



Rothiemay Primary School

'Nurturing aspiration for learning, relationships and life.'

Responsibility – Inclusion - Values – Empathy - Respect

September 2026



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HEAD TEACHER NEWSLETTER

Dear Parents/Carers,

A very warm welcome back to a new school year at Rothiemay Primary School! I hope you all enjoyed the summer break and had the opportunity to spend some lovely family time together.



The first few weeks of a new session are always exciting as we welcome everyone back, catch up after the holidays and look ahead to new learning, experiences and opportunities. It has been wonderful to see how quickly all of our learners have settled back into school routines and into their new classes.

A very special welcome goes to our new P1 learners, who have made a fantastic start to their Rothiemay Primary adventure! Our strong transition arrangements and partnership with Rothiemay Nursery have helped the children to settle confidently into their new surroundings, routines and relationships.

During their first few days, our P1s chose some responsible older pupils to act as their own 'Mini Mentors', helping them with practical things such as finding their way around the classroom and knowing where resources belong. It has been lovely to see these supportive relationships develop. Already, our P1s are becoming increasingly confident and independent as they begin new adventures and make new friends.

We also wish all our leavers the very best as they start new adventures and friendships in S1.

Here's to a happy, successful and enjoyable school year ahead for everyone!

Thank You to Our Parent Focus Group



A huge thank you to the parents and carers who took the time to come into school and speak with our visitors from Moray Council's Quality Improvement Team during their recent visit.

The Quality Improvement Officers were keen to hear directly from parents about their experiences of Rothiemay Primary School, including what families feel is working well and where we can continue to improve.

We really appreciate those who gave up their time to share their views honestly and openly. Parental feedback is an important part of our ongoing self-evaluation and school improvement, helping us to reflect on the experiences we provide for children and families.

Thank you for representing the wider parent voice and contributing to the continued development of our school.

A Huge Thank You to Our Mystery Gardener!

Wow – what a wonderful community we live in!



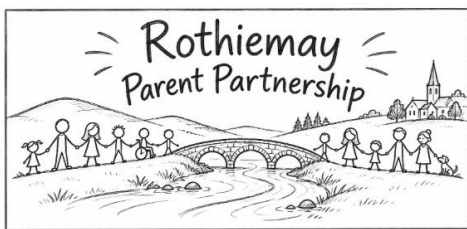
For the second year running, a kind mystery gardener has spent time replenishing and tidying the planters at the front of our school. The beautiful new flowers have added a lovely splash of colour to our entrance and certainly brought smiles to our faces.

It is such a thoughtful thing to do and a wonderful example of the random acts of kindness that make our community so special.

To whoever is responsible – thank you! We are incredibly grateful and very thankful for the time and care you have given to making our school look so welcoming.

Parent Council

Unfortunately, due to low numbers, our planned Parent Council meeting was unable to go ahead. We will look to rearrange this and will share a new date with families soon.



A Parent Council plays an important role in school life. It provides an opportunity for parents and carers to have a voice in matters affecting the school and to work in partnership with staff to support and influence the experiences of all our learners.

Parent Councils are about much more than fundraising. They provide an opportunity to share ideas, discuss school developments and contribute to the wider life and direction of the school. Every perspective and contribution is valued, and it is important that we have a range of parental voices represented.



We hope that more families will be able to join us when the meeting is rearranged.

For more information about the role of the Parent Council, please feel free to contact them:
rothiemayparentcouncil@gmail.com

We look forward to seeing you there!

Outdoor Learning



This year, we are looking forward to continuing our journey with outdoor learning alongside Angie and friends. We are incredibly fortunate to have access to wonderful

outdoor spaces and are keen to continue providing opportunities for children to learn through practical, hands-on experiences in the outdoors. These experiences support not only curriculum learning but also confidence, resilience, teamwork, problem-solving and wellbeing.

We will keep families updated about our planned days in the woods and outdoor learning sessions so that children can come dressed for the occasion in comfortable, warm clothing suitable for the weather and a little bit of adventure!

Music at Rothiemay

We are delighted that our music specialist provision will continue this year, giving our learners opportunities to develop new skills and enjoy making music.



A small group of children will continue to learn brass with Mr Gray, building on the skills they developed last session.

We are also delighted to welcome Alison Gilles, who will be teaching ukulele to our P5–7 learners this year.



Music provides children with opportunities to develop confidence, creativity, perseverance and teamwork, as well as the enjoyment of learning and performing together.

We are very much looking forward to seeing our young musicians develop their skills and hope that they will have opportunities to showcase their talents at family events throughout the year!

Proud Clouds – Celebrating Achievements

Our Proud Clouds are a special way for us to celebrate and share your children's achievements during our weekly assemblies. We love hearing about all the wonderful things our learners do both in and out of school!



If your child has an achievement you're proud of, please email the school and tell us all about it. We are keen to celebrate a wide variety of successes. Here are just a few ideas to get you thinking:

- Earning a Blue Peter badge
- Helping with jobs at home
- Showing a random act of kindness
- Sporting or musical achievements
- Learning a new skill

Achievements do not have to involve certificates, medals or trophies. We want to celebrate the small moments too – the things that show our children developing confidence, responsibility, kindness and perseverance.

We will continue to celebrate these fantastic moments during our weekly assemblies and, where appropriate, share them on our school Twitter/X page.

<https://x.com/RothiemayPS>



Learning at Home



To keep you up to date with what your child will be learning, class newsletters will be shared each term. These will provide information about planned learning and experiences, helping you to talk with your child about what they are doing in school.

