

The Redmyre Review

August 2020



Welcome Back!

Well, what can I say? Boy, are we glad to have the children back in the building! It has been fabulous to welcome back all our boys and girls and of course to welcome all our new children. I honestly can't believe how settled everyone is already and how happily everyone came bouncing back into school. We are all adjusting to the new way of working, the setup of the school and the constant sanitising of hands. To help the children socially distance from the adults they know that they have to imagine all the staff are wearing enormous sombreros and they have to be careful not to bump into them (one of the little ones asked me how I would get out of the door with my huge sombrero on!).

We are very excited to welcome our new Primary one pupils. We have eight little ones this year. They are already settling in very nicely and getting to know the school routines along with Miss Carroll.

A photograph of our P1s will be in the next newsletter when all are back at school.

Here are some of the things some of our new P1s had to say about their first few weeks.

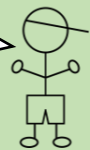
I like learning about words.
Ava



I like writing all my new sounds.
Josh



I like playing in the classroom.
Jack



I like writing my name and playing outside.
Brodie



I like learning about how leaves grow and change colour
Lewis



I like when we get to do colouring.
Carlee



We don't just welcome the children of course; we also extend a very special welcome to all our new parents and carers and we look forward to working in partnership with you over the coming years. We would normally have a 'meet the teacher' evening around September time so you could have a chance to come into school, meet the staff and find out how your child/children are settling back in. However, under current circumstances, it is not going to be possible to do this in the normal way. We had considered having a 'Gazebo Evening' where we could meet outside under gazebos however, I have been advised that current Local Authority policy prohibits that. We are currently investigating how we can have virtual parent meetings so we can touch base with you before the October holidays. I will keep you posted. In the meantime, if there is anything you need to discuss just give us a call on **01561 400670**.

PE Kit

Under guidance from Education Scotland children are required to have access to two hours of PE per week. This year, given the circumstances and the fact that our hall is being used as a classroom this year, all PE will be held outdoors. Your child's teacher will inform you what days they have timetabled PE and we would ask that you send your child to school on those days in PE kit appropriate to the weather conditions. Children will go outside for PE unless it is absolutely raining cats and dogs. We ask that children **do not wear football colours** for PE as this can provoke conflict in the playground. Earrings need to be covered up for PE, please provide a little box of micropore tape for this purpose if your child has pierced ears and is able to apply the micropore to their own ears.

Covid 19

Clearly, we are all being hyper vigilant at the moment for the symptoms of Covid 19. We have had a number of children with sniffles and coughs and sneezes which is entirely understandable given that we haven't been mixing for the last few months and our immune systems probably aren't as robust as we would like them to be. If your child does just have a cold, we are confident that you know your child best and will be able to use your judgement to decide whether your child is well enough to cope with a day at school or whether their cold is heavy enough to merit a day or two cosied up at home. If you suspect for a moment that it might be more than just a cold, please err on the side of caution and seek advice. The symptoms we need to particularly look out for are

- A new and persistent cough
- A high temperature
- Loss of taste or smell

If your child has **any** of these symptoms **please do not send them to school** and organise a test by logging on to www.nhsinform.scot . Here you will find a guide on how to book a test. Your child should only return to school after confirmation of a negative test. Please be assured we are following all government guidance in school in our efforts to keep our school community safe. But don't take our word for it, please see the letter which we have attached from Professor Jason Leitch, National Clinical Director for Scotland.

Arrangements for Dropping Off and Picking Up Pupils.

When you are dropping off and picking up your children from school please remember that there is a strict one-way system in operation. Children being picked up by car will come to the side gate nearest the infant classroom where they should wait until whoever is picking them up draws up alongside the pavement. When you have picked up your child please then move along in a timely yet safe manner to allow the cars behind you to also draw up alongside the pavement. Children should not be coming out the back door and going out on to the road from there to be collected. We would also implore you to drop your speed to a maximum of 10 miles an hour upon entering the school grounds. We do understand that it can be frustrating to have to wait in the queue and that it can take a wee while for some of our younger pupils to get all strapped in safely but this system, recommended to us by Police Scotland, is to ensure the safety of all our boys and girls.



Rain Jackets

As we all know the weather in Scotland can be very fickle. What starts off as a beautiful morning can often turn into a day of rain. We do expect the children to go outside at playtime to get some exercise and fresh air unless it is bucketing down. For this reason, please can we ask that you ensure your child brings a rain jacket to school every day. Please also ensure that all children's clothing is marked with their name to ensure that valuable learning time is not wasted in finding lost items.

Staffing

I thought this would be a good time to confirm with you our current staffing.

P1/2	Miss Carroll
P3/4	Miss Green
P5	Ms McKay and Mrs Gronneberg
P6/7	Miss Forster

This term and possibly for the rest of the session Mrs Rattray will be with us for 2 and a half days per week. Government guidance has meant that we have had to try and cut down on peripatetic staff going between different schools. This means that Ms Millar, our drama teacher, and Mrs Gatherum, our art teacher will both remain based in other schools in the cluster whilst we will have Mrs Rattray covering for them. Mrs Rattray is also covering Mrs Sutherland's day whilst she is on maternity leave and she will spend half a day as an Additional Support for Learning teacher. We have also been allocated an extra one day a week of Additional Support for Learning which will be provided by Mrs Shona Patterson.

Alternative Home Time Arrangements

We often have e mails informing us of alternative home time arrangements for children. Please be aware that Mrs Hunter or I may not be here every day to pick up emails so if you have not heard back from us please do not assume that we have got the correct information. If you have to make alternative arrangements for your child, whether that be someone different from usual picking them up or they're going home to a friend's, please phone the school and speak to a member of staff in person to ensure that the message is passed on. We do have times when little ones cook up their own plans to go to one another's houses after school and tell us quite confidently that they are going elsewhere that afternoon; if we have not had this confirmation from a parent or carer then the normal pick up procedures will apply.

School Lunches



Just a short reminder that the cost for a school dinner is **£2.50** per day although it remains free for children in P1-3. Aberdeenshire Council operate an online ipay system. If you have any difficulty with this, please contact Mrs Hunter in the office who will be happy to help you. Aberdeenshire Council's Catering Services have a very strict procedure for reclaiming catering debts and the admin involved in this fall to Chris and Mrs Hunter so please try to keep your accounts in credit to avoid this unnecessary workload.

School Start Time and Pupil Absence

School starts at 9 am sharp and we would very much appreciate if you could ensure that all pupils arrive on time as it can be disruptive to have pupils arriving late. It can also cause anxiety for a child who arrives late into class when everybody else has started their morning routine.

Please contact the school in the morning if your child is going to be absent. If nobody answers, please leave a message on the answering machine as these are checked at 9am every day. If a child has not arrived at school by 9.15 and we have received no message, then we will contact you to query the absence. If you cannot be contacted and we have no explanation for the child's absence we are obliged to contact social services or the police until we can be assured that your child is safe and well.

A Babble of Babies



And finally, I am not sure what the collective noun for babies is but we sure got a babble of babies last week. I am delighted to announce that Mrs Warden and her husband had a gorgeous, wee girl named Lori on Monday 17th August, Miss McMillan and her partner Mr Johnson also had a beautiful baby girl named Amelie on Tuesday 18th August whilst Mrs Sutherland and her husband had a wee boy, also on Tuesday the 18th August. All mummies and babies are well and we could not be happier for them all.