



@Ratho_Primary



Ratho Primary Learning Links



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Ratho Primary School

Head Teacher Newsletter: 28th June 2022

Dear Ratho Primary School Community,

It's been quite the school year! We have adapted and responded to changing and challenging circumstances throughout the session, coming from staggered times and bubbled classes, through outbreaks and staffing shortages to the post-pandemic circumstances we are in now... I think we'll all appreciate the summer break!

Despite the challenges, we have worked hard to maintain quality teaching and learning across the curriculum throughout the year and provide the best opportunities we could to benefit the pupils. So, as we finish off the session, I'd like to thank all staff for their hard work and diligence in supporting all the pupils so well this year.

I'd also like to thank pupils and the wider school community for supporting the school throughout the challenges of the year. Some pupils and parents have taken time to recognise and appreciate the best efforts of staff this year and so a special thank you to them. Your kind words are much appreciated!

To reflect on this final term, it was so wonderful to welcome the school community to the Nursery and then School Sports Days last week! In addition, we have really enjoyed welcoming visitors and taking the pupils on all the excursions and trips this term and we look forward to welcoming parents to join us for the Nursery Graduation, Achievement Awards ceremony and then the P7 leavers ceremony this week.

Please see below for information on all these final events this week and some information of note for the holiday and next session.

Finally, I hope all our children and their families enjoy the summer holidays. We look forward to welcoming you back on 17th August 2022.

Yours sincerely,

Peter Gibb, Head Teacher.



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Final Events of the session...

Wednesday 29 th June	<p>Nursery Excursion – Pilton Retreat afternoon from 10am-2pm. Nursery parents/carers welcome to attend.</p> <p>P3 end of session excursion to Aberdour beach: P3 parents/carers see separate communications from P3 teachers for further info.</p>
Thursday 30 th June	<p>Nursery 'Graduation' Ceremony – 10am-11am in the school gym hall. Nursery parents/carers welcome to attend.</p>
Thursday 30 th June	<p>End of Session Awards Ceremony at Ratho Parish Church.</p> <p>All Primary classes will attend from 1.30pm – 2.30pm.</p> <p>There will be limited seats available for Parents/Carers at the back or balcony of the church. Parents/carers of children nominated to receive an award will be notified in advance.</p>
Friday 1 st July	<p>Last Day of Session. School closes and Summer Holidays begin at 12.00 noon for all!</p>
Friday 1 st July	<p>P7 Leavers Assembly in school – <u>P7 parents/carers and siblings</u> are welcome to attend!</p> <p>There will be an organised photo opportunity in the morning for pupils from 9.15-10.15am. P7 pupils should wear their 'Leavers' hoodies.</p> <p>Parents/Carers will be invited to be seated from 10.15am and the ceremony will start at 10.30am. We should finish by 11.30am and parents will be invited to assemble outside to watch P7 pupils leave for the final time at 12.00pm</p> <p>There is a celebration at the Bridge Inn from 12.00pm</p>
Wednesday 17 th August	<p>Pupils resume for session 2022-23 at normal school times, (except new P1s on separate timetable)</p>

Final day dismissal arrangements:

All pupils will be dismissed at 12.00pm. However, to accommodate Primary 7s leaving for their final farewell, we will start dismissing other classes from 11.55am, please can P1-3 parents/carers ensure they are there from 11.55am to collect their children. Your cooperation is much appreciated.

Once all P1-6 pupils are dismissed, staff will form a Guard of Honour to applaud the Primary 7s as they are piped out the main gate, leaving Primary school for the final time.

Primary 7 parents will view from the top of the hill following the P7 leavers ceremony. Other parents and pupils are requested to give appropriate space and respect for the P7 parents, carers and pupils to enjoy this occasion. Thank you.



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Final Day – Dress Down Day

The final day of session will be a dress down day for all pupils, with any donations made going towards our seriously depleted school fund! No football colours please. P7 pupils should wear their Leavers hoodies as above.

Parent/Carer feedback please

Following the issue of the End of Session reports on Friday, I'd like to give parents/carers the opportunity to provide feedback/comment. We very much value parental feedback and opinion, so please take a moment to share comments. Please use this Form, select your child's class and enter their name and give your feedback. Thank you.

<https://forms.office.com/r/Q9AFp0zAaE>

Sports Day 2022 - Photos!

