pupils have been seen using their mobile phones in school. The policy states that pupils are **not** permitted to have their phones on their person in class time and that mobile phones will be stored in a locked container in the classroom or school office. Pupils should not be using their phones on school premises. It is, in the end, a choice of the pupil and parent to bring or allow mobile phones to school, and as such, the school cannot accept any responsibility for damage or loss of any device. We advise appropriate insurance for any mobile device brought to school, as the school **cannot**cover any loss or damage.

**Staggered entry times, exit times, breaks and lunchtimes.**

The staggered timings we have followed this term will continue until further notice. This is to alleviate congestion in the playground. We will review this on a regular basis and inform you of any changes.

**Breakfast club**

Our breakfast club continues to run at 8am daily. Please note there may be a reduced number of places available therefore it is highly recommended that places are booked in advance for the required days. Currently, places can be booked by emailing [rattraybreakfastclub@pkc.gov.uk](mailto:rattraybreakfastclub@pkc.gov.uk)

**Parent /Carer Communication**

Our school procedures will be adapted and updated in line with changes in government and council guidance. We will continue to keep you updated in our usual ways – Parent pay, school app, text messaging and our school Facebook page. Therefore, please ensure your Parent pay account, email address and your mobile phone numbers are all up to date.

**Communication with teaching staff**

We appreciate that given the current COVID led situation we find ourselves in, it can be difficult for parents to have face to face contact with school staff. Teaching staff are available at the end of the school day on most days to discuss any general matters or concerns you have. 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. Currently, whilst school is open school staff are not accessing their glow email addresses on a regular basis. If you need to make contact with your child’s class teacher or a member of the school management team this should be done through our school email [rattray@pkc.gov.uk](mailto:rattray@pkc.gov.uk) or by telephoning our school office during the hours of 8.30am to 3.15pm.

**School Handbook 2021/22**

Our school handbook for next session is available to view on the council website or in paper form from school office. Follow this link – [school handbook](https://www.pkc.gov.uk/media/32309/Rattray-Primary-School-Handbook-2021-22/pdf/Rattray_handbook_2021_-22.pdf?m=637433009665230000)

**Assessing Children’s Progress**

As you may be award 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 P1 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>

**Health Week – 31st May to 4th June**

We could not let our annual health week go unnoticed this year, and the nursery and teaching staff have created an array of creative and motivating health and sports activities for next week. This year, due to Covid restrictions we are unable to have a sports day in the Rattray traditional manner, however all classes will have their own individual ‘mini sport days’ during the health week. As you will understand parents can’t be invited to this.

In order to participate in Health week next week, **all children (including nursery pupils)** should come to school wearing suitable outdoor clothing for physical activity. Please make sure your child has a jacket and water bottle too.

**Bike Week – 7th to 11th June**

We have organised for children from p5-p7 to take part in either bike rides, or bike skills during the week beginning 7th June, with I Bike Officer, Alice Arnott. Alice has worked with the school on many occasions over the last couple of years, and is excellent at helping developing children’s love of, and proficiency, of cycling. P3/4 and P4/5 are both going to take part in nature walks with Alice and should come to school dressed appropriately for the weather, and the activity (no school uniform required). There is also an opportunity for children in p5-p7 who need support to learn to ride a bike, to take part in sessions, and letters have been sent out to sign up for this

**New P1 and Nursery Pupils**

I am delighted to say that we are looking forward to welcoming 28 new P1 children and some new families to the nursery in August.  The infant and nursery staff are working hard to ensure that these pupils have a smooth transition into our school. We will very shortly be sending out a presentation to our new pupils and their parents, which will give the pupils a chance to see their new teacher and nursery staff, alongside providing parents with much needed information.

The current Scottish Government advice regarding social distancing and close contact with other families make it really difficult for our school to provide our normal transition experience for our new pupils, we will be facilitating opportunities in school for existing nursery Rattray pupils to meet their new P1 teacher, and visit their new class prior to the summer break. We will also endeavour to provide a transition experience for those children who are not currently in our school nursery. Further details regarding transition will be provided to our new P1 and nursery parents soon.

**Exiting P7 Pupils**

We are extremely saddened that our current ‘fabulous’ primary 7 pupils have not had the P7 experience that they deserve and that their final year in primary school has been impacted so profoundly by the pandemic. This group of children have missed out on so much this school year. However, the P7 teachers and have created an exciting programme of events leading up to them leaving us on the 24th June. These events will be highlighted in the key dates section at the end of this newsletter, and more detail will follow from the P7 teachers.

**Nursery Graduation**

Nursery staff are currently working hard to prepare a virtual graduation celebration for all children transitioning to P1 in August. This celebration will be shared with you in due course.

**Annual Prizegiving**

it is especially important the we carry on with our Rattray traditions, and there are none so important as our prizegiving, however we are unable to provide a school service like we would normally do. The children will contribute to and take part in our prizegiving in a safe and socially distanced manner, but sadly we can’t invite parents and guests to this event. All our class prize and school trophy winners will be informed of their success and all the recipients of awards will be given the opportunity to receive their award at our ‘in house’ prizegiving. Our plan is to release a recording of our prizegiving and end of year celebration during the week beginning 14th June. We will provide you with further information nearer the time.

**Annual Pupil Report**

We are currently finalising our pupils reports and all parents/carers will receive their child’s school report in the coming weeks. If you would like a paper copy of last year’s school report, please let us know by emailing the school office.

