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Ratho Primary Learning Links

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# Ratho Primary School

A Curious, Creative Community

## Head Teacher Newsletter: 12th March 2021

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## Head Teacher's Welcome

Dear Ratho Primary School Community,

Thanks again to all pupils, parents/carers and staff for welcoming me to Ratho Primary School. My initial impression is that this is a lovely school with a great school community… I am very happy to have joined you! I'm looking forward to learning and knowing all about the school, the community and of course doing my best to serve Ratho Primary School as best I can.

It has been great to meet pupils from Nursery – P3 and those few who have attended the 'hub' school in my first two weeks. I know all staff (and I'm sure parents, carers and pupils) are really looking forward to the return of ALL pupils from Monday 15th March. I have managed to remember lots of names already, and I'm really looking forward to learning everyone's name from Monday!

In terms of the practicalities and Covid safety measures we need to have in place for the safe return of all pupils, these will be the same as the arrangements the school had in place between August and December. I have detailed these again below for your convenience. Can I please request that parents/carers remember to adhere to Government guidance (F.A.C.T.S), wear a face covering on approach to school and follow the 'one-way' system on the paths around the school. Many thanks for your cooperation and support.

Yours sincerely,

Peter Gibb, Head Teacher.

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# Covid Safety Measures and Return to School details

Staggered school start and finish times will continue to be observed as below:

**P1 and P2**

| | Start Time | Finish Time |
|---|---|---|
| Surname **A-L** | 8.45am | 2.40pm Monday-Thursday / **12.00pm on Friday** |
| Surname **M-Z** | 9.00am | 2.50pm Monday-Thursday / **12.15pm on Friday** |

**P3 – P7**

| | Start Time | Finish Time |
|---|---|---|
| Surname **A-L** | 8.45am | 3.00pm Monday-Thursday / **12.20pm on Friday** |
| Surname **M-Z** | 9.00am | 3.15pm Monday-Thursday / **12.35pm on Friday** |

## Face Coverings

The wearing of a **face covering** for all parents / carers and visitors is **mandatory** when entering the school grounds and strongly encouraged at all pick-up and drop-off times and around the school/nursery. Please do not enter the school grounds without wearing a face covering (please let a member of staff know if you have an exemption).

## Physical Distancing

Physical distancing between adults and between adults and children from different families must be observed. The 'one-way' system for dropping off and picking up children from school will continue:

- If you arrive from the East of the village (Freelands/Ratho Park etc), please walk up to the school **via the path along the carpark**, drop your child off at the school gate (no access to the playground will be permitted) and **continue up that path onto North Street**.
- If you arrive from the west of the village (Kings View/Craigpark/Hallcroft etc) please walk **along the footpath from the Hallcroft estate**, drop your child off at the school gate next to the Canalside View building (no access to the playground will be permitted) and **continue along that path, up the hill and out onto North Street.**
- Please DO NOT walk down the north street path towards school. We apologise if this adds time onto your journey to school, especially for our families on North Street.

## Outdoor Learning and Ventilation

- To minimise infection risk, we will maximise use of outdoor spaces for learning and play and we will have windows open to increase ventilation. Please ensure children have appropriate warm and suitable clothing for inside and outside.
- All children attending school are encouraged to wear school uniform where possible.
- Class Teachers will inform of class P.E. days. Children should wear appropriate P.E. kit/shoes on those days, they will not be getting changed in school.

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**Lunches**

- Children will eat lunches in classrooms after washing their hands and then go outside to their specific playground zone.

**Resources from Home**

- Pupils will keep their jacket and snack/lunch/water at their desk. We will not use cloakrooms.
- Children are to bring their own named water bottles. These are only to be filled at home and NOT at the water fountain/sinks in school, which will be out of use. This is to prevent infection. Teachers will provide water to children who drink all their water during the day.

## Dismissal of P1-P3 pupils

We kindly request that ALL P1-P3 pupils are collected at the school gate. Staff supporting the children will not release them until an adult is available to collect at the gate. Primary 3 children will be allowed to leave to make their own way up the path ONLY if requested by a parent via the school office. We will keep a record of P3 pupils with this permission. Many thanks for your cooperation.

## Home learning for P4-P7

There will be no home learning for P4-P7 pupils next week. Teaching staff will plan a single health and wellbeing homework activity on the week of Monday 22nd. We will go back to our usual literacy, numeracy and health and wellbeing home learning activities from Monday 26th April. We hope this will support children to phase back into the school routine!

## Return of School ICT Devices

Can we kindly request that any school ICT devices that were borrowed by pupils over the 'lockdown' period are returned to school as soon as possible. Please remember chargers/cables! Many thanks for your cooperation in this regard.

## Community requests

I know that Ratho Primary School has a great relationship with the wider school community and I am keen to continue, build upon and further develop these positive relationships for the future amongst the school community. I will have a couple of projects in which I hope to involve the local community as I establish myself as your new Head Teacher.

The first of these is in the creation of a Community Library. I am aware of the future plans for Ratho's library, but I'd be delighted if the school can encourage and facilitate enjoyment of reading and books through a Community Library within (or possibly outside) the school grounds… So, if you are (or know of) a local joiner, carpenter or handyperson who would be able to volunteer some time and materials to create a housing for this Community Library, please get in touch at the school!

I will share further opportunities to engage parents, carers and the wider school community as we progress through the rest of session and beyond.

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## Equalities

As with all other schools in Edinburgh we are working hard to improve all equalities issues. Our School Renewal Plan reflects actions we expect to achieve this session. They include better ways of tackling racist incidents and reviewing our curriculum. One of the most important actions for us is to improve pupil voice in this area. Our Ratho Action Group will be leading this work upon our return to school and we'll update further as we progress actions.

