



SEPTEMBER 2024 NEWSLETTER

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to September's newsletter. We have had another busy month in the school and I firstly wanted to start by saying how proud I am of all our pupils who have come back to school very settled and ready to learn. Since introducing our refreshed Vision, Values and Aims the pupils have managed to pick these up quickly and are displaying them throughout the whole school which has been lovely to see.

I would also like to thank our parents/carers and family members who attended our SHANARRI showcase and our recent Learning Conversations. Myself and all the staff appreciate your support in helping us deliver the curriculum and ensuring that each child at Dalry Primary School has a positive school experience.

A reminder that term 2 will be a busy term, with lots of activities planned from October until the Christmas break. Please take the time to look at the diary dates at the back of the newsletter to ensure you do not miss anything! We will also send out reminders throughout the term.

Myself and the management team have been busy this term carrying out focus groups of pupils and lesson observations to ensure there remains a high quality and consistent approach to learning and teaching across the school and pupil feedback from the focus groups has been very positive. Pupil views are very important to us and are helping us to shape and adapt our curriculum at Dalry Primary School.

Finally, as always, if anyone has any concerns or issues they would like to discuss or even any positive feedback they would like to give the school then please feel free to contact me via the school office on 01294 832788.

Kind Regards,

Louise Syme

Head Teacher

Curriculum Rationale

As you know we have refreshed our Vision, Values and Aims as well as our Curriculum Rationale. Our Curriculum Rationale looks at what we prioritise within our curriculum and provides the reasons as to why. This is based on our learners, our local community and the jobs that we are preparing our pupils for in the future and some of these jobs may not exist at the minute!

This is the visual we created using feedback from pupils, parents/carers and staff and each element in the visual represents an area of our curriculum.



Path to Success

The path symbolises the journey of learning, it is vibrant and creative.

Elements along the path include:

A colourful palette with brushes and a spark of light representing the spark of ideas through a creative mind-set.

A tree with heart shaped leaves, showing that kindness is rooted in growth and nurtures everything around it.

A puzzle piece being placed into a puzzle, symbolising the process of problem solving and finding solutions.

A shining sun in the sky, lighting up the path, symbolising energy and motivation that drives action.

A stack of books representing achievement and knowledge.

A figure standing tall, looking forwards with determination and confidence.

Lightbulbs floating above the path, symbolising ideas and inspiration that guide the way

Curriculum Rationale

At Dalry Primary School, our curriculum is designed to provide a dynamic and engaging educational experience that equips our pupils with the essential skills for learning, life, and work. Recognising the rapidly changing world in which our pupils will live and work, we are committed to fostering a holistic development that goes beyond academic success. Our curriculum is built on the principles of inclusion, relevance, and aspiration, ensuring that every child is supported and challenged to reach their full potential.

We believe that education should prepare pupils not just for exams, but for the complexities of life. Therefore, our curriculum emphasises critical thinking, creativity, and problem-solving, alongside the development of interpersonal and communication skills. By integrating real-world contexts and experiences bringing our local community into our teaching, we make learning meaningful and connected to life beyond the classroom.

In addition, our curriculum is designed to promote a lifelong love of learning. We encourage curiosity, resilience, and adaptability, equipping pupils with the tools they need to navigate and succeed in a constantly evolving world. By embedding skills for learning, life, and work throughout our curriculum, Dalry Primary School aims to cultivate responsible, confident, and capable individuals who are ready to contribute positively to society.

I have been in contact with Clyde Studios who are going to create graphics of our refreshed Vision, Values, Aims and Curriculum Rationale which will be displayed around the school and outside the school building. I would like to say thank you to our families who contributed in workshops and the family packs to express their views around our curriculum and values.



Outdoor Learning Policy Group

I am looking to create a group of parents and carers who would support us in creating an Outdoor Learning Policy for the school. This would involve looking at local and national guidance on Outdoor Learning and adapting this to suit our school and local area. If you are able to spare some of your time and help us with this then please scan the QR code below to complete the Form.



Pupil Committee Updates

Our pupil committees have met twice so far this term and are well underway in leading aspects of the school and creating their development plans. Each committee will be able to share their plans with the wider school at our assemblies throughout the year. Our committee groups are as follows:

Pupil Council
Rights Respecting Schools
Eco Schools
Digital Technologies
Literacy
Numeracy
Outdoor Learning
STEAM
Health and Wellbeing
Developing the Young Workforce
Sports
Play (all of P1)

Please ask your child which committee they are in and I am sure they will be happy to tell you what they have planned for the upcoming year. This is our 3rd year running these committees and all contributes to our pupil voice and pupil leadership within the school and has been a very positive addition to the life and ethos of the school.

Parent/Carer Survey Feedback

Thank you to all who managed to participate in our survey at the recent Learning Conversation. Your views are essential in supporting us make improvements within the school. I wanted to give you an update on the responses we have had.

