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Ratho Primary School

Head Teacher Newsletter: 11th March 2022

Dear Ratho Primary School Community,

It's been a really busy couple of weeks here at Ratho Primary School and I'm delighted to report that things have been going really well for the pupils in their learning and activities. Following the February break we were impacted by a significant level of staff absence, however everyone on the staff have pulled together to provide cover and ensure safe continuity for the pupils. As we make our way through March, things seem to be much better and long may that continue! Our Covid numbers across the school are dropping and, following an update in our Covid-19 guidance, we are even looking forward to the prospect of introducing in-person assemblies post-Easter!

Please see below for details of some of the activities that have taken place recently and also activities, events and information relevant to the school community.

Many thanks for your continued support of the school.

Yours sincerely,

Peter Gibb, Head Teacher.

Events at Ratho Primary School

I'm delighted to report that we have enjoyed many successful events and activities recently. The **World Book Day** celebrations were fantastic and it was so wonderful to see the children and staff dressed up and enjoying books and literary characters! So many children managed to swap a book/take a new book, we had really good fun with guessing the 'mystery readers' and a really fun assembly! Well done to Miss McGhee for her hard work organising activities and for all the staff participating in such good spirits!

We have also really enjoyed welcoming external providers back into the school! It has been great to get things going again with educational input from the **SSPCA** (Scottish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals) who hosted workshops to help learn about animal welfare. We have also had **DogsTrust** host workshops to help learn about dogs and safety around dogs.

Also, we were all delighted with the Judo tasters; many thanks to Johnny and **Active Schools** for the excellent sessions for all! Finally, we have had Jess from the **Royal Highland Educational Trust** in to give a 'Tattie Talk' to the P1s in advance of them planting this spring.

Future Events

We are working hard to ensure that we can provide excellent educational experiences for all our pupils. Of course, we do this everyday in the classrooms and across the school, but it is great to be able to add external partners to our curriculum coverage again!

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In the next two weeks we have the Library service lined up to visit with our P1 & P1/2 classes to share storytelling and activities and we will have a visit from the Royal Observatory Edinburgh who will be coming on 22nd March to set up a giant inflatable planetarium in the hall! Exciting times ahead – watch this 'space'!

Glee Club and Union Canal 200th Anniversary

We are helping mark the bi-centenary of the Union Canal! As such, we are exploring learning opportunities and activities for pupils in class but we will also be helping launch the Ratho leg of the 'Flotilla 200'! This event will take place over the weekend of 20th – 22nd May 2022 to celebrate the 200th anniversary of the opening of the Union Canal. The boats will travel from Lochrin Basin in Edinburgh to Ratho on Friday 20th May. Please see here for many more details of the event:

Flotilla Booklet V7 (fliphtml5.com) and www.flotilla200.live

In advance of this event, we are re-launching the Ratho Primary School 'Glee Club' next week and they will be working towards a performance out a routine to launch the Saturday leg of the Flotilla 200 leaving from Ratho on Saturday 21st May!

Miss Forrest will lead the Glee Club (alongside Stacey from Simon Says Dance) and there will be **auditions this Monday (14/3/22) lunchtime** in school. Pupils were informed at assembly yesterday, but we encourage parents to discuss with their children if they want to be involved.

Unfortunately, due to the specifics of the event, the club will be restricted to around 25 pupils from P4 to P7 and pupils should only join if they can attend the Flotilla event on the morning of Saturday 21st May. The club will meet after school on Wednesdays (3.15-4.15pm) and Fridays (12.25-1.30pm). We look forward to the auditions on Monday!

Eat Them to Defeat Them!

We are promoting the 'Eat Them to Defeat Them' campaign to encourage children to eat more vegetables. There are posters and bunting up around the servery in the dining hall and we are issuing stickers to all children who eat their vegetables each day! Promotion packs were issued to pupils (youngest siblings) and we promoted the campaign at assembly.

Look out for the campaign on TV or check out Eat Them To Defeat Them for more information and to encourage the children at home too!

Junior Road Safety Officers – Big Walk and Wheel!

We are taking part in the Sustrans Big Walk and Wheel challenge this year. The Sustrans Big Walk and Wheel is a 2 week challenge running from the 21st of March – 1st of April. On each day of the challenge, schools will compete to see who can get the highest percentage of their pupils walking, scooting or cycling to school.

