



RATHEN SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

30th August 2017

Newsletter 1

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Welcome

We hope you had a great summer with family and friends. We are delighted to welcome our ten P1 pupils and their families to Rathen School and hope they will join us in our many school activities during this coming year. Here are our new entrants. They will begin full days on Monday 4th September. We wish them well!

Playground Improvements

Yesterday, we gratefully received a delivery of a pirate ship, colourful benches, a picnic table, watering cans, garden trowels and gardening gloves. On behalf of the staff and pupils of Rathen School, I would like to thank Rathen, Cortes & Memsie Community Council for applying to Banff and Buchan Area Initiatives Fund 2017/18 and successfully securing £6,600 of funding. Thanks also to Rathen, Cortes & Memsie Community Council for donating £170 and to the two anonymous donators, who each gave £800 towards our playground improvements. The money was also used to purchase a swing for Memsie swingpark. Special thanks to Mr David Bellamy for storing the equipment over the summer break and to our Local Councillors and Miss Margaret Jane Cardno for approving the application. We are delighted with the equipment, which will enhance outdoor learning and fun at playtimes.

Staffing

Class teachers for this session are as follows:

P1/2 - Miss Bartram

P3/4 - Miss Fleming

P5/6 - Mrs Geddes & Mrs Bain (Fridays)

P6/7 - Mr Harvey

SFL - Mrs Bain

Mrs Shona Geddes has moved on to pastures new. We are sorry to see her go and appreciate all her hard work during her time with us and wish her well. We extend a warm welcome to Mrs Watt, our new Administrator.

Visiting Specialists this term are Mrs Campbell - Art, Miss McConnochie - Music and Mrs Heatherwick - P.E.

P.E.

For the safety of the children, please ensure your child does not wear jewellery and long hair is tied back on P.E. days. Thank You.

P1-4 pupils wear indoor shoes in school. Please ensure they have a pair e.g. trainers to change in to. Thank you.

Office Hours

The following times are when staff will be in the school office to receive phone calls and visitors:

Monday - 9am-12 noon - Mrs Lumsden

Tuesday - 9pm - 3:30pm Mrs Watt

Wednesday - 9am - 3:30pm - Mrs Lumsden

Thursday - 9am-3:30pm - Mrs Watt

Friday - 9am-12 noon - Mrs Lumsden

Friday - 1:15pm-3:15pm - Mrs Watt

The answering machine will pick up non-emergency messages and, if necessary, I will get back to you as soon as possible. Please call the school mobile phone number, 07999853906, on an emergency only. Thank you.

Photographs

Tempest Photographs is coming to school on Thursday, 7th September at 9am. The children may be photographed individually, and/or with their siblings, which may include preschool siblings. Please bring your preschool child along to school for 9am if you would like a family portrait. Class photos will be taken later in the session.

Clothing and Footwear

Please label all school clothing and footwear with your child's name or initials so that any lost property may be quickly identified and returned to the owner. Thank You.

Transport Safety

Please remind your children to wear their safety belts, remain seated, behave appropriately and carry their bus passes for insurance purposes at all times on the school bus/taxi. Thank you.



Administration of Medication

In accordance with Aberdeenshire Council's Policy, please let us know if your child requires short/long term medication to be administered during the school day so that the necessary paperwork can be completed. The policy states, "Where possible, parents of children requiring antibiotics should take into consideration dosage arrangements, which will allow the antibiotic to be taken before and after school. Parents should be encouraged to ask the prescribing doctor about this." Thank you.

Asthma Medication

If your child may need an asthma inhaler during school hours, please label the inhaler with your child's name, class and expiry date. Please provide the school with a spare inhaler for your child's use in case the inhaler is left at home, runs out or date expires. Thank you.

Long Term Health Care Needs

It is important for us to have sufficient information about the medical condition of any pupil with long term health care needs, including asthma, to help us support the pupil achieve his/her full potential. Please request an IPP- 'Individual Pupil Protocol for a Child/Young Person with Health Care Needs' form to provide us with the necessary information. Thank You.

