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| Ref: KL/  **Rephad Primary School**  Ladies Walk  Stranraer  DG9 8BW | Any enquiries please contact:  **Mrs Karen Logue**  Head Teacher  Tel: (01776) 704195  Email: gw08officerephad@ea.dumgal.sch.uk |
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August 2022

Dear Parent/Carer,

I wish to welcome everyone to the new school session and wish you all the best as you begin your journey with Rephad Primary and Nursery or as you continue as part of the Rephad Family.

We are welcoming some new staff to the school and nursery as well as new children in nursery, P1 and in various classes across the school. We are sure everyone will settle in quickly with the support of peers and colleagues. It is an exciting time. A list of staff names is at the end of the letter for reference.

Contact from us will generally be through email as it saves the school a significant amount of money in printing and sending home newsletters. Copies of newsletter will be found inside the front doors of the school for reference. Please ensure we have your most up to date email address as a point of contact as you may miss very important information.

If you wish information, we ask that you contact teaching staff through the office email [gw08officerephad@ea.dumgal.sch.uk](mailto:gw08officerephad@ea.dumgal.sch.uk) or call the office at 01776 704195. We also track specific requests coming in from the office so we make sure questions/quires have been followed up. For general queries the office staff are always available to help, or will pass you on to the relevant contact.

**Wider Achievements**

We feel it is very important to celebrate the wider achievements of children. 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 and participate in music lessons as well. Children earn badges, certificates and trophies with all these endeavours. They also achieve milestones like learning to ride a bike without stabilisers or tying their shoelaces. Some get involved in the community and are fundraising for charities. Some complete walking treks in some of our beautiful local areas. Please use the coloured sheet we have sent home to record an achievement. Cut the box with your description and we can share this great news in class or at assemblies. We will also display the news on a board at the front of the school. You can even send in a wee photograph if you like.

**House Captains**

We interviewed and selected new House Captains at the end of term. We look forward to **Brody and Isla H for AIRD, Kayden and Ryan for CULHORN, and Erin and Isla Mc for INCH** taking on their new responsibilities. All children from P1 to P7 are in a house and siblings are in the same house. The younger children remember the colour – **AIRD - red, CULHORN,- yellow** and **INCH-blue.**  P1 families and new families will be informed of their house as soon as possible.

**School Improvement Plan (SIP)**

In October you will receive a report on our improvement initiatives last session after discussion with our Education Officer and at a Parent Council meeting. This year our improvement plan will continue to focus on Writing Initiatives using the developments supported by Stephen Graham. Your children will be well aware of the descriptive bubbles to improve their writing detail. We are also working on achieving a Bronze Award for our United Nations Convention of the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) which is a fundamental part of Scottish Law now. Activities will take place with pupils, staff and families through-out the session and may include surveys. Our assemblies last session regularly focussed on UNCRC and learning in class is linked and highlighted when relevant to a specific right. We will keep you updated through the year as we go through the process of accreditation. A further letter with more specific information is being sent separately.

**COVID Guidance**

If we receive any specific guidance around COVID we will inform you. We will continue to ventilate classes and sanitise on entry for the foreseeable future. Any other measures will be shared.

**The School Day:**

Children should arrive at school for a 9am start and will finish at 3pm.

During wet or unpleasant weather we would encourage children to arrive at school as close to 9am as possible.

**Break Time:** 10:30-10:45 L**unch (45mins):** 12:30-1:15 **Finish times/Exit Building**: 3pm

**Entrance/Exit Points**

Nursery: Please follow the times given in your coloured groupings and the specific door you are assigned.

P1/2: enter at the gate off Ladies Walk. For the first 2 days of school only, one adult linked to each P1 child will be able to enter the playground at the beginning of the day.

P2/3, P3, P4: doors at the back of the playground by the pencils.

P4/5, P6: doors closest to PE hall/boy’s toilets

P5/6, P7: Cairnport Road gate / Outdoor Classroom

**What can my child bring to school?**

Children are encouraged to bring a bottle of water from home. Water bottles and lunch boxes should be clearly labelled. All clothing and school bags should also be labelled. Packed lunch boxes need to be labelled on the outside to make finding lunch boxes easier. All clothing items should also be labelled to ensure your child goes home with the correct items. This includes indoor shoes, outdoor clothing and other items. It is amazing how many unclaimed items are left sitting at the end of each term.



P4-P7 children can bring bikes and scooters to school and leave them at the racks near the P5-P7 entrance. Younger children can also ride a bike or scooter but they will need to be left in the senior area as well. Children cannot use their bike/scooter on school grounds and should walk them to designated areas.

