

Economy and Skills

Depute Chief Executive and Chief Financial Officer
Alexander McPhee ACMA



East Ayrshire Council
Comhairle Siorrachd Àir an Ear

**Barshare Primary School, Supported Learning
and Early Childhood Centre**

Head Teacher: Mrs Angela Hastings

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September 2017

Dear Parents,

We would like to extend a warm welcome back to all our pupils, particularly our new Early Childhood Centre children, Primary 1 children and all new pupils to the school. The first Term is well under way and we are excited to be working with you and your children once again.

We continue to have much to be proud of at Barshare Primary. Our roll has increased this year to 207 children in mainstream and 33 within the Supported Learning Centre. We have 63 children in the Early Childhood Centre. It is a privilege to have your children attend our school and we will strive to help them be the very best they can be and will work to increase and develop their skills and knowledge as well as meet individual needs and challenges.

May we compliment the children once again on how smart they are looking in their uniforms. Our pupils continue to embrace their uniform and they really do look proud to be wearing the colours of Team Barshare. Anyone wishing to purchase items of our school uniform or school clothing can do so at Donsport or local supermarkets and other local retailers. We have already had a few missing or mixed up items of clothing. To help us with this could you please ensure all clothing is clearly labelled with the child's name.

School Improvement Plan

We have a busy and exciting year ahead and have key areas for Improvement identified including:

Literacy and English

Raising attainment in Reading, Writing and working towards our Dyslexia Friendly School Gold Award

Numeracy and Maths

Raising attainment in maths through developing skills in real and relevant contexts (application of skills) and maths resilience.

Health and Wellbeing

Emotional wellbeing

Rights Respecting School – working towards Silver Level

STEM

Raising attainment in Science across the school

A full version of the Establishment Improvement Plan and Standards and Quality Report is available from the school office.

At the beginning of each session we respectfully ask your co-operation in the following matters to ensure the continued well being of pupils and to maximise the safety of your children.

ADMINISTRATION OF MEDICINE

Supervision of children taking medicine can only be undertaken by a member of staff when the proper paperwork has been completed. Of course parents are always welcome to come to school to give medicine but if a child turns up with a bottle, even with a letter or note of request, we cannot allow the medicine to be taken. Even with the proper consent we can only supervise the administration of **prescribed medication**. Please request the forms at the office and we will be delighted to help once they are completed. This also applies to our Early Childhood Centre and our Supported Learning Centre.

EMERGENCY CONTACTS

If your child becomes ill at school we will try to notify you first before contacting your emergency contact. It is **VITAL** that you notify the school of any change of address, telephone number and emergency contacts to enable us to help your child swiftly and avoid any unnecessary distress. **Appropriate forms have been issued and we seek your cooperation on completing them and returning them to school as soon as possible.**

ILLNESS

If your child is absent from school please notify us of the cause before 9.15am if at all possible. On occasions children leave for school in the morning and then return home because they are feeling unwell or they return at lunchtime and do not return to school due to illness, once again could we ask that you notify the school as soon as possible. As you know we monitor absence and attendance very closely and like to ensure the children's safety at all times. More detailed information on absence reporting is set out in our school handbook.

CHILDREN LEAVING SCHOOL EARLY

It is inevitable that on rare occasions it may be necessary for children to leave school early e.g. a doctor's appointment. Pupils will only be allowed to leave early if they are collected by a responsible adult, even with a letter of request the children will not be allowed to leave unaccompanied.



BREAKFAST CLUB

Our Breakfast Club will be carrying on this session. 'Breakfast' is served cafeteria style in our school dinner hall. It is open from 8.00 a.m. until 8.45 a.m. During this time the children will be able to have breakfast and take part in various health and fitness related activities. Breakfast is served from 8.15 a.m. until 8.30 a.m. School staff will be present to supervise. The children can use the service freely; there is no need to book. It can be used 5 days per week or on an ad-hoc basis. The cost is 90p per day (70p for second and subsequent children in the family)

which is payable through Parentpay. Children in receipt of free school meals can use this service free of charge. Please feel free to use this service; we will only be able to maintain the service if there is a demand for it.