Please do your bit to help promote by leaving the car and walking/wheeling in! Please see the poster attached for more information.

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School Requests

- Can parents please report absences via telephone using the 'Absence Line' rather than emailing the Admin email mailbox. It can be busy in the mornings and the procedure is for Mrs Ellaway and Mrs Simpson to check absences as early as possible in the morning… Clearing the email inbox takes time each day and we don't want to miss any absences. Thank you for your cooperation.

- Can we please request any donations of suitable infant joggers and even underwear for Primary 1 and 2 pupils. Sometimes children need changed whilst at school and our supplies of changes of clothes are low. Thank you.

- Can we please request any donations of clean, good condition Christmas jumpers and School Uniform. It will be great to give these to pupils who do not have them. Thank you.

Hey Girls – Period Packs

We are supporting the campaign to eliminate period poverty and stigma. 'Hey Girls' and the City of Edinburgh Council are teaming up to provide individual packs for girls/women.

Please see the SurveyMonkey link for the City of Edinburgh Council claim form. Just complete the form and you will be sent your selections. They offer multiple choices and each person can select 2 options. They equate to either 3 months of disposable products or reusable eco packs made up of pants, cup or pads.

Click here to access: Hey Girls Period Packs - Edinburgh Council Survey (surveymonkey.co.uk)

Local Announcements

- We have been without our School Crossing Officer at Ratho Park Road for a while, but we may also be without our School Crossing Officer at School Wynd/Dalmahoy Road as well. I have discussed with the supervisor about the provision of cover, but have been informed this will only be provided whenever possible and not for any fixed duration. Can parents/carers and pupils please take extra care when crossing Main Street until further notice.

- There is a 'Charity Dance Night' in aid of fundraising for Ratho Primary School & Shout mental health charity supporting young people. It's on 2nd April at Norton House Hotel. Please see the attached poster for further details.

- The Edinburgh Science Festival takes place over the Easter Holidays from 9-24th April. Programmes were sent home with all pupils but we have some spares at the office if anyone needs another copy. We hope the children can get involved and enjoy something on offer!

- City of Edinburgh Council Sports & Outdoor Learning Unit will be delivering their first-ever full-day football camp, during Easter break, details below:

  When: Monday 11th – Friday 15th April 2022 from 10am – 3pm

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Who: 5-8 & 9-12 years

Where: Forrester/St Augustine's Community Sports Hub

It is £60 for the full week! (Concessions available for pupils on free school meals - contact Jack.Beesley@ea.edin.sch.uk). Suitable for beginners or club players, the camp will focus on fun, game-related activities which look to enhance themes such as passing, dribbling and scoring, with each day concluding with a coaches v kids challenge! Players who attend 3 days or more will also receive a free gift! Sessions will run 10am-12pm and 1pm-3pm with lunch taking place 12-1pm (players are required to bring lunch with them, as well as plenty of fluids).

Please see the following Join In Edinburgh links for further information and booking:

5-8 years https://www.joininedinburgh.org/activity/18893/

9-12 years https://www.joininedinburgh.org/activity/18894/

RSV – Ratho School Voice

Huge thanks to the Ratho School Voice for all that they do to support the school! The minutes from the last meeting have been made available, see attached to today's newsletter. For the rest of this session, the Ratho School Voice will be having their meetings on:

- 7th April
- 19th May
- 23rd June - AGM.

Covid Reminders

It is essential that your child does not attend school if they have symptoms of COVID-19. You can access advice here: Covid19 Information – Ratho Primary School. You can access the Home Learning page here: Stuck@Home Learning – Ratho Primary School

Dates for Session 2021-2022… and beyond!

Please note that we will break for the Summer Holiday on Friday 1st July at 12.00pm noon and return at 8.50am on Wednesday 17th August 2022.

Apologies that a slightly out of date calendar was published in the previous newsletter, please see corrected versions from now until end of next session below.

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.

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February 2022

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March 2022

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January 2023

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February 2023

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March 2023

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April 2023

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May 2023

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June 2023

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July 2023

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School Closed/Holidays

Teacher In-Service Day (closed for pupils)