



# Rothiemay Primary School

## 'Nurturing aspiration for learning, relationships and life.'

Responsibility – Inclusion - Values – Empathy - Respect

January 2026



Email: [admin.rothiemayp@moray-edunet.gov.uk](mailto:admin.rothiemayp@moray-edunet.gov.uk)

Phone: 01446 711220

Twitter: [@RothiemayPS](https://twitter.com/RothiemayPS)

### Dear Parents/Carers

Happy New Year from Rothiemay School!

# 2026

Welcome to our first newsletter of the year! While we had hoped for a smooth transition back into the classroom, the significant weather challenges at the start of the term certainly had other plans.



As you know, these conditions led to the difficult decision to close the school for a short period. We want to extend a huge thank you to our entire school community for your patience and flexibility during those days. Your support, practical help, and, most importantly, your positive mindset made a challenging situation much easier to navigate.

It is during times like these that our community spirit truly shines. We are incredibly grateful to have such a dedicated group of parents, staff, and students.

As we settle into the new term, we would like to extend a huge thank you for the incredible support shown by our families throughout the festive season. The school was buzzing with energy, highlighted by a truly fantastic drama performance from Mrs Bekri-Watts' class, where pupils' talent, teamwork and hard work shone on stage. It was also wonderful to see the whole school come together at the church; the collective singing was a lovely way to share the festive spirit with our wider community. These experiences provided rich opportunities for our learners to develop as **Confident Individuals** and **Effective Contributors**, while strengthening our sense of community.

We also had a wonderful time at our annual Christmas parties, where a special visit from the man in red brought great excitement and smiles all round. Our Christmas lunch was another highlight of the term, made even more special with festive crackers kindly provided by the Parent Council. We are very grateful for the memories made and for the continued support of all our families.

### Outdoors and Before School

A big thank you to all parents for ensuring children are dressed appropriately to enjoy the winter weather. We continue to encourage outdoor play, no matter the weather.

Our morning routine before school remains the same. An adult will be out on the playground from 8.30am to greet children arriving on the school buses. As the weather becomes chillier, we may opt for indoor activities on some mornings. However, we always encourage outdoor play whenever possible, so please ensure children have their gloves and hats at the ready!



*#Responsible Citizens*

### Looking Ahead

This term, the P6/7 pupils will be busy rehearsing for an exciting Scottish Opera performance, learning a range of songs in preparation for performing alongside pupils from our local primary schools. This is a fantastic opportunity for our learners, supporting transition to the next stage, building performance skills and confidence, and giving them the chance to meet pupils from other local schools while working collaboratively as part of a larger production. Further information will be sent to parents and carers regarding the performance, which will take place on Wednesday 11th March 2026 (afternoon) at Keith Primary School.



We are also thrilled to continue our partnership with Amanda Walker, Active Schools Coordinator for Keith ASG. Amanda has already been in touch to arrange some lunchtime sessions for the children as well as sessions to train up the older children to become young leaders where they will develop leadership skills to develop their own lunchtime sessions.



As part of our commitment to ensuring smooth and positive transitions, we will be holding transition meetings and organising visits to support pupils as they move between key stages. This includes supporting our nursery children as they transition into Primary 1, as well as our Primary 7 pupils as they prepare for their move to Secondary 1. In our small school setting, children are already familiar with staff and often see their next teacher around the school. We further support these transitions through planned visits to their next class during the final summer term, helping pupils feel confident, secure and well prepared for the next stage of their learning.



Our latest termly class newsletters have now been sent out! We hope you find these useful for staying up to date with your child's curriculum and classroom news.

To get a closer look at the day-to-day magic, please remember to check your child's Learning Log every Friday. Together, the newsletter and the log provide a clear window into your child's week and their overall learning journey.

Chatting about school at home is one of the simplest ways to boost a child's confidence and reinforce what they've learned. We encourage you to use these updates as a weekly springboard for conversation.

- *What was the most interesting thing you learned today?*
- *Can you explain that idea to me in your own words?*
- *Did anything surprise you today? Why?*
- *How would you solve this problem differently next time?*

#### PE Days

Please make sure your child brings their PE kit and has appropriate indoor shoes (trainers or pumps work best) on PE days. While slip-on indoor shoes may be convenient, they are not always practical for PE activities.

- **P1-5 (Robins):** Mondays and Wednesdays
- **P5-7 (Eagles):** Mondays and Thursdays



#Responsible Citizens

#### Parent Council



A big thank you to everyone who joined the Parent Council meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> November 2025!

