

**NOVEMBER 2020 NEWSLETTER**

Dear pupils, parents/carers and friends of Rattray

Whilst it is lovely having our pupils back in school, it is saddening that we are not able to undertake the usual frivolities and festivities that come with this term. The parent council Halloween disco was missed by pupils and by staff who do love seeing all the fantastic costumes. As a staff, we are trying to ensure that our Christmas celebrations are not hampered by pandemic restrictions and are trying to be as creative as possible. If you too have any suggestions as to how we adapt our annual festive celebrations, please do get in touch. Meanwhile there are several items I wish to draw to your attention.

**Welcome to our school**

We have had several new pupils join us this session – Giorgiana Groza-Balea (P1), Shay Grant (P1/2), Kacper Mikolowski (P1/2), Grace Welsh (P1/2), Kayla Deuchars (P3), Charlotte Findlay (P5), Veronica Groza (P5), Joey Rooney (P5), Stefania Groza (P6/7), Callum Jenkins (P6/7) and Alesha Deuchars (P7). Currently, we have three student teachers visiting our school Mr Grant in P1/2, Miss Kilroy in P3/4 and Miss Stokes in P6. They will be teaching in their respective classes until mid – December. We hope all our new starts and visitors will enjoy their time at Rattray Primary School.

**School Prefects**

All our P7s are school prefects this academic session, and they are now all in possession of new Rattray prefect hoodie, which they are delighted with. These hoodies were partly funded by our Parent Council, for which I am very grateful. There are several responsibilities and expectations which come with the prefect role, and I am sure that our P7 prefects can be wonderful role models for our younger pupils.

**HT Drop-in Evenings**

The next HT ‘drop-in’ session will be Wednesday 25th November from 5.30 – 6.30pm in the school, where I will be available to discuss any issues, concerns or perhaps just a chance to have a chat. Currently, we can’t allow visitors into school however please do contact the office if you would like a private discussion with me.

**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 or by telephoning our school office during the hours of 8.30am to 3.15pm.

**Pupil Council**

As part of our ongoing School Improvement work, the Pupil Council have been discussing what they think “engaged learners” are like. They have drawn up a list of what they would expect to see in a class and will be following this up by taking part in learning walks later this term. The children were very enthusiastic in sharing how their own teacher helped and engaged and are looking forward to seeing other classes engaged in their learning.

**Outdoor Learning**

Currently, our PE lessons still taking place outdoors. In order to assist our outdoor learning, we have the support of others in our local community.

Caroline Lawrie, our Active Sports Coordinator is working with every class. She is taking each class for a session of orienteering, and so far, the children have really loved the sessions they have had. It has been a great way to get outside and develop our communication and team work skills. Caroline is also working with P6s and training them as Young Leaders, ready to help younger children in the playground during breaks.

Team work and leaderships skills are key skills children need. Our prefects have duties and responsibilities they carry out throughout the year, and to help them in this, Cally Gordon will be providing training and input to help them work as a team to solve problems.

**Scholastic Book Fair – Wednesday 18th to Wednesday 25th November**

Due to the success of our previous book fairs, we have once again booked a Scholastic Book Fair for this month. If we sell over £300 worth of books, Scholastic will match what we sell. Any money raised will go towards buying books to supplement our school library. Due to current restrictions, we will have to adapt our normal approaches. Further information will follow.

**Children in Need event – Wednesday 11th November**

In school on Wednesday 11th November we will be celebrating Children in Need. We will be taking part in a Spotty and Sporty day, during which classes will participate in non-stop activity between 9.30 - 3pm. (Our version of the Joe Wicks challenge). Each class will participate in a 30-minute session. We would also like to invite all pupils and staff to come in wearing something spotty and/or sporty. This will take place outdoors in our courtyard space. Please ensure your child dresses accordingly for outdoor weather in November. A suggested donation of £1 can be made for Children in Need via parent pay. Please help us to support this very worthwhile cause.

**Ongoing School Refurbishment and Nursery extension**

This has been put on hold and will likely resume in June 2021. I will keep you updated as I receive further information.

