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Ratho Primary School

Head Teacher Newsletter: 4th June 2021

Contents

Head Teacher's Welcome 1
End of Session Reports and Class Organisation 2021-22 2
Parents, Carers and Pupils Survey 2
Composite Class information 2
Joint letter from Ratho Primary School and Ratho Community Centre 2
Ratho Gala Day 2
Ratho School Voice & Class Photographs 3
Sports week – Next week (7th – 11th June) 3
Ask the Pupils About… 4

Head Teacher's Welcome

Dear Ratho Primary School Community,

I hope this letter finds you and your families safe and well. As always, we have been very busy… and now that we are into June and the sun has finally come out, there is a sense that the end of session is nearing! Please see below for my fortnightly update on all things school related.

I was pleased to hear from the City of Edinburgh Council that Free School Meals will now be provided to P1-P4 children from next session. Also that prices remain at £2.25 for a school lunch, Milk remains at £0.17 per day and all is still available to order/pay through Parentpay. Can I encourage all families who are eligible for Free School Meals (whether P1-P4 or older) to apply… Successful applications can then also access free milk, free breakfast club places and potentially increase funding available to the school.

I was pleased to hear from Balerno High School that we as a cluster school will have the benefit of (limited) access to a trained counsellor for children next session. I hope to be able to use this resource to better support the mental health and well being of our pupils next session. For anyone who has any concerns regarding the wellbeing of their child's mental health, can I direct you to this excellent suite of resources which cover everything including Additional Support Needs, Stress, Anxiety, Bereavement, Resilience and so much more: See here DOWNLOADS | CAMHS Resources (camhs-resources.co.uk)

As always, please contact us via the school office for any queries, questions or anything we can help with. Many thanks for your continued support!

Yours sincerely,

Peter Gibb, Head Teacher.

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End of Session Reports and Class Organisation 2021-22

I intend to issue end of session reports on 11th June 2021. I will share details of classes and teachers for next session via a letter attached to the report.

Parents, Carers and Pupils Survey

During the week of 14th June, I will issue a survey to all regarding satisfaction with the school. I am very keen to effectively engage with the whole of Ratho School Community to hear your views, ideas and suggestions on what is going well and also your ideas for school improvements in the future.

I encourage all parents to submit a response to this survey, not only to gauge current levels of satisfaction but for you to have a voice and involvement in the future direction of our school.

Composite Class information

As you will be aware, Ratho Primary School currently has 11 classes, 3 of which are composite classes. We will also have composite classes next session. Many parents/carers have asked about composite classes either directly or during the recent parent consultations. A composite class is made using the following range of criteria:

- Meeting learners needs
- Age (stage appropriate)
- Friendships
- Gender balance
- Exceptional circumstances

Not all the above criteria need to be used but more than one criterion must be used. The specific criteria chosen will vary across schools, and professional judgment will be used to best meet the needs of learners in individual schools. Full information about Class Organisation in City of Edinburgh Council Primary Schools can be found on our school website alongside this newsletter.

Joint letter from Ratho Primary School and Ratho Community Centre

I met with the Chair of the Community Centre Management Committee a few weeks ago to discuss the shared building, shared campus and effective working practices between the school and community centre. This week I have suggested that we issue a joint statement to the wider Ratho community. Please see the letter accompanying and available on our school website with this newsletter.

Ratho Gala Day

A reminder that the Ratho Gala Day will be on 12th June this year. The Gala Committee have organised many fun and exciting events that they are able to host within current Covid restrictions. We encourage all our pupils and families to participate and enjoy a great day! Look out for further information within the community!

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Ratho School Voice & Class Photographs

I reported last newsletter on all the recent funding that the Ratho School Voice have provided, many thanks to the RSV for their generosity and support of and for the school! As regular official school photos have been suspended due to Covid restrictions, they have organised a local photographer to attend school to take class photos (organised with school infection controls in place). Primary 1, P.1/2, and both P7s were photographed today. All other classes will be next week. Please see the RSV Facebook page: "Ratho School Voice – RSV" for further details.

Sports week – Next week (7th – 11th June).

We are looking forward to our Ratho Primary Sports Week next week! Unfortunately, due to restrictions, we will be unable to have parents and carers at any of our events this year. However, we will share daily updates on our school Twitter @Ratho_Primary.

Each class will be participating in Sports Day activities with Miss Tumblety and Fitness Activities with our Active Schools coordinator, Neil Russell.

For this week only please can the learners come to school wearing sports wear on the days detailed in the table below and on the day of their class 'Sports Day' it would be wonderful to see them in their house colours.

	Sports Day – Wear House Colours	Active Schools Session
Monday	Primary 2 (can M-Z children be in at 9am sharp please) Primary 1 Primary 5/6 Primary 3	Primary 7a Primary 3/4 Primary 6 Primary 5
Tuesday	Primary 1/2 (can M-Z children be in at 9am sharp please) Primary 7a Primary 7b Primary 5	Primary 3 Primary 2 Primary 5/6 Primary 7b
Wednesday	Primary 6 (can M-Z children be in at 9am sharp please) Primary 3/4 Primary 4	
Thursday		
Friday		Primary 1 Primary 1/2 Primary 4

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Ask the Pupils About…

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

Nursery	Nursery have been enjoying not only one of their favourite stories; 'The Very Hungry Caterpillar', but also their very own real life hungry caterpillars who are now starting to cocoon!
Primary 1	Primary 1 are excited that our caterpillars have cocooned and we are patiently waiting for 4 Painted Lady butterflies to pop out to meet us! We have been reading about our favourite minibeasts and then writing down some important facts to share with others.
Primary 1/2	Primary 1/2 have been exploring lines of symmetry this week. We have learnt that a shape is symmetrical if a line can be drawn on it, to show that both sides of the shape are exactly the same. We know that shapes can have more than one line of symmetry and that some shapes will have no lines of symmetry. Can you find any symmetrical shapes at home?
Primary 2	Primary 2 have been learning about directional language - exploring forwards, backwards left and right. We have been applying our knowledge using the Kodable app to create sequences using these directions.
Primary 3	Primary 3 have started writing their own imaginative stories, including one where they pretended to play football for Scotland! They were thinking about what they could hear, see and feel.
Primary 3/4	P3/4 have been continuing to develop their weaving skills by making Dreamcatchers as we have been reading The BFG by Roald Dahl in class.
Primary 4	Primary 4 have been consolidating the core number skills of place value, addition, subtraction and multiplication through the context of money.
Primary 5	Primary 5 have been working on making budgets and totalling different amounts of money for products then checking we have budgeted correctly.
Primary 5/6	Primary 5/6 have been learning about different financial terms and documents, and the importance of budgeting this week in maths.
Primary 6	Primary 6 have taken part in an outdoor negative number scavenger hunt where they solved questions to find a secret code.
Primary 7s	The Primary 7 classes have enjoyed days out canoeing on the canal with fire making skills, hot chocolate and smores!
Art and Design	Primary 3/4, 4, 5 and 6 have been learning to weave using different materials. Primary 3 have been learning to shape, join and add texture to clay, creating secret doors. Primary 7 continue to work on their independent art projects 'My journey through Primary School'.
STEM	In STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) we have started a Great Science Share for Schools project alongside other primary schools in Edinburgh and Midlothian. We are investigating how yeast grows and children will be leading their own investigations and sharing their findings.

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February 2021

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March 2021

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April 2021

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July 2021

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August 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)