



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

August 2023

Dear Parent/Carer,

We welcome everyone to the 2023/2024 school/nursery session. We want to share with you information that will help you plan for the year as well as let you know some of the guidelines of the school. Separate information will also come from the nursery regarding their routines.

HOUSE CAPTAINS

In the last week of school we interviewed the candidates for house captain. The candidates were all fantastic and we have decided to add an extra role to our pupil responsibilities opportunities.

The House Captains will be **AIRD** Rhys **CULHORN** Leo **INCH** Leyla

The Vice Captains will be **AIRD** Erin and Kallie **CULHORN** Abbi and Rory **INCH** Lewis and Olivia

We also have a new role of House Deputes who will support in many other ways with events and visitors.

They are **AIRD** Elle, Christopher and Grace **CULHORN** Orla and Taylor **INCH** Scarlett

We congratulate everyone who applied and we know they will be fantastic at their jobs as they lead assemblies and support the school.



LOVELY NEWS

We had many expectant mothers as we began the holidays and Miss Teasdale won the pram race as her son Innes was born on Saturday. Mum and son are doing well and we can't wait to see them.

We are also delighted for other staff members in both the school and nursery who are now expecting.

Miss McKie in the nursery is due anytime and we are so excited. Miss R Murray our LA is also expecting in October. Miss Dewar in the nursery is expecting her second child in December, her daughter is very excited about becoming a big sister. It is lovely news for all of them and we will let you know how they are all doing when their precious bundles arrive.

Finally, Miss Smith in the nursery was married over the holidays and we all hope she had a wonderful day. She is now Mrs Mills. Miss A Murray was recently engaged and we are happy for her as well.



STAFFING

Miss Bingham accepted a role in a school near her home and we are so happy for her, though she will be missed terribly. We interview this week to back fill the role and will let you know the results. Mrs Whyte will be the core teacher in the P6/7 class for the session.

Mrs Hastings, Nursery Nurse will also be leaving us next month. We are also so sad to see her go and commend her on her 22 years of service to Rephad School and Nursery. We hope she enjoys every adventure ahead of her.

Further staffing for the school is listed below.

Mrs Logue Head Teacher; Mrs Baird Depute Head

P1	Mrs Irons		P4/5	Mrs Mitchell
P1/2	Miss Pritchard		P5/6	Miss McLean
P2/3	Mrs Gratton and Mrs Fitton		P6/7	Mrs Whyte
P3	Miss Pipes		P7	Mrs Hamilton
P4	Miss Baillie		RICCT	Mrs Miller, Mrs Baird

Support Staff:

Learning Assistants for the school will include our wonderful Learning Assistant team of Mrs Cooke, Mrs Little, Miss Johnstone, Miss R. Murray Miss Livingston, Miss A Murray, Mrs Rice and Ms Jenkins in her EYSA role. We are interviewing for another Learning Assistant as soon as we return. Until the role is filled, Mrs Slavin will cover the vacancy as a Learning Assistant.

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Nursery Staffing:

Mrs Paisley will continue in her role as Nursery Manager with Mrs McMillan remaining as a hand-over liaison in the nursery for the first term.

Blue	Mrs McKinstry, depute manager	Pink	Miss Dewar (NN)
Yellow	Mrs Morrison, nursery nurse (NN)	Brown	Miss Clanachan (NN)
Purple	Miss Hastings (NN)/ Miss Loch (NN)	Green	Miss Cleer (NN)
Purple	Miss Gorman returns in September (NN)	Orange	Miss McMillan (EYSA)/Mrs Mills (EYSA)

A further EYSA in the nursery is Miss Douglas along with Miss Gibb.

OFFICE STAFF

Mrs Penny McGeoch and Mrs Fiona Morrison

ADDITIONAL SUPPORT FOR LEARNING TEACHER

Mrs Sutherland

SCHOOL JANITOR Mr John Arnott

KITCHEN STAFF Mrs Rachael Rhind (Catering Manager) Mrs Heather Cairnie; Mrs Tracy McMillan; Ms Denise McGarva; Miss Siobhan

SCHOOL PATROL OFFICER Mr Hugh Murdoch

Sharing Information

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 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

It is very important to celebrate the wider achievements of children. We have pupils who are involved in sports; 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. Please use the coloured sheet we have sent home to record an achievement. We will share the news at assembly and we also display the news on a board at the front of the school. You can even send in a wee photograph if you like.

