

**SEPTEMBER 2020 NEWSLETTER**

Dear pupils, parents/carers and friends of Rattray

This is our first newsletter of the school year, therefore on behalf of everyone at Rattray School I welcome you all to session 2020/21. Although the return to school this year has been somewhat different, I am so proud and delighted with the courage, adaptability and positivity shown by our pupils (and staff) in these first few weeks at school. Most of our pupils have taken the changes at school in their stride and shown great flexibility and resilience that which we often don’t give children credit for. The year ahead may be challenging for some in terms of lost learning, wellbeing and raised anxieties but as a school community we will navigate this together. As parents it is important to the staff that you keep us informed of any concerns you have related to your child.

**Parent Survey**

As a school we are keen to find out from you how you feel our procedures relating to online learning, communication, return to school etc. have been for you as a parent during these unprecedented times. We do hope that we do not return to the situation we have had from March to June this year, however if we do we want to be as prepared as we can be. Can we please ask that an adult from every family please complete this very short survey related to your experiences as a parent, following this link [Parent Survey Covid 19](https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=6dxqdyZdSUeiAvCf7-EFkIH6mLUCVxdBnWvRBxbFaU5UQTBFOTFDODUxRFkwN0NRUUwzTlMwOTY0Vi4u). Thanks for your time.

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

**Welcome to our school**

I would like to extend a very warm welcome back to school for our P2 – P7 pupils and a special welcome to our new P1s and other new pupils. Joining the Rattray school team are Miss McAlpine (nursery teacher), Mr Middlemiss (recovery teacher – government funded posts), Ms Arnold (RCT teacher), Mrs McGregor (nursery play assistant) and Elaine Donaldson (nursery pupil support assistant). We hope all our new starts and returnees enjoy their time this school year at Rattray Primary School.

**Annual Events / Dates for your diary**

Included in this newsletter are provisional dates for this school year, at the moment we can’t predict if and when we can allow adults or other visitors into school, or when large scale gathering will be permitted by the government. However, we have pencilled in several dates and events in the hope that we can go ahead with them. If these events/dates require to be cancelled, we will try to accommodate in other ways, virtual or otherwise.

We look forward (hopefully) to meeting many of you at the various upcoming events. Mr Brown (our school depute) or I are usually in the playground before the start of the school day and at the end of the school day. However, we are conscious that it may not always be easy to catch up with us, we can however always be contacted via the school office.

Teaching staff are available at the end of the school day on most days to discuss any general matters or concerns you have. However, 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.

**Pupil Absence and Lateness**

Absent - If your child requires to be absent from the school for any reason, please contact the school (01250 871980) as soon as possible on the morning of the absence and before 9.30am. If there has been no parental contact by 9.30am staff will send a text message to enquire as to your child’s absence. This is normal procedure across Scotland. Your support in this is much appreciated.

Sickness/Diarrhoea - NHS advise that they should not attend school for at least 48 hours after the last bout. This helps stop the spread of infection. Please also see your local GP for advice.

Cold-like symptoms - If child does not have symptoms of COVID-19 but has other cold-like symptoms, such as a runny nose, they do not need to be tested and they and you do not need to self-isolate. Your child can come to school or nursery if fit to do so.

COVID-19 Symptoms - The main symptoms to be aware of are:

* new continuous cough
* fever/high temperature
* loss of, or change in, sense of smell or taste

If a young person or a child in your care develops any of the above symptoms, they should self-isolate and you should book them a test as soon as possible at <https://www.nhsinform.scot/test-and-protect>, or by calling 0800 028 2816.

It is recommended that testing is only for those with a continuous cough, fever, or loss of or change in the sense of taste or smell.

It is essential that people who have COVID-19 symptoms, or who share a household with someone who has symptoms, do not attend school or nursery, and must self-isolate along with all members of their household. If the test is negative, self-isolation can end for everyone. If the test is positive, Test and Protect will give you further advice.

Lateness - If your child is going to be late, please call us to let us know their lunch choice for that day as we have to report to the kitchen by no later than 10.15am. Late lunch choices may not be accommodated after this time, due to kitchen deadlines. This also includes children who may change their mind midway through the morning.

**House Captains**

Our P7 pupils are in the process of applying for our house captain roles. Each applicant will complete an application form and participate in an interview to gain selection. We are encouraging all our P7 to apply. We will update you as soon as our captains have been selected.