**Classes for next session**

Our staffing and pupil numbers will be finalised in the coming weeks. When we have confirmed staffing information, we will inform you of your child’s class and teacher for the next academic session. Teachers will already be thinking about sharing handover notes to new class teachers and planning for their new classes.

Please be mindful that classes are created following strict council guidance and are based on the children’s chronological age. As much as we would like, we cannot take consideration of friendship groups or other factors, whilst we are happy to discuss concerns it is highly unlikely that classes will be altered.

**Transport Applications for P1 and S1 Pupils**

**As you may be aware, all transport application forms for the new school year commencing in August must be returned to Education & Children's Services for new P1 pupils and P7 pupils moving to secondary school fin order for transport to be organised from August.  As transport planning for August is now underway, it is critical that all new pupils expecting to use school transport in August have applied and are known to us.    Any parents of new P1 or P7 pupils moving to secondary school who are entitled to transport must submit their transport applications as a matter of urgency if they have not done so. The online application is below:**

<https://www.pkc.gov.uk/article/17284/Schools-transport-and-trips>

**Free school transport is only available to pupils attending their catchment school and living more than 2 miles (primary) or 3 miles (secondary) from the school measured by the shortest available walking route.**

**School Refurbishment and extension**

Our extensive school refurbishment will commence this summer holiday, and works will begin to take place as soon as we leave the school in June. This extensive project will last from early June until Summer 2022. The school will be fully decorated, recarpeted, refloored and refurnished, there will be repairs to the flat roof, upgrading of the plant room, and re-routing of services externally. As you know, our nursery space will be extended to accommodate more families in local community with extended hours and weeks, we are now officially Rattray Early Childhood Centre. The school and nursery will look very different when the works have been completed. Alongside these changes the plumbing, electrics, heating and Wi-Fi systems will be upgraded.

Enabling works in our playground will commence week beginning 14th June, and over the summer holidays, work will take place in the office areas and in P6, P6/7 and P7 classes upstairs. These areas will be fully usable when we return in August. Thereafter classes will be decanted in pairs for periods of four weeks to two of our spare classrooms, whilst work is being undertaken in their area of the school. The first classes after the summer to be decanted will be our new P3 and P3/4 classes, which means in August these classes will initially be in our decant classrooms.

As a school we are very excited about this project and are looking forward to our revamped Rattray, as always I will share further details as they arise.

**Community Views Wanted!**

The Blairgowrie & Rattray Community Action Plan Steering Group want to know what the people of Blairgowrie & Rattray think about their community. And this is where you can play your part. Please take a few minutes to complete a brief seven question Survey to express your views on what you think your community needs now and how you feel it could be improved as a place to live in, work in or visit. [Click here to complete the Survey](https://brdt.us20.list-manage.com/track/click?u=672d3d801f13c1143579e92c9&id=103a02548b&e=67c301a116)

**RAG BAG collection**

Thank you to everyone who donates items throughout the school year to our rag bag collection point in the staff car park, this school year alone your kindness has generated £189 for school funds.

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 email address below.

Please stay safe, take care and do stay in touch with the school in whatever way you can.

Yours faithfully



Joanna Robertson

Headteacher

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**Rattray Primary School**

**Key Dates Session 20-21**

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

**Other dates will also be added**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| When | What | Who for | Anything else |
| W/B 31ST May | Health Week | Primary School and Nursery | Dressed in sports wear |
| Thursday 3rd June | Tayside Contracts  Lunchtime Barbeque | Primary School and Nursery |  |
| Monday 7th June | Bike week | P5 (from p4/5) Biking  P3/4 Nature Walk | Dressed in sports wear with bikes |
| Tuesday 8th June | Bike week | P5G Bike Skills  P4/5 Nature Walk | Dressed in sports wear with bikes |
| Wednesday 8th June | Bike week | P6M Bike Ride Group 1  P6/7 Bike Ride Group 1  P7M Bike Ride Group 3 | Dressed in sports wear with bikes |
| Thursday 9th June | Bike week | P6m Bike Ride Group 2  P6/7 Bike Ride Group 2  P7M Bike Ride Group 3 | Dressed in sports wear with bikes |
| Wednesday 9th May  10am – 11am | Gig on a Truck Music Event | Primary School and Nursery | Pupils in playground |
| **From Monday 14th June**  **Parts of playground out of bounds / access to common available?** | | | |
| Monday 14th June  PM | Scotland Euros football game | Those who want to attend | Set up area to watch in playground |
| Tuesday 15th June | Sports competition  (led by Caroline Lawrie) | All P7 pupils | Dressed in sports wear  Further info. to follow |
| Wednesday 16th June | Sports competition  (led by Caroline Lawrie) | All P7 pupils | Dressed in sports wear  Further info. to follow |
| Thursday 17th June | P7 Fun Day and Party | All P7 pupils | Dress as you please |
| Friday 18th June | P7 Activity Day  (led by Cally Gordon) | All P7 pupils | Dressed in sports wear  Further info. to follow |
| Tuesday 22nd June | Whole School Activity Afternoon – PM | Primary School | Dressed in sports wear |
| Wednesday 23rd June | P7 sway released – AM  P7 leavers assembly - PM | Whole School to watch and attend | Further info. to follow |
| Thursday 24th June | Last day  Whole school guard of honour for P7s | Primary School |  |
| Thursday 24th June | School closes at 12 noon | Primary School |  |