



Rephad Nursery Newsletter



A warm, official, welcome to all of our families! We can't believe how quickly the last fortnight has passed. The children have settled really well and are all becoming familiar with the nursery staff and the routines. They're personalities are beginning to shine and it's lovely to see! For those who are new to nursery, you will receive a newsletter each month with information relating to the life of the nursery and also any events that we may have coming up. We hope that you find it very informative and if you have any questions, please ask a member of staff.

Permission Forms

Thank you to all the families who completed our online permission form. If you have not already done so, we would be grateful if you could complete these ASAP - we require these for all children, even if they attended our nursery last session. This was sent from the nursery office so please check your spam/junk folder to make sure it hasn't been diverted to there. If you think that we may not have your email address, please provide this to a member of staff to update, or let us know if you require this to be resent. Thank you.

Staffing

Here's what our current staffing looks like for the 2022/23 session:

Nursery Manager - Mrs E Paisley (Mon-Fri)

Depute Manager - Ms S McKinstry (starting on 5/9/22)

Nursery Nurse - Mrs E Morrison (Red Group - Mon-Fri)

Nursery Nurse - Miss M Gorman (Orange Group - Mon-Fri)

Nursery Nurse - Miss E Cleer (Green Group - Tues-Fri)

Nursery Nurse - Miss P McKie (Brown Group - Mon-Thurs)

Nursery Nurse - Miss O Dewar (Pink Group - Mon, Tues & Thurs)

Nursery Nurse - Miss K Jolly (Yellow Group - Mon, Thurs, Fri)

Nursery Nurse - Mrs J Hastings (Purple Group - Mon, Tues & Wed half-day)



Early Years Support Assistant - Miss C Smith (Mon-Fri)

Early Years Support Assistant - Mrs L Bodle (Mon-Fri)

Early Years Support Assistant - Mrs J Jardine (Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri)

Personal Plans

Each child in nursery has their own personal care plan which contains the child's personal details, emergency contacts, medical issues, family information and any other information regarding your child's needs whilst at nursery. We set up a personal plan when each child starts at nursery and then review these every 6 months, or when required.



Your child's key worker will arrange an appointment with yourself for a convenient time. This will either be face-to-face or over the phone, whichever suits you best. You will be asked for a suitable time when you drop off/pick up your child over the next few days if you have not already done so.

All About Me

Each child has been issued with an 'All About Me' booklet for their first year. If your child was with us last year, they will receive a 'More About Me' booklet, as a lot of things can change in the space of a year! We use these to help plan for interests, activities and snacks, as well as using them to find out more about your child and their life at home. We ask that you complete these and return as soon as possible please.

'All About Me' will also be the focus for learning over the next couple of weeks as the children settle within nursery. We will be drawing attention to our differences and similarities, what makes us individuals and who we have in our families.

Lunches

Since reopening in August, we have adapted our lunch routine to make this more child-led and to provide further opportunities to increase children's independence. To increase this further, we will be introducing 'on the day' ordering for our 3-5s, instead of the advance ordering system previously used. This means that you and your child can now decide what they would like for lunch on a day-by-day basis. To support this, your child will have two photographs beside their name tag in the main reception. You can take these and place their photographs on the lunch option sheets displayed in the reception area before you enter the main nursery room to make their selection. A member of staff will be on hand to assist you. This will be coming in to effect on 12/9/22.

If your child does not always have a school meal, please keep a copy of the lunch menu handy (you can access this via the Dumfries & Galloway Council website) to ensure that they bring their packed lunch on the relevant days.

Online Learning Journals

We realise how important it is to keep you, as parents, as up to date with your child's development as possible. We utilise an online learning journal system, where you can access observations of your child and their next steps. All families should have now have received a Learning Journal permission form and we ask that these are completed and returned as soon as possible.

At present, our nursery iPads have been taken away for updating, so uploads on to Learning Journals may be a bit slower than usual due to using cameras and computers so please bear with us.



Outdoor Play



At Rephad Nursery, we have a large emphasis on outdoor play. Our outdoor area is open for the majority of the session and children are able to free-flow between indoors and outdoors as they wish. With Autumn around the corner, we ask parents to ensure that their child has their own pair of wellies which can be kept in nursery in order to keep their feet dry. Children have access to waterproof clothing, which

were purchased through fundraising monies. Although we do have some sets of wellies in nursery, unfortunately we do not have enough for each child or a large variety of sizes. Thank you in advance.

Snack

In nursery, snack operates on a rolling rota. Presently, we are continuing with last session's rota but aim to update this during term 1 to reflect the tastes of our current children.

Please find a copy of the current snack rota below. Please note, week commencing 5/9 will be week 2. Snack for the week, as well as any allergens, can be found on the parent's board within main reception. We also provide an afternoon snack of fruit/veg and have milk/water on offer for the children to drink, in line with the Scottish Government's Milk & Healthy Snack Scheme.



<u>Week:</u>	<u>Monday</u>	<u>Tuesday</u>	<u>Wednesday</u>	<u>Thursday</u>	<u>Friday</u>
1	Cereal & tinned fruit	Toast & banana	Crackers, cheese & cherry tomato	Chicken salad wraps	Fruity Friday
2	Soup & bread	Bagels & apples	Breadsticks, cheese & pineapple	Baking day	Fruity Friday
3	Yoghurts & berries	Crumpets & peaches	Oatcakes, cream cheese & cucumber	Beans on toast	Fruity Friday

Wider Achievements

We feel it is very important to celebrate the wider achievements of children, these are the activities and achievements that children experience out with nursery. Throughout the school and nursery, we have pupils who play football and rugby; there are swimmers and golfers, dancers and gymnasts and, there are children that attend a variety of local clubs. Children earn badges, certificates and trophies with all these endeavours. Many of our pre-school children achieve milestones like learning to ride a bike without stabilisers, learning to use the 'big toilet' or starting swimming lessons.

We would love to create a display of any achievements, clubs or hobbies that your child takes part in out with nursery in our main reception area. Please feel free to hand in photographs (or email these to the nursery email address) throughout the year so that we can celebrate and display these.



There are also functions within the online Learning Journal system that enables you to add images and entries of your own. If you would rather upload achievements this way, please do so. Staff members can print these out and add to our display.

School Holiday Dates

Term dates and holidays for this session have been attached separately below.

Rephad Nursery Team



School Holiday Dates Session 2022/23

Term 1

Staff training - Thursday 18 and Friday 19 August 2022

First day - Monday 22 August 2022

Last day - Friday 14 October 2022

Autumn holiday - Monday 17 to Friday 28 October 2022

Term 2

First day - Monday 31 October 2022

Last day - Friday 23 December 2022

Christmas holiday - Monday 26 December 2022 to Friday 6 January 2023 (pupils return Tuesday 10 January)

Term 3

Staff training - Monday 9 January 2023

First day - Tuesday 10 January 2023

Mid-term holiday - Wednesday 22 February to Friday 24 February 2023*

(*Staff training - Wednesday 22 and Thursday 23 February 2023)

Pupils return from Mid-term holiday - Monday 27 February 2023

Last day - Friday 31 March 2023

Spring holiday - Monday 3 April to Friday 14 April 2023

Term 4

First day - Monday 17 April 2023

May Day holiday - Monday 1 May 2023

Last day - Friday 30 June 2023

Summer holiday - Monday 3 July 2023 to Thursday 17 August 2023 (pupils return Tuesday 22 August 2023)