



JUNE 2024 NEWSLETTER

It has only been six weeks since our last newsletter and those weeks have been packed full of learning and events for our pupils. In this short time scale our P7s went to Lendrick Muir, our P6s have had weekly bowling coaching at Ratray Bowling Club, our classes have Auchingarrich Wildlife Centre, Sensation and Camperdown Park, some children competed in cricket, tennis, football and athletics competitions, we had a barbeque, we participated in our sports day and potted sports, our P7s visited high school, our new P1s came to visit our school, we had a charity fun run for CHAS, our P6s had music lessons from the high school, our P7s visited SCYD, the fire station, the police station and had a visit from the Scottish Parliament and finally some of our children were lucky enough to visit Hampden to see the Scottish football team training!

All these events and activities need careful planning and organisation and wouldn't happen without the commitment and dedication of our school team, from the office staff who make sure all these events run smoothly, to our school and nursery support staff who transport and accompany children to events and to the teaching and nursery staff who plan many of the events and activities. Before this school year draws to a close it's important to acknowledge our Ratray staff team who go 'above and beyond' for our pupils. It goes without saying how much I appreciate them and would like to thank them for all they do for our pupils.

We are now in the final days of this school session, and I'd like to thank our school community, parents/carers, staff and other professionals who support our children and school daily. I hope everyone connected with our school has a relaxing and well-deserved summer break.

Successful Students

We are always incredibly proud of our Ratray pupils, but recently several students have raised the bar which regards to their achievements.

A group of our P6 students won the local **cricket** festival in Meigle, which meant they progressed to the Perth and Kinross cricket finals. Our Ratray pupils played exceptionally well. This regional final had teams from all over Scotland including the private sector. We are absolutely delighted that our school again reached the regional finals. Well done Alex, Marcus, Carina, Max, Shaih, Ethain, Charlie, Lewis and Jacob. Also, a huge thanks to Mrs Coles for accompanying the children to the different events.

In May, some pupils from P3, P3/4 and P4/5 represented our school at a tennis tournament in Blairgowrie. They played fantastically well and all 3 of our entered teams were placed 1st, 2nd and 3rd. Well done to all our budding Murrays and Raducanus, those competing were Shy, Hope, Helena, Leo, Dominik, Sara, Josh, Marta, David, Amelis, Jessica-Rose, Laila and Rudy.

Recently, some of our P6 and P7 pupils attended the cluster athletics event at George Duncan Stadium. Our pupils competed in several different events and did exceptionally well. Hayden Baker won his event and went on to run at the County sports. A huge well done to all our athletes, and a huge thanks to all the parents who transported the children to and from the event. Finally, thanks to Mrs Newlands who attended the event and supported the children too.

Earlier this term, our Ratray Quiz team reached the regional finals. On the day they came 4th from 9 teams scoring an amazing 100 points. They missed reaching the Scottish finals by only 5 points or 2 1/2 questions. We are so very proud of these 4 children! Well done to our smart P7s Iain, Ashleigh, Niko and Jock.

Exiting P7 Pupils

We will be sad to say goodbye to our current 'fabulous' primary 7 pupils, although they enjoyed their visits to high school so much, they didn't want to come back to primary school! We know that every one of them is capable of great things, and we wish them lots of luck and success for the future years at high school and beyond.

We will have our usual Ratray send-off when they exit from the main school office along with staff leavers via our 'Ratray human arch' to Ratray Common at 12 noon on Thursday. Bring your cameras and tissues!

Staffing Update

There are some staffing changes which will take place during the summer break.

I am very pleased (but also saddened) to announce that Mrs Diane Johnstone was interviewed successfully on Friday and has secured a temporary seconded promotion to Oakbank Primary School, Perth as Acting Depute Head Teacher. This will be a wonderful opportunity for Mrs Johnstone and is very thoroughly deserved. Mrs Johnstone will provisionally take up her new post after the summer break and will be in her new post until June 2026 at least. We wish her well in this new challenge.

Secondly, Mrs Gillian Newlands was interviewed successfully on Thursday and appointed as a Pupil Support Teacher at Inchview Primary School, Perth. This takes Mrs Newlands closer to her family home and provides an opportunity for her to explore other teaching avenues. Mrs Newlands will take up her new post after the summer break and is unlikely to return to Rattray Primary School. Again, everyone at the school wishes her well in this new venture.

This leaves class teacher vacancies in both Primary 4/5 and Primary 6/7, which are currently being advertised internally within the council. I anticipate interviewing candidates during the summer break and should be able to share with you who the new class teachers of both these classes prior to school recommencing in August.

Mrs Miriam Laing, Early Child Practitioner (ECP) in our nursery was also interviewed on Friday and has been appointed as a Senior ECP in Coupar Angus nursery. This is a well-deserved promotion for Mrs Laing and I am certain she will excel in this new role.

I am sure you will join me in wishing Mrs Johnstone, Mrs Newlands and Mrs Laing all the best in their new posts.

August will see the return of Mr Craig Brown currently on secondment with Angus Council to his substantive post of Rattray Depute Headteacher (DHT). Whilst we are delighted that Mr Brown returns to Rattray, it is also with a heavy heart that Mrs Fiona McCarthy will revert to her class teacher post. What a pity we can't have two DHTs at Rattray! Mrs McCarthy has been a very capable replacement for Mr Brown and has risen to the challenge of DHT. I would like to thank Mrs McCarthy and congratulate her for she has achieved in her 18 months of covering the DHT vacancy. After the summer, Mrs McCarthy will very ably be teaching our P6 class.