**School Prefects**

All our P7s will have the privilege of becoming school prefects again this academic session. All our prefects will be given Rattray prefect hoodies to wear throughout their final school year. We hope to have these ordered soon. Due to social distancing guidance we will not be able to measure the children for hoodie sizes this year, we are asking that parents/carers do this themselves at home. You can provide us with your child’s hoodie size by completing the following survey <https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=6dxqdyZdSUeiAvCf7-EFkDzu0CbIaUVCjglxy7i6fJxUMVJFV1BBTU1LWVBVV1kxNTJVUzJNU1cwMC4u> or contacting the school office.

We would like all parents/carers to encourage our P7s to wear their prefect hoodies to school every day (where possible). There are a number of responsibilities and expectations which come with the prefect role, but so far our P7s have really shone and risen to the challenge this year. I am certain that our P7 prefects will continue to be wonderful role models for our younger pupils.

**PE Times and Kit**

All of our classes have at least two sessions of PE each week. Until further notice, children can come to school without uniform and wearing suitable sportswear (no football colours) on these days. Current advice is that all physical activity should be undertaken outdoors. Changing rooms will not be used. Please note that on these days, jewellery should not be worn, and long hair should also be tied back.

**Appropriate clothing**

Please can we ask that your child comes to school each day with a coat and appropriate footwear. Currently due to Covid 19 restrictions, there is less movement around school which means the children are spending longer periods of time in their classrooms. 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).

**P1 photographs**

The photographer from the Perthshire Advertiser will be in school on the afternoon of Monday 7th September to take class photos of our new P1s. Please ensure your P1 child comes to school in full school uniform on this date.

**Breakfast club**

Our breakfast club is currently operating from 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 either emailing our designated breakfast club email RattrayBreakfastClub@pkc.gov.uk.

**School Crossing Patroller Update**

As you will know, the school no longer has a School Crossing Patroller. Vehicle Activated Signs have been installed from the Alyth side in March and the 20mph speed restriction will be a permanent (i.e. not just during school hours) road speed restriction. The following video link <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w8rDH7ms18U> may support yourself and the children in using the crossing outside our school.

**Water in Class**

Children are encouraged to drink freely from their school or other water bottles in school, however we ask that **only** water is brought into school to drink during class time. The staff will endeavour to ensure that water bottles return with pupils each evening in order to be washed and refilled.

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

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

**URGENT - Books from the last academic year**

Can we please ask that all library and reading books from last academic session 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.

**Belongings – Reminder**

In class, each child has their own stationery or other essential items, therefore pupils are not required

to bring a school bag, book bag or pencil case. Pupils will only need to bring a coat, snack, water bottle and lunch box (if this is their lunch choice). Thanks for your cooperation.

We have organised a pencil case and stationery for each child. Pupils are not required

**School Uniform**

It is lovely to see the children at school so smart in their school uniform, thank you for making this effort. However we have already accumulated a large amount of lost property, which are largely grey jumpers/cardigans. It would be really helpful if your child’s name or initials could please be written on the labels of school clothing, this will also aid teachers when it comes to gym time too. Thanks for your co-operation.

**After School Clubs**

These clubs are on pause at the moment, but staff are keen and eager to have these up and running quickly. As soon as we are given the go ahead to run any extracurricular activities, we will inform you of the arrangements for these.

**Annual Data Collection**

Starting next 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 3 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 note forms are being printed and prepared this week and will quarantine for 72 hours before coming home.  We ask that you respect this protocol and ensure the form is returned in an envelope, the same one from school is fine.  This also protects your personal information. **Please return forms by Monday 7th September.**

**Behaviour/ Relationships**

Last session we made some changes to our behaviour approach, involving a greater emphasis on teaching specific but very simple guidelines across the school. With consistency and fairness at its heart, the approach included frequent positive feedback and structured consequences, to encourage children to make the right choices about their behaviour and to ensure they are always learning and always safe. We also used class-wide rewards more often, whilst consequences of recorded ‘warnings’, time working alone and phone-calls/test messages home. These consequences will also be used to ensure support for children is delivered early.

