



Dykesmains Primary School

Termly Newsletter



January 2025

Head Teacher welcome

All of the staff here at Dykesmains Primary wish you all a happy new year. We welcome the new term with our whole school Scot's learning. All classes will explore what makes Scotland a unique place to live as well as learning Scots poetry, artist and songs. We look forward to our Primary 7's hosting their Burn's Supper for their families this month and then meeting with our cluster primary schools for a transition Burn's Supper next month. We will be hosting a Scots event for some of our local early years children and some of our friends from Arranview.

We have two new Pupil Support Assistants who have joined us this term. Miss Gracie, who is in school every Monday, Thursday and Friday until March 2025. We also have Mrs Milligan who is permanently with us Tuesday to Friday.

We have another busy term ahead of us taking us up to the Easter break. Please find below information on what is coming up this term and highlights from last term that we wish to share.

Learning at home

Class termly newsletters have been provided for pupils to take home, this provides information that will support learning conversations at home and on the different ways to support your child to consolidate their learning in school.

Healthy Start- Breakfast club

We are delighted that our breakfast club continues to be popular. Ms Millar and Mrs Young are enjoying building relationships with the children who attend.

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. **Please note that all pupils should be dropped off at breakfast club by a parent or carer.**

Partnership working

Active schools

Jordan Stewart is our allocated Active School's co-ordinator. This term, he has collaborated with Ardrossan Academicals who will deliver a block of Rugby to Primary 6 and 7.

Jordan will also deliver the Move and Improve young leader training with our Primary 6 class in preparation for their leadership opportunities next session.



Barnados

Alana has had a busy term getting to know our children and families. Alana is hosting a Family Arts and Crafts morning club on a Wednesday morning. We are delighted that 14 families have signed up to take part.

If you would like to chat to Alana about what she can offer, she is in school every Wednesday and is happy to organise a time to meet.



Devices in school (phones and smart watches)

We appreciate some of children will be excited with their new devices from Christmas and we would like to take this opportunity to share our policy on devices as a reminder.

We would always encourage devices to remain at home for their safety, however we are aware that some of our older children require their device for contacting parents on the way home from school.

- Devices should be switched off before entering the playground and stored safely in a school bag.
- Once in school, devices must be signed in with a pupil support assistant and remain locked in a safe place until the end of the day.
- Pupils will sign their device out at the end of the day with a Pupil Support Assistant, and remain in a pupil's school bag until they are outwith the school grounds.
- Smart watches must be on school mode. When in school mode they can be worn, but must be removed for P.E. lessons.
- If a watch is unable to be in school mode, it would be signed in like a phone device.
- As with any device, these should not be used within the school grounds.

We thank you for your support with this.

Clubs for children

Our teachers are dedicated to providing a range of lunch and after school clubs. Children contribute their ideas and are able to access a wide range of activities including sports, drama, dance, art, cooking and coding. Please look out for opportunities across the year that may be of interest to your child. Information with specific dates and times will be shared with children who are interested in taking part.

| Term 3 Extra Curricular opportunities | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|---|
| Monday | Brass P5-7 mornings | Mr Cowling |
| Tuesdays | String P5-6 mornings P2-3 Dance after school | Ms Hans Sarah, UWS Student |
| Wednesday | Family Art club mornings P4-7 Dance club lunch time P6 & 7 Football after school | Alana, Barnado's Mrs Cairns Mr Monan |
| Thursday | P7 Netball after school | Mrs Cairns & Mrs Moran |
| Friday- P7 clubs | P1-5 variety of lunchtime clubs (e.g. Art, Dance, Dodgeball, Football) | Primary 7 leaders (adult supervision will be provided) |

Primary 4-7 School Show

This year our school drama club will be leading 'The Chocolate Factory' supported by class songs from primary 4,5 6 and 7. The upper department will work together on developing the scenery, programmes, posters and music for you all to enjoy.

Drama club rehearsals will be sent out in order to make the most of the time together and we are very proud of how dedicated our drama club children have been this year. We look forward to performing for you at the end of March. This will be a lovely end to our busy term. Please note that these performances will replace our usual end of term assembly.

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 and have a closing lid. 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 earrings 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 3- Tuesday and Thursday

Primary 5- Wednesday and Friday

Primary 7- Monday and Thursday

Primary 2- Tuesday and Friday

Primary 4- Monday and Thursday

Primary 6- Monday and Wednesday

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.

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**.

Rag Bag collection bin

The Rag Bag collection is a recycling scheme which has been developed to raise funds for schools and to increase recycling rates. Our Learning for Sustainability Committee has organised a permanent Rag Bag collection bank, located at our outdoor garden.

Please bring any of the below unwanted items, tied securely in a plastic bag to our outdoor Rag Bag bank:

Wearable clothing

Wearable paired shoes

Handbags

Belts

We cannot accept:

Workwear/School Uniforms

Wet/Soiled Clothes Curtains

Towels

Duvets or Duvet Covers

Pillows or Pillow Cases

Blankets

Table Cloths

Linens

Cushions

Carpets

Suitcases

Books

Clothes hangers

Electrical items

The bags will be collected when the bank is full. Please do not leave any bags outside of the Rag Bag bank. We appreciate your support and any money raised from this project is used for further learning for sustainability projects.

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 3

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|-----------------------------------|---|-----------------------|
| 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 – 2.45pm | 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 | |
| Wednesday 19 March | Tempest Photographers | |
| Thursday 20 March | Parent Council Spring Disco 4.00 pm – 9.00 pm | Gym Hall |
| Friday 21 March | Comic Relief- Red noses on sale from Monday 6 th | |
| Monday 24 March | Bike checks- P7 pupils to bring bikes to school | Playground |
| Wednesday 26 & Thursday 27 March | Parent/Carer/Pupil Teacher Learning Conversations 3.15-5.15 | Appointments required |
| 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

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|--------------------------------|---|-------------------|
| Tuesday 22 April | School Opens 9 am | |
| Monday 5 May | School closed | |
| Tuesday 13 May | Ardrossan Academy P7 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 am | |
| Friday 6 June | Parent Council Fun Day – school event | |
| Monday 16 June | iCycle tests P7 pupils | |
| Wednesday 18 June | Bump Up Day | |
| Friday 20 June | P1 Celebration – 9.15-10.15am | Gym Hall |
| | P7 Fleck – 1.45-3.00pm | Gym Hall |
| Monday 23 June | Dykesmains Got Talent Competition | |
| Wednesday 25 June | Summer Assembly 1.30 – 2.30 pm | |
| Thursday 26 June | P7 Leavers Party 1.15 – 3.00 pm | |
| Friday 27 June | School Closes at 1 pm | |