95% agree that school helps me feel safe

97% agree they have someone to talk to in school if they feel upset

97% agree that staff treat me fairly and with respect

82% agree that other pupils treat me fairly and with respect

95% agree that my school helps me to understand and treat other people fairly

90% agree that the school listens to their views

97% agree that staff help me to understand how I am progressing with school work

100% agree that they enjoy learning at school

When asked what was working well you said:

- Outdoor Learning
- Parental Involvement
- Supporting Children
- Inclusion
- Great communication
- Kind and supportive staff

When asked what we could do better these were some of the suggestions as well as what I have done about this based on your feedback:

- Newsletter can be difficult to access in current format at times - Thank you for bringing this to my attention, as I was unaware that this was an issue. I have also put this on the website in a PDF format and hopefully this can be easier for some families to access the address for our school website is <https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/na/dalryprimary/>
- Anti-bullying protocols made clearer to pupils - I will address this during assembly time with pupils across P1-7. We will also have a focus on this in class so there is a clear and consistent message. Our anti-bullying policy is also available for parents/carers on our school website.
- Concerns regarding portion sizes and food choices in the lunch hall - The menu and portion sizes are set by the local authority and is the same across all schools, therefore this is not something that I am able to change.
- There are still concerns regarding the toilets in relation to design and smell - unfortunately there is not anything I can do about the design of the toilets, however I am in touch with facilities management about the smell and they are looking into air fresheners that could be used and would be friendly to pupils who have allergies and asthma. Hopefully these can be installed and reduce the smell within the toilets.
- I appreciate everyone's feedback and I hope you feel that any feedback given is listened to and addressed in a timely manner. It is also really nice for staff to hear about the aspects of school life you feel we are doing well.

House Captains and Vice Captains

We have recently announced our Captains and Vice Captains for the new school year and I would like to introduce them;



Rye



Blair



Lynn

I wish them all luck in their leadership roles within the school and I am sure they will continue to be fantastic role models for their peers and consistently display our school values of Kindness, Respect, Resilience and Ambition.

Routines

I have noticed that there have been a few children in the lunch hall struggling to use cutlery and to tidy away after themselves. Can I ask you to practise these skills at home with your children and try as much as possible to encourage them to cut their own food and use a knife and fork when eating. This would support your child in becoming more independent in the lunch hall. Staff are always there to support if needed.

Our toilets are also another area that can cause concern for staff and parents/carers. I would appreciate if you could encourage your child to be as independent as possible with toileting and reminders to flush the toilet and wash hands afterwards would be great. We will continue to reinforce this within the school also so children are receiving a consistent message and in turn our toilets should be a nicer environment for our pupils if these routines are followed.



Diary Dates 2024/25

Term 1

Friday 4th October 2024

House Celebration Day

Friday 11th October 2024

Schools close for October break

Term 2

Monday 21st October 2024

Schools open

Thursday 24th October 2024

Parent Council Halloween Disco

P1-P3 6:00pm - 6:45pm

P4-P7 7:00pm - 7:45pm

w/b Monday 28th October 2024

P1-P3 Stay and Play with Parents/Carers

w/b Monday 4th November 2024

P4-P7 Parent/Carer Smart Start

Thursday 7th November 2024

Parent Council Meeting, 6pm in school

Monday 25th November 2024

Schools closed

Tuesday 26th November 2024

Staff only In service

Wednesday 27th November 2024

Schools open

Friday 6th December 2024

Christmas Fayre

Wednesday 11th December 2024

P1-P3 Nativity, afternoon

Thursday 12th December 2024

P1-P3 Nativity, afternoon

w/b Monday 16th December 2024

Christmas Parties

Friday 20th December 2024

Schools close for Christmas holiday

Diary Dates 2024/25

Term 3

Monday 6 th January 2025	Schools open
w/b Monday 10 th February 2025	Burns Competition
Monday 17 th February 2025	Schools closed
Tuesday 18 th February 2025	Staff only in service
Wednesday 19 th February 2025	Schools open
Thursday 20 th February 2025	Learning Conversations
w/b Monday 10 th March 2025	STEAM Week
Friday 20 th March 2025	IDL Showcase
Wednesday 26 th March 2025	P4-P7 Panto, afternoon
Thursday 27 th March 2025	P4-P7 Panto, afternoon
Thursday 3rd April 2025	Parent Council Spring Disco
Friday 4 th April 2025	Schools close

Term 4

Tuesday 22 nd April 2025	Schools open
Thursday 1 st May 2025	Learning Conversations
Monday 5 th May 2025	Schools closed Developing the Young Workforce Week
Tuesday 6 th May 2025	Schools open
Friday 23 rd May 2025	Staff only in service
Monday 26 th May 2025	Schools closed
Tuesday 27 th May 2025	Schools open
w/b 23 rd June 2025	Summer Trips
Thursday 26th June 2025	P7 Prom, Dalry Bowling Club
Friday 27 th June 2025	Schools close for Summer