



Dykesmains Primary School

Termly Newsletter



August 2024

Welcome

On behalf of the staff at Dykesmains Primary, I am delighted to welcome everyone back. We would especially like to welcome all of our new pupils and their families to our school. We are pleased at how well the children have settled in and how enthusiastic they are in their learning and setting a positive ethos within their classrooms in line with the Rights Respecting UNCRC Rights of the Child.

Communication

We value parents and carers as vital partners in our children's education. Good communication and regular sharing of information is key to this partnership. This termly newsletter will provide a brief overview of our highlights and planned activities across the year. Specific and more detailed information relevant to your child will be communicated in more detail closer to the date. We endeavour to communicate any information in a timely manner and provide a list of upcoming dates at the end of each newsletter to allow families the opportunity to plan in advance. At times, out with our control, dates, times and events can be subject to change. We aim to communicate as efficiently and effectively as possible.



Communication from school

We use an online app called Groupcall (Xpressions) to share important information and school letters with you. This app is free of charge, please get in touch with the school if you have any problems setting this up or you can access their set up page by clicking [here](#)

What to do if you have a question or concern

We wish to support your child fully to reach their potential. If at any time you wish to ask a question, share a concern or speak to a member of staff, please contact the school office in the first instance on **01294 461354**.

Attendance

Every school day matters and we want to see every child in school every day where possible. North Ayrshire Council have developed a booklet for your information. This outlines the actions schools will take should they have any concerns around attendance. This booklet has been enclosed for your information.

Learning at home- homework

Last session, we surveyed pupils, staff and families on attitudes about homework. Highlights from the survey showed that the majority of families believe homework is important to support learning but that it can be difficult to fit into family life due to a number of factors.

- 71% of children believe homework is important to support their learning.
- 77% of parents and carers believe that homework is important to support their child's learning.
- 19% of children find it easy to fit homework into their weekly routine.
- 38% of parents and carers find it easy to fit homework into their weekly routine.

This session, we will issue homework that is relevant to support your child's learning at home. Further communication will be sent in due course.

Uniform and accessories

Children across the school are looking smart in their school uniform, contributing towards our aim of an inclusive and equitable learning environment for all. We appreciate children grow quickly across the year and our Parent Council support this through their pre-loved uniform. This will be made available at various events across the year. If you require any support with uniform please contact the school office.

Labelling items

We advise that all jackets, uniform and accessories, such as packed lunch boxes, water bottles, pencil cases etc. should be labelled with your child's name using a permanent marker. This helps to avoid items being muddled or misplaced.

Water bottles - the importance of hydration

Children are encouraged to bring a labelled water bottle into school. We ask that bottles are labelled with pupil names using a permanent marker. Children should arrive with their bottles already filled up containing only water. We would encourage you to purchase low cost bottles as they can often get lost, mixed up or knocked to the floor by accident.

P.E. uniform

All classes across the school will have 2 hours of PE each week. We ask that children bring in the following P.E. to keep in school; alternatively, you may wish to pack their kit on their allocated PE days as indicated below.

- T-shirt or school polo shirt
- Indoor trainers
- Tracksuit bottoms, Leggings or shorts

On PE days, children should not wear any jewellery, particularly earrings. This is to avoid any injury to themselves or to others during P.E. lessons. If your child is unable to take them out and put them back in independently, we recommend that they do not wear these on their allocated days. In the likelihood a pupil has new piercings, micro-tape should be provided.

If children do not have their kits, we will happily call home for a quick reminder to pop their kit in the school bag.

Allocated P.E. days- Please note that times can change throughout the year to accommodate events or visitors, therefore it is best for pupils to keep their kits in school where possible.

Primary 1- Tuesday and Friday

Primary 2- Tuesday and Friday

Primary 3- Tuesday and Thursday

Primary 4- Monday and Thursday

Primary 5- Wednesday and Friday

Primary 6- Monday and Wednesday

Primary 7- Monday and Thursday

Football colours

Please note that children should not wear any football team colours, such as hats, pencil cases, bags etc. This is to avoid any conflict within the school community. At times during whole school theme dress down events, football attire representing national countries may be worn if appropriate to the theme.

Healthy Start- Breakfast club

We are delighted once again with the attendance at our breakfast club. Children are welcome to attend from 8.00am until 8.20am, where they will have access to fruit, cereal and toast. Children then take part in activities until 8.45am and then are taken to the playground where they are then supervised by Pupil Support assistants. Miss Farren and Miss Anderson support the breakfast club and will be recruiting for an additional Healthy Start worker in the near future. This may be an opportunity for a parent, we are happy to support any applications, please contact the school if you require any information. Hours are Monday to Friday 7.45-8.45. We will send out a link to the advert in due course.

