Ratho Primary School

1 School Wynd, Ratho, EH28 8TT

Tel: 0131 333 1293 **E-mail: admin@ratho.edin.sch.uk**
Website: https://rathoprimary.org.uk **Twitter @Ratho_Primary**
Head Teacher: Peter Gibb

Head Teacher Newsletter: 10th February 2023

Dear School Community,

I hope this newsletter finds you and your families safe and well. We have had lots of highlights in our learning and activities already this term, notable mentions include:

- Stay & Play sessions with Parents/Carers in Primary 1 & P1/2
- Community walks from P1/2
- Fantastic assemblies from P3, the Rights Knights and all classes for our Burns/Scots assembly.
- P7s have really enjoyed 'The Art of Listening' workshops in town.
- All P5 & P6 pupils have been to New Lanark for a 'Victorian' themed excursion.
- We have enjoyed Youth Music Initiative music sessions in school for P3 & P3/4.
- We enjoyed success for our runners and netballers at the ESSPA Cross Country running/Netball events.
- Glee club are doing really well with their practice sessions twice weekly.
- We are making the most of our Empowered Learning rollout of ipads… all P5-P7 pupils now have an individual ipad and the P1-P4s have a decent ratio of shared ipads in their classrooms.

I hope you and your families have a restful February break when it comes. Thank you as always for your support in all aspects of school life.

Please see the latest information and reminders below.

Yours sincerely,

Peter Gibb, Head Teacher.

Ratho Primary School 40th Anniversary

Wednesday 8th March is the 40th Anniversary of the opening of the current Ratho Primary School and we have some exciting plans coming up.

Monday 27th February - A Whole School Commemorative Photo

One of our parents, Ewa Wells, is kindly going to come in to attempt this with us. Please have learners come to school dressed smart in uniform to take a photo, with every learner in it! Please note: we plan to take this outside so if the weather isn't great it will be rearranged. If anyone would prefer their child not to be included in this please let us know.

Wednesday 8th March - Whole School Showcase

- Classes across the school are learning about the 80, 90s, 00s and 10s! And we are inviting our families to join us for a showcase event from 1:30pm.
- There will be new displays and old school photos on display, as well as every class performing a dance to a song from their decade and sharing some of their learning.

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- Each class will present, from their classrooms, at 1:45pm and again at 2:15pm (Primary 6 will be in the Gym Hall)

Visits from former pupils and staff

We have heard from a couple of former members of staff and pupils from the school who are going to come in during the week of 6th March but we would love to hear from more people! If any of you are former pupils and would be willing to come in and talk about their time at the school and share with the children what they do now then we would love to hear from you. Please spread the word and ask people to get in touch with us.

New Mural

Over the coming weeks we also have plans to update the mural under the canopy in the top playground. The current mural was created around the time of the 30th Anniversary. If anyone knows the children that are on this mural just now please let them know that they would be more than welcome to come back and have their photo taken next to their old image before it is painted over.

We hope you can join us on Wednesday 8th March… All parents and carers are invited! We look forward to seeing you then.

Teachers' Industrial Action:

Please be aware that, at present, there are further Industrial Action days planned for 28th February and 1st March 2023. School will be closed to all primary and nursery pupils on these days.

Sumdog & 'WOW – Walk to School Challenge'

We had some amazing efforts from classes participating in the Edinburgh Sumdog Maths Challenge last week which was open to all City of Edinburgh classes. Well done to all who participated and particularly well done to Miss McGhee's Primary 4 class who came 19th and an outstanding result for Mr Chmiel's Primary 6 class who came 4th overall!

Also, in the WOW, walk to school challenge promoted by our Junior Road Safety Officers, we are currently 14th in the City of Edinburgh! Well done everyone for participating… See here for details of what the campaign is all about: WOW - the walk to school challenge | Tackle school run congestion | Reward pupils - YouTube

School Car Park

A reminder that parents/carers are requested not to use the school car park. It is especially congested with the building works for the new Library/Nursery. We have had many instances of cars driving up to the school office/community centre for drop-off… Please don't! Please 'park and stride' if you have to drive children to school. Please be safe, mindful and respectful to children, each other and our neighbours at all times please.