**Parent Council**

Our Parent Council AGM takes place online on **Thursday 26th November**. All parents and carers are welcome to attend. If you have any items for the agenda or want further information about our Parent Council, please visit our Parent Council Facebook page. <https://www.facebook.com/Rattray-Primary-Parent-Council-1486611214939520/>

**Scottish Book Trust – Read, Write, Count**

Read, Write, Count is a campaign to improve the literacy and numeracy skills of Scotland’s children by providing advice and support for the families of children in Primary 1, 2 and 3. Research tells us that parental involvement in children’s learning is one of the best ways to improve educational outcomes for all children. Read, Write, Count is about giving parents the confidence to get involved and provides resources to support learning at home.

Through the Read, Write, Count programme, all P2 and P3 children in Scotland will receive a free bag with books, counting games and writing materials. These will be issued this month. To help support parents this website: <https://www.scottishbooktrust.com/topics/read-write-count> has lots of simple ideas for working fun reading, writing and counting activities into daily life.

**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 P7 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>

**Primary 6 and 7 Skiing Trip**

Normally we would hold an information event, in order to share more detail about the ski trip, and to answer any questions. Whilst this is not possible, Mr Brown has planned an alternative, there will be a virtual meeting with Cally Gordon, which will be recorded and shared with you.

If you have any questions you would like to ask about the trip, can you please email these to rattray@pkc.gov.uk and put “SKI TRIP” in the subject header. We will then meet with Cally to ask your questions, and then share the recording with you all. Please send these by the end of this week.

As a reminder, the trip is non-residential, with pupils travelling from Rattray to Glenshee daily. The cost is approximately £210, 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 Uniform Swap Shop**

Uniform Reuse is an initiative that has been set up to reduce waste & promote recycling. If your children have outgrown school uniform that is still in good condition, why not donate it so another family can make use of it.

We need donations of the following: polo/cotton shirts, jumpers and cardigans, trousers, skirts and dresses, PE kits, coats, any other school items and with Christmas approaching Xmas jumpers. Donations can be handed into: ‘The Green Way’, Leslie Street, Blairgowrie.

If you are looking for extra jumpers etc in the run up to winter, or your children have outgrown (or outworn) their uniform after the first term at school, pop into ‘The Green Way’ and see what we have, or email your request form to - uniforms@sustainable-way.org and we will contact you when your order is ready for collection. The Swap Shop is free and open to all.

**Severe Weather Guidance**

Accompanying this newsletter is guidance on our school closure procedures, in the event of severe weather or other emergencies.

**Mobile Phones in school**

We have had a couple of incidents lately whereby pupils have been seen using their mobile phones in school. I would like to draw your attention to our school mobile phone policy which accompanies this newsletter. The policy states that pupils are **not** permitted to have their phones on their person in class time. Mobile phones should 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.

**Poppies and Armistice Day**

Thank you to everyone who has purchased a poppy over the last few weeks, our school have raised £78 so far for the Poppy Scotland appeal. This coming Wednesday 11th November at 11am, we will hold a 2-minute silence across the school in quiet reflection of all those who have lost their lives in wars across the globe.

**Christmas Cards**

Thanks to all families who have purchased Christmas cards, this has raised £270 for school funds. Thanks to the class teachers who is supporting this allowed Christmas to come early in their classes. A huge thanks to Mrs Russell of P2, who every year organises us all and makes sure the children’s Christmas card designs are created, sent home and returned to the Cauliflower cards in plenty of time for families to receive them for Christmas. A huge task in a such a large school. Well done Mrs Russell.

**Blairgowrie School’s Numeracy and Maths Trail**

Over the October holidays we were delighted to see photos from lots of our pupils taking part in the Numeracy and Maths Trail. We were so pleased to see that the Trail had proved popular and that lots of answer sheets were handed in. Well done to everyone who took part.

The prize draws have now taken place and there were lots of lucky winners from Rattray:

Grace Pick P1M, Callum Jenkins P6/7, Hollie Dryburgh P3G, Sara Fergusson P1M, Dawid Fojuth P1M, Dominik Maj P2R, Ellie Galloway P4/5, Sophie Norman P3/4, Lydia O’Neill P4/5, Esme McCulley P1M, Alex Duncan P3G, Sophie Wemys P3G, Ethan Clarke P3/4, Johnny Gregg- Bailey P1M, Katie Saunders P4/5 and Sophia Dingwall P2R.

