**School Website:**

[**https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/ea/dronganpsecc2016/**](https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/ea/dronganpsecc2016/)

**Twitter:**

**@DronganPS**

**Dear Parent/Carer,**

I would like to welcome you all to the new session and hope that you had a lovely summer.

The new Primary 1s are already settling in well and our returning children are enjoying getting to know their new teachers.

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

**Partnership with Parents**

We look forward to welcoming you into the school during the session for various events and activities. Please keep an eye on the messages section of the app where there will be information about parent events. I have also attached important dates for your diary for this term, up to the October holiday.

**Vision, values and aims**

As a school and ECC community we have agreed our shared vision, values and aims. These have since been reviewed 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 shared vision, values and aims.

**School Gates / Perimeter Fence**

For the safety of all children, 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.

**ECC Ground Work**

The work in the ECC outdoor areas has now been completed. Although this took longer than expected, I am sure that you will agree that this is a significant improvement to the outdoor spaces and environment for our nursery children. The path is now accessible to move between the infant and senior school playgrounds before 9.00am and after 3.00pm.

**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.

There is still a large selection of used school uniform available to collect from the school. Parents / carers are more than welcome to come in and see what is there.

**Staffing**

I am delighted to welcome Miss Lindsay P2, Miss Farrow P3/4, Mrs McLaren P4 and Mrs Sommerville P7 to Drongan Primary.

**Breakfast** **Club**

We look forward to opening our Breakfast Club. Due to staffing availability the Breakfast Club will run from 8.30am, as before there will be a cost of 50p per child / family.

**Head / Depute Boys and Girls**

Well done to all of our new school leaders. Our Heads and Deputes, together with the House Captains and Vice Captains will play an important role in wider school life this year.

Our P7 pupils have already been supporting around the school through various jobs.

**Physical Education**

Please see below for days that classes will have PE at Drongan PS this term:

**Primary 1** – Wednesday & Friday

**Primary 1/2** – Wednesday & Friday

**Primary 2** – Tuesday & Thursday

**Primary 3** – Monday & Friday

**Primary 3/4** – Monday & Friday

**Primary 4** – Monday & Wednesday

**Primary 5a** – Wednesday & Friday

**Primary 5b** – Wednesday & Friday

**Primary 6a** – Tuesday & Thursday

**Primary 6b** – Tuesday & Thursday

**Primary 7** – Tuesday & Thursday

A reminder that East Ayrshire Council advises that schools do not permit the wearing of any jewellery during physical education lessons, extra-curricular activities or school based activity. This includes all piercings, rings, watches and wrist accessories. Items of jewellery can’t be covered up either.

**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 11th 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.

**Safer Schools Scotland App**

Our main form of communication with parents / carers is via our school app. Please download the ‘Safer Schools Scotland’ and select Drongan Primary School. The code for parents / carers to gain access is **1383.**



**School Improvement Plan Priorities**

Thank you very much to those of you who participated 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, other partners and community links.

I will upload the school improvement plan to the school website over the coming weeks. I have included the at a glance improvement plan summary within this document.

**Rights Respecting Schools**

We have a date in the diary to present the work that has been undertaken in Rights Respecting Schools. Mrs Bradley and he committee have worked so hard to achieve silver and will now look to secure gold accreditation.

**Class Assemblies**

It was lovely to be able to reintroduce our class assemblies last session. We will inform you of when your class assembly will be using the school app.

**Pupil Committees**

We will continue to increase pupil voice through our various pupil committees and Thrilling Thursday assemblies. Children will be provided with opportunities to put their name forward for the number of committees that we have.

**Homework**

Thank you to those of you who engaged with the consultation process around homework last session. It was good to have the opportunity to feedback to you on this. We will issue further information about homework over the next couple of weeks.

**Wider Achievements in Drongan Primary and ECC**

It has been really nice to hear about children’s achievements out of school again. This can range from achievements at clubs or organisations that they go to, or anything else that you feel as being relevant including children contributing to their local community or helping someone out.

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 to share at assembly.

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 and pupils in the school.

We are keen for any parents, carers or relatives who would like to support in classes or academically to get in touch.

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 in Playground**

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 paramount. 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.

**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.

A message has been shared on the school app with links to the consent forms that must be completed for all children.

**Attendance / Late Coming**

In line with EAC policy we monitor children’s attendance and late coming regularly. Please note that we expect children to be in school and ready to learn for 9.00am. We are keen to see an improvement in attendance percentages this session and will work with you to support your child attending school.

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

**Summary of Improvement Plan – 2023/24**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Raising Attainment, particularly in Literacy and Numeracy** | **Increased in sustained positive destinations and employability skills** |
| * Further develop consistent approaches to high quality learning and teaching through participation in Education Scotland Adaptive Learning Pilot and EAC Leaders of Learning programme.
* Further develop consistent approaches to homework. Consult with all stakeholders in order to develop a clear policy, which reflects the circumstances of our families and our shared vision for all.
* Review our Assessment Framework, taking into consideration additional assessments that are now available.
* Evaluate and review our approaches to teaching of 1 + 2 Languages with a view to developing more consistent learning experiences with clear progression.
* Review and revisit the approaches to the learning, teaching and assessment of Numeracy and Mathematics that have been developed and implemented in recent years.
 | * Embark on our Communication Friendly Schools journey working in partnership with EAC Speech and Language and Educational Psychologist teams.
* Continue to re-establish and build on links with a wide range of local and wider community partners who could support pupils’ learning experiences.
* Explore joint working opportunities with parents and families who have particular skills, knowledge and expertise.
* Organise a ‘World of Work Week’ where local and wider community partners and businesses as well as identified parents and carers can provide valuable experiences and knowledge to our pupils.
* Access Promethean training for all teaching staff. Organise a ‘Digital Schools Week’ led by pupil committee and lead staff member.
* Review our approaches to delivery of Art & Design
 |
| **Ensuring the health and wellbeing of all young people** | **Closing the poverty related attainment gap** |
| * Continue to monitor and track pupil wellbeing effectively using systems and approaches that are now embedded.
* Revisit and review the work that has been undertaken in HWB in recent years, ensuring that all good practice is being delivered consistently across all stages.
* Further develop the nurture provision that was established last session providing targeted support to identified pupils with SEBN.
* Continue our Rights Respecting Schools journey with a view to achieving gold accreditation in term 1.
* Continue our work to develop our outdoor spaces and environment and further explore outdoor learning / education opportunities.
 | * Continue to identify gaps in attainment and provide additional support to identified groups of children.
* Continue to utilise support staff expertise to provide targeted support for identified boost groups in literacy and numeracy.
* Ensure that the impact of interventions are measurable, highlighting progress made by identified pupils through robust quality assurance processes.
* Utilise PEF funding to purchase new resources to support children in their learning.
* Continue to promote and support attendance in school for all pupils through working with children, families and Home Link Worker.
 |

**Dates for your Diary: September – October 2023**

**September**

Monday 11th September Parent Council Meeting

Wednesday 20th September Parent Open Afternoon

Friday 22nd September Holiday

Monday 25th September Holiday

**October**Monday 2nd October Harvest collection for foodbank will be taken

Thursday 12th October Parents’ Evening

Friday 13th October Harvest service

Friday 13th October School closes, 3.00pm

Monday 16th – Friday 20th Holiday

Monday 23rd October In-service Day

Friday 27th September Halloween Activities