@Ratho_Primary

Ratho Primary Learning Links

admin@ratho.edin.sch.uk

www.ratho.edin.sch.uk

Ratho Primary School

Head Teacher Newsletter: 24th September 2021

Dear Ratho Primary School Community,

Time for another newsletter! I hope to continue to provide fortnightly newsletters as I have managed since I joined Ratho Primary School, however I missed last week! With good excuse though as I accompanied the Primary 7s on their School Camp excursion to Lagganlia in the Cairngorms. See details of that and many other items below. Many thanks for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,

Peter Gibb, Head Teacher.

Covid cases and absences at Ratho Primary & Nursery

I am sure you already know that we have had a number of Covid positive cases in the school since we returned for the start of the session just over a month ago. Most classes have been affected at some point and the spike in cases here generally reflected the spike in numbers across Scotland over the past month. We also experienced a large number of absences due to parents/carers keeping their children off due to worries/anxiety about Covid.

In addition, we have had a very high number of staff absences in the past month (not all Covid related) and these together have made for a challenging start to the session. We have generally reverted to 'bubbles' again and we have not been able to revert to lunches in the dining hall, indoor P.E. or change the staggered start/finish times as I had hoped.

However, I am pleased to report that positive Covid case numbers have vastly reduced in the past 2 weeks and that almost all pupils are back in attendance at school. I am pleased that we seem to have come through this challenging period and I thank the staff for their resilience and commitment in helping provide for the children through this difficult time.

Going forward, I can ensure parents/carers that we have been and continue to follow the guidance of the City of Edinburgh Council and Health Protection Lothian to ensure our health and safety measures are correct and in line with national guidance. I hope to be able to remove the 'bubble' measures again and revisit the progression back to a more 'normal' school environment in the coming weeks.

Can I also remind parents/carers to report any absence as soon as practically possible and to keep us informed if a child experiences Covid symptoms or is following Covid advised procedures.

For Covid-19 cases that occur in school, I will send a groupcall text/email detailing which class the case is in and I will direct you to the NHS 'Warn and Inform' letter that is displayed on our website: Covid19 Information – Ratho Primary School

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Communication with Parents and Carers.

Unfortunately, we still cannot welcome parents/carers back into school just yet, however, as a standard, we will communicate with parents and carers in the following ways this session.

- 'Meet the Teacher' video presentations have already been created and posted; please see these on your child's class website page.
- Curriculum Information Leaflets will be created termly, again please see these on your child's class website page.
- Parent/Carer Consultation phone calls twice a year:
    - November 10th & 11th
    - June 1st & 2nd
- Learning Journal observations; 5 in the first term, 2 in the second term and 5 in the third term. (We are reviewing the use of these in line with feedback received from the parent/carer survey last session). Please login and view!
- End of session reports in June.
- Support for Learning letters (for all pupils who have been identified as requiring SfL) have been issued detailing the supports and frequency of additional SfL those children receive. Teachers are following these letters up with phone calls to those parents/carers.
- We are looking into whether we will be able to share learning events (or even performances!) with parents/carers either virtually or in person if allowed.
- Use of Twitter and school website.
- Fortnightly Headteacher newsletters.
- Groupcall text messages and emails as needed.
- Ad-hoc phone-calls from teachers as needed.
- Some children have individual arrangements such as regular Child Planning Meetings.
- Parents will be requested to share their views through report feedback and whole school surveys. The school will evaluate and consider the parent voice when making whole school decisions for the future.
- Parents can call or email the school direct on 0131 333 1293 or admin@ratho.edin.sch.uk with any queries and we will respond as appropriate.

P7 School Camp

We had a very successful School Camp for the P7s from Monday 13th- 17th September in Lagganlia. It was a lot of work to ensure we managed to go and to make sure everything was safe and compliant with guidance and regulations, however the value of the experience for the children makes it all worthwhile. Huge thanks to Miss Ogilvy and Mrs Mitchell who accompanied myself and helped support the children throughout the trip. If you want to see some photos and videos of their experiences, please see the school Twitter feed: @Ratho_Primary, https://twitter.com/Ratho_Primary or link/feed on the school website.

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Ratho School Voice

We are ever grateful for the support of our Parent Council, the Ratho School Voice. They have agreed to make a significant donation to support the P7 school camp last week and have a fundraising meeting to be arranged in October. They had their AGM last week and have appointed all office bearers and Class Reps, but not a Secretary or P6 rep… If you are interested, please contact them direct, through their Facebook Page (Ratho School Voice) or via the school.