Partnership working

Our teachers are dedicated to providing a wide range of lunch and after school clubs. Children contribute their ideas and are able to access a wide range of activities from sports, drama, dance, art, cooking and coding to name a few. Please look out for opportunities across the year that may be of interest to your child.

Active schools

Jordan Stewart is our allocated Active School's co-ordinator. His team organise a wide range of opportunities to take part in cluster and authority events. We aim to participate in these where we can and appreciate support from our parents and carers to support our attendance to these. Information on your child's participation will be communicated directly.



Area Inclusion Worker

Elaine Floyd has been our Area Inclusion worker for many years. Elaine spends most of her time in our school supporting our Primary 6 and 7 pupils in preparation for transition onto the Academy. Elaine can offer group work and 1:1 support when required. Parents/Carers and pupils would discuss this with Mrs Smith prior to any support being offered. Elaine comes into school most Tuesdays and the children love getting to know her.

Barnados

Over the last two years, we have lost vital services that supported opportunities for families to come into school and take part in fun family workshops together. This year, Alana Corbett from Barnados will be in school every Wednesday to help us provide some wider opportunities for children and families through the provision of informal lunch and group work session, class workshops and parent and family groups. Alana will be going round the classes for ideas on what they would like her to provide and is offering a parent drop in on **Wednesday 11th September from 9.10** in our wellbeing room. This will allow parent/carers to provide feedback on what they would like to happen across the year. Please see flyer included and feel free to pop in for a cuppa. **Please contact the school if you do not wish your child to take part in any informal group work with Alana.**



Wellbeing across the school

Mrs Smith, Depute Head, delivers a whole school assembly every Wednesday morning. Bringing the school together builds a sense of school community as children sit together in their houses. It is an opportunity for children to learn about what is happening across the school as well as celebrating successes together. Children are encouraged to share their achievements outside of school, they can bring in a picture, medal or simply share what they have been doing. This can be anything from learning to ride their bike, moving up in swimming class, learning to knit or taking part in a sport competition. These celebrations are displayed on our wider achievement board. Staff and children across the school will continue to nominate pupils who demonstrate our school values and acts of kindness to receive their recognition during assembly time.

Together this year, they will be revisiting the theme of positive mental health, building an understanding of neuroscience and understanding our emotions and the different zones we are in when we feel certain ways. Information will be updated on the school website, and a link will be shared for families to access. The learning within assemblies will support the development of a positive class ethos. Currently, each class are agreeing on the expected and unexpected behaviours within the classroom. Last session, committee groups and class discussions supported the development of the Right Path Reminders, to ensure that positive behaviour is encouraged and celebrated across the school.



School Improvement Plan

Each year we create a school improvement plan based on the views of our children, families, staff and senior managers. To view a copy of our Standards and Qualities from 2023-24 please click on the link [here](#). We evaluated last year's plans and have included an overview on our priorities for this session.

Dykesmains Primary School Improvement Plan 2024-25

Priority 1

To review and develop the curriculum by expanding the use of educational technologies, fostering creative and critical thinking and promoting active and lifelong learning for all.

- We will review and evaluate our Digital School Action Plan to ensure the highest quality offering in developed across all stages.
- We will use training provided from Purple Mash and develop our digital planners to provide high quality teaching and assessment of digital skills to become progressively proficient in digital technology skills.
- We will continue to build on our digital resources to ensure learners access resources that build on their prior knowledge and enhance their experience of teaching and learning across the curriculum.
- Learners will be offered experiences that support the development of creativity skills. We will develop more creative learning opportunities through effective implementation of IDL pathways
- Through the rich stimulus of outdoor learning pupils will have enhanced opportunities for creative and critical thinking and improved wellbeing. Outdoor and indoor spaces developed creatively through pupil voice. Library, P4-7 open area and outdoor learning spaces created

Priority 2

Improve pupil health and wellbeing and close the attainment gap through whole school and targeted support systems and inclusive educational practices.

- We will ensure improved outcomes for learners through a whole school community shared understanding of wellbeing. In partnership we will build a positive ethos and consistent approach to wellbeing.
- Whole staff CLPL on updated LA Nurture guidance ensuring whole school nurturing ethos and approach revisited and strengthened.
- We will work with our partners to ensure families can access support. Introducing a Barnados worker into our school community to continue to build on opportunities for children and families to work together in both targeted and universal programmes.
- Develop consistency in the wellbeing curriculum focusing on zones of regulation to identify expected behaviours and tools to manage and regulate emotions in class to improve engagement.

I hope you find this information helpful, please do contact the school office if you have any questions or concerns. Please see the final pages for important dates for your diary.

Elizabeth Gribben
Head Teacher

Dates for your diary

We endeavour to ensure these dates remain the same, however there are times outwith our control where we may need to amend or cancel events. We will communicate this at our earliest opportunity.

