



Ref: KL/
Rephad Primary School and Nursery Ladies
Walk
Stranraer
DG9 8BW

Any enquiries please contact:
Mrs Karen Logue; Head Teacher
Mrs Eilidh Paisley; Nursery Manager
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Email: gw08officerephad@ea.dumgal.sch.uk

Dear Parent / Carer,

We cannot believe it is the end of the first term!! We have really enjoyed getting to know your children in their new class or nursery settings as well as having opportunities to meet you as parent/carers during various events.

Fundraising

The support given to the school and local charities is just amazing this term.

- Our McMillan Coffee Morning raised over £800 and was enjoyed by all who attended, despite the awful weather. Miss McLean and the P5/6 class did a wonderful job setting up, preparing and serving all our visitors. The classes also had a chance to pop in and buy any goodies that were still available. Thanks to those who donated baked goods for the event. We are still licking our lips over the tasty morsels on hand.
- The Autumn Ramble was a lovely walk through the approach and around the pathways towards the hospital. Family members joined us for the walk and we all enjoyed ourselves with only a little bit of rain showing up, we appreciated their support. Thanks also go to PC McCutcheon who helped ensure road crossings were safe as we moved round the town. Finally, TESCO donated water and fruit for the children to enjoy after the walk and we thank them for this offer. We continue to receive funds but currently the walk has raised £1880.50 and we are absolutely thrilled with the support that everyone in our school community has given us.



Committees

Pupil committees are up and running and supporting improvements and events within the school.

- The Eco Committee organised our Dandelion Festival and we enjoyed the chance to try food made from items grown on the school grounds with our Dandelion Project. We were able to have our families join us for a tea in the afternoon and recently children enjoyed the postponed Bouncy Castle event prior to our Autumn Walk. The Committee continue to develop ideas to support the school.
- The Pupil Council have helped support our initial United Nations Conventions of the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) Bronze Award work by sharing and gathering surveys with the school community. The committee will also be helping consider other events in school and having an opportunity to chat with our new Parent Council Chair.
- The Reading Committee is sharing a survey with the school to get views on reading across the school and to gather ideas about what else we can do in school to promote reading. Our revamped library is being enjoyed by everyone and a big thanks goes to Miss Kinahan who helped label our books so we can keep the library well organised for access. Classes have been joining together for paired reading and the committee have made some decisions about how to decorate the library area.



Halloween

We will **not** be dressing up in Halloween costumes on Monday 31st October, children will wear their school uniform as normal when they return after the holiday break. Children will be involved in Autumn or Halloween related activities in school that day.

Nursery children are able to wear a costume, if they wish, advice was sent in an email last week.

Information has been shared regarding a Parent Council Disco on Wednesday 2nd November for pupils in Primary 1 to Primary 7.

*Rephad Values: Aspirational; Creative; Hardworking;
Inclusive; Resilient; Respectful*

Christmas

Time does fly and once again we are rolling around to Christmas events. We are delighted that we will be able to have both a school show and a Nursery Nativity which families can attend. Children's Party dates will also be organised just after the break and we will share any information you need as soon as possible.

- The school show will have two performances on **Thursday 15th December at 10:00 am and 6:30 pm** at Stranraer Academy. A limited number of tickets will be available to each family for both events and information about accessing tickets will be shared in November.
- The Nursery Nativity will take place at 10:00 am on **Tuesday 20th December** in the School Hall. Again there will be limited numbers of seats available. Please be aware if your child does not regularly attend nursery that day or morning, they will still be part of the event. We ask that these Children are brought to the hall prior to the event and an adult remains for the event to support our staffing ratios.
- Our 3rd Annual Movie night will be **Thursday 8th December**. We will start at 6:30 pm and P1-3 class will finish at 7:45 and P4-P7 classes will finish at 8:00 pm. Further drop off and pick up information will be shared in a FORMS link prior to the date.
- Christmas Dinner and Christmas Jumper Day will both take place on **Friday 9th December**.



School Improvement Plan UNCRC (United Nations Conventions of the Rights of the Child)

We continue to work towards our Bronze Award. In the future we will look for Parent/Carer Representatives on our Steering Committee. Currently, staff are having training sessions linked to the programme supported by Rights Respecting Schools. Weekly assemblies also include information about different rights and the rights are further explored and linked within classroom experiences. The nursery is involved in our process by ensuring children are well supported in developing an initial understanding of their rights.

School Improvement Plan Writing Developments

Children and staff continue to expand on our writing descriptive bubbles as well as using various frameworks to support the planning of writing in different personal, non-fiction and fiction text types. Children are well versed in their descriptive bubbles and this is helping to make writing across the school more descriptive. Remember when you drop into school to take a look at our Tickled Pink writing samples that are displayed at the front of the school. One writer from each class is selected each month to have their efforts displayed. They are also recognised in assembly for their work.