HEAD LICE

Can I remind parents to check, and if needed treat their children's head **regularly** for head lice and report any infestation to school? If any parent wishes support in dealing with repeated infestations they should contact Nuala Corrigan our School Nurse at the Health Centre (01290 427661). It is only if we are all vigilant that we will eradicate this problem from our school.



SAFETY IN THE CAR PARK

Safety in the car park continues to be a high priority. Please can all parents delivering children use the turning space provided. **Vehicles should not be parked in the turning circle**, it should be used as a drop off and pick up point only. Parents are **not** permitted to park in the school car park or cross the parking area with children. This is needed to allow safe and easy access for our children who attend the Supported Learning Centre. Could I also ask you to be mindful of children in the busy areas around the school entrance and refrain from parking across driveways etc. in the local area. Thank you.



SCHOOL MEALS

All children in Primary 1 – 3 are entitled to receive free school meals. For Primary 4-7 we operate a Cafeteria Service in our dining hall. The children can have a two course meal each day for the cost of £2.05 or they can choose to have items from the snack menu. You have received copies of the new lunch menus additional ones can be obtained from the office if you require. As we are a cashless school, school lunches can only be paid through Parentpay. Please try to ensure that this is topped up regularly to keep your child's account in credit.

CLOTHING GRANT/FREE SCHOOL MEALS

Grant forms are available in school. If your circumstances have changed or you think you may qualify for this benefit you should apply. We are happy to help any parent to complete them.

SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS

When all the children have come into school the outer doors will be locked. The main entrance will be the only way in. All parents and visitors and latecomers to the school must contact the office in the first instance, and if staying for any length of time, should sign the visitor's book on arrival and departure and wear an identification badge during their stay. Any adults not wearing a badge will be challenged, so please try and remember to wear one and leave it behind when you go.

HOMEWORK

Traditionally homework is given from Primary 1 – Primary 7. The type of homework and the time spent on its completion vary from stage to stage. The homework set supports ongoing class work, provides extra practice and help as to further develop skills, knowledge and understanding. It also helps to inform you the parents, of how well your child is doing and at what stage he/she is at in their learning. We very much appreciate all the support you give ensuring that the pupils complete their tasks on time and to a high standard. Class teachers will provide details of homework for each individual class.



EDUCATIONAL EXCURSIONS

Throughout the session the children enjoy a variety of educational excursions, field trips and compete in sporting events. Whilst we try to notify parents of approximate times of return sometimes events out with our control can cause delays. May we reassure parents that on such occasions a member of the management team will always remain in school to ensure the safe return of the pupils and to try to keep parents informed. Any parent contacting the school on such occasions will be given up to date information from staff members. Remember children will only be allowed to participate in such events if they have returned the necessary written permissions.

Please note we can no longer take permission via a phone call.

You have received parental consent forms this session and when completed these will enable children to participate in activities in the local area without additional written consent being requested. We will do our best to inform you of these off campus activities through homework diaries, notes, through word of mouth, our school website and Facebook page.

PARENT HELPERS

Once again we have sent out a letter appealing for parent helpers. If you can spare any time to help over lunchtime in the dinner hall or in school with activities during the day, at special events – parties and outings, or with fund raising we would be very grateful. Your help really does make a difference to the experiences we can offer our pupils.



CYCLISTS

May I remind pupils in **P5-7** who prefer to cycle to school or all pupils who scoot to school that they should ensure that their bicycles and scooters are secured in the cycle shed or scooter racks during the day. Could I also remind pupils, that for the safety of others, bicycles and scooters must NOT be ridden across the playground?