Tickled Pink

Over the last few years we have had a Tickled Pink display at the front of the school that has celebrated the achievement of children in their writing. This has been due to a specific focus in our school improvement plan on developing writing skills. The children have asked if we could celebrate multiple areas of the curriculum from this point forward. We all think this is a great idea and when we have a date for Tickled Pink teachers and pupils will decide what piece of work will represent the class. The work will still be displayed on the library shelves at the entry door. We will also continue our recognition of celebrating the noted children in assembly with stickers and House Points. The first Tickled pink dates are **Tues 19th Sept and Tues 10th Oct**. Well done boys and girls for your great idea.

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 focus on reading skills, developing digital skills for staff and children and taking forward the authorities Inclusion Framework which also involves continued work with our UNCRC Rights Respecting Schools Award.

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

Lunch (45mins): 12:30-1:15

Finish times/Exit Building: 3pm

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Entrance/Exit Points

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

P1 and P1/2: enter at the gate off Ladies Walk. For the first 2 days of school only, an 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, P6/7: doors closest to PE hall/boy's toilets

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

We also ask that all areas of the playground are dog free. If you are walking a dog to pick up or drop off a child, please do not enter the various entry gates.

If anyone is waiting at a gate we would ask that you stand off to the side to allow for the flow of traffic both into and out of school.


School Uniform:

Our uniform is black trousers/skirts/shorts a white or royal blue polo shirt and royal blue jumpers/cardigans. We ask that children not wear hoodies or leggings. The uniforms help give us all an identity. There is no need for a Rephad logo on items but we do ask that clothing not have other logos as much as possible.

PE Kit:

There is no need for P1 and P2 pupils to wear a PE kit on their PE days. Older children can wear their kit on a PE day, or if a special sporting event is happening. Plain black (dark) trackies and a plain t-shirt under the **usual school jumper** will be expected on PE days. Children can bring a plain jumper to wear during PE or a t-shirt to change into after PE. We ask that there are no crop tops worn or football tops of any variety. Plain items are encouraged for tops and bottoms. Older children will be encouraged to change after a PE session as hygiene becomes more of a focus and necessity in the upper school.

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.

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 Homework books or Teams for homework experiences. Your child's teacher will inform you of the means of communication. 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. Though staff may be posting homework etc on TEAMS for age and stage appropriate children, 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.

Children may also remember their logins for sites we purchase such as Purple Mash, SumDog and HAM. They will be reminded in the first few weeks of these links but if you do need a future reminder please contact the office.

Purple Mash logins will be created for all our new P1 children in the next weeks, as well as links to the other sites noted.

Dinner Hall

The menu is a 3 week rotation as is available online at the D&G site. You can pre-order your child's meal on IPAYIMPACT. If you need your password reset please contact the office. P1 children will receive log-in details. Children who bring packed lunches are welcome to sit outdoors while the weather allows. For children having a school dinner, 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.

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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

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.



Events

Over the last few years we have had a movie night as part of the Christmas Events. This session we will have a movie afternoon in the school and children can enjoy all the treats they have before with hot chocolate and popcorn as well as wearing their onsies or bringing a blanket. the school show/concert will still be an evening event with a morning presentation as well.



School App

Download Safer Schools 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.

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/carer. 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.

FOR PARENT/CARERS



FOR CHILDREN P4-P7

CODE: 9342

School Improvement Plan

In term 2 you will receive a copy of our annual Progress Report after discussions with our Quality Improvement officer. Priority areas we are focussing on for the school year will include:

- working towards our Rights Respecting Schools UNCRC Silver award with our steering committee. This involves P4-P7 Pupil council members, staff members, Mrs Morrison (nursery) Mrs Johnstone (LA), Mrs Gratton (teacher), Mrs Mitchell (teacher) and parents Mrs Heppenstall and Mrs Roberts.
- Developing wider reading strategies and supports linking with spelling/phonics focus
- Expanding on Digital Technologies to support learning and teaching.
- Implementing the authority's new Inclusive Framework to support all children across the school
- Responding to recommendations from last session's HMle visit.

Through newsletters and Parent Council meetings, we will keep you involved and updated on these various priorities throughout the year. We also hope to create a video with the children that talks about our learning and achievements and this will be shared with you through our school blog. Other information is also on the Blog for your reference.

The link is: blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/dg/rephadconnects/

Learning Targets

All children in nursery and school would have received a report in June. The **next steps** on these reports will be the targets children in P1-P7 will be developing as the session begins. This does not mean that other skills are not focussed upon, but these skills will be discuss more specifically on a regular basis with children. Children in the upper school will be using their own jotter to note their targets and write about their development.

