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Ratho Primary School

A Curious, Creative Community

Head Teacher Newsletter

October 30th 2020

Acting Head Teacher: Chris Welander

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Positive COVID -19 cases

The holidays saw our first positive COVID-19 cases in the school community. Our P1/2 class have been self-isolating this week and their learning at home supported by Mrs Smith and Mrs Nicolson. We are glad to welcome the class back today!

During the holiday period the positive cases in Edinburgh schools were managed by an Incident Management Team at the City of Edinburgh Council supported by Mrs Glover and myself. During term time, all communications will be managed by school staff.

The following communications will be sent in the event of a positive case:

1. Text sent to school community with message on school website informing of a positive case and contact tracing beginning
2. Close contacts identified and instructed to begin self-isolation. Household members of a close contact do not need to self-isolate unless they develop symptoms.
3. Text sent to school community with message on school website informing that contact tracing has finished and if you have been contacted then your children are free to return to school.

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COVID-19 restrictions

This week saw the introduction of the Scottish Government's tiered system of restrictions. Edinburgh will be in level three which is more or less the same restrictions we've had for the past few weeks. So, no in-house socialising, no non-essential travel into or out of the level three area, a maximum of six people from two households can meet up outdoors and in public.

Home learning

Claire and Ally in the office have been busy sending out the Microsoft Teams invites this week for your children to access their home learning. The children will be able to access their home learning starting from after school on **Monday 2nd November.** Mrs Smith wrote to families this week with some helpful guides to getting up and running with home learning. Please get in touch with the school office if you have any issues getting started!

Ask your kids about…

This term our classes have been focussing on literacy, numeracy and health and well-being after the school closure before the summer. Below is a brief summary of some of the wonderful learning happening in our school this week!

Nursery	All groups have had a visit to 'mini-forest', full sessions start next week!
Primary 1	Ask me to retell the story of The Little Red Hen!
Primary 1/2	Getting to grips with learning at home!
Primary 2	P2 have been learning about place value in maths – hundreds, tens and units.
Primary 3	P3 have been learning the months of the year in French!
Primary 3/4	P3/4 have been writing spooky acrostic poems
Primary 4	This week P4 have been planning some spooky stories within creative writing.
Primary 5	Learning about nature and walking on the canal
Primary 5/6	P5/6 have been learning all about equivalent fractions
Primary 6	Spooky haunted houses using chalk pastels to create an eerie effect!
Primary 7a	P7a have been using their STEM skills, teamwork and creativity to build a sweet gadget to hand out sweets whilst following social distancing rules.
Primary 7b	P7b are learning about the history of the slave trade from the 14th to 18th century

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Parent consultations

As I mentioned in my last newsletter, we will be holding telephone consultations the week of **9th November**.

Each consultation will last ten minutes, please don't be offended if our teachers wrap this up promptly as they will have a number of families to ring.

We are testing out a new booking system this time round that will allow you to see our class teacher's availability and sign up for a slot that suits you. We will email you early next week with instructions.

Additional Support for Learning

We have a support for learning hub on our school website where you will be able to find updates and information on additional support needs. It can be found here: http://rathoprimary.org.uk/support-for-learning/

Outdoor PE

We will be continuing to hold PE lessons outside until guidance changes. Please remember to send your children in with outdoor PE kit and a change of clothes in their bag if it is due to rain.

Breaktime zones

We are changing our breaktime playground zones next week to give the children a bit of variety in the areas they play in. The playing field will be out of bounds at breaktimes to protect the grass and prevent it getting churned up. This has the added benefit of making the children slightly less muddy!

The children will be free to play on the kick pitch, the woods, the quiet area & trim trail and the top playground at the front gate. As before we will be out in all weathers, so please ensure your kids are dressed for the weather! Let us know if we can help out with clothing and footwear.

Poppy Appeal

The 2020 Scottish Poppy Appeal is upon us and, as you know, this is a cause that we proudly support every year.

We will have a Poppy Stand in the school playground every morning until Wednesday 11th November – your child can pop their donation straight into the bucket and take a poppy, a member of staff will be on hand to manage this safely.

Alternatively, you can make an online donation to the following local JustGiving page:

https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/ao-ratho

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