



JANUARY 2026 NEWSLETTER

Dear pupils, parents/carers and friends of Rattray

I hope this January newsletter (a little later than planned—my apologies!) finds you well and that you enjoyed a joyful and restful festive break. The new term seems to have begun much like the last one ended, with both staff and pupils contending with a range of winter bugs. We're hopeful this passes soon and that everyone's energy returns. Despite this, our dedicated staff have already launched into another busy and exciting term of learning, with a wonderful variety of activities, projects, and special events planned for your children.

Over the next few weeks, we have several events taking place. As always, these can be found in the annual dates section at the end of each newsletter, but I've included additional detail below to help keep you informed. I encourage you to stay connected with our school community through our communication channels and by joining us at school events whenever possible.

Thank you

I would like to thank all the parents, relatives, staff and pupils who participated in our Christmas events. Our school nativities and 'Christmas songs in the Hub' were well attended and at capacity. Your food bank donations as an entry fee, as always were overwhelming. They were greatly received by The Trussell Trust and weighed over 100kg. Our Pupils Festive Funday, Disco, and Raffle were a great success, and the money raised went a long way to making Christmas so enjoyable for our Rattray children. This brought in £1,171, and even after Christmas expenses, including food, materials etc... we had a huge profit of £711. The money raised has gone a long way to making Christmas so enjoyable for our Rattray children, and we also help towards funding our school excursions later in the year.

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. Each gift was gratefully received (and eaten or drank)!

Christmas card to local care homes

Unless, you have an older child at school you may not be aware that our upper school classes send a personalised Christmas card with a lovely letter attached to every person resident in Blairgowrie care homes. This totalled 129 cards. We have received lovely emails, phone calls and letters from the care home staff and residents thanking the school pupils and staff for their endeavours. Below are some examples the replies to the children from the residents:

'My uncle loved your letter, he was so happy. He loved your joke, it made him laugh.'

'Thank you for your card and Christmas decoration, my granddaughters are helping me write back to you,. It was nice to hear all about you and what you like'.

'Thankyou for your letter, I enjoyed reading it. When I was your age which was a very long time ago I liked golf too'.

'I would like to say thankyou and I hope you get your Christmas wish'.

'Delighted to receive your letter. I enjoyed playing with my friends in the street when I was your age.'

'Thank you for the letter you wrote to me. It was a pleasure to read.'

'Thank you for the beautiful card I received. I enjoyed playing with my friends and family when I was your age.'

Scots Afternoon (change of date) – Friday 6th February – 2pm (sharp)

Our Scots Afternoon (poster also attached) will be led by our upper school pupils from P6, P6/7 and P7. During the afternoon all our classes 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! **Use this link to book your tickets** <https://forms.office.com/e/JDpSsEu7X7>

On this afternoon you will have the opportunity to hear our Scots poetry winners from each class. Parents of these children will be informed separately, and we will ensure that seating is kept at the Scots afternoon for 2 family members of each winning child.

P6 Skiing – 26th to 29th January 2026

We are still hopeful that the ski trip will go ahead this year. In preparation, can I remind you, if you haven't already, to return the form that shares your child's height/weight/shoe size etc. Also, to remind you that if you need to hire clothing from Cally Gordon, to contact him soon and arrange visiting him to organise. His contact number is 07720126638.

Please remember that we leave the school at 8.30am every morning and return at about 4.30pm. A message will be posted on Facebook (if we have sufficient signal!) to advise of arrival time each day.

Global Play Day – Wednesday 4th February 2026

"You can discover more about a person in an hour of play than in a year of conversation." – Plato

At Rattray Primary School we value the importance of play and for the last 6 years we have celebrated Global School Play Day (GSPD). GSPD has been promoted by psychologists and is being celebrated in schools around the world. We are inviting all pupils to bring in things to play with on this special day e.g., dress up, board games etc.

Inset Days and Public Holidays

A reminder that our school will be closed to pupils on **Wednesday 11th February** and to both pupils and staff on **Thursday 12th and Friday 13th February**.

Rattray Primary School Registration 2026

If your child is turning five up to and including the 28 February 2027, they are eligible to start school in **August 2026**, 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](#). Please note, you will need to provide:

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](#) asking that your child be granted a place in a school other than your local catchment area school. The closing date for submitting a placing request for session 2026/27 is **Sunday 15th March 2026**. If submitting a placing request, you should not register your child at the local catchment school.

Rattray Early Childhood Centre Registration 2026

Applications for places in the Council's nursery classes and early childhood centres in 2026/27 are now open. Please follow this link and complete forms as required <https://www.pkc.gov.uk/nurseryregistration>

School Handbook 2025/26

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](#)

School Terms and Holiday Dates 2025-26 and 2026-27

The council have recently released the school term dates for the next two school sessions. Follow this link - [School term and holiday dates - Perth & Kinross Council](#)

Parent Council Update

The next Parent Council meeting will take place on Thursday 22nd January at 5.30pm, in the school staff room. All parents and carers are welcome to attend the parent council meetings, and as a school we would urge you to think about coming along to meetings.