As stated in my opening remarks, it was wonderful to welcome the school community to our Sports Day last week. Ewa Wells, a parent and local photographer, has very kindly and generously shared the photos she took during the day with the school community via a gallery on her webpage here: [Ratho Primary school sports day 2022 by Ewa Well Photography \(pixieset.com\)](#) If you wish to use any of these pictures, please contact Ewa via her website.

Next session arrangements:

All pupils will resume for session 2022/23 at 8:50am on Wednesday 17th August.

New P1 pupils start at **9:30am** – A separate letter with all information has been issued to them.

PE will not be timetabled for the first week, so please wait for further information regarding this once the new school term starts. However, we will maintain the practice that children attend school dressed in school P.E. kit on their class P.E. days.

School P.E. kits are requested to be the school polo/t-shirts and shorts/joggers as appropriate. Pupils can wear their school jumpers on top and remove them for their P.E. lessons. Football colours are not allowed.

We have school sweatshirts, polo shirts, cardigans and PE kits for sale through our supplier Border Embroideries. The sweatshirt and cardigans are red and have the school badge in black. Polo shirts should be white. PE kits include black shorts and red t-shirts with the school logo in black. [Embroidered Schoolwear & Clubwear \(border-embroideries.co.uk\)](#)

P7s wear black sweatshirts as a mark of their special position of responsibility in our school. The Ratho School Voice generously provide them to our P6 pupils at our P7 leavers ceremony.



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School Handbook

The school handbook is reviewed and refreshed every session, this will be by mid-September, however is always a good place to start if you have queries about school. You can find it on our webpage under School > School handbook. The link is here: [School Handbook – Ratho Primary School](#)

School catering update

You will be aware that the next phase of provision of universal free school lunches to primary 6 and 7 pupils was originally intended to begin from August 2022. The Scottish Government have now confirmed this will be delayed. We will keep parents and carers up to date with the expansion of universal free school meals as we receive information from the Scottish Government.

Our new menu is now live for booking on ParentPay! Remember meals are free for pupils in P1-P5 and all special school pupils. Book now for schools coming back in August - Family favourites such as chicken Kiev, pork sausage & mash. Or try dishes from around the world like our lamb kofta and 3 bean chili tacos!

<https://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/downloads/file/22283/edinburgh-catering-menu>

On the school website, please find attached a letter which contains the eligibility criteria for free school meals for the 2022-23 school year. This revised eligibility criteria, which was set by The Education (Scotland) Act 1980 (Modification) Regulations 2022, will formally come into effect on 1 August 2022.

Applying for Free School Meals will automatically entitle you to receive meal payments during holidays, free milk, clothing grant or child bridging payment. Please take a minute to look at the letter. If you meet any of the requirements we would highly recommend you apply using the link:

<https://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/food-clothing>

Dandelion Project – Floating Gardens!

We issued a request for Recipes as part of our Dandelion project involvement. I have included that request again below. However, we are requested to promote the Floating Gardens that will tour the Scottish canal network from Glasgow to Edinburgh. The Floating Gardens are made up of three elements: a barge converted into a floating allotment complete with polytunnel, raised beds and shed, a performance stage home to our Flower Singer and a floating eco-garden of plants whose roots will draw sustenance from the canal and in the process clean the water. On Thursday 30th June they will be moored up in Ratho and holding our evening event there from 5-7pm, with music from The Jennifer Ewan Band as well as our own Flower Singer. The events are totally free for all to attend, and the school community are encouraged to do so! – Their Poster is attached and on our website.



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Dandelion Project - Recipe Book Entries!