Healthy Snacks

To help us promote healthy choices, please encourage your child to take a healthy snack to school on Mondays-Thursdays or purchase a healthy snack from the Tuck Shop:

Juice cuplets - 15p

Aquajuce Cartons - 25p

Toast (on Mondays) - 10p

Homebakes - 20p

Cheese and Cracker - 20p

Fruit - 20p

Raisins - 15p

Rice Cakes - 20p

Fresh Fruit - 25p (occasionally)

Once a month, healthy snacks prepared by the pupils, will be sold at Tuck Shop.

Pupils may bring a treat on Fridays - 'Treat Day'.

Bringing Money to School

To prevent money getting lost in school, please ensure that any money your child brings is in a **sealed envelope or zip-lock bag with your child's name, amount of money and item** on the front.

For example,
John Smith
£2 - Trip

Money for tuck shop should be carried in a wallet or purse with your child's name on it please. Thank You.

Parking

May I remind parents to park in Rathen Public Hall parking area and away from the school gates and dykes to enable the buses to turn and safely pick up the children. Also please refrain from parking at the entrance of our neighbours' driveways. Thank You.

Health & Safety

In accordance with Rathen School Health & Safety Policy and Procedures, all visitors to school are required to report to the staffroom on entry and refrain from going directly to the teaching areas and classrooms. Thank You.

Child Protection

To ensure the safety of the children, please adhere to the following excerpt from Aberdeenshire Council's Safe Arrival at School, Attendance and Absence Management Procedures:

Steps for Parents

- Keep the school up to date with your telephone number, including mobile phone if you have one, and other details for emergency contacts.
- Inform the school of any prearranged absence, e.g. attendance at a hospital appointment or any other unavoidable event, prior to the absence taking place.
- Inform the school of your child's absence by **9:30am** on the morning of the first day of absence. For afternoon sessions, inform the school no later than half an hour into the afternoon session.
- Respond promptly to contact from the school.
- Provide written confirmation of absence as soon as possible.

Changes to methods of receiving school alerts

Parents may receive online alerts about school closures and changes to school transport by signing up for these notifications through *myaccount* on the Aberdeenshire Council website - if you currently pay for school meals online, you will already be registered.

myaccount is a simple, secure way of accessing a range of Scottish public services using just one username and password and 13,000 parents across Aberdeenshire are already enjoying the benefits of it.

As well as being able to sign up for alerts, your home page will automatically give you handy information such as your bin collection days, where your nearest recycling centre is and the names of your local councillors.

So, if you want to be kept up-to-date and take advantage of the other *myaccount* benefits, sign up to the new system by going to the Aberdeenshire Council website and clicking on the red **register** button in the top right-hand corner.

School Packed Lunches

The school kitchen can provide nutritious packed lunches for pupils to take with them on day trips away for the price of a single ticket. School packed lunches feature:

- bread roll, pitta bread or a tortilla wrap with various fillings and a pizza snack
- fruit pot, yoghurt or grapes
- homemade cookie, muffin or brownie
- a carton of orange or apple juice

To order a packed lunch, please let the school know one week before a trip. Thank you.

Parent Volunteers

Last session, we greatly benefited from the help of a group of parent volunteers who helped us prepare and make resources for classroom use. This term, they will be meeting on Thursday mornings at Rathen Public Hall. Please let me know if you are available and willing to spend a couple of hours helping out. Thank you.

