**Dear Parent/Carer,**

I hope you enjoyed the lovely weather during the summer break. It has been great to welcome the children back and there is a good buzz about the place. The new Primary 1s are settling in well and our returning children are enjoying their new classes.

I would also like to express a warm welcome to all parents and carers of our new Primary 1s.

**School Website / Blog**

Please find a link to our school website / blog. You can find a lot of useful information relating to the school / ECC here.

<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/ea/dronganpsecc2016/>

The school handbook can be found by clicking on the following link:

<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/ea/dronganpsecc2016/school-information/important-documents/school-handbook/>

**Covid-19**

As has been communicated via the app, we are pretty much working to the same restrictions as we were before the summer break. Although restrictions have been eased greatly outside of school life, the government have maintained the mitigations in place in educational establishments with a plan to review this at the end of September.

We are now allowed to provide indoor expressive arts and PE for all children; however, Breakfast Clubs and after school clubs cannot take place at the moment. We hope that this will change when restrictions are reviewed and will let you know as soon as we do.

***Please support us by continuing to keep a 2 metre distance from others when in the playground as well as wearing a face covering.***

**Partnership with Parents**

We are proud of the relationships that we have developed and how we have involved you in the life of the school over the last few years. For obvious reasons we are still unable to invite you into the school until advised otherwise. We will continue to think creatively as a staff team about ways in which we can keep you as informed as possible about your child’s education and there will be more information to follow about this.

**Vision, values and aims**

As a school and ECC community we have agreed our shared vision, values and aims. These were reviewed last session and it was agreed that they are still relevant. It is our responsibility to promote the shared vision, values and aims on a daily basis to ensure that our children feel valued and are encouraged to be the best that they can be. We will continue to promote our values of teamwork, mutual-respect, trust, inclusion, self-belief and resilience as we work through the session.

Please see attached sheet which details of our vision, values and aims.

**School Gates / Perimeter Fence**

Please remember to close the gates when entering and leaving the playgrounds. The perimeter fence and gates are there to protect the children. Please close the gates using the high slip bolts.

**School Uniform**

May I take this opportunity to say how smart all of our pupils look in their return to school in their uniforms. We are proud of the fact that all of our children wear school uniform and thank you for your ongoing support with this.

Please ensure that every item of clothing is clearly named to ensure that we can identify lost items.

**Staffing**

We are delighted to welcome Miss Dyce and Miss Smith back to Drongan Primary School as permanent members of staff. We also welcome Mr McClure, Miss McMillan and Mr Watson to the teaching staff.

I would also like to welcome Kira Maritz and Lynn Todd who will be part of the support / classroom assistant team. Mrs Palomino is also covering as support staff at the moment.

I would like to congratulate Miss Russell who was married during the summer. Miss Russell will now be known as Mrs Cunningham.

**ECC**

Mrs Cruickshank has moved on from the ECC to take up a new post out with the authority. I would like to thank Mrs Cruickshank for the service that she has provided to the children and families of Drongan over the years. She was a valued member of staff who will be missed by the Drongan Primary School and ECC community.

There are several new additions to the ECC team as we move to 1140 hours provision. This will be detailed in a separate newsletter provided by the ECC.

**Breakfast** **Club**

Unfortunately we are unable to run the breakfast club at the moment. This may change when restrictions are reviewed at the end of September and we will keep you up to date.

**Head / Depute Boys and Girls**

This year our Head Boy is William Meeten and Head Girl is Quinn Findlay. Depute head boy is Jake Truesdale and depute head girl is Rowan Purdie. We know that they are looking forward to responsibilities that come with these roles.

**House Captains**

**Afton**

Captains: Quinn Findlay, Mia Higgins and Victoria McQueen

Vice-Captains: Coleton Graham and Rhiann McCubbin

**Coyle**

Captains: Alex Favilli, Amelia Harley and Jake Young

Vice-Captains: Kayla Lang and Holly Todd

**Doon**

Captains: Jess Kennedy, Elyssa Gore and Kaiden Walker

Vice-Captains: Rhys Gore and Ruby Sim

**Taiglum**

Captains: Katie Malone, Isla McNab and Keeva Scott

Vice Captains: Kayleigh Brown and Matthew Droy

Where possible we have endeavoured to ensure that there is a mix of boys and girls and P6 and 7s; however, this was not always possible for every house due to the number of children who put themselves forward.

Well done to our house and vice-captains for 2021-22.

<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/ea/dronganpsecc2016/pupil-representatives/>

**Physical Education**

Please note that East Ayrshire policy states that jewellery is not allowed to be worn during PE sessions and that earrings must be removed by the pupil (NOT STAFF). Earrings cannot be taped over.

**Parent Council**

All parents are members of the parent forum and are welcome to attend the Parent Council AGM. This is scheduled to take place on Monday 13th September at 7.00pm. New members are always made most welcome, as we continue to encourage parental involvement in the life of the school.

We will remind you of this date nearer the time and let you know how to get involved.

**Primary School App**

As was evident during the school closure the school app is an excellent tool and is our main means of communication. The school lunch menu can also be found on the school app and it will be updated over the next couple of weeks with important dates for your diary. The app can be downloaded from the app stores on your devices.



**School Improvement Plan Priorities**

Thank you very much to those of you who participate in our consultation process by completing the Glow Form questionnaire before the summer. We have also consulted as a staff and also with our children.

The priorities for this session are developing:

1. Improved outcomes in Numeracy & Mathematics
2. Improved outcomes in Literacy
3. Curriculum Development
4. Improved outcomes in Health and Wellbeing

I will upload the school improvement plan to the app and also our Glow blog over the coming weeks. I have included the improvement plan summary within this document.