**Homework**

We will continue to use Teams for homework experiences. We will send home books, to further encouraging reading but we suggest that having your child read at home every day (or being read to) is the best thing they can do for developing skills. This can be any book or text of any type that intrigues them like comics or journals. You will be informed weekly of the maths focus and spelling/phonics sounds. There may be family tasks like creating items to do with a topic. Playing board games regularly is also a great way to practice, maths, problem solving and strategy skills. A new Teams login will be sent to you to link you to a class, so please do not delete the app from your devices. P1 pupils will receive a glow login in over the next week to start the process. New pupils in other stages will still have the glow email from their previous school. Please contact the school if you need a password reset. Though staff will be posting homework etc on TEAMS, they will not be using it every day as a communication device so if you have messages to pass on, please do so through the school office. Thank you for helping with this.

**Dinner Hall**

To begin, we wish to congratulate Rachel Rhind as she has been named as our permanent dinner supervisor.

Various restrictions have lifted in our dinner hall which allows us to move children through quicker. Children who bring packed lunches are welcome to sit outdoors while the weather allows. There is a rota in the dinner hall so different stages are called in first each day, though all P1 and p2 pupils come to the hall immediately after the bell.

All P1-P5 pupils are entitled to a Free School Meal every day. Please ensure you have logged into the Dinner ordering system so you can make selections from home.

Primary 1 pupils have a letter in their school bag today(22.8.22) to register for the process. For anyone in P2-P7, please contact the office if you need a log in.

Please refer to <https://supportdg.dumgal.gov.uk/article/20769/Schools-and-childcare> for further information from the council regarding meals and menus. Anyone with dietary concerns needs to complete a medical form and have it signed by their GP. This can be emailed to you or collected from the office.

**Celebrating Birthdays**



[This Photo](https://freepngimg.com/png/37282-birthday-cake-hd) by Unknown Author is licensed under [CC BY-NC](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc/3.0/)

A birthday is a very special day and we certainly ensure children have their day recognised within class and the school. We would ask though that if you wish to celebrate your child’s birthday with a treat at school, could you please send in items that are in individual servings like small cupcakes, Haribo sweet packets or other wrapped items. It can be time consuming to cut a cake and make it fair servings for 25 or more children within a class. We do not want to spoil the day but we do appreciate your support in this. We also have children with dietary/allergy needs so let us know if you are sending something in so we can ensure all children enjoy a treat. Please note, there is absolutely no obligation to send in any treats at all, it is completely your choice as a family.

**Learning Journals in School**

Though the nursery will continue sharing information with you through Learning Journals, as a school we are stopping the programme. If you have a log-in you will be able to download a PDF off the site with any information stored for your child over the last two sessions. Our access finishes on 31st August so if you want to download a copy please don’t delay.

You will need to do this on a computer/laptop as the function is not available in the app on your phone. Click on PDF profile under your child’s picture on the left hand side tabs. The document will appear in your file downloads and does take a few minutes to process and complete.

Nursery parents are able to do the same if they wish even though the access will continue.

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**School App**

Download Jigsaw app onto your phone and search for the school. We use this app to send out information regarding local community events or to remind about dates in school or follow up with newsletters etc. We will be moving to a new app in October as our contract runs out but it would still be helpful meanwhile for families.

**Parental Events in School – DROP-IN**

We all look forward to re-connecting with the children and yourselves over the session. I will keep you informed of any adjustments if guidance is reinstated. On Wednesday 31st August we will have a Drop-In event in the school from 3:10 to 4:10 pm. Families can access their child’s/children’s classrooms and have a quick hello with the class teachers). This is very informal, and will let you see the setting your child is in and maybe some of their early tasks. If you feel you need to talk to the class teacher in more depth, please arrange a convenient time for a call or meeting.

We also hope to have some other agencies/visitors in the hall you can chat to during future drop in sessions. There will be a uniform bank in the hall as well if you would like to pick up pre-loved jumpers etc or drop any off. A swap between sizes is perfectly fine. We do look forward to seeing our families more often for formal and informal events.

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Our Parent Council has been on Zoom over the last two sessions. Discussions will take place regarding an AGM and we will share the date with you. Everyone who is a parent/carer within the school or nursery is able to attend meetings and we encourage your involvement. For more information contact the Chair of the committee at [rephadparentcouncil@outlook.com](mailto:rephadparentcouncil@outlook.com) for details.

Text

Description automatically generated with low confidenceThere is also an app that you can link to to support fundraising within the school. It is called Easy Fundraising and can be accessed at <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk> where you can search for the school to create a link. Fundraising takes place as you shop online at many well known retailers. Just one more way to support school funds on behalf of your children.

**Swimming**

Our P5 and P6 pupils will take part in swimming lessons they were unable to join during COVID restrictions. P4 will have swimming slots later in the session. The dates are below as a reminder. Letters were sent out at the end of last session.

