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

Ratho Primary School

Head Teacher Newsletter: 5th November 2021

Dear Ratho Primary School Community,

Our first term seems a long time ago despite the fact that we're only 2 weeks into the second term! The clocks have gone back, Halloween has passed, we've had frost overnight and now we're onto Guy Fawkes and Bonfire night! There have also been changes in school life as you know and as you'll see with further details below.

I hope all our families and pupils stay safe, happy and warm over the term ahead.

Yours sincerely,

Peter Gibb, Head Teacher.

Staffing News

Our administrator, Mrs Claire Dixon will be leaving Ratho Primary School today 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. We are delighted to announce that Eileen Simpson is the preferred candidate for the Administrator position following our recruitment procedures. We hope to welcome Eileen in early December; until then Mrs Ellaway will provide office cover from 8.30am – 12.00pm each day and Mrs Wingate/Mr Gibb/Mrs Smith will provide cover in the afternoons.

In further staffing news, Miss Tumblety (P2) announced in October that she will also be leaving us to pursue an opportunity in Australia. She will finish on 19th November and we wish her well on her adventures 'down under'. We hope to have Ms Roberts (currently in P1/2) to cover the class for the final 4 weeks of the term.

School times

The adjustment to more traditional school times has largely went well for everyone. A reminder of times as below:

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

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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Drop-off/pick-up and driving around school

You should be aware that I have repeatedly requested drivers to please consider if you can help keep children safer by not driving to school, walking, parking in a safe area and walking in (park and stride) or dropping-off a safe distance from the school. The advice issued last week was for to drivers to drive safely, park safely and be considerate to the children and our neighbours around school. Use of the Hallcroft Park cul-de-sac and the garages/library area at School Wynd is problematic and potentially dangerous for cars manoeuvring. Please help support the school by showing your consideration.

Obviously, safety for the children must take priority and we should be considerate of our neighbours. However, you may be aware that there was some debate on this matter on social media and it has been brought to my attention that some have concerns with the school starting times and our 'soft-start' approach of allowing children to enter from 8.45-8.50am without the need for school bell or lining up.

To alleviate these concerns, specifically for drivers who must drop off close to the school, we will open the gates from 8.35am and pupils can wait in the top-playground area until the school opens at 8.45am. We will have a PSA present to monitor and ensure first-aid, etc, however technically we cannot accept responsibility for children's welfare until they are in the building at the start of the school day. This provision is not free childcare or an earlier start to the school day; merely an attempt to address concerns and alleviate pressure on drivers around the school. Pupils who arrive early will be expected to behave responsibly until let into the building between 8.45-8.50am. Also, we will operate this as a 'trial period' and will revise if the arrangement becomes unmanageable. The flow of pupils through the gates between 8.45-8.50am for the past 2 weeks has been very smooth and safe and it will be best if this remains normal practice for the vast majority of pupils.

If any parents do require care of their children before school hours, we have a well-established Breakfast Club that runs in the Community Centre from 8am. Please contact the school office to enquire for a place.

Many thanks for your cooperation and support.

Parent/Carer Consultations

Consultations will take place next week, all parents/carers should have received a booking instruction. If you haven't yet booked your appoint for a phone-call, please do so. If you have a problem/concern, please contact the office for assistance.

Curriculum Information Leaflets & Building Resilience

Curriculum Information Leaflets have been created and posted for all classes. Please view your child's class page on our school website here: Our Classes – Ratho Primary School Unfortunately, not all pupils will receive a paper copy home today but they are available digitally, as is our Parent/Carer information leaflet for this term's Building Resilience Unit "Talk Things Over" which we introduced and started yesterday. Please see the leaflet here: Newsletters – Ratho Primary School

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P1 Registration for August 2022

If your child's date of birth is between 1st March 2017 and 28th February 2018, they are due to start Primary 1 in August 2022. Please register them online between 1st – 19th November 2021 www.edinburgh.gov.uk/p1registration

Poppies & Remembrance Day

We have a supply of poppies from The Scottish Poppy Appeal/Poppy Scotland that our House Captains will take around the classes from today and also Monday-Thursday next week. Children can have a poppy for a small (coin only) donation. We will have a minute silence at 11.00am on Thursday 11/11 and we will share a message from Rev. Wells at Assembly that day. Rev. Wells has resumed visits every Thursday and will visit 2 classes on each Thursday he is in.

R.S.V.

The Ratho School Voice will be having their next 2 meetings on **11th November at 7pm and 2nd December at 7pm.** Please see details on their Facebook page or contact a Class Rep. for details. They are still looking for a parent/carer to take on the (voluntary) role of **RSV Secretary**. This is an excellent opportunity to support your fellow parents/carers and the school community; please see the details of the role responsibilities below.

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 events, for example.

- Fundraising events
- Sports Days
- Christmas Fair
- Book Day Coffee Evening
- School uniform sales

R.S.V. Calendar and Calendar Cover Competition

All the children, from nursery to P7, have been busy creating self-portraits again this year. Their amazing artwork will be available for you to purchase in the form of school calendars (all children from nursery -p7), fridge magnets & keyrings (of your child). These will shortly be available to order!

In the meantime, we are looking for a front cover for this year's calendar. All entries must be in by **Friday the 19th of November.** Please drop these entries into the school post box clearly labelled **FAO: Ratho School Voice.** Here are the details you need to know:

- This years theme is: **Climate Change/Save our Planet**
- Entrants must be between nursery P7 at Ratho Primary School
- Pictures must be drawn in **Pen** on **A4 paper landscape**
- Please **use colour**
- Return entries to the school office by **Friday the 19th of November.**

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- Please remember to **write your name and class on the back**
- The winner will receive a copy of the 2022 calendar with their picture on the cover and an art set.

Many thanks to the R.S.V., the RSV calendar team for all that they do to support the school. (They have just made a donation of over £1000 to cover the shortfall in funds required for this year's P7 camp trip!)

Pupil Groups

We have Pupil Groups announced and plans are afoot for their involvement in shaping our school! 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

Events

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

- Children in Need Day – Friday 19th November. (Dress-Up day & Donations for Children in Need)
- Now that all pupils are back to wearing uniform, Dress Down days are returning on the last Friday of every month. The first will be Friday 26/11/21 and donations will be for charities chosen by the House Captains.
- 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.
- We were delighted to host 'Taster Sessions' for Ratho United. All the pupils seemed to have a great time playing games and learning new skills. (Ratho United are an 'all inclusive' community football club for boys and girls who were born between the years 2011 and 2016. They operate both 'mixed' and 'girls' teams within the club and are currently recruiting in the following teams: **Girls** - Girls born in the year 2011, 2012, 2013 and 2014 to join our new and exciting 'Girls Teams'. **Mixed** – 2014 and 2012, we are currently full at 2013 and 2011. (if your child would like to join but there are no spaces, they would join our waiting list and you would be contacted once a space is available.) If you are interested please register your child at: www.rathounited.club

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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.

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
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
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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)