STAFFING

We are delighted to welcome 2 new members of staff to our team this session. The staffing for this session is as follows:

Head Teacher
Principal Teacher (PT3)
Primary 1

Mrs Angela Hastings
Mrs Gillian Robertson
Miss A Gilchrist

Primary 1/2
Primary 2
Primary 3
Primary 4
Primary 5
Primary 6
Primary 7

Mrs H Griffiths
Mrs H McLachlan
Miss A Edwards
Mrs L Gibson
Mr M Gilroy
Mrs A Burley
Mr McConnochie

Nurture Support / P4 (Wed), P6 (Fri)
NCCT

Miss C Dougan (PT1)
Miss Stevenson

Supported Learning Centre

Miss L Stobbs, Miss H Robertson (PT1),
Mrs J Musson, Mrs L Blaney, Mrs A Conquer,
Miss Stevenson

Early Childhood Centre

Mrs S Cairns, Miss J Walker,
Mrs J Kelly, Mrs C Scott, Mrs M Walker (temp)
Mrs McDicken (Mon) Mrs Messer

All our staff undertake leadership roles which help with out on going school improvement. This information will be shared with you in due course.

SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

We are including a list of school holidays on this letter. Children taking holidays out-with the school holiday period have absences coded accordingly as required by the Scottish Government. We appreciate being informed in advance if children are taking holidays as this allows us to plan for their absence.



PARENT FORUM

Many thanks to the parents who attended the Parent Forum last week. We are pleased to inform you of the structure:

Chairperson: Sadie Wilson, Vice-Chair: Michelle Bickerton, Treasurer: Sally Wallace, Minute Secretary: Christine Vance, Social Media Convenor: Ruth Patterson

We thank you for your continued support in helping us maintain these high standards in all that we do. We look forward to working with you and your children this session. As always if you wish further information on any of the above please do not hesitate to contact us school...we are here to help, or why not go on to the school website for on-going updates on what's going on in all of the classes. There are also regular updates on upcoming events on the Parent Council Facebook page.

Yours faithfully,
Angela Hastings
Head Teacher

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

School Holiday Arrangements 2017/2018

| Term | Break | Dates of Attendance | Cumulative Holiday Total | Cumulative Working Days |
|--|----------|---|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| First | Mid Term | Teachers (In Service) Wed 16 Aug 2017 | | |
| | | Pupils return Thurs 17 Aug 2017 | | |
| | | Local Holiday Fri 15 Sep 2017 | 1 | |
| | | Local Holiday Mon 18 Sep 2017 | 2 | |
| | | Close Fri 13 Oct 2017 | | |
| | | Teachers (In Service) Mon 23 Oct 2017 | | |
| | | Pupils return Tues 24 Oct 2017 | | |
| | | Close Fri 22 Dec 2017 | 7 | |
| | | | | 86 |
| Second | Mid Term | Re-open Mon 8 Jan 2018 | 17 | |
| | | Close Fri 9 Feb 2018 | | |
| | | Teachers (In Service) Thurs 15 Feb 2018 | | |
| | | Teachers (In Service) Fri 16 Feb 2018 | | |
| | | Pupils return Mon 19 Feb 2018 | 20 | |
| | | Close Thurs 29 Mar 2018 | | |
| | | | | 142 |
| Third | | Re-open Mon 16 Apr 2018 | 31 | |
| | | May Day Mon 7 May 2018 | 32 | |
| | | Local Holiday Fri 25 May 2018 | 33 | |
| | | Teachers (In Service) Mon 28 May 2018 | | |
| | | Pupils return Tues 29 May 2018 | | |
| | | Close Fri 29 Jun 2018 | 66 | |
| | | | | 195 |
| Session 2018/2019 | | Teachers (In Service) Thurs 16 Aug 2018 | | |
| | | Teachers (In Service) Fri 17 Aug 2018 | | |
| | | Pupils return* Mon 20 Aug 2018 | | |
| <p><i>Pupils attendance will be 190 days after deducting 5 In Service days</i></p> <p>*Good Friday: 30 March 2018</p> | | | | |