@Ratho_Primary

Ratho Primary Learning Links

admin@ratho.edin.sch.uk

www.ratho.edin.sch.uk

Ratho Primary School

Head Teacher Newsletter: 11th October 2021

Dear Ratho Primary School Community,

I hope you are all well and looking forward to the October Holiday at the end of this week. We break on Friday October 15th and pupils return on Tuesday 26th October.

I am pleased to report that we have had no new positive Covid cases reported for the past 3 weeks. This has undoubtedly been a very challenging term for everyone, not least in terms of staffing for the school but I hope we have come through the worst of it and we look forward to next term with cautious optimism. Once again, I thank the staff for their resilience and commitment in helping provide for the children through this difficult time

I'd like to make you aware of the important information for next term below in advance of Friday, so as parents and carers have some time to digest and prepare accordingly. I am delighted to be able to press ahead with the changes to our school day as we return for the second term. Please see full details below.

I hope all our families have a safe and restful holiday when it comes!

Yours sincerely,

Peter Gibb,

Head Teacher.

School times

We will remove the A-L and M-Z cohorts with effect from 26th October. Please see the adjusted times for all below.

School day times for P1 & P2

P1 & P2	Start	Break	Lunch	Finish
Monday - Thursday	08.50	10.30-10.45	12.00-13.00	14.55
Friday	08.50	10.30-10.45	N/A	12.15

School day times for P3 – P7

P3-P7	Start	Break	Lunch	Finish
Monday - Thursday	08.50	10.30-10.45	12.30-13.15	15.15
Friday	08.50	10.30-10.45	N/A	12.25

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Staffing News

It is with great sadness that I have to announce that our administrator, Mrs Claire Dixon will be leaving Ratho Primary School on the 5th November to begin a new position. We thank Claire for all her hard work and dedication to the school, not just in her administrative role but in supporting the children and their parents and carers. Of course, we wish Claire all the very best for the future and look forward to her being a friend of the school for many years to come.

Essential information for parents/carers from October 26th

Pick up and drop off:- Parents & carers are still **encouraged to physically distance from other adults, avoid congregating, wear face coverings and follow the previously established one-way system upon approach to school** (see map below). These arrangements remain a sensible way to keep the school community safe. Your cooperation is appreciated. We will also enable a level of physical distancing in the following ways:

Start of day:

The school gates will open at 08.45 and pupils can enter the playground and school themselves from 08.45-08.50. One member of staff will be in the playground between both the main gate and the Hallcroft Park/West gate should any pupils need assistance or parents have any messages to pass on.

We will continue not to use the school bell, but all pupils should be in by 08.50 and the school gates will be closed by after 08.50. Any pupils arriving after 08.50 should report in through the office as late.

End of the day:

- 14.55**: P1 & P1/2** will leave from the main playground gate.
- 14.55: **P2** will leave from the Hallcroft Park/West gate

- 15.15: Both **P3** classes will leave from the Hallcroft Park/West gate… P3 pupils should be collected by parents/carers; please distance yourself appropriately and make yourself visible for your child when collecting them.
- 15.15: **P4 – P7** pupils will be dismissed from the main gate.

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Covid-19 / Self-isolation arrangements - It is essential that your child does not attend school if they 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.

Indoor shoes and cloakrooms – We will resume using indoor shoes and cloakrooms from 26th October. Please provide your child with a pair of simple indoor shoes that they can leave in school. We have shoe 'cubby-holes' for all classes. We will also resume using cloakrooms… Please ensure your child comes to school with a weather-appropriate jacket. Children will only have breaks inside in the event of extremely inclement weather (if it's only a light shower, they will play outside).

Dining Hall / Indoor P.E. – We have re-purposed part of the STEM Hub as staffroom space so as we can get back to using the dining hall. From 26th October we will phase the return to the dining hall starting with P1&P2 pupils. Then P3&P4 from 1st November and all pupils from 3rd November. Children who have a packed lunch will also eat in the hall with their classmates. Can we request no fizzy drinks, **NO NUTS** and of course we encourage children to have healthy snacks and fruit.

