

# The Redmyre Review August 2017



## Welcome Back!

We are delighted to welcome everyone back to school after the summer break. It has been lovely hearing the holiday stories from all the children and it's nice to see everyone well rested and raring to go again.

We are also very excited to welcome our new Primary one pupils. We have eleven little ones this year which, although less than last year, is still an extraordinary number for our wee school. They are already settling in very nicely and getting to know the school routines along with Miss McMillan. A huge thanks goes out to our P7 pupils who have been acting as 'Buddies' for our new P1s. We also have a number of new children who have joined us from other schools which takes us up to a whole school role of 62 which is a huge jump from last year; it is certainly keeping Doreen and Sandra in the school kitchen busy at lunch times!

We don't just welcome the children of course, we also extend a very special

welcome to all of our new parents and carers and we look forward to working in partnership with you over the coming years. We would like to encourage as many parents and carers as possible to become involved in the life and work of the school so please look out for dates for our Parent Council meetings where you will be given a warm welcome.

## Pupils as Effective Contributors

We have wasted no time in getting the children busy after their summer break. Already the P6/7 pupils have been applying for the vacant posts of Junior Road Safety Officers, Wow Board Administrators, School Librarians and Fairtrade Community Café Crew. I shall be interviewing for these posts next week. All of the classes will also be going to the ballot boxes next week after the hopeful candidates for a place on the pupil council state their cases for why they should be chosen. The successful representatives will be announced at assembly on Thursday.



## 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 have noticed a number of parents parking their cars on the road where the school buses park and then walking into the school grounds to pick up their little ones. We don't encourage this as there are children milling around here at the end of the school day who may be on the road and cannot be seen because of the buses. We do understand that parents of our P1 children do like to meet their boys and girls at the school door as they come out however please be assured that an adult always waits with the children at the designated pick up point until they have all been picked up. If you must do this until your children are settled we would ask that you park your car as far down the road and as far away from the buses as possible. Thank you.



## Reminders

### Please Use Envelopes.

The school has to operate under very strict guidelines from Aberdeenshire Council on the handling of money. Please

- Ensure all cheques or cash are in a **sealed envelope**
- **Clearly mark** on the envelope **the nature of the contents**
- Teachers are not allowed to open envelopes that may contain money, therefore **notes for the teacher must be clearly marked.**
- Please ensure that any **cheques are completed** - 'phone the school if you're unsure about the payee or amounts.

### 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 absolutely raining cats and dogs so, for this reason, please can we ask that you ensure your child brings a rain jacket to school every day.

### PE Kit

Under guidance from Education Scotland children are required to have access to two hours of PE per week. Class teachers may vary the days they take the children for PE throughout the week. For this reason we ask that you ensure your child has appropriate PE clothing in school every day. This should be a pair of gym shoes, a pair of shorts (preferably black or navy) and a white loose fitting tee shirt. Tee shirts bearing the Redmyre Logo are available to buy through the Tesco school uniform website. We ask that children **do not wear football colours** for PE as this can provoke conflict in the playground. **Please label all items of clothing.**

## 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 please phone the school and speak to a member of staff in person to ensure that the message is passed on.

## School Lunches



Just a short reminder that the cost for a school lunch is £2.20 per day although it remains free for children in P1-3. Aberdeenshire Council have moved onto the 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 falls to Doreen and Mrs Hunter so please try to keep your accounts in credit to avoid this unnecessary workload.

## Volunteers

You will have received a flier home from school appealing for parents, carers and members of the community to come and volunteer in school. We really do want to involve parents and the wider community in the life of the school as we know you have a lot to offer. It doesn't have to be a big commitment; it may be that you would be willing to help once in a blue moon but please let us know where your talents and interests lie.

On a similar subject we would like to encourage more parents to join the Parent Council. The group meets approximately once a term to discuss school issues and fundraising activities. If you would like to become involved please contact the school or speak to Dr Rachel Smith, the Chairperson.

**Please see note attached from the Parent Council regarding the Fordoun Gala.**

Come and volunteer, at Redmyre. We're a cheery bunch.



## Staffing

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

P1/2	Miss McMillan
P2/3/4	Mrs Innes (M-W) Mrs Warden (Th, F)
P6/7	Miss Forster (T- F) Mrs Gronneberg (M)

This term we will also be seeing Mrs Robertson on Monday mornings for Music, Ms Miller on a Tuesday morning for Drama, Miss Gatherum for Art on a Friday morning and Mrs Fish on a Monday morning for core cover to allow teachers their non- contact time out of class to carry out their many other contractual obligations.