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When you meet with your child's class teacher in October you can discuss the targets. In March further targets will be considered as your child's skills grow. Again these will be discussed at the March Parent's Evening meeting. Copies of targets will not be sent home as you have a copy of the report from June as a reference.

Staff in the nursery will chat to you about targets during meetings that will be organised during the term.

Parental Events in School – DROP-IN

On Wednesday 6th September 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.

Other drop in dates through-out the session will be: **6th December; 7th February; 15th May.** These dates are specifically for chatting to the teacher if you have questions about your child's progress or needs. There will be no other events on during these times so please do not feel obligated to attend unless you wish to discuss something specific.

Please contact us out-with these dates as needed and we will endeavour to set a meeting time as quickly as possible.

To add onto our parental engagement events, class teachers would like to invite you in at some point through out the session to join your child in their learning and celebrate their work. This may follow a specific topic or event in school. Please watch class newsletters or further emails sent by the school. We do hope you are able to join these events.

Further activities are also listed at the end of this email to help you pre-plan.

Parent Council

A date for the annual AGM will be set this term. 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 for details.



There 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.

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.

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.

In regards,

Karen Logue;
Head Teacher

EVENTS CALENDAR 2023/2024

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

We will be arranging a "Wear

School	Wednesday 6 th September	Drop-In
Nursery and School	Friday 15 th September	Roald Dahl Day – Children can dress in a Roald Dahl character costume or wear yellow. School uniform is worn otherwise. No donations of money are to be sent in on this day.
School	Thursday 28 th September	Photographs – (nursery term 4) We are not able to accommodate sibling photos across school nursery settings at either time of year.

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Nursery and School	Friday 29 th September	McMillan Coffee morning – visitors welcome.
School	Wednesday 4 th October	Parent Evening Appointments; Scholastic Book Fair sale also
Nursery and School	Thursday 5 th October	Fundraiser Autumn Ramble
Nursery and School	Week 13 th November	Book Week Scotland
Nursery and School	Friday 17 th November	Children in Need
Nursery and School	Saturday 25 th November?	Parent Council Christmas Fayre
School	Wednesday 6 th December	Drop-In
P1-P7 Pupils	Thursday 14 th December	Christmas Show date To Be Confirmed
Class Parties	Week 12 th December Week 19 th December	Christmas Parties – classes can double up.
Nursery and School	Wednesday 24 th January	Burns Day: in class, wear tartan.
School	Wednesday 7 th February	Drop-In
Nursery and School	Friday 8 th March	World Book Day – Theme dress-up with Reading Committee
School	Wednesday 13 th March	Parent Evening Appointments; Scholastic Book Fair sale also
Nursery and School	Friday 15 th March	Red Nose Day/Comic Relief/Sports Relief
School	Wednesday 15 th May	Drop-In
School	Friday 24 th May	Pre-Fun Day
School and Nursery	Friday 24 th May 5-7pm	Parent Council Fun Night
School	Wednesday 5 th June (Alt 12 th)	Sports Day – Nursery dates tbc
Nursery	Monday 26 th June	Nursery Transition - afternoon
P7	Tuesday 27 th June	P7 leavers ceremony - morning
P7 only	Thursday 29 th June	P7 leavers BBQ

School year dates (2023/24)

Term 1

Staff training - Friday 18 and Monday 21 August 2023

First day - Tuesday 22 August 2023

Last day - Friday 13 October 2023

Autumn holiday - Monday 16 to Friday 27 October 2023

Term 2

First day - Monday 30 October 2023

Last day - Friday 22 December 2023

Christmas holiday - Monday 25 December 2023 to Friday 5 January 2024 (pupils return Tuesday 9 January)

Term 3

Staff training - Monday 8 January 2024

First day - Tuesday 9 January 2024

Mid-term holiday - Monday 12 February to Wednesday 14 February 2024*

(*Staff training - Tuesday 13 and Wednesday 14 February 2024)

Pupils return from Mid-term holiday - Thursday 15 February 2024

Last day - Friday 22 March 2024

Spring holiday - Monday 25 March to Friday 5 April 2024

Term 4

First day - Monday 8 April 2024

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May Day holiday - Monday 6 May 2024

Last day - Monday 1 July 2024

Summer holiday - Tuesday 2 July to Friday 16 August 2024 (pupils return Wednesday 21 August 2024)

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