@Ratho_Primary Ratho Primary Learning Links

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Ratho Primary School

Head Teacher Newsletter: 16th December 2021

Dear Ratho Primary School Community,

We have reached the end of term and our very much deserved Christmas holidays!

This has been a successful term where we have managed to return to more regular school hours, re-introduce buddies between younger and older pupils, re-introduce pupil groups, get back into the dining hall for lunches and facilitate a return to indoor P.E.… Of course, the children have also been engaged in many fantastic learning experiences and have made good progress throughout the term.

At times, this term has also been a challenging term and we have had to be flexible, patient, understanding and adapt to many changes as well. To that end, I'd like to express huge thanks to the staff for their hard work and good efforts in providing the best learning we can for the pupils and also to parents and carers for their support and cooperation. Finally, huge thanks to the children for doing their best in their learning, their development and in representing our school and demonstrating the school values in their actions.

As we break for the holidays tomorrow, I wish all our pupils, families, staff and school community a very merry, but also safe, peaceful and relaxing Christmas holiday and very best wishes for the New Year in 2022.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,

Peter Gibb, Head Teacher.

Christmas Video Links

PRESENTING…**OUR RATHO PRIMARY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS VIDEOS!**

Sit back, relax and use the below links to watch our Infant Nativity, Christmas Sing-a-long Videos and Christmas Violin Performance.

These videos are on You Tube however they have been uploaded as unlisted videos which means that only those with the link can watch the video.

The children have had a great time learning the lines, songs and parts and have done a fantastic job! We are so proud of them all!

Nativity Performance - https://youtu.be/70Gj_3ATNUY

Primary 3 Christmas Sing-a-long - https://youtu.be/PCVZZA6MaxU

Primary 4 Christmas Sing-a-long - https://youtu.be/YFISLCA8ezE

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Primary 4/5 Christmas Sing-a-long - https://youtu.be/I7UnNGgDgsI

Primary 5 Christmas Sing-a-long - https://youtu.be/Kpchc7bnn5w

Primary 6 Christmas Sing-a-long - https://youtu.be/60WGCwLjnhQ

Primary 6/7 Christmas Sing-a-long - https://youtu.be/J0qAQb2I5Jw

Primary 7 Winter Wonderland Promo 2021 - https://youtu.be/Cf4FHAq6Lvc

Ratho Violinists Christmas 2021 - https://youtu.be/i99V4kmWdlw

We hope you have a lovely time over the festive period! See you in 2022! - The Ratho Primary School Staff!

Class Christmas Wishes

The classes have all prepared a Christmas wish to share at today's assembly. Their messages are so wonderful, I thought we'd share them with all… Enjoy the spirit of Christmas in the words of the pupils:

P1	I wish that everyone could be together for Christmas.
P1/2	Good health for the animals and trees all over our planet and for Covid to end.
P2	For Santa to visit every child and for the world to be kinder to the planet and to animals.
P3a	To look after our planet and keep it tidy and that everyone is responsible with their litter. To look after people, especially homeless and people who have difficulties.
P3b	Our wish is for all children to have access to their rights and for discrimination to end.
P4	Our Christmas wish is to end world hunger, for everyone to have good mental health and for the world to have little more kindness.
P4/5	Our wish is for friendship and respect between all nations.
P5	For everyone to be treated equally and for everything agreed at COP26 to happen
P6	We wish that everyone can enjoy Christmas this year in happiness, health and peace; that people can find shelter and food with family and friends on our planet which we hope will one day be free of climate change.
P6/7	'For everyone in the world to be happy, have a home to go to and get to spend time with friends and family.'
P7	'2021 has been a difficult year but we managed to get to camp and it was an incredible experience. In 2022 we move on to high school. We hope we all find happiness and success when we are there. We also hope everyone around the world stays safe from COVID and hopefully some kind of normal will return.'