Congratulations to you all.

The prizes will be coming home in the next few weeks once the local paper has been in to take photographs. Everyone who handed in an answer sheet will be sent home with a small prize too! Thank you to all the local businesses who took part and donated prizes.

**Inset Days**

A reminder that school will be closed for to pupils for INSET training this month, on **Thursday 12th and Friday 13th November.**

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

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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**

**November 2020**

Tuesday 10th - Parent Contact 1 (4pm to 6.30pm)

Wednesday 11th – Spotty and Sporty Day in aid of Children in Need

Wednesday 11th – Parent Contact 2 (5pm to 7.30pm)

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

**Friday 13th – Inset Day school closed to pupils**

Monday 16th - Odd socks day (anti-bullying)

Friday 20th – Tempest School Photographer (TBC)

Tuesday 24th November – Eye Screening for all P1 pupils (rescheduled from Nursery due to lockdown)

Wednesday 25th November (5.30pm – 6.30pm) – HT- parent drop-in session

**December 2020**

Thursday 10th – Flu Immunisations

Tuesday 15th December – School Nativity – further details to follow

Tuesday 15th December (AM) – P1 to P3/4 attend virtual Panto live from Perth Theatre

Tuesday 15th December (PM) in Hub- Nursery PM

Wednesday 16th December (AM) in Hub - P3 and P3/4

Wednesday 16th December (PM) in Hub - P6, P6/7 and P7

Thursday 17th December (AM) in Hub - P1, P1/2 and P2

Thursday 17th December (AM) – P4/5 to P7 attend virtual Panto live from Perth Theatre

Thursday 17th December (PM) in Hub - P4/5 and P5

Friday 18th December (AM) in Hub - Nursery AM

Friday 18th December - Carols in the Playground (3pm)

Tuesday 22nd December - Christmas Jumper day and Christmas Lunch

Tuesday 22nd December - Nursery Christmas Activity Day and Songs

Wednesday 23rd December - End of term service (10.30am)

Friday 23rd (noon) – School closes for Winter Break

**January 2021**

Thursday 7th - Back to School

Tuesday 26th January (5.30pm – 6.30pm) – HT- parent drop-in session

Friday 29th January – Upper School Burns Assembly (PM)

**February 2021**

w/b 1st February – Provisional dates for Skiing week

Wednesday 3rd - Global play day

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

**Thursday 11th – Public Holiday school closed to all**

**Friday 12th - Public Holiday school closed to all**

**March 2021**

Tuesday 2nd - Parent Contact 1 (4pm to 6.30pm)

Wednesday 3rd – Parent Contact 2 (5pm to 7.30pm)

w/b 15th March – P7 residential week Lendrick Muir

Wednesday 24th (5.30pm – 6.30pm) – HT- parent drop-in session

Thursday 25th – Open Afternoon (2.30pm)

Tuesday 30th – Upper School Show (afternoon and evening performances)

**April 2021**

Thursday 1st – Easter Church Service (2pm)

Thursday 1st – School closes for Spring holiday (3.20pm)

**Friday 2nd - Public Holiday school closed to all**

Monday 19th - Back to School

**May 2021**

Monday 3rd – **Public Holiday school closed to all**

Tuesday 11th May (5.30pm – 6.30pm) – HT- parent drop-in session

w/b 31st May – Health Week

**June 2021**

Wednesday 2nd – Nursery Sports Day

Thursday 3rd – Sports day (Upper School AM/Infant school PM)

10th/ 11th June – P7 Transition Days

Wednesday 16th June (5.30pm – 6.30pm) – HT- parent drop-in session

Thursday 17th June – P7 Prom

Friday 18th June – P7 Leaver Assembly

Monday 21st June – Nursery Graduation

Wednesday 23rd June – Prizegiving (Upper School AM/Infant school PM)

Thursday 24th June – School closes for Summer Break (12 noon)