Uniform – We request that all children wear school uniform every day. Many thanks to all parents who have continued to send their pupils in uniform throughout this session. We have school sweatshirts, polo shirts, cardigans and PE kits for sale through our supplier www.border-embroideries.co.uk. You can also purchase plain uniforms from most major supermarkets.

The sweatshirt and cardigans are red and have the school badge embroidered on the chest. Our P7s wear black sweatshirts as a mark of their special position of responsibility in our school. Other uniform is as follows:

- Grey or black trousers, shorts, skirts or pinafores
- In summer, girls can wear red summer school dresses
- White shirts and school ties are also acceptable

We request that all uniform is labelled with first names and surnames so that we can recover if lost. We are always looking for older uniforms to recycle and provide for children coming through the school. Please hand in school uniforms to the school office.

P.E. - We will continue to have outdoor P.E. but we will now be able to use the hall for indoor P.E. when the weather is poor (or too cold). I have also requested times for when we can use the Community Centre Gym Hall and await confirmation as to whether we can use their hall too.

We have discussed changing for P.E. with the House Captains and agreed with them to continue allowing children to come to school dressed appropriately for outdoor P.E. on their class P.E. days. **However, children should wear their school sweatshirt, polo or cardigan, etc. on top which can be easily removed for their P.E. lesson**. Children can wear their indoor shoes if their P.E. lesson is in the hall.

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Football strips and tracksuits (and pupil footballs)
We request that children refrain from wearing football strips, shirts, tracksuits, etc. Whilst some children have enjoyed wearing their football colours over the past year, regrettably it has also caused some disagreements and so we revert to the 'No Football Colours' guidance as per pre-pandemic. In addition, we request that children do not bring their own footballs (again, this has also caused some disagreements) – we have plenty for the children to use!

Mobile Phones, Smart Watches, School Equipment - Children are still required to bring a filled water bottle and a snack. 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).

Mobile phones are not permitted to be used in the school. If children bring them, they should be handed in to teachers who will return them at the end of the day.

We have also noticed an increase in children wearing Apple watches/smart watches to school. We note that there is a difference from a 'Fit-Bit' or similar, but if they have the functionality to receive messages, calls, photos, etc then they generally will be considered the same as mobile phones and should be handed in to teachers who will return them at the end of the day.

Many thanks for your cooperation and support regarding all of the above!

Eco Success and Morrisons School Vouchers

We are very proud to have been re-awarded our Eco Schools Green Flag status, you can see our new flag flying proudly above the school! Congratulations to Mrs Brown and all in the Eco-Team for your success! We are also collecting the Morrisons 'It's Good to Grow' school vouchers… Please have your child hand them in or drop them in at the office. Many thanks!

Cars and Traffic around school

Dear drivers… I've been informed of some dangerous manoeuvring at the garages/library when pupils are being dropped off. At pick-up/drop-off time many are walking past and safety considerations for the children must take priority. In addition, one of our neighbours in Hallcroft Park has raised concerns regarding the driving of parents/carers dropping off at the end of that street.

Please consider if you can help keep children safer by not driving to school or by parking in a safe area and walking in. For example, 'Park and Stride' from Dalmahoy Road and Lorraine the lollipop lady will help the pupils cross the road. If parents/carers must drive children to school, please be safe and considerate of others and also please refrain from using the school car park at any time.

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Dates for Session 2020-21

Parent/Carer Consultation phone calls will be on November 10th & 11th 2021. We will use the 'School Interview' booking system again. Details will be sent out after the October break.

Learning Journal observations for the end of this term will be available for most classes. Please login and view!

The date of the 'Victoria Day' holiday in May has changed, please see the calendar below for all dates for the rest of the session.

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	18
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)