@Ratho_Primary

Ratho Primary Learning Links

admin@ratho.edin.sch.uk

www.ratho.edin.sch.uk

Ratho Primary School

A Curious, Creative Community

Head Teacher Newsletter

29th January 2021

Acting Head Teacher: Chris Welander

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Remote Learning

As you'll be aware the current arrangements for remote learning is due to run until Mid-February. There is due to be a review early next week to evaluate whether we will be in a position to return to in classroom learning then or not and if so what arrangements will be put in place to support to move back to all children being in school. I will write again with any significant updates as soon as I am able.

Inside Out Day – Wednesday 3rd February

We invite all of our learners to wear an item of clothing 'inside out' on Wednesday 3rd February.

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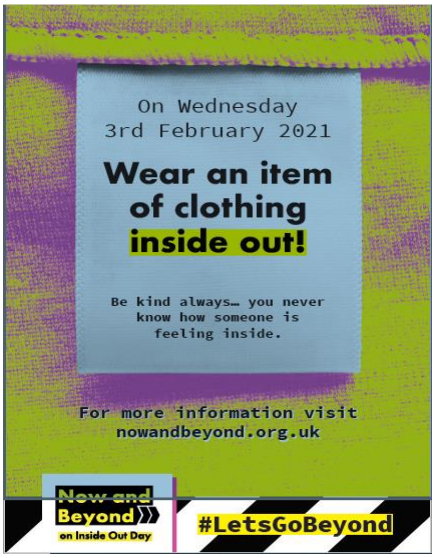

Next week is Children's Mental Health Week. Inside Out Day during Children's Mental Health Week is an awareness campaign that aims to enable young people to start talking about their mental health.

How someone looks on the outside doesn't necessarily reflect how they are truly feeling on the inside, so it is important to always be kind and think of others.

Turn your clothes inside out to get important conversations started. No one should be embarrassed about how they feel.

https://www.insideoutday.org.uk/

Attendance

If your child is ill and unable to engage with remote learning in the way they usually would then please let the office know and we will update our records. Many thanks.

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.

Ask your kids about…

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

Nursery	Nursery have been enjoying a Scottish focus to the week with a Burns celebration, learning Scottish rhymes, painting tartan patterns and this weekend we are taking part in the Big Garden Bird Watch.
Primary 1	Primary 1 are feeding the birds and taking part in the RSPB Big Garden Bird Watch!

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Primary 1/2	In P1/2 we are learning to work with money. We are building confidence in recognising and combining coins to make certain amounts.
Primary 2	Primary 2 have been creating 3D spelling snakes using our sounds for this week
Primary 3	P3 have learned some Scots words for animals and described them in Scots too. We ended up with some very funny descriptions!
Primary 3/4	P3/4 are learning about orienteering. Last week we made maps of our rooms or gardens and this week we are creating a course for someone to follow using our maps.
Primary 4	P4 have been learning about comics. We planned then created our own comics and read the Scots comic Bad Wee Broonie. Well done P4!
Primary 5	This week we are focusing on gaining confidence using co-ordinates and understanding the language of co-ordinates as well as some persuasive letter writing
Primary 5/6	Primary 5/6 have been learning strategies for working out time differences and durations within time problems and timetables
Primary 6	P6 have been exploring virtual Thebes as part of the ancient Egyptians mini-topic as well as learning the difference between multiples, factors and prime numbers
Primary 7a	P7a have been learning more about World War 2 as part of Holocaust Day
Primary 7b	P7b have also been learning more about World War 2 as part of Holocaust Day
Art and Design	This week all classes have been learning about the element of Art, form. Children have been creating 3D models and structures using found objects and recycling materials.
STEM	STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) In STEM we have been continuing to develop our Science investigation skills. P5-7 have been timing different liquids going down ramps, P2-4 have been investigating which liquids stop fruit turning brown and Nursery-P1 have been investigating melting and boiling water. This week we have had some Scottish themed STEM Challenges to tie in with Burns Night.

Additional Support for Learning

Please see details below of occupational therapy assistance for families with children with Autistic Spectrum Disorder to help with children's everyday life skills.

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Autistic Spectrum Disorder Team Helpline
Children and Young People's Occupational Therapy
Parent and Carer Help Line

Who is it for?

For parents/carers of children and young people with a diagnosis (or under assessment) of Autistic Spectrum Disorder

What is it?

This is a help line set up to support parents and carers with their child's everyday life skills

Why has it been set up?

To provide support for families who are caring for children with a diagnosis of Autism.

How can I access it?

Every Tuesday

Please call 07866848453 between the hours of **9am-11am**

The line may be busy so you may need to call back when the line is free

The Toolbox website: Supporting motor skills such as handwriting

There are some great apps to support fine motor skills, handwriting and visual motor skills at home, check out the link below.

https://www.theottoolbox.com/free-apps-for-occupational-therapy/

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.

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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

How can I make the work more accessible for the children?

Many Microsoft apps have the 'Immersive reader' built into them. This works especially well in Microsoft Teams. The immersive reader can be used by children to read writing for them and the speed of delivery can be changed. The background colour of the document can also be changed to make it easier for children with dyslexia to understand. Further features include a picture dictionary that allows children to learn new words by associating them with a simple picture. The line focus feature also allows children to black out all the text apart from the text they are required to read. For children who live in a bilingual household then immersive reader will also translate to a range of languages.

This 2 minute video from Teach Blend gives a good overview of the features: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iV6UlKkwwIY

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!

Have a lovely weekend everyone and thanks for your ongoing support of our school,

Chris

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