We are still seeking a Chairperson for the Parent Council, and it is vital that we have a full committee in place to continue the valuable work they do. The Parent Council plays an important role in supporting key events such as P7 leavers' celebrations, providing Christmas crackers, assisting with transport, and representing the parent voice in discussions about the school's aims and priorities.

We would strongly encourage anyone who may be interested to consider getting involved, as your support makes a real difference to our school community.

25/26 parent council:

Chairperson – TBC

Vice Chairperson – Rachael Cottrell

Secretary – Josie Raffan

Treasurer – Lindsey Garrioch



If you would like to contribute to the meeting but cannot attend please send your thoughts and ideas to our parent council email on:

[rothiemayparentcouncil@gmail.com](mailto:rothiemayparentcouncil@gmail.com)



Our next meeting will be on:

**Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> February**  
**6.30pm-7.30pm**

We will be meeting face to face at Rothiemay Primary School. We also have an online link for those who would like to attend virtually.

Online Link: <https://meet.google.com/uyp-faga-ijo>

## Celebrations and Achievements

Proud Clouds and River Points will continue to be celebrated in our assemblies. We warmly welcome emails from parents sharing any achievements your child has outside of school.

[admin.rothimayp@moray-edunet.gov.uk](mailto:admin.rothimayp@moray-edunet.gov.uk)

We love celebrating their successes with the whole school community!



## Adverse Weather

As we saw earlier this term school closures can happen at this time of year. These decisions are always made with great care and with the safety of all pupils at the heart of our decisions. Thank you for your support and understanding. Every effort will be made to ensure that closure decisions are made in a timely manner. When a decision has been made it will be communicated in the following ways:

- Post on the Moray Council Service Disruption webpage. This will be visible to anyone who visits <https://secure.moray.gov.uk/mcalerts/portal> on the Council website.
- Post on the Moray Council Facebook page and Twitter feed ([facebook.com/MorayCouncil/](https://facebook.com/MorayCouncil/) [twitter.com/TheMorayCouncil](https://twitter.com/TheMorayCouncil))
- Send an Email Alert message. This message will only be received by those who have registered at mygovscot <https://online.moray.gov.uk/site/wss/home> and chosen Rothiemay Primary School as services about which they wish to receive alerts. (Note - this is not connected to our regular Rothiemay school emails.)

If a decision is made for an early closure, pupils may need to be collected by parents, or buses will collect them earlier than usual. We'll try to contact parents so someone can be home, however exact bus timings cannot be guaranteed, as schedules may differ from the usual collection times.



## Twitter/X

We will continue to use twitter/X to share your child's learning experiences. Remember you can follow us at @RothiemayPS and an account is not required to access this.



## School Menus



Please follow the link below to see the full moray school lunch menu.

<http://www.moray.gov.uk/downloads/file147882.pdf>

## Rag Bag

Thank you to all those who have remembered to recycle their unwanted textiles and clothes in our 'Rag Bag' bin in the school car park. It continues to raise money for school events in the background.

<https://www.rag-bag.co.uk/>



## Parent portal

We continue to use the online facility for parents and carers to communicate with the school. Further details are available via the link [www.moray.gov.uk/parentsportal](http://www.moray.gov.uk/parentsportal) where you can create your account.



## Diary Dates

Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> February 2026 - Parent Council meeting

Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> March 2026 – P6/7 Scottish Opera performance at Keith Primary School

## 2025– 2026 Spring Term

Term starts - Monday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2026

In-Service Closure – Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> February 2026

Mid-term holiday – Friday 13<sup>th</sup> February 2026

Mid-term holiday – Monday 16<sup>th</sup> February 2026

Term ends - Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March 2026

## Spring Holidays

Monday 30<sup>th</sup> March 2026 – Friday 10<sup>th</sup> April 2026

## 2025– 2026 Summer Term

Term starts - Monday 13<sup>th</sup> April 2026

May Day Holiday – Monday 4<sup>th</sup> May 2026

Occasional Day Holiday – Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June 2026

Term Ends – Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2026



Moray Council Terms Dates & Holidays:

[moray.gov.uk/moray\\_standard/page\\_55829.html](http://moray.gov.uk/moray_standard/page_55829.html)

☎ If you are having any difficulties receiving emails or group call messages please contact the school office.

*Mrs Clayton*