

## People Directorate

Depute Chief Executive and Director - People: Douglas Hutchison

County Buildings  
Wellington Square  
Ayr  
KA7 1DR  
Our Ref: DH/DS/LD  
Date: 31 March 2021

Your Ref



**To: All Parents/Carers  
Cairn Primary School and Early Years Centre  
Gardenrose Primary School and Early Years Centre**

Dear Parent/Carer

### **Campus Update and Interim Management Arrangements for Cairn Primary and Gardenrose Primary and their Early Years Centres**

The past year has been challenging for all of us but I am very grateful to you and to our school staff for all the support you have given to our children during recent school closures. The importance of children being at school has never been valued as much as during the pandemic and I am pleased that they are now back full time and hope this will remain the case.

We recently met with the Parent Councils of Cairn Primary School and Gardenrose Primary School. The meetings were to give the Parent Councils an update on progress with the new campus in Maybole and to explain what the interim management arrangements will be for both schools from June 2021 onwards.

The campus project is progressing well with preparatory work now underway. The main works will begin in the summer with expected completion in Easter 2023. The contractor and design team are currently engaging with staff, children and young people on the internal room layouts and the external areas. Further information along with images of the new campus and links that provide 3D views of some spaces can be found [here](#).

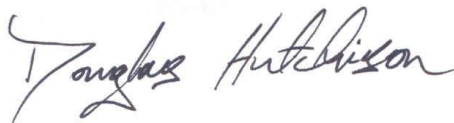
As you know, following statutory consultation in 2018, a decision was taken by the Council that Gardenrose Primary and Cairn Primary and their Early Years Centres will close when the new school opens. The two schools and their early years centres will become one new school with a new name when the community campus opens and Cairn and Gardenrose schools will no longer exist. A significant amount of work needs to be undertaken to prepare the schools to come together. The new school will need to be named, a new badge will need to be developed and a new uniform agreed. Approaches to learning and teaching and the resources used are slightly different in each school. We aim to build on the strengths of both schools so that when the new school opens there will be no time lost in ensuring children continue their learning journey seamlessly. However, there is a significant amount of work required in bringing together two schools. The focus has been very much on the new building but there is a lot of educational work that needs to take place too.

Bringing together two schools requires clear leadership under a single head teacher. As you know Mrs Louise Morrison has been acting Head Teacher at Gardenrose Primary for the past 2 years and this arrangement will come to an end on the 31<sup>st</sup> May 2021. I am very grateful to Mrs Morrison for all the work she has done at Gardenrose Primary during her time there as acting head teacher. I also very much appreciate the work of Miss Sarah Flint who has been acting head teacher at Cairn Primary School over the past two years. Mrs Fiona McDougall is the only substantive head teacher remaining between Gardenrose Primary School and Cairn Primary School. Mrs McDougall has been on secondment as a quality improvement manager and will now return as joint head teacher of Cairn and Gardenrose to lead both schools on the journey to becoming one school. Both schools will have enhanced staffing during this period to ensure that the depute head teacher has the time to

take on any additional responsibilities if the head teacher is in the other school. The focus during this period will always be the education and welfare of the children and the key contact for each child remains their class teacher. The management arrangements changing is one of the first steps towards the creation of a single new school.

Both schools have served Maybole well over many years and I am sure they will take the best of their history and traditions into the new school. Thank you for your continued support during this period and we will continue to engage with the Parent Council throughout the transition period.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Douglas Hutchison". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized 'D' at the beginning.

**Douglas Hutchison**  
**Depute Chief Executive and Director - People**