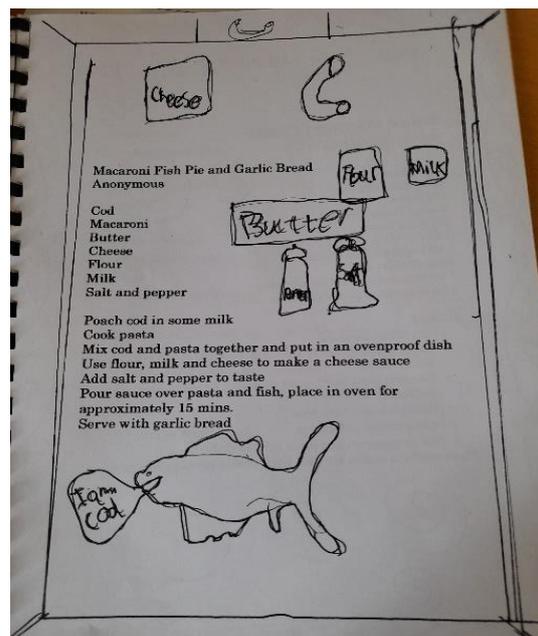
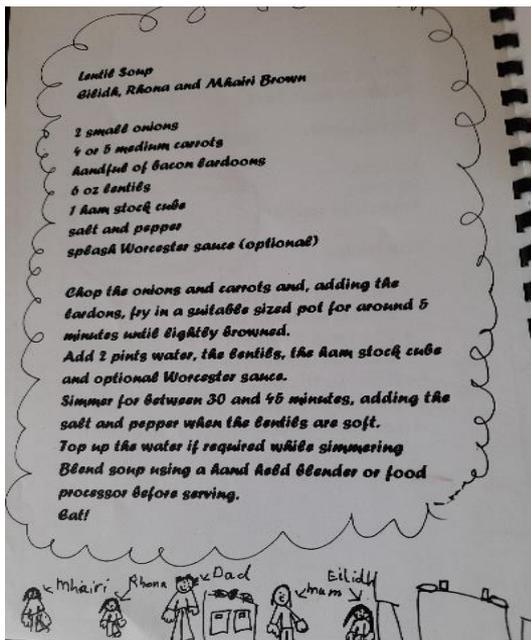
Calling all parents and carers!

As part of our ongoing activities with the Scotland wide Dandelion Project, where we have already given out many, many bags of potatoes for you to grow on at home, we will be holding a Harvest Festival on Friday 9th September 2022.

As part of this, we would like to be able to give you a recipe book made up of healthy recipes that have been sent in by our school community. Can we ask you to send in any favourite recipes (with some hopefully including potatoes!) by the end of this term.

The recipes should be typed up and it would be lovely if your child could decorate around the edges too with black pen drawings of ingredients or the finished dish!

The last Ratho Primary School recipe book was published in 2009 so we are long overdue an update! Below are a couple of examples from the previous book!



We're really looking forward to seeing your tasty recipes!

Thank you again for your continued support of this project.

Kind regards.

Gillian Brown.

RPS Eco Schools/Sustainability Lead



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Balerno Schools Pipe Band Lessons / After School Club

I have been liaising with the Balerno Schools Pipe Band. Please see below a letter from them regarding starting lessons here at Ratho Primary as a Friday after school club.

Dear parents/carers

You may have seen Balerno & District Schools Pipe Band playing at the gala last weekend. We're delighted to be able to offer lessons in Ratho again, after a long break. We have two fantastic tutors and our band, still relatively new, is going from strength to strength. We have played at a number of local events recently and are looking forward to starting to compete next year. Check us out on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/BalernoSchoolsPipeBand/>

This is a request for notes of interest. If you are interested in your child having lessons, please email myself at Balernoschoolspipeband@gmail.com.

- Lessons will be held in the community centre after school on Fridays for P4 and above.

- There will be a small cost per lesson, amount tbc, although assistance may be available if needed.

- There will be no requirement to buy uniforms or instruments apart from a practice drum pad or a chanter, both c £25.

If we have enough interest we will be in touch to let you know cost and timings.

Look forward to hearing from you

Gill

Community Centre & NGS Summer Programmes

Last week I shared details of the Ratho Community Centre's Summer Programme, You can see their poster again here:

<http://rathoprimary.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/Summer-Programme-Poster-2022.doc>

I'm also asked to share details of the National Galleries of Scotland free, fun, family activity taking place every afternoon at the Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art during the summer holidays (beginning Monday 4 July). Families can come along and borrow a Family Art Basket, full of drawing and sculpture materials with activity ideas of what to make. The attached leaflet has all the details.

<https://www.nationalgalleries.org/FAB>



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Dates for session 2022-2023...

August 2022						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

September 2022						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
				1	2	3
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25	26	27	28	29	30	

October 2022						
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23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

November 2022						
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December 2022						
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25	26	27	28	29	30	31

January 2023						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
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22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

February 2023						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
			1	2	3	4
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26	27	28				

March 2023						
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April 2023						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
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30						

May 2023						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
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28	29	30	31			

June 2023						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
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July 2023						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
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16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
20	31					



School Closed/Holidays



Teacher In-Service Day (closed for pupils)

Many thanks for your continued support of the school... Please contact us via admin@ratho.edin.sch.uk or 0131 333 1293 if you have any queries, concerns or need assistance.

Have a very happy and restful summer holiday!

See you on Wednesday August 17th 2022!