@Ratho_Primary Ratho Primary Learning Links

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Ratho Primary School

A Curious, Creative Community

Head Teacher Newsletter

15th January 2021

Acting Head Teacher: Chris Welander

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Remote Learning

After a bumpy start for the whole country getting connected to their remote learning tasks, we are beginning to get into the swing of our new arrangements!

Huge thank you for the kind emails that have been sent on recognising the work of our team here. I would also like to thank you all for your patience and perseverance with learning from home, we know the challenges it can throw at us! As this is new to us all there will be a period of adjustment with tweaks here and there to make the experience the best it can be for the children at our school.

For some families, the tasks set on Teams each day will feel overwhelming and for others they won't be enough. Please be kind with yourselves and know you are doing great in a challenging situation. School staff are, as ever, on hand to support in any way we can.

Please note that from today remote learning for the upcoming Monday will be posted to your class Team on a Friday to let you digest over the weekend.

Communication through Teams

We want the Teams platform to be a decluttered as possible to make sure the children can access their assignments and help without too much difficulty, can I ask that questions for staff come via the office at admin@ratho.edin.sch.uk with the subject line FAO followed by the member of staff's name. This will allow us to direct

your queries accordingly. Please note that children are encouraged to ask their teachers and classmates questions and we understand that they may, at times, require support to do this especially with younger children.

I will also include Teams Frequently Asked Questions as a standing item in the newsletter that can be added to and referred to. Thank you.

New Head Teacher Start Date

Peter Gibb, our new Head Teacher, has a start date with us of **Tuesday 16th February**.

This is dependent on the recruitment for his current position being finalised.

We look forward to welcoming our new Head Teacher to the team!

Ask your kids about…

Below is a brief summary of some of the wonderful remote learning happening in our school this week!

Nursery	Nursery are enjoying our new topic of Water and Ice, with wintry stories, finding sticks to make our own stick people and drawing pictures of our favourite activities. We loved seeing Mrs Maclean's sledging video!
Primary 1	P1 have been practicing moving their bodies in a creative way by joining in with the BBC Let's Move programmes on Winter
Primary 1/2	P1/2 is getting accustomed to learning at home, our online classroom and finding what suits their family's needs.
Primary 2	Primary 2 read the story of The Invisible String and learnt about how we are all connected with love even when we aren't together
Primary 3	P3 have been getting used to live meetings as a class - it has been lovely to see them! We have also been learning about the properties of 2D shape.
Primary 3/4	In numeracy, P3/4 have been exploring how to build arrays and how arrays relate to multiplication
Primary 4	P4 have been practising their research skills while reading The Enormous Crocodile.
Primary 5	We will be learning about common units of measure such as length, mass and volume and will practise understanding how these are related for future problem solving
Primary 5/6	Primary 5/6 have been learning about antonyms and synonyms this week
Primary 6	P6 have been working on daily diary entries this week as a written way of expressing how they feel
Primary 7a	We have been starting to look at aspects of World War 2 and have been focussing on learning about the causes of World War 2 initially.
Primary 7b	We have been starting to look at aspects of World War 2 and have been focussing on learning about the causes of World War 2 initially.

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Art and Design	Each class has been learning about the elements of Art. This week the focus was on line and how lines can be used in different ways to make different effects. Each level had a different activity to do to help them explore lines.
STEM	In STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths), all classes across the school and nursery have been given activities for home learning. Nursery and P1 are learning that water can also exist as ice and steam, P2-P4 are making salt crystal shapes and P5-P7 are engineering animals made from card that can walk down a ramp!

Additional Support for Learning

Please see the attachment with details of information sessions for parents of children with autistic spectrum disorder in P4 – P7. These will take place on Microsoft Teams and need to be booked by **Friday 19th February 2021.**

If you're feeling anxious during lockdown give Communication Friendly Environments (@SchoolsNlc) a follow on Twitter. Here is their fun calming anxiety challenge a day:
https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/glowblogs/communicationfriendlyenvironments/calming-anxiety-challenges/

Financial Supports

I sent out our school guide to financial help that is available to families across the city. If you missed it, it can be found here: http://rathoprimary.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/RPS-Guide-to-Financial-Supports-2021.pdf

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Microsoft Teams: Frequently Asked Questions

The daily assignments have deadline times – do we have to submit work by these times?

No. These are only there as a rough guide. We know that everyone's circumstances are different so please don't feel pressured by these times. The assignments do not close and nothing will happen if the work is handed in after these times, it will just say that it's been a Late Hand-in. The teachers will be happy to see anything handed in at all.

Will there be live lessons each day?

Live content is at the discretion of the member of staff. There is no expectation from City of Edinburgh Council that live video lessons take place. In fact, early research suggests that pre-recorded content that children can refer back to and access when convenient is more beneficial for learning. Teaching staff will ensure a variety of tasks to suit the age and stage of your children.

How do I upload work to the assignments in Teams?

We have a video walkthrough on our YouTube channel here to help with this: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mn3Flp7RWKM

Wall of Awe-STEM-ness - showcasing amazing STEM work across Ratho Primary School

Mrs Dixon, our STEM Teacher, has picked out some videos and photos of the super STEM work sent in so far from P1-P7 and uploaded them here: https://sway.office.com/kX6YXER9YRq83XnD?ref=Link . This is a live link which is being added to all the time during remote learning - new photos and videos will be added at the top. Well done to everybody who is featured!

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