We are delighted to welcome Miss Forster to Primary 5/6/7. Miss Forster is a probationer teacher and has already shown that she is going to be a huge asset to the school. I am sure you will join with me in wishing her all the best as she starts out on her teaching career.



It feels good to be back to school because I'm seeing all my friends and learning again.  
Emily P4



### Communication for parents

Aberdeenshire council has changed the way parents receive online alerts about school closures and changes to school transport. You can now sign up for these notifications through myaccount on the Aberdeenshire Council website; if you currently pay for school meals online, you will already be registered.

myaccount is a simple, secure way of accessing a range of Scottish public services using just one username and password and 13,000 parents across Aberdeenshire are already enjoying the benefits of it.

As well as being able to sign up for alerts, your home page will automatically give you handy information such as your bin collection days, where your nearest recycling centre is and the names of your local councillors.

So, if you want to be kept up-to-date and take advantage of the other myaccount benefits, sign up to the new system by going to the Aberdeenshire Council website and clicking on the red **register** button in the top right-hand corner.

Last year we also signed up to a new system allowing us to communicate with parents and carers by text alert or by a free app called Xpressions which can be downloaded to your phone or tablet. I have attached a letter which tells you all about it and how to go about downloading the app. May I also take this opportunity to let you know that I have been updating our School Website where you can find lots of information. Visit [redmyre.aberdeenshire.sch.uk](http://redmyre.aberdeenshire.sch.uk)

## **School Start Time and Pupil Absence**

School starts at 9am 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. Please do not send email notification of an absence as this may not be received before 'safe arrival at school' procedures commence. If a child has not arrived at school by 9.20 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.



We have already had our first visitor to the school this session. Heather from the NSPCC came to visit last Thursday and gave age appropriate presentations and workshops for all of our children on how to protect themselves from all forms of abuse and neglect and how to get help should it be required. Heather also left a range of information outlining the services which can be provided by the NSPCC. I have placed some leaflets for parents in the reception area if you would like more information.

## **Dates for Your Diary**

**Fordoun Gala – 2/9/17**

**Parent Group Meeting/AGM 21/9/17**

**Critter Keeper to Visit P1-4 – 4/10/17**

**Meet the teacher evening- 5/10/17**

**Panto trip – 13/12/17**

**Holiday dates on last sheet**

## **School Communication on your Mobile Phone**

An exciting new service is now available making communication between yourselves and the school easier and more effective.

We will continue to offer texts and emails to those who prefer this method however the new Groupcall Xpressions app for mobile phone or tablet is completely free for you and for the school.

### **When can I start to receive information this way?**

From now.

### **What happens if I haven't got the app?**

Nothing will change. Using the app saves the school time and money but you will continue to get information via text or email should you prefer.

### **Will my personal details be safe?**

Aberdeenshire council is the Data Controller of the personal information being processed and Groupcall are our Data Processor. If you sign up your data will be used to:

- Safely and securely log you onto the Groupcall products
- Correctly identify and display information about your children from their school(s)
- Provide assistance when requested by yourself or the school
- Analyse and improve the services offered by Groupcall and provide you with the most user friendly experience (There is an opt out option available for this purpose on signing up to Groupcall)

### **Once installed and set up, the app offers a range of benefits including:**

- Messages from the school delivered directly to the app
- Urgent text messages duplicated into the app
- Even if your children attend different schools in different authorities, all messages can be received through the app
- Ability to reply to selected messages and complete satisfaction surveys via the app
- From early 2017 messages can be sent to more than one contact if required

### **To start receiving messages via the app**

Visit your phone/tablet's app store to download the Groupcall Xpressions app and follow set up guidance at

<http://parents.groupcall.com/setup/>

## Redmyre Holiday Dates 2017/18

### Term 1

Monday 21 <sup>st</sup> August 17	Inset Day
Tuesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> August 17	Term Starts
Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> October 17	Term Ends

### Term 2

Monday 30 <sup>th</sup> October 17	Term Starts
Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> November 17	Inset Day
Tuesday 14 <sup>th</sup> November 17	Inset Day
Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> December 17	Term Ends

### Term 3

Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> January 18	Term Starts
Thursday 8 <sup>th</sup> February 18	Occasional Day
Friday 9 <sup>th</sup> February 18	Occasional Day
Monday 12 <sup>th</sup> February 18	Midterm Holiday
Tuesday 13 <sup>th</sup> February 18	Inset Day
Wednesday 14 <sup>th</sup> February 18	Inset Day
Thursday 29 <sup>th</sup> March 18	Term Ends

### Term 4

Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> April 18	Term Starts
Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> May 18	May Day Holiday
Friday 6 <sup>th</sup> July 18	Term Ends

Inset days - School open to staff only.