<p><u>Football</u> Football training for P2-7 will be on Friday 8th September to Friday 13th October at the All Weather Pitch from 3:45-4:45pm for P2-7 pupils, coached by Jackie Buchan. The cost is £2 per session. If you would like your child to take part, please complete the attached slip requesting a permission leaflet. Thank you.</p> 	<p><u>Active Schools Clubs</u> Active Schools will be running the following clubs: Dodgeball Club at Rathen Public Hall on Wednesdays from 3:15-4pm for P1-7, until 4th October. Netball Club at the Fraserburgh Community & Sports Centre on Tuesdays from 4-5pm for all P4-7, until 3rd October. Athletics also at Fraserburgh Community & Sports Centre on Tuesdays from 6-7pm until 19th Dec. Girls Football at Fraserburgh Academy on Wednesdays from 4:30-5pm for P1-3 and 5:15-6:15 for P4-S1 until 10th Oct.</p> <p>To register online, please go to the following link: www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/recreation/active_schools/OnlineForm-Fraserburgh.asp If you cannot access the link, please search in your web browser ‘Active Schools Fraserburgh Network’ and click on ‘Apply for Active Schools Activity Here’. To register by email, please email the Active Schools’ Coordinator Kelly Green on: Kelly.green@aberdeenshire.gov.uk To register by phone, please either call 07917580623, or text the number and state the child’s name, gender, and year group, and then the Active Schools’ Coordinator will reply as soon as possible to get the child on to the register.</p>
<p><u>Parent Rota for After School Clubs</u> It is necessary to have a parent helper to help supervise the children during football training. If your child attends an after school club, please take a turn to help supervise the children. The more parents we have, the less onerous it will be on each volunteer. A rota will be made up and given to the parents who volunteer. Thank you for your support.</p>	
<p><u>Water Bottles</u> Please complete the attached slip if you would like to order a water bottle at £1.00 Thank You.</p>	
<p><u>Techfest Trip</u> We are planning a trip for P5-7 to Techfest, Garthdee, Aberdeen on Friday 1st September. They will be attending a variety of workshops, including Floating and Sinking, Dissolving and Solubility and Amazing Animals.</p>	

<p><u>Term Dates</u> Please refer to the holiday dates below when planning family vacations. Aberdeenshire Council Policy states that a family holiday may only be authorised under exceptional circumstances. All other holidays during term time will be unauthorised and recorded in your child's record of absences.</p>	
<p><u>Parent Council</u> All parents are invited to come along to the Parent Council AGM on Wednesday 20th September at 6:30pm in Rathen School.</p>	<p><u>P1 Parent Interviews</u> Parents of P1 pupils are invited to a meeting with Miss Bartram on Monday 25th September to discuss how their child is settling in to school life. Appointment will be issued later.</p>
<p><u>P1 Full Days</u> Full days for P1 pupils start on Monday 4th September. For next week only, Parents of P1s, please let Miss Bartram know if your child is staying for school lunch, packed lunch or home dinner by writing a note in their homework diary. Thank you.</p>	<p><u>School Website Photograph and Name Permission</u> Parents’ permission is needed for us to display your child’s first name along with any photo of them that may be on the school website. Please complete the photograph permission slip attached. Thank you.</p>

<p><u>Session 2017-18 - all dates inclusive:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • October break- Monday 16th to Friday 27th October 2017 • Christmas break- Monday 25th December 2017 to Friday 5th January 2018 • Occasional Day - Friday 9th February • Mid Term - Friday 9th to Wednesday 14th February 2018 • Easter break- Monday 2nd to Friday 13th April 2018 • May Day - Monday 7th May 2018 • Occasional Day - Monday 11th June 2018 • Last day of session Friday 6th July 2018 	<p><u>In-service Days for 2017-18</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monday 13th November 2017 • Tuesday 14th November 2017 • Tuesday 13th February 2018 • Wednesday 14th February 2018
	<p><u>Upcoming Dates</u></p> <p>4th September - P1 Full Days</p> <p>7th September - School Photos</p> <p>1st September - P5-7 trip to Techfest</p> <p>20th September - Parent Council AGM 6:30pm</p> <p>Please see accompanying calendar with dates.</p>

Yours,

Alison B. Patterson & Jacqueline M. Geddes
Head Teachers

**PLEASE SIGN TO LET ME KNOW YOU HAVE RECEIVED THIS NEWSLETTER.
THANK YOU.**

I have received newsletter 30th August 2017.

Pupils Name.....*Parents Signature*

Comments:

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Photographs

I wish my child/children (names) to be taken as an Individual
 YES NO

I wish my children (names) to be taken as a Family
 YES NO

Signed

Football P2-7

I give permission for my child/children (names) to attend Football training on Fridays from 3:45-4:45pm at the All Weather Pitch and request a permission leaflet.

I am available to help supervise the children on a rota basis. YES o NO o

Signed

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Water Bottles

I would like to purchase a water bottle for my child/children (names)
quantity.....and enclose £.....

Signed

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Long Term Health Care Needs

I request an Individual Pupil Protocol for a child/young person with health care needs (IPP) form for my child.

Child's Name..... Signed.....

.....
School Website Photograph and Name Permission

I give my permission/ do not give my permission for my child's first name to accompany photographs of them on the school website.

Child's Name..... Signed.....

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