New menu

A new dinner menu will be on offer after the Holiday Break. Links to the menu should be on the website for the return to school but a copy is going home to each family by tomorrow. We still encourage families to use the online ordering process to select the day's meal or tick the packed lunch option. If you do not have your login information, please contact the school office at gw08officerephad@ea.dumgal.sch.uk.

If your child has further dietary requirements, it is essential you have your GP complete an information form to be shared with the authority. This form can also be accessed through the school office.



Parent Council

The new Chair of our Parent Council is now Jayne Lee. She is being supported by Silvana Watson who recently stepped down as Acting Chair, but Silvana will continue as Vice Chair. The treasurer is Gavin Lee and the secretary is Jen Gregg. There are a number of Parent Members who have also attended our Digital Parent Council Meetings.

- The next meeting of the Parent Council will be announced in an email on Friday and will be in November.
- Parent Council are organising a Christmas Fayre that will take place **Saturday 3rd December** at Holy Ground Church on Church Street. This is a date change to our previous letter. Anyone who is able to help organise the event is asked to contact the Parent Council using rephadparentcouncil@outlook.com
- A Disco is being arranged by the Fundraising Arm of the Council and children are welcome to attend at the set times: P1-P2, P3-P5 and P6-P7. A one way system will be in place for drop off and pick up. Children can wear their Halloween Costume and Mr Donnelly will be the DJ for the event. The cost is £1.50 and includes chips and a drink. A separate email has already gone out about this event.

Staff

A few staffing changes have taken place within the nursery. Mrs Bodle is on a secondment for a year and her replacement Ms Leanne McMillan will join us in November. There are interviews for nursery nurse posts as our two-year-old provision is expanded and these will take place prior to the holidays. We will inform you as new staff join us. Miss Kinahan had been working with us from April to September as a general assistant. She is now volunteering a few days a week as she takes on a university programme. We appreciate her support in our classes.

School App

We are moving to a new school app after the break. We will begin to use the app from Monday 7th November so take the opportunity to download it now to get used to it.



There are several benefits of the SAFER SCHOOLS APP. Firstly, it does not incur a cost for the school. Secondly, it also comes with free safeguarding advice our digital safety and other wellbeing information that you may find helpful as a parent/carerer. Next, there is a pupil version of the app so they can access activities and quizzes to reinforce how to safely navigate the web as well as social media. Finally, there are many digital supports for staff to continue our regular lessons on internet safety. You can choose to use as much or as little of the information within the app that suits your needs. We will all take time to get used to the new app and discover various ways that we can use it to meet our own school needs. To begin with though – we will just use it to send notification messages as we do now with our current Jigsaw app. Please use the information at the end of the newsletter to download the app for yourself, or for your child as you feel appropriate. You can have both apps on your device at the same time but we will only be using the Safer Schools one from the date above.

Targets

You should receive a paper copy of your child's targets prior to the holiday break. Please complete the comment sheet and send it back so we can collate views. We look forward to seeing you at our Term 2 Drop-In on **Wednesday 21st November** from 3:10 to 4:10 pm. This is an informal chance to see your child's class and work and have a quick catch up as the class teacher is available. If you have something more specific to discuss with the class teacher, you can make an appointment at a mutually convenient time.

It has been a very enjoyable term as we have been able to do many more interactive activities with other classes that were not available with our lockdown restrictions. It is so nice to see staff and children combining forces to enjoy events, and also wonderful to see our families back in school.

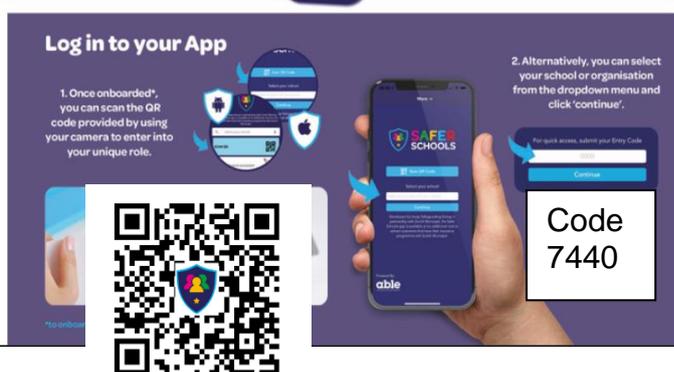
I want to say thank you to all the staff as they continue to be flexible and supportive as we continue to work with children to expand their skills as well as supporting the many events in school and nursery. Even though COVID restrictions have lifted, there are many priorities that require our focus to continue to allow everyone to **Be the Best They Can Be.**

We hope everyone in the school and nursery has a restful and enjoyable break and we look forward to seeing children and staff return on Monday 31st October.

In regards,

Karen Logue
Head Teacher
Rephad Primary School and Nursery

FOR PARENT/CARERS



Parent/Carer - Primary
Rephad Primary School and Nursery



Pupil - Primary KS2
Rephad Primary School and Nursery

FOR CHILDREN P4-P7
CODE: 9342