Though the children are in groups, everyone attends   w/c 29th August – w/c 12th September 2022 (Monday, Tuesday & Thursday).

**Other Information**

I know that is quite a bit, but I hope you have all the information that will help you and your child get settled into a new year.

Below are dates for events and holidays. A print copy of dates and holidays will be sent home to each family.

As always, we are here to help and work with you so you and your family have the best experience possible at Rephad School and Nursery. Any questions concerns should be directed to the office initially through a phone call, email or visit, and we will support you as quickly as possible. We want you as involved as possible in your child’s education and will do everything we can to keep you informed. Best wishes to everyone for the new school session.

In regards,

Karen Logue;

Head Teacher

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| **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** - Wed 22 Feb to Fri 24 Feb 2023\* (\*Staff training - Wed 22 and Thur 23) Pupils return - 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 Monday 21 August 2023 |

**EVENTS CALENDAR 2022/2023**

We hope to keep to the set days but apologise in advance for any unforeseen circumstances that change dates listed below.

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| Nursery and School | Friday 14th September | Roald Dahl Day – Dress as Roald Dahl character or any book character or dress in yellow. |
| Nursery and School | Week 26th Sept | Maths Week |
| Nursery and School | Friday 30th September | McMillan Coffee morning – visitors welcome. |
| Nursery and School | Wednesday 5th October | Fundraiser Autumn Ramble |
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| School | Week 7th November | NSPCC- Child Safety and Anti bullying in class tasks and assembly |
| Nursery and School | Week 14th November | Book Week Scotland |
| Nursery and School | Friday 18th November | Children in Need |
| Nursery and School | Saturday 26th November? | Parent Council Christmas Fayre |
| P1-P7 Pupils | Thursday 8th December | Movie Night |
| Nursery and P1-P7 | Friday 10th December | Christmas Dinner  Christmas Jumper Day |
| P1-P7 Pupils | Thursday 15th December | Christmas Show |
| Class Parties | Week 12th December  Week 19th December | Christmas Parties – classes can double up. |
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| Nursery and School | Wednesday 25th January | Burns Day: in class, wear tartan. Poems (staff discussion re appropriate poems for stage.) Children recite at assembly. |
| Nursery and School | Thursday 2nd March | World Book Day – Theme dress-up with Reading Committee |
| Nursery and School | Friday 17th March | Red Nose Day/Comic Relief/Sports Relief (pennies?) or £1 donation |
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| School | Friday 26th May | Pre-Fun Day |
| School | Wednesday 7th June (Alt 14th) | Sports Day – Nursery dates tbc |
| P7 | Tuesday 27th June | P7 leavers ceremony. |
| P7 only | Wednesday 28th June | P7 leavers BBQ |
| Nursery | TBC | Nursery Transition |

**SCHOOL STAFF**

Head Teacher:Mrs Karen Logue

Depute Head Teacher:Mrs Moira Baird

**TEACHING STAFF**

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| Miss Kirsty Teasdale  Mrs Morag Irons  Mrs Alison Gratton  Mrs Rachel Fitton | Miss Amie Pritchard  Miss Laura McCulloch  Mrs Laura Mitchell  Miss Karen McLean | Mrs Shirley Drysdale  Mrs Lorna Hamilton  Miss Amy Bingham  Mrs Kimberley Whyte |

**NURSERY STAFF**

Mrs Eilidh Paisley Nursery Manager

Mrs Senga McKinstry Depute Nursery Manager

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| Nursery Nurse | Nursery Nurse | Early Years Support Assistant |
| Mrs Emma Morrison  Mrs Jennifer Hastings  Mrs Christine McNally  Ms Kerry Jolly Miss Orrin Dewar | Miss Mandy Gorman  Miss Pamela McKie  Ms Orrin Dewar | Miss Karen Gallacher (secondment)  Mrs Lois Bodle  Mrs Joy Jardine  Miss Caitlin Smith |

**OFFICE STAFF**

Mrs Penny McGeoch and Mrs Fiona Morrisson

**ADDITIONAL SUPPORT FOR LEARNING TEACHER**

Temporarily: Mrs Fitton and Mrs Gratton

**LEARNING ASSISTANTS SCHOOL JANITOR KITCHEN STAFF**

Mrs Karon Cooke Mr John Arnott Mrs Rachael Rhind

Mrs Lesley Little (Catering Manager)

Mrs Ellen Johnstone **SCHOOL PATROL OFFICER** Mrs Heather Cairnie;

Mrs Shelley Jenkins Mr Hugh Murdoch Mrs Tracy McMillan;

Miss Rachael Murray Ms Denise McGarva

Miss Holly Livingston