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Rights Knights

We have a very active Rights Respecting Schools team called the Rights Knights! They are led by Mr Anderson and we will be applying for our Rights Respecting Schools Silver Award this session. Watch this space for an upcoming fundraising event on 14th March. For further information on the Rights Knights and Children's Rights, please see the attached flyer and view our webpage here: Rights Knights – Ratho Primary School

School Lunches

We had some queries and concerns raised regarding the City of Edinburgh Council's 'Theme Day' for pupil school lunches after the last one was cancelled and caused problems with ParentPay bookings.

I completely understand parent/carer frustrations and I have raised our concerns (and parent/carer concerns) with the CEC catering team.

However, I would like parents/carers to note that we always ensure that all children have a lunch everyday… Mrs Ellaway in the office checks all numbers and collates names of those pupils who do not have a packed lunch/lunch booked on a daily basis. She then liaises with Miss Patterson in the kitchen to get any additional lunches prepared and provided. All children always get a meal everyday. There has not ever been any instances where a child has come to school without a packed lunch or a lunch booked and not had a lunch given to them. Many thanks to Mrs Ellaway for always looking out for the best interests of our children!

Ratho Gala Day – Appeal for parent/carer volunteers

We have had a request to ask all parents & carers to volunteer to help with this year's Ratho Gala Day! In particular, they are looking for P1 and P7 parents/carers, but anyone can join the committee… If you are interested get in touch with them on the 'Ratho Children's Gala Day' Facebook Page or call Angela on 07984 357 968.

Adult Education Opportunities

Please find attached flyer relating to courses starting near to your school as part of the Adult Education Programme.

School Information, Website and Handbook

We will send emails for class specific information… Please ensure you have the correct email and phone numbers registered with the office. For all other school 'need to know' information, please see the school website Ratho Primary School – A Curious Creative Community where you can also find the school handbook:

http://rathoprimary.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/RPS-School-handbook-2022-2023.pdf

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Sports Opportunities

We have the following sports opportunities available to children:

- **Lacrosse taster sessions for all P5-P7 classes on Wednesday 22nd February**

All P5-P7 pupils will take part in these sessions throughout the day, please ensure all have P.E. Kit and a water bottle for the day.

- **Tennis taster sessions for all P1-P4 classes on Wednesday 15th March**

All P1-P4 pupils will take part in these sessions delivered by Eoin Swann Tennis, please ensure all have P.E. Kit and a water bottle for the day.

- **Easter Multi sport camp at Forrester / St. Augustine's High Schools**

Running from 10am to 3pm, Monday 3rd to Thursday 6th April 2023.
Children will take part in a variety of activities throughout the week and will be given choices of what they would like to do. £50 for 4 days (financial assistance available).
BOOK ONLINE: https://www.joininedinburgh.org/activity/20085/

See attached flyer for more information.

- **Easter Football camp at Forrester / St. Augustine's High Schools**

Running from 10am – 3pm, Monday 10th – Friday 14th April 2023. 5-8 & 9-12 years groups. £60 for the full week. (50% discount 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/

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School Nurse Drop In sessions:

Our School Nurse, Elizabeth Scotson will be available for drop-in sessions on some Thursday mornings. Please click on the link / QR code to access a booking form.

https://forms.office.com/r/3rGj9G8Sh4

School attendance

The City of Edinburgh Council is encouraging all schools to have an increased focus on improving attendance for all pupils. Last week, alongside all schools in our Balerno High School Learning Community, we issued letters to parents/carers of all pupils whose attendance is below 90%.

This exercise will be repeated before every holiday going forward with the aim of encouraging high school attendance. We appreciate that many parents will have valid medical reasons for children's absences and we record these as accurately as we can according to the absence codes on the Council's tracking system. Please see the below graphic regarding attendance.