We are keen to inform you as early as possible when even low-level behaviour issues are affecting progress and when necessary, it will be your child’s class teacher who will contact you in the first instance. We believe the enhancements to our approach will improve behaviour, relationships and attitudes to learning and lead to even higher achievement. We look forward to your continued support and if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to speak to myself or your child’s class teacher. We will send further details out later this term.

**Outdoor Learning**

Last year we worked closely with Alice Arnott, who is an I Bike instructor with Sustrans. To help us with our outdoor learning she is going to spend the week beginning the 7th Sep at the school, and every child will have the opportunity to go on a nature walk to Davie Park. For this, children should come to school in suitable clothing and school uniform is not required.

If last year you signed your child up for the learn to ride sessions, we are planning on getting one or two of these sessions in whilst Alice is with us. Normal school wear can be worn for this.

We are also planning for Cally Gordon, who leads our ski trip, to do some leadership training with our P7s, through Bush Craft activities. This will help them think about how to work together as they begin their prefect duties and take on more responsibilities around the school. More information will follow about this.

**Session dates**

The school holiday dates up to June 2023 are available at the following link. <https://www.pkc.gov.uk/schoolholiday>

**Primary 6 and Primary 7 - Proposed Ski Trip 2021**

Once again, we hope to be offering our Primary 6 and 7 pupils the chance to go on a Ski Trip led by Mr Cally Gordon. Our proposed date is week beginning 1st February. The trip is non-residential, with pupils travelling from Rattray to Glenshee daily. The cost would be approximately £200, which would include transport, tuition, ski pass and equipment hire.

The trip has been added as an item to parent pay. This is to allow parents longer to save up for the trip. Depositing funds into the Ski Trip account at this stage will not commit your child to attending- that will come later.

More information and an information evening will follow soon, and we will let you know when this is to be.

Children do not have to have any skiing experience, and indeed usually this is the first time for most children skiing. Primary 7 children who did not attend in 2020 are welcome to join the trip this year.

**ParentPay**

ParentPay is the school’s online payment system.  Rattray Primary, for the main part, is a cashless school with all dinner money, trips, school shows etc. all paid online.  Most importantly, we send all our school communication and newsletters via ParentPay.  In order to access the system, you need to log on to ParentPay and activate your child’s account using activation codes given by the school.  Please contact the school office if you require a copy of these.

Can we please ask that if you change your email address, please log in to your ParentPay Account using your existing details and change your email address in the Profile Settings section.

**School Social Media Pages**

A reminder to new and existing parents that our school has Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/Rattray-Primary-School-496557997081831/> where pupil learning, school and community events and general information is posted and celebrated. We will endeavour to update these media platforms regularly.

**Rattray School App**

Our school app is live in the Apple and Google Play Stores. Using the app you can keep in touch with our events, news and receive important messages from us. To download the app, search ‘PSA’ or ‘PSA primaryschoolapp’ in the play app stores. Once you‘ve opened the app, search for Rattray Primary School and download the app. You will be given a username (you should leave this blank) and our password is 1980.

**Flu Immunisation Programme**

Tayside Health Board nurses will be in school on **Thursday 10th December** to carry out the flu prevention programme for all children from Primary 1 to 7. Again this will be in the form of a nasal spray. Letters have gone out please make sure you return these.

**School Improvement Plan 2020/21**

This year’s school improvement priorities, outlined in our strategic curriculum plans, will soon be on display in our school foyer and available on request. These will also be shared at our next Parent Council meeting. Our Standards and Quality report 2019/20 is available on the Perth and Kinross Council website. Copies are available from the office or on request by email.

**Thanks from the school staff**

On behalf of the staff, I have been asked to thank you f**or the** gifts which they received before our sudden closure and on our return to school. All staff are incredibly grateful and appreciative of your generosity.

If you have any questions or queries regarding any of the items within this newsletter, please don’t hesitate to contact me.

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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01250 871980

**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**

**September 2020**

Monday 7th – P1 class photos

**October 2020**

Friday 2nd October – School closes for October holiday

Monday 19th - Back to School

**November 2020**

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

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

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

Thursday 26th November –Open Afternoon– (2.30pm) – rearranged from term 1

**December 2020**

Thursday 3rd December - Winter Fayre (6pm)

Thursday 10th – Flu Immunisations

Tuesday 15th December - Infant Nativity (9.30am and 1.30pm)

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 (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)