@Ratho_Primary

Ratho Primary Learning Links

admin@ratho.edin.sch.uk

www.ratho.edin.sch.uk

Ratho Primary School

Head Teacher Newsletter: 13th August 2021

Dear Ratho Primary School Community,

It's the final weekend of the 2021 summer holidays. I hope all our pupils (future, past and present!) and their families have had a good summer break. No doubt there will be a mix of emotions over this weekend and on Monday & Tuesday next week as we get ready to return to school. Our new starts in Nursery and P1 will have their first days, our current pupils will move up a stage and we'll be thinking of our former P7s as they get ready for their first day at High School. Of course, parents and carers will have a mix of emotions too… as will the staff as we get ready for Wednesday!

Pupils return on Wednesday 18th August and initially most of the organisation of the school day and the practicalities for pupils, parents and carers will remain as they were at the end of last session. There will be some changes over the course of the first term as we adapt to changes in Scottish Government and City of Edinburgh Council policy. The latest Scottish Government guidance prescribes that:

"Local authorities and schools should continue to apply the mitigations that were in place at the end of last term, with the exception of some modifications… This approach to retaining mitigations is expected to remain in place for a period of up to 6 weeks (until the end of September), following which further advice will be provided".

I would like to assure you that I will keep everyone informed of changes to arrangements in a timely manner over the first term and that we will be doing the very best we can for the pupils to settle them back into the new session. **One of the very first mitigations we will drop is the strict adherence to 'bubbles'. Children will generally remain in their class groups throughout the day, however will be able to mix across classes during break and lunch-time and for school groups, stage groups, learning groups, etc. The other initial change is the self-isolation guidance, please see below for further details.**

We are certainly looking forward to seeing everyone on Wednesday and we will be delighted to welcome all children back for the new school session!

Please see below for some important information in advance of next week.

Yours sincerely,

Peter Gibb,

Head Teacher.

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School times

Staggered start and finish times as per last session will remain in place in the first instance. We will review these times over the first term and update you accordingly.

Start & Finish times for P3-P7

	Start	Finish	Friday Finish Time
Surname A-L	8.45am	3pm	12.20 pm
Surname M-Z	8.55am	3.15pm	12.35 pm

Start & Finish times for P1 & P2

P1 and P2 classes will receive an additional afternoon break to accommodate an earlier lunchtime- you may wish to provide an extra snack for Monday- Thursday.

	Start	Finish	Friday Finish Time
Surname A-L	8.45am	2.40pm	12.00pm
Surname M-Z	8.55am	2.50pm	12.15 pm

Break times

Morning Break	Start	Finish
P1-3	10.25am	10.40am
P4-7	10.45am	11.00am

Lunch times

Lunches will continue to be served in classrooms in the first instance. We will review these arrangements and the use of the dining hall over the first term and update you accordingly.

Lunches	Start	Finish
P1-2	11.45am	12.30pm
P3-4/5	12.15pm	1.00pm
P5-7	12.45pm	1.30pm

New Primary 1 start details

All new P1 pupils start at 9:30am on Wednesday 18th August. We will welcome all pupils and parents/carers at the main playground gate. Parents/carers can say goodbye to the children and wave them off as they line up and lead off to their classrooms. Parents/carers will be welcome to meet and chat in the playground for a short while afterwards and then to collect children at **12.00pm.** We request adults wear facemasks and remain physically distanced at a minimum of 1m. Thank you.

The timetable is for new P1s to attend from 8.50am – 12.00pm on Thursday & Friday 19-20th August. They will then begin full days as above and with the A-L / M-Z surname split times from Monday 23rd August.

Nursery start details

All returning nursery pupils start back on Wednesday for normal nursery times 8.30am-4pm. All new nursery pupils have been sent an allocated visit time.

A WARM WELCOME TO ALL OUR NEW STARTS FOR 2021-22!

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Essential information

Pick up and drop off - Any children under 12 are able to mix together. However parents & carers are still **encouraged** to physically distance from other adults, wear face coverings and follow the previously established one-way system upon approach to school (see map below). Whilst national restrictions have been eased regarding Covid safety, these arrangements remain a sensible way to keep the school community safe. Your cooperation is appreciated.