## City of Edinburgh Council Surveys

**City of Edinburgh Council: School Holidays Survey**

The City of Edinburgh Council have prepared a survey about the timing of school holidays over the next three years. Parents and staff groups have contributed to the wording of the questions and all in the school community are invited to contribute your views. The survey should only take a few minutes to complete and is open until Thursday 1 April 2021. The link to the survey is:

https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/schsd2022

**City of Edinburgh Council: Spaces For People Survey**

Many of you will have seen some of the temporary 'Spaces for People' measures at schools and around the city that are helping people to physically distance and travel safely during the Covid-19 pandemic. The Council have created extra space for pedestrians and wheelchairs in shopping areas as well as putting protected cycle lanes on some main roads. You can find out more about these measures at www.edinburgh.gov.uk/spacesforpeople

The Council are now considering whether to keep in place some of the temporary measures in place for a longer trial period so we can test them out when pedestrians and traffic begins to get back to normal. They want to do this as many of the temporary measures are likely to help achieve the Council's long-term objectives to improve how we travel, making it easier for people to get about, and to help meet the city's net carbon-free targets.

The Council are keen to hear what people think about this and are seeking views from residents, businesses and key city organisations. Please fill in our online questionnaire. More information on www.edinburgh.gov.uk/streetschemes

## Ask your kids about…

Below is a summary of some of the wonderful learning happening in school and at home this week!

| | |
|---|---|
| Nursery | Nursery are loving our new topic of 'People Who Help Us', this week we are being fire fighters. We have also made beautiful cards for our wonderful mummies who help us every day. |
| Primary 1 | Primary 1 have prepared their potatoes for planting and have been exploring the Supertato story by making their own Supertatoes! We have been having great fun learning our rugby skills during PE. |
| Primary 1/2 | We have been inspired by our story Supertato and the character the evil pea to grow our own potatoes and peas. We are learning how to grow these vegetables and what they need to thrive. Feel free to |

| | |
|---|---|
| | send in pictures on teams of any lovely things you have growing in your home that the children can share in class. |
| Primary 2 | P2 had a visit from the Greedy Grinch - who stole all our presents and party food for our delayed Christmas party. We wrote him letters asking him to return it. |
| Primary 3 | P3 have been talking about safe and unsafe situations. |
| Primary 3/4 | Primary 3/4, in our grammar work have been learning about 'Speech Marks'. We have learned that speech marks show the words people say and have also made up our own sentences using speech marks |
| Primary 4 | P4 have been learning to use different strategies when dividing. We used our prior learning of multiplication facts to create 'fact families'. Well done P4! |
| Primary 5 | Primary 5 have been using their knowledge of multiplication and division to answer word problems |
| Primary 5/6 | P5/6 have been learning about the metric system and the different units for measuring weight and length. They have been applying their knowledge of multiplying and dividing by 10, 100 and 1000 to convert between units. |
| Primary 6 | P6 have been flexing their Learning Muscles and getting active through the Joy of Moving Winter Games with the opportunity to inspire their buddies to lead a healthy lifestyle too. P6 have also been able to enter Mr Rae's first world in Minecraft Education Edition – technical issues hopefully now fixed! |
| Primary 7a | To tie in with International Women's Day the P7s will be researching and writing about an inspirational female figure |
| Primary 7b | |
| Art and Design | In Art, the children have been using everyday objects and using them to draw around and creating wonderful, creative works of art! |
| STEM | In STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths), P3-P7 have been constructing buildings or scenes from books, to celebrate World Book Day.<br>This week, P3 in school have been designing Mars landers, P4 have been researching a local scientist and P5-P7 have been finding out the answers to questions they sent to a scientist at the University of Edinburgh's Roslin Institute. |

## Additional Support for Learning

NHS Guide on Children returning to school

NHS Grampian have produced the following guides to support parents and carers in helping their children come back to learning in school. They can be accessed using the links below:

- It's ok to worry about going back to school: resource pack for parents
- It's ok to worry about going back to school: resource pack for parents of neurodiverse children
- Coming out of lockdown - managing worries: a guide for parents/carers of children and young people with long-term health conditions

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## Wall of Awe-STEM-ness - 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!

## Dates for the rest of session 2020-21.

Please see the term dates for the rest of the session. A calendar version for the rest of this session and all of next session is on the next page.

| | |
|---|---|
| **Term ends**: | Thursday 1 April 2021 (at usual staggered finishing times). |
| **Easter holidays:** | Friday 2 to Monday 19 April 2021 inclusive |
| **Term starts**: | Tuesday 20 April 2021 |
| **Mid term holidays:** | Monday 3 May 2021, May Day<br>Tuesday 4 May 2021, In service / staff only day<br>Monday 24 May 2021, Victoria Day |
| **Term ends:** | Friday 25 June 2021. |

Please note that pupils return for the beginning of Session 2021-22 on Wednesday 18th August 2021.

**Please contact us via the school office for any queries, questions or anything we can help with. Many thanks for your support!**

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**February 2021**

| Su | M | Tu | W | Th | F | S |
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**March 2021**

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**April 2021**

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**May 2021**

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**June 2021**

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**July 2021**

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**August 2021**

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**September 2021**

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**October 2021**

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**November 2021**

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**December 2021**

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**January 2022**

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**February 2022**

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**March 2022**

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**April 2022**

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**May 2022**

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**June 2022**

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**July 2022**

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School Closed/Holidays

Teacher In-Service Day (closed for pupils)