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De-STEM-ber

Dear families,

This month we have had a range of winter-themed STEM activities across the school. Our pupil STEM Team wanted to tell you a bit about what we've been up to:

- "I liked the snowball maze - you got to design a maze and I like designing things"
- "I liked the snowball maze because the straws made it challenging"
- "I liked the winter inventions because I like making things using my imagination"
- "I liked the winter inventions - you could make it do any winter job and also be very creative with it"
- "I liked working with our buddies - I liked seeing their reaction when they tried out an experiment"
- "I liked designing the Elf on the Shelf trap - you had to rely on your creativity skills"
- "I liked the Elf on the Shelf trap because it was fun"

With their class teachers, some classes also designed a slide or slide and sledge to rescue a penguin.

Holidays STEM Challenge

Here's something to keep the whole family busy in the holidays! The STEM Team want to challenge you to build a model snowman using anything in your house - they came up with lots of materials you could use, such as:

paper, cardboard, cotton wool/pads, kitchen roll, magic snow, wool, buttons, string, straws, clay, plasticine, playdough, salt dough, Lego, blocks, wood, things from the garden like twigs and leaves. You could even build an edible snowman out of marshmallows and cocktail sticks, carrot, roll-out icing or fondant, modelling chocolate... or anything else you can think of.

If you like, you can upload a photo or video of your snowman to your class Teams, or tweet it to @STEM_RathoPS - we can't wait to see what you build!

Have a brilliant holiday,

From Mrs Dixon and the Ratho STEM Team.

R.S.V.

Huge thanks to the Ratho School Voice for their Christmas fundraising efforts. Cards, coasters, calendars, Christmas prize draws and Crazy Hair Days… What a lot of fun and all for great causes across the school! Many thanks to everyone who participates, contributes, organises or takes part in any way!

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Staffing News

As you will know from the last newsletter, Mrs Eileen Simpson has joined us as our new School Administrator; a warm welcome to her. I'm also very pleased to announce that we have appointed Miss Caitlin Brownlie as class teacher. Miss Brownlie will teach Primary 2 from January 6th 2022. I am also pleased to welcome Mrs Yvonne McColm back to Ratho Primary School. Mrs McColm taught with us across many classes last session and a warm welcome back to her to teach in Ratho again next term.

Unfortunately, we also have some outgoing staff as well…. We are sorry to lose Mrs Lesley Humphries, who will be off to pastures new in the new year. We thank Mrs Humphries for teaching and supporting the children of Ratho for many years and we wish her all the very best for the future. We also say farewell and thanks to Mr Warwick Dredge as a Pupil Support Assistant, we wish him well for the future.

We also say huge thanks and goodbye to both Martin O'Gorman in P2 and Joyce Roberts in P1/2 who have both done so well covering classes on a supply basis for this term. Huge thanks to them and of course, should the need arise, we hope to see both back at Ratho again sometime in the future.

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 PCR test. We have done our best to collate all the information the families need to know, this can be found on our school website under Parent Zone, Covid-19 information, or here:

Covid19 Information – Ratho Primary School

There may well be further information forthcoming during or after the holiday, but the latest information from the City of Edinburgh Council is from Lorna French, Acting Head of Schools and Lifelong Learning, who issued a letter regarding updated Covid guidance which was shared on 13/12/21. See here: http://rathoprimary.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/CEC-Parent-Carer-Letter-13-12-21.pdf

Parents are invited to a meeting to discuss to discuss the impact of Covid and to put together an integrated impact assessment. Details on how to attend the meetings are attached and on the school website.

Return to School in 2022

We return to school at 8.50am on Thursday 6th January 2022.

Many thanks for your continued support of the school…Merry Christmas and Happy New Year when it comes!

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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
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29	30	31				

September 2021						
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October 2021						
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31						

November 2021						
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December 2021						
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January 2022						
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30	31					

February 2022						
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27	28					

March 2022						
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April 2022						
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May 2022						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
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29	30	31				

June 2022						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
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July 2022						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
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24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

School Closed/Holidays

Teacher In-Service Day (closed for pupils)