

**2018-19: NEWSLETTER 2**

**SEPTEMBER 2018**

Dear RDM Family,

We can hardly believe that we are approaching the end of the first term at RDM. We are pleased at how well all of our classes have settled and the work being undertaken. As a leadership team we are in and out of classes – observing and finding out about how our learners are progressing. This session we are keeping a close eye on pace and challenge for all our learners to ensure that everyone is making the very best possible progress.

As a reminder you can find information on all of the up and coming dates for the year ahead on our school APP. If you are not able to access this, please do let us know and we can ensure you are provided with the information that you need.

Primary  
School  
App

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. PARENT COUNCIL**

As a reminder our Parent Council meeting is on **Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> September 2018 at 6.30pm.**

Everyone is welcome to attend. This first meeting will be the AGM where we will elect new office bearers. Our House Captains produced a superb short video to advertise these positions. This can be viewed on our twitter feed and through the Parent Council Facebook page.

At this first meeting we will be looking a little more closely at the developments we are making with outdoor learning.



Mrs Wilson and some pupils will be sharing key information with the Parent Council and there will be an opportunity to view / tour the outdoor classroom and area.

**@RDMScone**

## 2. OUTDOOR LEARNING



All pupils will be receiving outdoor learning with Mrs Wilson this session – class teachers will have already communicated the times / days for this in their welcome letters – please let us know if you are unaware of this. Primary 1 will move to this in term 2.

**It is our expectation that pupils will be out in all weather conditions.**

We have purchased some waterproof trousers, but pupils should come to school with an **appropriate warm, waterproof jacket and footwear**, prepared for all weather conditions. The only time they will be working inside would be due to severe weather conditions including Amber Weather warnings and when our risk assessment indicates that inside work would be more appropriate.

Although in the past Outdoor Learning has always featured as part of the curriculum, this year sees a change in how it's delivered. Pupils are now receiving a planned double period of activities fortnightly, whatever the weather, with staff being encouraged to add additional time where appropriate.

Pupil feedback indicates the pupils are enjoying the new timetabled learning activities which focus on developing literacy, numeracy, and health and well-being skills as well as fostering play and imagination in the outdoor environment. It also includes other curricular areas such as sciences and social studies with a focus on problem solving, critical thinking and observation skills, as well as allowing pupils to develop an understanding, respect and enjoyment of their local environment.



**We are looking for further resources to add to our collection.**

**Tarpaulins, rope, large plastic boxes, long card tubes, smooth wooden planks, logs, plastic piping, tyres, large pieces of fabric, old shower curtains, bread or milk crates, guttering, hammocks, picnic blankets, old white cotton sheets, sieves, colanders, tea strainers, funnels, old pots and pans for use on a camp fire, large kitchen utensils for outdoor play, pupil sized wellington boots.**

You many have some of these things lying around at home – please consider donating them to use before throwing them out!



### **3. SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT**

We are really excited about the ways in which we are making improvements in school this session – as a reminder we are looking over the next few years to develop our approaches to Practitioner Enquiry, Creativity and ensuring Pace and Challenge for all learners.

Over the last 2 weeks of this term, we are finalising our **baseline data**, to support us in making the correct interventions and providing the correct support to our families and pupils –

**we would VALUE your input with this.**

The following QR codes or alternatively links, will take you to 2 very short questionnaires. We will use these to help our planning.

#### **Numeracy:**



<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=oyzTzM4Wj0KVQTctawUZKeV4iNg3cHVLtK2VrDIVUadUQk5ISDFIRtk2N1A5WDBNRUxDNUhIVIUyQy4u>



#### **Values:**



<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=oyzTzM4Wj0KVQTctawUZKeV4iNg3cHVLtK2VrDIVUadUMkIQVUpBVEQyVTcxV05ZVDVNQzRKRkpMVy4u>

We are also gathering views from our pupils and teachers to ensure that we are acting on what you believe are best for our community.

Some of our P7 pupils will also be out in the playground before and after school this week, gathering views. Please be as honest as you can be and know that the questions we are asking, you will be able to answer!

## WHAT ARE OUR IMPROVEMENTS THIS SESSION?

As detailed in our Standards and Quality Report 2017-2018 – (copies available on the APP), this session 2018-2019 we will be looking at:

**Our CURRICULUM RATIONALE.** We aim to take account of our unique school, linking the 4 contexts of learning which include: opportunities to participate in the ethos and life of our school, personal achievements, 8 curricular subject areas and learning in an interdisciplinary way which includes applying and linking skills across different contexts.

### TO ACHIEVE THIS WE WILL:

- Develop a **framework** to ensure that all children have opportunities to experience greater breadth of **knowledge and skills** to support learning for life and work.
- Through carefully considered practitioner enquiry, we will revisit our approaches to the teaching, assessment and progression within **number work** to ensure further rigour, pace and challenge for all learners.
- Across the school, we will work to embed recent changes to the **literacy curriculum**. This will ensure consistency and clear progression. The effective use of **assessment data** will underpin planning learning to better outcomes for all learners.
- Establish a **Learning HUB** which will meet pupil need through individualised, creative and targeted approaches
- In the early level, we will build on and enhance how our pupils learn **outdoors**.



## 4. SEESAW



Seesaw

You should now be receiving regular updates from your child's class teacher on seesaw. If you have not signed up to this, we would encourage you to do so – as you will receive regular information about what your child has been learning and what their next steps are. As a staff team we have agreed that **you will receive 4 updates per term – these include: literacy, numeracy, health and wellbeing, and topic related work.** There may be additional posts, and over time we hope that the learners themselves will take increasing responsibility for publishing and sharing their learning.

## 5. ABSENCE FROM SCHOOL

As a reminder, the school should be notified of all pupil absence. Please phone the school office at your earliest convenience. Our school policy is that it is 48 hours absent from school following the last bout of sickness or diarrhoea.

## 6. PARKING REMINDER

We have been contacted by local residents who are expressing their concern over dangerous 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 for the specialist provision need to be able to access this.

## 7. HEADLICE / THREADWORM

We have had reported cases of both headlice and threadworm at school. While both matters have been dealt with and treated it is a timely reminder to all parents to be watchful of your children's hair and toilet hygiene. This week all classes are revisiting good hand hygiene.

We have included links below to the NHS advice which will support you further should you have any questions.

Head lice: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/head-lice-and-nits/>

Threadworm: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/threadworms/>

*Lynne Lambert*

Mrs Lambert – Head Teacher

### Key Dates for October:

- *Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> September - Parent Council meeting/ AGM 6.30pm*
- *3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> October P7 residential trip to Glenshee*
- *Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> October – Harvest Service, Scone Old Church 11am (pupils only)*
- *Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> October – 1.30pm P1 Curriculum Information afternoon / visit classrooms*
- *Friday 5<sup>th</sup> October end of term 3.15pm*
- *Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> October pupils return to school*

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