TERM 1

Thursday 29 August	Parent Council AGM 6.00 pm – 7.30 pm	Gym Hall
Monday 2 September – Thursday 5 September	Primary 7 Arran Residential	Arran- information shared with parents/carers
Monday 9 September	Class photo of P1 for Ardrrossan & Saltcoats Herald	Gym Hall
Wednesday 11 September	Meet the Teacher Drop In 3.15 pm – 4.30 pm	Pupil Class
Monday 23 September	INSET – Pupils not in school	
Thursday 3 October	Tempest Photographer – Individual and Sibling	Gym Hall
Wednesday 9 October	Autumn Assembly 9.15 am – 10.15 am	Gym Hall
Friday 11 October	Wear red day- Show racism the red card	
Friday 11 October	School closes at 3 pm for October break	

TERM 2

Monday 21 October	School re-opens at 9 am	
Thursday 24 October	Parent Council Fancy Dress Disco P2 – P7 after school Times TBC P1 Fancy Dress Party in school 1.30 – 3.00 pm	Gym Hall Gym Hall
Friday 1 – 10 November	Poppies on sale in school	
Thursday 7 November	Parent/Carer/Pupil Teacher Learning Conversations Session 1 – 3.15-5.15 Session 2 6.15–8.15 P7 Bake Sale Fundraiser 3.15-8.15 Pre Loved Uniform Pop Up (Parent Council)	Pupil class Gym Hall Library
Friday 15 November	Children in Need	
Monday 25 & Tuesday 26 Nov	School Closed/Inset Day	
Wednesday 27 November	Panto – Ayr Gaiety	
Thursday 28 November	Parent Council/School Christmas Fair 4.30 pm – 8.30 pm	
Friday 29 November	Day of Dance (Country Dance Class attendees)	Portal Irvine
Friday 6 December	Christmas Jumper Day – every Friday in December if they wish instead of their school sweatshirt	
Monday 9 December	Dental Inspections – P1 and P7	
Monday 9 December	Primary 4 Christsmas Party School Parties	Gym Hall
Tuesday 10 December	Nativity Performance P1–3 pm 1.50 – 2.50 pm	Gym Hall
Wednesday 11 December	Nativity Performance P1-3 am 9.20 – 10.20 am	Gym Hall
Wednesday 11 December	Primary 5 Christsmas Party School Parties	Gym Hall
Thursday 12 December	Primary 6 Christsmas Party School Parties	Gym Hall
Friday 14 December	Primary 7 Christsmas Party School Parties	Gym Hall
Monday 16 December	Primary 3 Christsmas Party School Parties	Gym Hall
Tuesday 17 December	Primary 2 Christsmas Party School Parties	Gym Hall
Wednesday 18 December	Primary 1 Christsmas Party School Parties	Gym Hall
Wednesday 18 December	Christmas Assembly Parents/Carers invited 9.15–10.15am	Gym Hall
Friday 20 December	School Closes 2.30 pm	

TERM 3		
Monday 6 January	School opens 9 am	
Friday 31 January	P7 Burns Supper 1.45 – 2.45 pm	Gym Hall
Wednesday 12 February	Open Afternoon Whole School 1.45 – 2.45	In classes
Friday 14 February	Parent Council Crazy Hair Day	
Monday 17 and Tuesday 18 February	School closed/Inset Day	
Thursday 6 March	World Book Day	
Thursday 20 March	Parent Council Spring Disco 4.00 pm – 9.00 pm	Gym Hall
Wednesday 26 March	Parent/Carer/Pupil Teacher Learning Conversations Session 1 – 3.15-5.15 Session 2 6.15–8.15	
Wednesday 2 April	P4-7 School Show PM 1.30 – 2.30 pm	Gym Hall
Thursday 3 April	P4-P7 School Show AM 9.15 – 10.15 am	Gym Hall
Friday 4 April	School Closes 2.30 for Easter holidays	
TERM 4		
Tuesday 22 April	School Opens 9 am	
Monday 5 May	School closed	
Tuesday 13 May	Ardrossan Academy Parent Information Evening	Ardrossan Academy
Wednesday 15 & Thursday 16 May	P7 transition days	Ardrossan Academy
Friday 23 & Monday 26 May	Inset Day/School closed	
Wednesday 28 May	Sports Day 9.20 – 10.20	
Friday 6 June	Parent Council Fun Day – school event	
Wednesday 18 June	Bump Up Day	
Friday 20 June	P1 Celebration – 9.15-10.15am P7 Fleck – 1.45-3.00pm	Gym Hall Gym Hall
Monday 23 June	Dykesmains Got Talent Competition	
Wednesday 25 June	Summer Assembly 1.15 – 3.00 pm	
Thursday 26 June	P7 Leavers Party 1.15 – 3.00 pm	
Friday 27 June	School Closes at 1 pm	

