

## 2017-18: NEWSLETTER 1

### August 2018

What a great first week back at RDM! Across the school our pupils are settled, happy and a little tired as they are approaching the end of their first week! It's been a pleasure catching up on all their holiday news – I think the weather has provided lots of fun and adventure!

A huge welcome to all the new families joining us this session – we are delighted that you are with us. A special welcome to all our Primary 1 families, it's been a very busy week in P1 but I'm delighted to say that everyone looks busy and enjoying school life – we've been very impressed with how they are getting to grips with the new school routines.

Over the next week we will be able to provide you with key dates for the year ahead, to help you get organised. We are busy finalising these across our community.

Included in our monthly newsletters are some of the key bits of information that will keep you up to speed with what is going on in the wider school. Our newsletters will be posted on our APP, copies are available from the school office – please do let us know if you do not have access to the APP. We are in the process of renewing our website – this has taken a little longer than we hoped but we aim to achieve this over the course of term 1, we will then also update this with newsletters. Our school APP is a great source of information, this will be updated by the end of next week with our key dates, so do keep checking. If you don't yet have our school APP – it can be downloaded by:



1. Going to the app store
2. Search: PSA primarieschoolapp
3. Once you've opened the app just search for 'Robert Douglas Memorial School'

### **1. Staffing:**

We welcome a number of new staff this term.

- Mrs Dudek (DHT) has returned from maternity leave and will be with us on a Tuesday and Wednesday.
- Mrs Swan (DHT) joins us from Muthill Primary and will be with us on a Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.
- Mrs Burke (DHT) won't be with us in term 1 as she is covering the Acting Head position at Forgandenny Primary, but we look forward to welcoming her back in term 2.

- Mrs Martin and Mrs Walker join our team as learning support teachers replacing Mrs Williams.
- Mrs Lough, Mrs Jafferbhoy and Mrs Bayne join our team as pupil support assistants.

## 2. Building work

The building work undertaken over the Summer will reach completion at the end of next week, freeing up our playground again. The work completed has supported RDM to become more fire compliant. There have been a number of new doors and an upgraded fire alarm system fitted.

## 3. Parent Council

Our Parent Council work really hard to support us as a school. We value their input, time and commitment in supporting us both in practical ways including fundraising and through consultation.

As a result of your contributions, at the end of last session we were fortunate enough to receive a cheque from Parent Council for £4000 to invest in our grounds, specifically in learning outdoors. This decision was taken following consultation at Parent Council.

Over the Summer, a fabulous new 'outdoor classroom' has been built, with picnic benches – this is an excellent resource which will be used this year in all classes and stages to support learning outdoors. Mrs Wilson will be supporting outdoor learning across the school and we are really excited about the new skills our pupils will have the opportunity to develop.



The next meeting of the Parent Council is on **Thursday 27th September at 6.30pm.** All families are welcome to attend. This first meeting will be the AGM where there will be an opportunity to elect new office bearers for the year ahead – we've attached job descriptions for the different roles on our school APP.



## **4. House Time**

Our new House Captains have been hard at work already, helping support and organise assemblies and planning house events for the school. If you are new with us, each child in RDM is in one of four houses: **Mansfield (blue)**, **Stormont (green)**, **Bonhard (yellow)** or **Douglas (red)**. There are house events each term, where the pupils get together in their houses and mix with other children across the school. This is a great opportunity for pupils to learn new skills in a mixed age group. We will keep you informed about what the houses are getting up to – look out for updates on our school Twitter account - [@RDMScone](#)

## **5. Annual updates**

Next week, please check school bags for our Annual update forms; please indicate any changes to details on these. It is important that we have the most up to date details for all our pupils. These require to be signed and returned to us even if there are no changes.

There will also be a **GENERIC PERMISSION** slip. This will cover all local trips – Park, Perth Academy etc. We are hoping this will save you lots of permission slips to sign. All trips / outings / events will be clearly communicated before they happen – our teachers will use seesaw / text messaging for this. We hope to have seesaw up and running next week, once we have completed the new class updates.

## **6. Parking**

We appreciate that parking in and around RDM at drop off and pick up can become congested. We would ask that when parking, consideration is given to local residents who need to be able to access their property. The staff car park should not be used as taxis need to be able to access this.

## **7. Medication**

If your child previously held medicine in school which was not collected at the end of the last academic session, can you please arrange to either collect this or call in to complete a fresh form for this session in accordance to comply with PKC guidance.

## **8. Allergies / peanuts**

As a reminder we wanted to make you aware that we have pupils in RDM who have severe peanut allergies. Contact with peanuts would result in anaphylactic shock and immediate administration of medicine / medical intervention. Although our policy is not to have a strict ban on peanuts / peanut products, we would ask that parents make considered choices as to the snacks and lunchbox contents given to their child. Please also remind your child not to share or swap snacks to ensure that we minimise the risk to those affected.

We look forward to great year together,

*Lynne Lambert*

**Mrs Lambert – Head Teacher**