Office Bearers:

Joint Chairs: Leanne Chalmers and Emily McMorris
Treasurer: Debbie Smith
Secretary: TBC… The Secretary role description is as follows:

- Attending RSV Meetings
  - take notes of meeting
  - type up minutes and pass to Chair(s) to approve
  - Distribute minutes via RSV Facebook Page
  - Email minutes to headteacher, for their records and to upload to school website
- Assist at event for example.
  - Fundraising events
  - Sports Days
  - Christmas Fair
  - Book Day Coffee Evening
  - School uniform sales

Class Reps

Nursery – Lynsey Johnston & Claire Muir

Primary 1 – Nicola Gillan

Primary 1/2 - Rebecca Mackenzie

Primary 2 – Priya Chamberlain & Gillian Fraser

Primary 3a &b – Lynsey Johnston & Claire Muir

Primary 4 – Dannii Manches

Primary 4/5 – Gillian Fraser

Primary 5 – Dannii Manches

Primary 6 - TBC

Primary 6/7 – Sam Mitchell

Primary 7 – Jen Adams & Gillian Fraser

Dates for meetings:

- 11th November 7pm
- 2nd December 7pm
- Christmas Fundraising meeting in October: TBC.

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School Renewal Plan for 2021-22

In pre-pandemic times all schools would submit and Standards and Quality Report and School Improvement Plan to the City of Edinburgh Council at the end of each session. For the last 2 years, schools have submitted a School Renewal Plan. We have prepared a parent friendly version of our School Renewal Plan which you can view on our website, also on the website alongside this newsletter and attached via email.

School Events

Classes are completing standardised assessments over this fortnight to help us get a clear summative picture of attainment data across the school.

This week we have been participating in 'Recycling Week'; the pupils have been surveying litter, contributing to recycling development across the school and also designing and creating Recycling Mascots which our fab Eco Team are running a competition for!

We have also got our Junior Road Safety Officer 'Hands Up Scotland Survey' running this week evaluating how pupils get to/from school and if there's improvements we can make to help travel to be safer or more eco-friendly.

Last week many classes celebrated Roald Dahl day with fun literacy themed activities based around the works of Roald Dahl.

Next week is 'Maths Week Scotland' and classes and our numeracy team are providing extra Maths and Numeracy challenges for pupils throughout the week.

Next Month is 'Black History Month' and classes will be exploring equalities and diversity in classes.

We are completing Christmas art for the Rudolph Cards fundraising project run by the Ratho School Voice… expect to receive a letter and artwork to order next week!

We will complete our 'Building Resilience'; Take a Moment unit next month through our weekly virtual assemblies and classwork.

CEC School Catering Message

Please see this message from the City of Edinburgh Council's Catering Manager; *"Due to current national supply chain issues, we may need to change our menus at short notice as we adapt to the changing situation. As you may be aware from the national media there is currently a shortage of HGV drivers, this in some cases may result in product substitutions. We are working closely with our catering suppliers to mitigate disruption and our catering teams are working to adapt menus at a local level based on product availability. Pupils with special diets will continue to be catered for, however menus may differ from that on ParentPay. In addition, COVID is having an impact within our catering team resources, in some isolated cases we are having to deliver a packed lunch service offering, our teams are working incredibly hard to provide the best service possible during unprecedented times, we apologise for any inconvenience this may cause".*

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Message from Edinburgh Leisure and British Diving:

Following on from the fantastic summer of sport, British Diving and Edinburgh Leisure are **on the hunt for the next generation of diving superstars**. Any child aged 8-14 can sign up to participate in their **virtual talent search** using the following link:

https://www.swimming.org/diving/diving-virtual-talent-search/

All participants need to do is sign up, select their closest diving performance centre (Edinburgh hopefully!), video themselves doing some skills, send them in and wait for the results. Every participant gets a **free diving taster session** whether they are selected to the next phase of the talent search or not. The link below shows the details of the skills required to be videoed and sent in to the judges.

https://www.swimming.org/diving/diving-virtual-talent-search-level-1/

We would normally visit schools as part of our talent identification programme, but due to COVID this has not been possible this year. So we have gone virtual – meaning that the fantastic opportunity to be talent spotted for a new sport is opened up to anyone in Edinburgh, rather than just the schools that we are able to visit.

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
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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
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17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

November 2021

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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
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26	27	28	29	30	31	

January 2022

Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
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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
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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
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13	14	15	16	17	18	19
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27	28	29	30	31		

April 2022

Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
					1	2
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24	25	26	27	28	29	30

May 2022

Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
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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
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26	27	28	29	30		

July 2022

Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
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24	25	26	27	28	29	30
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School Closed/Holidays Teacher In-Service Day (closed for pupils)