@Ratho_Primary Ratho Primary Learning Links

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

Ratho Primary School

Head Teacher Newsletter: 28th January 2022

Dear Ratho Primary School Community,

We have experienced some mixed fortunes this past fortnight. We have had all classes operate inside in bubbles, eating in the hall in bubbles and we have also had 2 classes return to eating in their classrooms. In addition, we have had many pupil and staff absences due to positive Covid cases and illness. However, thanks to staff flexibility and resilience, I'm pleased to report that we have coped admirably well.

One of the positives (in a good way!) this fortnight, has been that we were able to welcome Active Schools Rugby and Simon Says Dance to the school to lead sessions with the pupils (in a safe and carefully risk managed way!). The rugby and some dance sessions were outside and some of the Dance sessions were for classes in their single bubble in the gym hall. Both these opportunities have been very well received and enjoyed by all! Another highlight was our celebration of Burns Day, whereby we had each class contribute recitals of poems, songs and even expressive arts routines either collectively, in small groups or individually. These were shared live with all classes via our weekly virtual assembly… Thank you and well done to all on a lovely celebration.

Please see below for more information of what is happening in school.

Many thanks for your continued support of the school.

Yours sincerely,

Peter Gibb, Head Teacher.

Learning opportunities for pupils.

I'm delighted to report that we are now taking advantage of the revised guidance and have been exploring opportunities to provide additional exciting learning experiences for the pupils. These partners and visitors to the school all have to comply with our risk assessments and covid safety precautions. This can be difficult to manage, but I'm sure you'll agree that it feels great to be opening up a bit again… long may it continue. Some of the opportunities we have lined up are:

- Simon Says Dance – Dance taster sessions.
- Active Schools Touch Rugby – Rugby sessions & coaching.
- SSPCA: Scottish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals - Workshops to help learn about animal welfare.
- DogsTrust - Workshops to help learn about dogs and safety around dogs.
- Hub for Success – Further education partners leading activities for P7s.
- Enhanced transition visit arranged to Balerno High School for P7 pupils.

Also, we now have regular visitors to the school including Violin tuition, the Balerno High School counsellor, our Home Link Liaison officer and visits from Mr Wells from Ratho Kirk.

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Hopefully we'll have many more to opportunities to come! Watch this space! Please contact the school if you have any further opportunities you think the pupils could benefit from or that you wish to suggest!

Ratho School Voice

Huge thanks to the Ratho School Voice for all that they do to support the school! They have just made donations to support last month's Christmas activities, the virtual pantomime and a Nurture resource kit. They are also donating the proceeds of the Crazy Hair Day to cover the costs of our soon to be created Book Exchange!

For the rest of this session, the Ratho School Voice will be having their meetings on:

- 3rd Feb
- 3rd March
- 7th April
- 19th May
- 23rd June - AGM.

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.

Parents Consultation Date Change & Reporting

At Ratho P.S. we try to keep parents/carers as informed and up to date as possible. There is the fortnightly newsletter, our regularly updated website is full of relevant information, Twitter and Groupcall text and email updates. In terms of updates of what pupils are learning and their progress, we have:

- 'Meet the Teacher' video presentations on your child's class website page.
- Curriculum Information Leaflets are created termly, again please see these on your child's class website page: Our Classes – Ratho Primary School
- Parent/Carer Consultation phone calls take place twice a year:
  - November 9th - 11th 2021
  - **May 24th-26th 2022** (changed date due to the Queen's Jubilee holiday)
- Learning Journal observations are posted at the end of each term; 5 in the first term, 2 in the second term and 5 in the third term. Please login and view!
- End of session reports are issued towards the end of session in June.

Support for Learning letters (for all pupils who have been identified as requiring SfL) were issued near the start of session detailing the supports and frequency of additional SfL those children receive. Currently Support for Learning has been planned for the rest of this term and all groups and individuals who receive additional support will continue to do so via a programmed timetable of Pupil Support Assistant interventions. We will provide further Support for Learning feedback in line with the Parent/Carer consultations in May.

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School Values - Book of Kindness

The Ratho Action Group have proposed, and all pupils and staff have agreed, that we change our value of 'Being Caring' to 'Kindness'. The display in the main building classroom corridor has been changed and all classes are promoting acts of kindness every day! Therefore, the school values are now:

Respect, Responsibility, Honesty, Friendship and Kindness.

We have created a 'Book of Kindness' where pupils and staff can record any acts of kindness and we will review the book at assembly and award praise, recognition or points to people for their wonderful acts!

If any in the parents/carers want us to recognise pupils for any Acts of Kindness in the school community, please send details in to be included in the book! Thanks.

Book Exchange

We are getting a 'Ratho Primary School Book Exchange' ('Little Library') point at the front door to the school. This will be outdoor library shelves where pupils and adults can take, borrow and donate books, for FREE! Ratho Action Group pupils have launched a competition to create the design for the doors. Pupils can enter at home by creating a design on A4 paper based on any theme from the following:

- Any or all of the School Values - Respect, Responsibility, Honesty, Friendship and Kindness
- The School Vision (Curious Creative Community)
- Reading
- Rights Respecting Schools
- Eco schools

The competition closes on next week. Designs should be in colour with pupil name and class on the back. If selected, the design will be used to create the design on the doors of the 'Little Library'!

Covid Reminders

It is essential that your child does not attend school if they have symptoms of COVID-19. Currently, in our experience, these symptoms can present as anything from nausea, sore-throats, headaches to general tiredness and discomfort. Anyone who develops symptoms of COVID-19 must self-isolate and test via the appropriate method.

Parents and carers will have hopefully read a letter issued last week detailing a summary of current Covid guidance and also information on Home Learning and supporting children isolating at home.

You can access the advice letter again here: Covid19 Information – Ratho Primary School

You can access the Home Learning page here: Stuck@Home Learning – Ratho Primary School

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Dates for Session 2021-2022

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

November 2021

Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
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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
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26	27	28	29	30	31	

January 2022

Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
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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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20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

April 2022

Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
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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
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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
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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)

For Session 2022-23, pupils return to school on 17th August 2022.

Many thanks for your continued support of the school… Please contact us via admin@ratho.edin.sch.uk or 0131 333 1293 if you have any queries, concerns or need assistance.