Over the last year, we have been fortunate that funding was available to have two Acting Principal Teachers (PT) in the form of class teachers Mrs Sarah Russell and Ms Helen Gregg, who led play pedagogy, outdoor learning and literacy across the school. Unfortunately, this funding has ended which means both Mrs Russell and Ms Gregg PT contracts will end. Both of these teachers did a wonderful job in moving the school forward, I would like to thank them both for the dedication and commitment they have given the school in their PT roles and for the energy they brought to the school leadership team.

As you aware our office has been short on staff since recent staff departures. I am delighted to share that last week a new office staff member Mrs Natalie Aitken joined us. Mrs Aitken have strong connections with the school and the community, having been a former pupil herself. We are delighted to have Mrs Aitken as part of our wonderful Rattray team.

School Uniform and expectations for after the summer

After the summer break, the wearing of school uniform by all pupils will be expected every day. Since Covid and more recently, there has been a significant downturn across all classes in the wearing of school uniform. **Considering this children will no longer be able to come to school on PE days in their sports clothes.** All pupils will change either in their classroom or in the hub changing rooms (age dependent) for class PE lessons.

Through the Parent Council, Mantalk and Pupil Equity Funding every child in the school has been given a labelled gym bag and t-shirt in their house colours. These will be kept in your child's new classroom for their return in the new school year. Therefore, for PE lessons going forward, children will be expected to wear black shorts/leggings, house coloured or white t-shirt and trainers/gym shoes. For outdoor PE, tracksuit bottoms or leggings, a warm top and trainers will be needed. Children will no longer be able to wear football or sports strips.



GOING FORWARD PLEASE SUPPORT THE SCHOOL BY ENSURING YOUR CHILD WEARS SCHOOL UNIFORM EVERY DAY AND BRINGS SUGGESTED SPORTS KIT TO CHANGE INTO ON THEIR PE DAYS.

Our school uniform supplier is Border Embroideries who provide a greater range of affordable uniform. The website allows uniform to be delivered to your home address if you pay a delivery charge, or it can be sent free to the

companies Dundee store. You can find all available uniform options (grey and maroon) at this web address. <https://www.border-embroideries.co.uk/schools/ratray-primary-school.html> You will also find several sporting options too, including our new school sports top and house sports t-shirts. However, there is no expectation to order from this company or have Rattray branded uniform, supermarket uniform in school colours is more than acceptable.

As a reminder our school uniform is a combination of grey, maroon and white. All children's belongings should be named or have some mark of identification.

Grey skirt, grey pinafore, grey trousers, grey culottes or grey shorts

White polo shirt or white shirt/blouse

Red/Maroon gingham dress

Grey/Maroon sweatshirt, cardigan or jumper

Maroon Hoodie (P7 Prefects only)

School Tie



Free school meals and school clothing grants

Free School Meals are offered to **ALL** pupils in P1 - P5 **without the need for parents/carers to apply**. Don't forget to apply for Free School Meals for your child when they move into P6 as they will no longer be automatically entitled to Free School Meals.

An application form must be completed if you also require a school clothing grant for your child in P1-P7. Parents/Carers in receipt of a qualifying benefit will receive an annual school clothing grant of £126 per child in primary school and £157 per child in secondary school. Please [Apply online](#)

You can claim free school meals (P6 and P7) and a school clothing grant (all ages) for your child(ren) if you are receiving:

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- any income-related element of Employment and Support Allowance
- Child Tax Credit, but not Working Tax Credit, with an income of less than £19,995
- both Child Tax Credit and Working Tax Credit with an income of up to £9,552
- support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- Universal Credit with a monthly earned income of not more than £796
- If you are aged 16 to 18 years and receive any of these benefits in your own right, you can claim free school meals for yourself.

It is also useful to note that for every child who receives a clothing grant, will also bring funding through the pupil equity fund (PEF) to our school. This PEF funding helps provide additional staff, subsidise school trips and events and supports free breakfasts and other initiatives aimed to raise equity and attainment. THEREFORE, APPLYING FOR SCHOOL CLOTHING GRANT NOT ONLY BENEFITS YOU PERSONALLY BUT THE SCHOOL AS A WHOLE – SO PLEASE APPLY IF YOU THINK ARE ENTITLED TO THIS OR CONTACT THE SCHOOL OFFICE AND WE WILL SUPPORT YOU TO DO THIS.

For more information regarding free meals and clothing grants please visit the PKC website. [Free school meals and school clothing grants - primary and secondary - Perth & Kinross Council \(pkc.gov.uk\)](#). Any applications that are submitted before 1 July cannot be processed for session 2024/25, these applications will be refused, and parents will be asked to reapply again after 1 July 2024.

Lost Property and Lost Uniform

We have a considerable amount of lost property in our school, we will post photos on Facebook, please let us know by commenting on the photo if something belongs to your child and we will return it to them. Anything clothing remaining prior to the summer break will be handed into local charity shops.

Rattray CHAS Highland Coo

We have just been informed that our **Roo the Rattray highland coo** will be on display from this weekend at the A.K. Bell Library in Perth. A huge thanks to Mrs Strachan who single handedly organised the design competitions, painting and fundraising for our coo. When you meet Roo you will be very impressed! You can participate in the CHAS highland coo trail by visiting the CHAS website [The Hairy Highland Coo Trail 2024 | CHAS & Wild in Art](#) and downloading the highland coo trail app for a bargain price of 99p, all proceeds will obviously go to charity. **HAPPY COO HUNTING.**

School Handbook 2024/25

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](#)

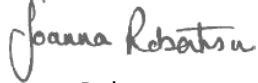
Holiday dates

School closes for the summer holidays this Thursday 27th June at 12 noon and reopens for pupils on Wednesday 14th August at 9am. The school holiday and term dates up to June 2025 are available at the [following link](#).

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.

I hope you all have a wonderful summer!

Yours faithfully



Joanna Robertson

Headteacher

rattray@pkc.gov.uk