<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/ea/dronganpsecc2016/school-information/important-documents/school-improvement-plan/>

**Dyslexia Friendly Schools**

We will continue our DFS journey this year, as we work towards achieving our Gold accreditation. This has been an important part of the school improvement journey and we hope to bring you news on this over the next couple of months.

**Rights Respecting Schools**

We were delighted to achieve the bronze accreditation in Rights Respecting Schools and now work towards our silver. Thanks to Mrs Bradley and her committee who have worked hard over the session to achieve this.

We will continue to promote the UNICEF rights of the child throughout the session. All teachers will agree on class charters together with their children and these will be in line with our new shared vision, values and aims. We will continue to promote our ‘Right of the Month’ where children will focus on one of the rights of the child.

**Class Assemblies**

We know how much you enjoy coming to see the children perform their class assemblies. As previously stated we are not able to invite you into the school for such events. We are discussing as a staff ways of sharing children’s learning and celebrating the work that they are doing in their classes.

**Pupil Committees**

We will continue to increase pupil voice through our various pupil committees and Thrilling Thursday assemblies. We are looking to align our pupil committees to our school improvement plan priorities. Children will be provided with opportunities to put their name forward for the number of committees that we have. These will include:

* Digital Leaders
* Pupil Council
* Rights Respecting Schools / Health Committee
* Numeracy Committee
* Junior Road Safety Officers
* Dyslexia Friendly Schools / Inclusion Committee

<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/ea/dronganpsecc2016/pupil-groups/>

**Homework**

Homework is an important link between parents and school. It provides your child with an opportunity to share what they are learning while consolidating key learning at home. We encourage you to be involved in your child’s learning by supporting them with their homework tasks.

On the blog you will find information relating to homework. This session we are having a big focus on numeracy skills and anything you can do to support this will be appreciated. Mrs Cowie will provide further information on this in the near future.

<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/ea/dronganpsecc2016/homework/>

**Wider Achievements in Drongan Primary and ECC**

We will continue to celebrate children’s wider achievements in the classes as we are not able to hold assemblies. Now that children’s clubs are up and running we will hopefully hear some more good news stories of what they have been achieving outside of school.

If your child has achieved outside of school please encourage them to inform their teacher and bring any certificates, medals, awards or trophies to school on Friday.

Children will have their photograph taken and will displayed on our ‘Wider Achievement’ wall.



**Parental and Community Involvement and Engagement**

It you would like to be added to our list of parent helpers please notify Mrs Gibson or Mrs Tait in our office. This can include helping with school outings, events in the school and supporting the staff in the school.

In the primary school we are also looking for parents, grandparents and other family members with specific areas of knowledge or expertise gained through either your area of work, a hobby or a personal life experience. Please inform the school if you feel that you would be able to support the delivery of an aspect of the curriculum in any way.

**Bikes and scooters**

As always we continue to encourage our pupils to walk to school or ECC or travel by bike or scooter. For the safety of all of our pupils in the Primary School and ECC please encourage children to wear helmets and to dismount their bike/scooters when they enter the school grounds.

**Dogs**

Please refrain from bringing your dogs into the school playgrounds. Some children are intimidated by dogs and they are not permitted in the playground.

**Home Lunches**

In Drongan Primary School we encourage children to have lunch in the school, whether that be a school dinner or a packed lunch. If your child is going to be a home lunch, please ensure that you send a letter with your child to notify the school**. It is vital that letters are specific about what day/s your child will be a home lunch to ensure that we know when you have given permission for them to leave the school grounds at lunch time**. If a child says that they are a home lunch but do not have written permission, they will not be allowed to leave the school grounds. The safety and wellbeing of our children is of the upmost importance and please note that when a child is a home lunch, the school cannot be responsible for their safety once they have left the school grounds.

**Bug Club**

We have fully implemented the Bug Club Reading Scheme for Primary 1 through to Primary 7. This is an online reading scheme, which is accessed at home by pupils. As with all homework activities we welcome your support in this area. Primary 1 pupils will still continue to bring a book home to carry out their reading homework, however, P2-7 will access their books online. Children are provided with log in details to access their books on line.

**Letters, data checks and photograph permission**

Please ensure that all letters, data checks and photograph permission is completed and returned to the school as soon as possible. The photographic permission this year was issued as a Glow form on the school app. I can’t stress how important it is to return the data checks and complete the online forms as soon as possible.

As stated earlier in the newsletter, please contact the school if you have any concerns regarding your child’s education or wellbeing. We will endeavour to work together with you to address any issues that may arise.

***Yours sincerely***

***Sean Maddocks***

***Head Teacher***

**Drongan Primary School and Early Childhood Centre Vision, Values and Aims**

**Vision**

In Drongan Primary School and Early Childhood Centre our vision for all is:

**To have a sense of belonging and pride in our local community where everyone is valued and we work together to be the best that we can be.**

**Values**

Within our school, ECC and local community, the values that we feel are important to instil in all are:



**Teamwork**

**Mutual respect**

**Trust**

**Inclusion**

**Self-belief**

**Resilience**

**Aims**

In Drongan Primary School and Early Childhood Centre our aim is to develop the **four capacities** outlined in Curriculum for Excellence in all of our pupils to prepare them for future life.

We will encourage our children to be:

**Confident individuals** by promoting self-worth, ambition and resilience

**Responsible citizens** by promoting diversity, communication skills and confidence

**Effective contributors** by promoting community spirit, enjoyment and participation

**Successful learners** by promoting skills development, challenge and engagement in learning



**Drongan Primary School – SIP Summary 2021-22**