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 them 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/Ratray-Primary-Parent-Council-1486611214939520/>

Assessing Children's Progress

As you may be aware National Standardised Assessments have been in place across Scottish schools for a few years, 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. If you require further information, could you please contact the school office.

Appropriate clothing for winter weather

Please can we ask that your child comes to school each day with a coat and appropriate footwear. It is important that our pupils get plenty of exercise and fresh air, so children will be outdoors for break and lunchtimes in all weathers (except torrential rain and high winds). During the school week, children will spend periods learning outdoors too, therefore it's always best to be prepared.

Severe Weather Guidance

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

Staff Car Park Access

We kindly remind all parents and carers that the staff car park is **NOT** to be used for dropping off or picking up children at **ANY TIME**. This restriction is in place to ensure the safety of everyone and to prevent congestion during the busiest times of the day,

When parents and carers use the very small staff car park, it can lead to:

- Cars waiting on the main road to enter the car park.
- Blocked spaces preventing staff from parking, our staff can quite often have bulky and heavy resources which need to be easily transported to the school building.
- Increased risk when exiting onto the main road.

The only exception is the designated disabled bay for our parent/carers with a valid blue badge.

For the safety and smooth running of the school, the car park is therefore OUT OF BOUNDS to anyone other than school staff and badge holders. Thank you for your cooperation and understanding.

Just2Easy Parent Portal

From November 2024, we have been using Just2easy Parent Portal to share your child's learning in class and eventually home learning. The Parent Portal is being used as communication tool to send home school information too.

If you have not logged into Just2Easy yet you need an email with a link. Please get in touch with the school office to receive this.

We will however continue to keep you updated in our usual ways – Parentpay, school app, text messaging and celebrate our successes on our school Facebook page. **Therefore, please ensure your Parentpay account, email address and your mobile phone numbers are all up to date.** 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.

Yours faithfully



Headteacher

ratray@pkc.gov.uk

01250 871980

Ratray Primary School Key Dates

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

Other dates will also be added.

January 2026

Monday 7th - Back to School
26th - 29th – P6 Skiing Week
28th – P7s to High School Visit (AM)

February 2026

Wednesday 4th - Global play day
Friday 5th – Scots Assembly (2pm)
Wednesday 11th – Inset Day school closed to pupils
Thursday 12th – Public Holiday school closed to all
Friday 13th - Public Holiday school closed to all
Wednesday 18th – Bikeability sessions (other information sent out)

March 2026

Week beginning 9th and 16th – Nursery Parent Contact Session
Wednesday 11th (5pm to 7.30pm)– Parent Contact 3
Thursday 12th (4pm to 6.30pm) - Parent Contact 4
Wednesday 11th – Young Carers Day
Friday 13th – Glee Choir at Perth Concert Hall (6pm start)
Thursday 19th – NHS smoking/vaping awareness session for P5 pupils
Friday 20th March – Comic Relief Day
Wb 30th March – Health Week

April 2026

Thursday 2nd – Nursery Spring Activity Afternoon and Next Steps Celebration
Friday 3rd - School closed for Good Friday
Monday 20th - Back to School

May 2026

Monday 4th - **Public Holiday (May Day) school closed to all**
Monday 25th to Thursday 28th – P7 residential week Lendrick Muir (pupils only)
Friday 29th – **Inset Day school closed to pupils**

June 2026

Thursday 4th (12 noon to 1pm) – School Summer BBQ (all welcome)
Thursday 4th – Open Afternoon - Class Focus (2.15pm)
Monday 8th June (1.30pm) – Strong Start 2 sports day in courtyard
Tuesday 9th (1.45pm) – Nursery Sports Day (**more information to follow**)
Wednesday 10th June - School Sports day (**more information to follow**)
Thursday 11th/ Friday 12th – P1 / P7 Transition Days (**more information to follow**)
Wednesday 17th June - School Sports day contingency (**more information to follow**)
Monday 15th June (1.30pm) – Strong Start 2 sports day in courtyard Contingency Day
Tuesday 16th (1.45pm) – Nursery Sports Contingency Day
Thursday 18th (1.45pm) – Teddy Bear's Picnic (Current and New P1 pupils)
Wednesday 24th – Moving up Morning/meet new class teachers
Thursday 25th (1.15pm) – Nursery Graduation (by invitation)
Thursday 25th – Nursery Summer Activity Afternoon and Next Steps Celebration
Friday 26th June (1.30pm) –Prizegiving (by invitation)
Monday 29th June (2pm) – P7 Leaver's Assembly (by invitation)
Tuesday 30th June (PM) – P7 Leaver's Party (pupils only)
Wednesday 1st July – End of term fun day / staff v pupils netball. /Ratray's got talent. etc (**more information to follow**)
Thursday 2nd July –P7 Shirt Signing (pupils only)
Thursday 2nd July (12 noon) – School closes for Summer Break