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Ratho Primary School

Head Teacher Newsletter: 8th April 2022

Dear Ratho Primary School Community,

What a term it has been! We have worked our way through the curriculum at great pace and enjoyed the return of many visitors and external partners. We have been very busy learning, working hard and having fun… I know we (pupils and staff!) really deserve the upcoming break.

Many thanks for your continued support of the school this term. We finish at normal Friday times today and we look forward to welcoming all back for the final term on Monday 25th April.

I hope all our pupils and families enjoy a peaceful and relaxing Spring holiday.

Yours sincerely,

Peter Gibb, Head Teacher.

Learning Journal updates & reporting to parents/carers

All class teachers have been really busy reporting to parents and carers via the individual pupil learning journals. Please log in and view your child's Learning Journal to see learning activities, comments and photos for this term. There are 5 entries to view for each pupil! Well done to all the teachers for getting these reported and uploaded for parents/carers to view and enjoy.

In the final term of the session:

- We will hold telephone consultations with parents/carers between 24-26th May. We will send booking information/ instructions in early May.
- We will issue the final Pupil End of Session Report via printed letter by 24th June.

Covid 19 precautions next term

We continue to experience positive cases of Covid-19 amongst pupils and staff, however the numbers of positive cases have dropped over the past fortnight and we look forward to next term when we will introduce some changes to Covid prevention measures. The main changes are:

- We will not issue NHS 'Warn & Inform' letters to pupils in classes with a positive case. We will however give general updates via newsletter and via text/email as appropriate, or make individual calls home when necessary.
- Routine twice weekly LFT testing for staff will end.
- We continue with hand-washing, sanitisation and staff wearing masks whilst moving around the building.
- All external partners and visitors continue to follow our infection control protocols to ensure the safety of all.
- We will return to in-person assemblies.

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- We are planning for 'Sports Day' with parents/carers welcome to participate/spectate outside in the school grounds.
- Isolation for children/adults with Covid-19 continues as per NHS advice and it remains essential that your child does not attend school if they have symptoms of COVID-19.

RSV Easter Plates!

Many thanks to the RSV - Ratho School Voice (Parent Council) for organising the Easter Plate competition. We had so many entries… see the photos of the display in the school foyer. Congratulations to the winners below, enjoy the Easter egg prizes!

- Nursery - Hamish (ring of eggs)
- Primary 1 - Rebecca (spotty bunny)
- Primary 2 - Elliott (leaf border)
- Primary 3 - Evie (rainbow bunny)
- Primary 4 - Xander (green painted)
- Primary 5 - Bee (pink bunny)
- Primary 6 - Jessica (eggs in nest)
- Primary 7 - Lily (sheep)

RSV – Ratho School Voice

Huge thanks to the Ratho School Voice for all that they do to support the school! They are always available through their Facebook page; "Ratho School Voice RSV" and have class reps for each class who parents/carers can link in with.

We met yesterday, thank you to those in attendance and of course to the office bearers. Minutes will be forthcoming. For the rest of this session, the Ratho School Voice will be having their meetings on the following dates. All parents/carers are encouraged to attend.

- 19th May and 23rd June (AGM).

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Events at Ratho Primary School

We have continued to enjoy lots of successful events and activities.

- The planetarium from Royal Observatory Edinburgh returned yesterday to see the remaining classes.
- The Sumdog team visited for lessons with P6, P6/7 and P7 pupils… They discussed and took feedback from the pupils and teachers and wrote in to say how much they enjoyed the visits – Well done everyone!
- The NHS Dentist team were in to do the Primary 1 & Primary 2 dental checks with all pupils. The will issue letters for us to distribute next term.

Upcoming Events at Ratho Primary School

Next term we are looking forward to:

- Welcoming the return of the **Tempest school photographers on Thursday 28th April.** Please ensure pupils are wearing uniform on the day!
- Bikeability training for Primary 6s.
- Swimming lessons at Balerno High School for Primary 4 & Primary 5 pupils.
- Celebrating the bi-centenary of the Union Canal with a whole school focus on learning about/around the canal in advance of our Glee club helping launch the Ratho leg of the 'Flotilla 200' on Saturday 21st May at the Marina!
- Health Week, including Sports Day on Friday 24th June.
- Transition week to prepare for 'moving up' to next session's classes during June 14th-16th.

Ratho Gala Day!

The Ratho Gala Day will take place on Saturday 11th June. All pupils are invited and encouraged to join in, take part and enjoy the celebration! Two of our P7 pupils will be the Gala King and Queen and we have two P7 consorts to support them! All pupils are encouraged to join the parade! The parade will gather at the church around 10.30am and then parade from 11am around the village to the park.

There will be a number of floats and we have been asked by the Gala Committee to highlight that there may be a float for the Nursery, P1, P2 and P3 children to ride on for the parade! There are parents involved for P1 and P2 but they need parents of Nursery and P3 children to get involved and to help get children to take part in the float parade!

If you can help or want to be involved, please contact some of the parents already involved or the Gala Committee (Colin Buchanan) for further information. The RSV can help with putting you in touch with parents if you don't already know them!

Uniform & Dress Down Days!

The return of wearing school uniform has been great to see and all the children have been looking really smart whilst representing the school together. Thank you to parents/carers for encouraging and supporting the wearing of school uniform. The return of Dress Down Fridays this term have been massively successful and really fun and enjoyable too! Thanks to your generosity we have raised:

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- December: An incredible amount of food donations for the Foodbank.
- January: £172.55 for the Dogs Trust and the Edinburgh Dog and Cat Home.
- February: £150.39 for Shelter Scotland homeless charity.
- March: £351.44 for Disaster Emergency Committee Ukraine appeal.

Primary 7 transition information

Letters were issued in December and January from Balerno High School, please get in touch if you need another copy. The basic information is:

- Primary 7s will visit Balerno High School over 3 days from June 14th-16th
- We have arranged a private coach to transport the pupils between Ratho PS and Balerno HS on these days!
- We have sent all pupil data to the High School and their staff will visit to discuss pupils early May. The High School will create classes based on these discussions and will likely inform the pupils of their classes during the transition visits.
- Balerno High School have produced this Sway for all prospective pupils: https://sway.office.com/xNWIAmlCsajzfB04?ref=Link&loc=mysways
- We will hold a leavers ceremony on the final Thursday of the session (June 30th) in the gym hall with parents invited to attend.
- We are in discussions to arrange an end of session trip/event and are liaising with P7 parents regarding a parent organised end of school celebration… further details will be forthcoming.

Reminders

We are still requesting any donations of:

- Suitable infant joggers and even underwear for Primary 1 and 2 pupils.
- Clean, good condition Christmas jumpers.
- Clean, good condition School Uniform.

There is also a parent organised and run Facebook page called "Zero waste uniforms for Ratho Primary School" who take and give uniforms and other items, you can visit them here: https://www.facebook.com/groups/351962325702246/?ref=share

- The Edinburgh Science Festival takes place over the Easter Holidays from 9-24th April. Programmes were sent home with all pupils and we hope the children can get involved and enjoy something on offer!

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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Dates for Session 2021-2022… and beyond!

February 2022

Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
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6	7	8	9	10	11	12
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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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August 2022

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September 2022

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November 2022

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December 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)