Please also look out for the weekly **Learning Logs** sent home. These provide an opportunity for you to talk with your child about their learning, celebrate their successes and support them with any goals they have set.

Please remember to sign and return Learning Logs to the class teacher each week.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss anything further, please feel free to make a note in the Learning Log or get in touch with the school. We are always happy to help!

Staying Connected and Keeping You Informed



For families who are new to Rothiemay Primary, we use a number of different ways to communicate and share information. Following positive feedback from our parent communication survey last session, we will continue to use these different methods throughout the year.

Groupcall Emails

Our main method for sharing important information directly with parents and carers.

We use Groupcall for:

- Important school information and updates
- Letters and consent forms
- Reminders about events and activities
- Changes to arrangements
- Urgent or time-sensitive information

If you are having any difficulties receiving Groupcall emails, & Eduspot APP, please contact Mrs Jamieson .

School Blog/Website



Our school blog is a useful place to find information that you may want to refer back to.
<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/my/RothiemayPS/>

Here you can find:

- Newsletters
- School Handbook
- Parent Council information / meeting notes
- Home learning information in the event of an unplanned school closure
- Other useful school documents and updates

Twitter/X – @RothiemayPS



Our Twitter/X page is where we celebrate the day-to-day life of our school!

We regularly share:

- Learning experiences, activities and events
- Children's achievements / Proud Cloud celebrations
- Visits and community involvement
- Special moments from school life

It is a lovely way for families and our wider community to see some of the wonderful things happening at Rothiemay Primary.

Class Newsletters and Learning Logs

Class newsletters are shared each term to provide an overview of planned learning.

Weekly Learning Logs help to keep you informed about your child's learning, successes and next steps.



In Person!

Please remember that communication is not just digital. We value our relationships with families and encourage you to get in touch if you have a question, concern or something you would like to discuss.



School Office Arrangements

Mrs Jamieson is now based in the school office on Thursdays and Fridays.



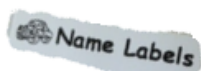
As a small school, there will be times when all staff are class-based and the office is not staffed. We would therefore ask families to please bear with us when waiting for a response to emails or telephone messages.



There is an answering machine available when the office is unattended, and emails and messages will be checked and responded to as soon as possible. Thank you for your understanding and patience. As always, our priority during the school day is ensuring that staff are available to support the children and their learning.

You can also log your child's absence via the Parent Portal. If you would like information regarding this please contact the School Office.

Uniform, PE Kit and Our 'Grow Out, Not Throw Out' Wardrobe



Please remember to name all of your child's school items so that we can quickly return any missing belongings to their owners. Despite our best efforts, we often end up with a large collection of unclaimed lost property!

We are also delighted that our 'Grow Out, Not Throw Out' wardrobe is now up and running. It is available for all families to access at the main entrance to the school.



The idea is simple – children grow quickly, and perfectly good school clothing is often outgrown long before it is worn out! Families are welcome to help themselves to anything they can use and, if you have good-quality items your child has outgrown, please feel free to add them to the wardrobe for another family to use.

Everything is completely free. We hope this will help reduce waste, support families and encourage our children to think about reusing and sharing within our school community.

PE Days

- **Robins Class (P1-5):** Mondays and Fridays

- **Eagles Class (P5-7):** Tuesdays and Thursdays

PE Kit

It is also important that your child has their PE kit available on their designated PE days.

A PE kit should include:

- Shorts or comfortable clothing suitable for exercise
- A T-shirt
- Sensible footwear



If your child's indoor shoes are trainers, they can double as indoor PE shoes. Likewise, outdoor trainers can be used for outdoor PE activities where appropriate. PE kits can be left on children's pegs at school.

Thank you for your support in helping children come prepared and ready to enjoy their PE and physical activity sessions!

School Lunches

Children order their school lunches each morning. You may wish to discuss the available choices with your child at home, particularly for younger children who are still becoming familiar with the lunchtime routines.



School lunch menus are available through Moray Council and can be accessed via the school or council website.

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

If you have any questions regarding school meals or require support with the online payment system, please contact the school office.

Rag Bag – Helping Our School Through Recycling

A big thank you to everyone who continues to use the **Rag Bag bins** in our school car park.



The bins provide a simple way to recycle unwanted textiles while also helping to raise money for the school.

By donating unwanted clothing and textiles, you are not only helping to reduce waste but also supporting Rothiemay Primary School.

To find out more, you can visit their website at www.rag-bag.co.uk

Thank you for your continued support!

Looking Ahead

We have made a really positive start to the new school year, and I am looking forward to seeing what Term 1 brings. There will be plenty of opportunities for learning, challenge, creativity and fun as we continue to nurture aspiration for learning, relationships and life.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support and partnership.

Mrs Clayton
Head Teacher

Diary Dates



- Parent Council AGM Friday 2nd October 3.15pm in person at Rothiemay or Virtually via the link: <https://meet.google.com/kbm-kdey-yme>
- Flu immunisation – Tuesday 7th October 2025
- Tempest Photographs – 24th November

2025 – 2026

Autumn Term

Monday 18th August– In-service closure

Tuesday 19th August– In-service closure

Wednesday 20th August– Term starts

Friday 10th October– Term ends

Autumn Holidays

Monday 13th October – Friday 24th October

Moray Council Terms Dates & Holidays:

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.