Covid / Self-isolation arrangements - It is essential that you/your child does not attend school if you have symptoms of COVID-19. Anyone who develops symptoms of COVID-19 must self-isolate straight away, stay at home and arrange a test via the appropriate method. Everyone should follow health protection advice on household or self-isolation and Test and Protect procedures (click link) if they or someone in their household exhibits COVID-19 symptoms, or if they have been identified by NHS contact tracers as a close contact of someone with the virus.

Full guidance for City of Edinburgh Council schools is still being finalised, however the self-isolation process has changed for:
- adults who are fully vaccinated, who do not have symptoms and who have not tested positive; and
- children and young people aged under 18 who do not have symptoms and who have not tested positive.

Therefore, this session we hope to avoid instances where whole classes and staff are required to self-isolate. We will issue full guidance when finalised by the Council.

Staff Covid safety arrangements - Staff will continue to wear facemasks when moving in/through communal areas. Physical distancing of minimum 1m is required between all adults. Sanitisation and hygiene practices remain in place and staff are strongly encouraged to be LFT testing twice weekly. Staff are no longer required to adhere to 'bubbles'.

Hygiene arrangements - We will continue to encourage regular handwashing when children are in school and hand sanitisers will continue to be used. Enhanced cleaning, with Milton, will take place daily.

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Uniform & P.E. - Children are encouraged to wear school uniform. However, we will continue with outdoor P.E. in the first instance and therefore children should come dressed appropriately for outdoor P.E. on their classes P.E. days. Children do not need a change of footwear/indoor shoes and we will communicate P.E. days early next week.

We will review these arrangements and the use of the hall over the first term and update you accordingly.

Equipment - Children are still required to bring a filled water bottle and a snack. Children will continue to be provided with all the school resources that they will need by the school. If your child wishes to bring their own pencil case, they are permitted to do so, however children are responsible for their own belongings. We discourage children from bringing toys/fidget toys unless agreed (eg. as part of a support plan).

Breakfast Club - Breakfast Club will be available from Wednesday 18th August. Please book a space via parentpay or contact the school office 0131 333 1293 / admin@ratho.edin.sch.uk if in receipt of Free School Meals for a free space.

After School Club - 'Little Flyers' run the After School Club as a private company. They begin from Wednesday 18th August. Contact Little Flyers on 07546 146 059.

Office Contact - Please only access the office if absolutely necessary or by appointment. Please telephone 0131 333 1293 or email admin@ratho.edin.sch.uk. Please return any forms from the school via your child. Many thanks for your cooperation.

Staffing for session 2021-22

Class	Teacher	Pupil Support Assistant	Office:
Nursery	EYO – Mrs MacNeil EYP – Mrs Maclean, Miss Cook, Miss McGrorty, Mrs Ritchie,	EYA - Miss Marr EYD - Ms Palmer	Administrator: - Mrs Dixon School Support Assistant: - Mrs Ellaway
P1	Mrs Brown	Mrs Mitchell Mrs Mitchell Mr Riley-Morrison Mrs Wallace Mrs Robinson Miss Clark Miss Todd Mr Dredge Mr McNally Ms Rodden Ms Williams	**Senior Leadership Team:** Business Manager: - Mrs Wingate Principal Teacher: - Mrs Nicolson Depute Head Teacher: - Mrs Smith Head Teacher: - Mr Gibb
P1 / 2	Miss Davis		
P2	Miss Tumblety		
P3a	Mrs Nicolson		
P3b	Ms Mansur / Miss Ogilvy		
P4	Mrs Masterson / Mrs Tukalo		
P4/5	Miss McGhee		
P5	Miss Forrest		
P6	Miss Campbell		
P6/7	Miss Ogilvy / Mrs Marshall		
P7	Mr Anderson		
SFL	Mrs Humphries	**Facilities Management:** Facilities Technician - Mr Gus MacKerracher Cleaning Staff - Gina, Karen, Lynsey, Margaret.	
STEM	Mrs Dixon		

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Dates for session 2021-22

August 2021

Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

September 2021

Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	28
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

October 2021

Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

November 2021

Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

December 2021

Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

January 2022

Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

February 2022

Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28					

March 2022

Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

April 2022

Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

May 2022

Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

June 2022

Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

July 2022

Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

School Closed/Holidays

Teacher In-Service Day (closed for pupils)