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: 19th April 2024

Dear Ratho Primary School Community,

Welcome back for the final term of the session! The children have returned in fine form and we look forward to what is a busy and exciting term. It's been good to see them playing on the field again this week (too muddy to use for so long) and we hope for improved weather and full use of the grounds throughout the summer term! Please see a few notices below and, as always, I will keep you up to date with information and developments as the term progresses.

I hope all children and their families enjoy the final term of the session!

Yours sincerely,

Peter Gibb,
Head Teacher.

- **Path alongside the main playground gate**

After chasing a repair for 3 years, the path alongside the main playground gate was finally resurfaced over the Easter holidays. The temporary barrier protecting the newly laid turf/seeded area needs to remain in place until the turf takes. The aggregate covered 'standing area' will remain until we can have it fully finished during 'phase 2'.

Can I please ask that families encourage children to take care not to disturb these areas until fully finished.

- **Vandalism**

Unfortunately, these was some very disappointing vandalism to the school over the holiday. The turf alongside the path once laid was all ripped up, the plant machinery parked in the playground had it's levers snapped off and vandalised, the Council's universal key padlocks had been removed and stolen, the playground gate had been removed from hinges. Also, the Little Library has had a door smashed off and the Literary Signpost had all the place-names smashed off. Last term we've also had further padlocks stolen, the playground container broken into and vandalised and the bike shelter panes smashed/kicked in. Heartbreaking stuff.

Can I please ask that if anyone in the school community sees/hears such incidents that they call the police to help protect and care for our lovely school.

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- ## Parent / Carer feedback

Many thanks to those who completed the feedback form following Family Consultation Appointments in the last week of last term. We have had 50 responses… so far!

If you'd like to complete the form you can still do so… We want to hear your views! Your opinion matters to us and can help inform improvement and future directions of the school. Please complete the Form here:

https://forms.office.com/e/fgf9VGgX7p

Many of the questions only require a rating and you do not have to submit comments if you do not wish to do so. It is also anonymous…we'd like to hear from as many parents/carers as possible! You can request further discussion of your comments/feedback via the form if you wish.

Thank you for taking the time to participate and many thanks for your continued support of the school.

- ## Class Organisation Structure for Session 2024/25.

The City of Edinburgh Council have announced the proposed Class Structure for next session. For Nursery intake, offer letters of places have already been issued based on the current model and capacity as we are not likely to access the new building until after the summer break. We will move to a full year setting and offer those models of attendance at Nursery once the new building access and provision is confirmed.

For school children, there will be a slight drop in pupil numbers next session and we have been allocated 10 classes, rather than the current 11.

We had appealed against this structure as we had submitted a proposal for 11 classes, same as the current structure. This information was shared with the Parent Council, Ratho School Voice (RSV), at their last meeting and they have also written to appeal against this structure. Currently we await a final decision following appeal.

If the 10 class structure is confirmed, the likely class organisation will be:
P1, P1/2, P2, P3, P3/4, P4, P5, P6, P6/7, P7.

Ratho Primary has, in recent years, always had multiple composite classes and we always prepare for transition during the final term of the session. However, following feedback and evaluation from previous years, in addition to our usual process of transitioning classes, we will consult with parents/carers as part of the process this year.

Once the structure is confirmed and the process begun, we will be back in touch to gather information/views from parents/carers accordingly.

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- **Free School Meals**

Please can families apply for Free School Meals if they are eligible… Please be aware that the number of pupils registered for Free School Meals is used by the Scottish Government for making a range of extremely important strategic decisions, such as Pupil Equity Funding allocation, curriculum costs, teachers, support staff etc.

There is a long-standing issue that because children at P5 and younger receive free meals anyway, families do not register eligibility and therefore the school does not receive correct levels of funding.

Also, a reminder to P5 parents/carers that the Universal Free School Meals programme will finish at the end of P5 so they should submit an application for FSM if they think they are eligible in order to continue receiving free lunches in P6.

Recent changes:
From 1 April, children and young people will be eligible to receive free school meals through targeted provision if their parents or carers are in receipt of any of the following:

- Income support;
- Income-based Job Seeker's Allowance;
- Income-based Employment and Support Allowance;
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999;
- Universal Credit (where their monthly earned income is not more than £796);
- Child Tax Credit, but not Working Tax Credit, where their income is less than £19,995
- Both Child Tax Credit and Working Tax Credit where their income is not more than £9,552.

The Regulations which seek to amend the eligibility criteria for recipients of both Child Tax Credit and Working Tax Credit, or Universal Credit, can be viewed through the following web link: The Education (Scotland) Act 1980 (Modification) Regulations 2024 (legislation.gov.uk)

For more information about FSM along with details on how to apply, please see the links below:
https://www.mygov.scot/primary-school-meals

https://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/food-clothing/free-school-meals-school-clothing-grants

- **Building Resilience**

Please see our Parent/Carer information leaflet for this term's Building Resilience Unit 'Challenge Your Mindset'. You can view more information about this theme and how you can support this learning at home too.

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- ## Tempest Whole Class Photographs

Tempest Photography have sent a reminder that the closing date to order for **free delivery** back to school is **Monday 22nd April.** Order through the Tempest website using your unique link or visit www.tempest-orders.co.uk

If you need assistance or have any questions regarding placing an order, please call 01736 751555 (option 3) or click on the "contact" button on our website home page (htempest.co.uk) where the Tempest team will be happy to help.

Nur - https://htmp.st/RathoPSNURSERY-173
P1 - https://htmp.st/RathoPSP1-173
P1/2 - https://htmp.st/RathoPSP12-173
P2 - https://htmp.st/RathoPSP2-173
P3 - https://htmp.st/RathoPSP3-173
P3/4 - https://htmp.st/RathoPSP34-173
P4 - https://htmp.st/RathoPSP4-173
P5 - https://htmp.st/RathoPSP5-173
P5/6 - https://htmp.st/RathoPSP56-173
P6 - https://htmp.st/RathoPSP6-173
P7s - https://htmp.st/RathoPSP7-173 and https://htmp.st/RathoPSP7FUN-173

- ## School Crossing Patrol Vacancy

There is a vacancy for a school crossing patrol guide in the local area. School Crossing Patrol Guide vacancies are on the myjobscotland website (www.myjobscotland.gov.uk). The closing date for the vacancies is the 25th of April, the post reference number on myjobscotland is EDN27302. A shortcut to the vacancy is here:

https://www.myjobscotland.gov.uk/councils/city-edinburgh-council/jobs/school-crossing-patrol-guide-citywide-locations-374806

- ## Ratho School Voice (RSV)

Minutes from the previous RSV meeting will be published by them shortly. Their next meeting has been rescheduled to Thursday 2nd May at 8pm.

- ## P5-P6 Spring Show.

A reminder that a private link to view the performance of the P5-P6 Spring Show online is here: Enjoy the show!
https://youtu.be/xI-uRF3-MFc

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- ## Little Library Sign Competition

The Little Library outside in the main playground is stocked up and ready for children to take the books. We need to re-do the signs on the Little Library so we'd like pupils to enter a Little Library Sign Competition!

They need to make a poster to encourage children to take, give, swap, borrow or just have a book! The books are there to take for free! We'll make the winners into permanent hard plastic signs that will go on the Little Library and the wall above it. **Pupils should give entries to Mr Gibb by end of April.**

- ## Dates for the Diary

February 2024

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		

March 2024

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						

April 2024

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				

May 2024

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	

June 2024

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						

July 2024

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			

Please see the calendar and website for all dates of all school events!

RPS-Parent-Calendar-2023-2024.pdf (rathoprimary.org.uk)

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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CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

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