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 the diary:

For all dates, please refer to the school calendar, available on our website. It shows all key dates for the session (subject to change). http://rathoprimary.org.uk/calendar

January 2023	February2023	March 2023	April 2023	May 2023	June 2023
1 Su Holiday	1 We	1 We	1 Sa	1 Mo Holiday	1 Th
2 Mo Holiday	2 Th 2.30pm P3's Assembly	2 Th World Book Day	2 Su	2 Tu InService	2 Fr Sports Day; Holi'h Week
3 Tu Holiday	3 Fr	3 Fr	3 Mo Holiday	3 We	3 Sa
4 We InService	4 Sa	4 Sa	4 Tu Holiday	4 Th 1.30pm P2's Assembly	4 Su
5 Th	5 Su	5 Su	5 We Holiday	5 Fr	5 Mo Home Learning
6 Fr	6 Mo	6 Mo Home Learning	6 Th Holiday	6 Sa	6 Tu
7 Sa	7 Tu	7 Tu School's 40th Anniversary Week	7 Fr Holiday	7 Su	7 We
8 Su	8 We	8 We	8 Sa	8 Mo Home Learning	8 Th
9 Mo Home Learning	9 Th	9 Th	9 Su	9 Tu	9 Fr New P1 Parent Presentation
10 Tu	10 Fr	10 Fr	10 Mo Holiday	10 We	10 Sa
11 We	11 Sa	11 Sa	11 Tu Holiday	11 Th	11 Su
12 Th	12 Su	12 Su	12 We Holiday	12 Fr	12 Mo Home Learning
13 Fr Curriculum Leaflet 3 to parents	13 Mo Holiday	13 Mo Home Learning	13 Th Holiday	13 Sa	13 Tu
14 Sa	14 Tu Holiday	14 Tu	14 Fr Holiday	14 Su	14 We
15 Su	15 We Holiday	15 We	15 Sa	15 Mo Home Learning	15 Th
16 Mo Home Learning	16 Th Holiday	16 Th 2.10pm P4's Assembly	16 Su	16 Tu	16 Fr
17 Tu	17 Fr Holiday	17 Fr	17 Mo	17 We	17 Sa
18 We	18 Sa	18 Sa	18 Tu	18 Th	18 Su
19 Th	19 Su	19 Su	19 We	19 Fr	19 Mo
20 Fr	20 Mo ECO Week Fairtrade fortnight	20 Mo Home Learning	20 Th	20 Sa	20 Tu P7 Transition Day
21 Sa	21 Tu	21 Tu	21 Fr	21 Su	21 We P7 Transition Day; Pupil 'Meet the teacher'
22 Su	22 We	22 We Family Consultations	22 Sa	22 Mo Holiday	22 Th P7 Transition Day
23 Mo Home Learning	23 Th	23 Th Family Consultations	23 Su	23 Tu	23 Fr Progress Reports to parents; Dress Down Day
24 Tu	24 Fr Dress Down Day	24 Fr Check Learning Journals	24 Mo Home Learning	24 We	24 Sa
25 We	25 Sa	25 Sa	25 Tu	25 Th	25 Su
26 Th	26 Su	26 Su	26 We	26 Fr Dress Down Day	26 Mo
27 Fr Dress Down Day	27 Mo Fairtrade fortnight Home Learning	27 Mo	27 Th	27 Sa	27 Tu 1.30pm P7 Leaver's Show
28 Sa	28 Tu	28 Tu	28 Fr Curriculum Leaflet 4 to parents; Dress Down Day	28 Su	28 We 9.30am Awards Ceremony @ the Church
29 Su		29 We	29 Sa	29 Mo Home Learning	29 Th Holiday
30 Mo Home Learning		30 Th 1.30pm P5-P6 Show	30 Su	30 Tu Health Week	30 Fr Holiday
31 Tu		31 Fr Dress Down Day		31 We	

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