@Ratho_Primary Ratho Primary Learning Links

admin@ratho.edin.sch.uk www.ratho.edin.sch.uk

Ratho Primary School

Head Teacher Newsletter: 19th November 2021

Dear Ratho Primary School Community,

I am pleased to report that the term is going well, it's hard to believe we are halfway through already. The pupils have been engaging well with learning and teaching and we are now beginning to cast our eye towards fun and festivities in a few weeks time! Many thanks for parents/carers showing consideration regarding vehicular congestion at pick-up/drop-off, things seem to have improved. However we will continue to monitor and I am liaising with the Council's Road Safety and Travel Officer on improvements. It has been lovely to see so much fun today for our Dress up / Dress down for Children in Need day!

Best wishes to all our families and pupils for the rest of November.

Yours sincerely,

Peter Gibb, Head Teacher.

Staffing News

Miss Heather Tumblety (P2 teacher) is leaving us today to pursue an opportunity in Australia. We thank Heather for teaching and supporting the children of Ratho for the past 6 years and we wish her all the very best for the future and look forward to a postcard to tell us about her adventures 'down under'! We have arranged that Mr O'Gorman will cover the class for the final 4 weeks of the term and we are well underway with our recruitment for a permanent appointment to replace Miss Tumblety.

Parent/Carer Consultations

We were very pleased to have conducted our first round of this session's Parent/Carer consultations. I received feedback from the Ratho School Voice about the (circumstantial) short window for booking appointments. Apologies for this, however we were certainly proactive in allocating appointments after bookings closed and we managed to engage with the vast majority of our parents and carers. If you didn't have an appointment, please call the school to discuss.

R.S.V.

The Ratho School Voice will be having their next meeting on **2nd December at 7pm.** They are looking to engage more parents/carers and encourage you to please come along to a meeting… see details on their Facebook page or contact a Class Rep. for details.

Also, they have a few final numbers available for their lottery for RSV funds. The cost is £12 per number and your number will be entered into 6 draws over the next 6 months. Again, see details on their Facebook page or contact a Class Rep. for further details.

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Flu Vaccinations

The NHS Flu Vaccination programme will take place on **November 30th** in school. All children whose parent/carer returned a consent form will be administered a nasal vaccine that day from the NHS team. If you have any queries, please contact the school.

Pupil Groups – Dress Down days

The pupil groups are up and running… They were announced again, confirmed at assembly and all groups have had their first meeting. Congratulations to all pupils who have taken on a role! Our groups are:

- Hose Captains / Vice Captains
- Ratho Action Group (Pupil Council)
- Eco-Warriors
- Rights Knights
- STEM Team
- Digital Leaders and Digital Deputes
- Junior Road Safety Officers

The first actions to come from them are the Ratho Action Group will be organising and collecting the donations from today's Children in Need dress up/down day.

The House Captains have re-introduced monthly 'Dress Down Fridays' on the last Friday of each month. See here for an explanation from the House Captains! https://youtu.be/YyMoeblcLX4. They have also been busy addressing all classes to encourage and promote our School Values of Respect, Responsibility, Friendship, Honesty and Kindness.

The first of the monthly 'Dress Down Fridays' is on Friday 26th November will be for Food Bank donations rather than monetary donations for our local food bank - Ratho Store House. Children should bring a donation to school with them tomorrow.

Donations can include tinned meats, tinned fruit, cereals, jarred goods, sauces, tea bags, coffee, pasta and anything that has a long shelf life.

Please check that all food are within date, are well packaged and avoid perishable goods such as fresh fruit, vegetables, milk etc. Sugar should also be avoided.

More information about the Ratho Store House and how to access the food bank can be found here.

Most Needed Items

- Canned Meats (Tuna, Salmon, Ravioli)
- Canned Corn
- Macaroni & Cheese
- Tomato Sauce
- Canned Fruits in Light Syrup
- Low Sodium Soups
- Pasta & Pasta Sauces
- Low Sodium Mixed Vegetables
- Canned Chili
- Diced Tomatoes
- Rice and Brown Beans (in 1 lb. bags)
- Peanut Butter & Jelly
- Granola Bars
- Oatmeal
- Applesauce
- Fruit Cups
- Raisins
- Shelf Stable Milk

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Events

We are very excited to be able to plan further events now that our bubble restrictions have lifted:

- Christmas Lunch day will be on Wednesday 8th December, we'll encourage everyone to wear their Christmas jumpers/tinsel/hats, etc. on that day.
- Christmas parties will be from Monday-Wednesday in the final week of term.
- The RSV have organised a Christmas Crazy Hair and Headwear Day. This will be Thursday 16th December and children will be asked to bring in a donation for RSV funds. RSV will give a small prize for each class to for the best crazy hair do.
- The P1s & P2s are preparing and filmed nativity and the P3s are preparing a filmed Christmas 'sing-a-long' for us to enjoy on Thursday 16th December!
- We have organised a 'Virtual Pantomime', Cinderella to watch on the final day of term Friday 17th December.

Carol Singing Opportunity

St Mary's Cathedral at Palmerston Place in Edinburgh are offering pupils who enjoy singing the opportunity to sing carols in the cathedral. On Saturday 4th December at 1.30pm they are holding a 'Come and Sing Carols' event for children in years P3-P7. Registration is at 1.30pm, a rehearsal from 2pm, and then carols will be sung to the audience at 4pm (refreshments provided). Children from different schools will sing alongside the choristers of St Mary's Cathedral. More information and booking is at www.cathedral.net

Library and Early Years Centre build update

I have had a couple of queries recently regarding progress on the proposed new Ratho Library and Early Years Centre. I am informed that the City of Edinburgh Council hopes to have appointed a contractor for the works in January 2022. The current scheduled completion date for the works is August 2023.

Covid Reminders

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.

We now have a supply of home PCR kits (post the sample) for any families that require one, please ask at the office for further details.

Many thanks for your continued support of the school!

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Dates for Session 2020-21

August 2021						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
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29	30	31				

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)