



Dykesmains Primary School

Termly Newsletter



April 2025

Head Teacher welcome

We are delighted to welcome all pupils back this term, the bright sunshine has allowed the children to have greater use of our outdoor space. We are hopeful this will continue.

I would like to thank our families for their support in Term 3, attending our digital open afternoon and learning conversations. We ended the term with our Primary 4-7 school show, The Chocolate Factory. A huge well done to all pupils, their hard work and dedication resulted in a fabulous performance appreciated by our friends and families. Please see photographs at the end of the newsletter.

In our final newsletter for this school year, you will find an update on our School Improvement Plan as well as dates for our upcoming class trips and special leaver events.

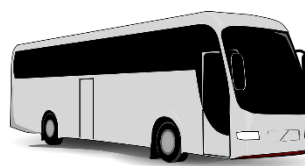
Learning at home

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.

Class trips

The children are looking forward to their selected class trips this term. It is essential that pupils come to school on time to ensure that the bus can leave on time. On most occasions, children are brought into class early to register and organise themselves to ensure the class can leave on time and enjoy the full benefit of their time at the trip. The school playground is supervised from 8.45am. Ensuring children are in school no later than 9.00am. This will allow the class to be organised and ready to leave as soon as the bus arrives.

Primary 1-3	Wednesday 7 th May
Primary 4	Thursday 29 th May
Primary 5	Thursday 8 th May
Primary 6&7	Thursday 22 nd May



Pupils should wear a school jumper and appropriate bottoms and jacket for the forecasted weather that day. If forecasted sunny, please ensure you put sun cream on your child in the morning. Pupils should wear a hat and bring sun cream to top themselves up during the trip if outdoors. Pupils should also bring a filled water bottle and a packed lunch in a disposable carrier bag. Packed lunches can be ordered through the school office. Children **should not** take any money or personal belongings.

Health Week

Health Weeks are from 2nd to 20th June. We are seeking family members who are happy to come and share their skills or knowledge on Health, Fitness, Nutrition or Wellbeing with our children. Please contact the school office before 18th May if you can support this. Children can come dressed in school t-shirts and sports bottoms (shorts, joggers or leggings).

School Improvement Plan update

Spotlight on Digital Technologies and Creativity

We purchased 12 additional iPads, learning apps and Kapla. This ensures full class iPad sets for the upper and infant end as well as improving opportunities to incorporate the use of ICT within curricular lessons such as Literacy, Numeracy and Interdisciplinary learning. This has included Nessy Spelling, Hairy Phonics, Pocket Phonics and Purple Mash.

Teaching staff have undertaken additional training on Micro:bit, Purple Mash and Lego spike. This has provided opportunities to develop digital literacy skills and problem solving.



Spotlight on Learning Spaces

Our Pupil Committees have provided a range of pupil voice to aid the planning to improve learning spaces in the school, focusing on the library and P4-7 open area. This term, pupils will have access to a wider range of reading materials including dyslexia friendly reading, graphic novels, magazine and annuals. The open area will provide opportunity for creativity and independence with planned learning zones including reading, art, technology and craft areas.

Spotlight on HWB

There has been a whole school approach to Zones of Regulation. This uses 4 coloured zones to help learners understand and manage their feelings and levels of readiness to learn. This framework fosters emotional literacy, self-awareness and strategies to manage feelings. This provides a common language about how to navigate different emotional states. Each class has created zones of regulation toolboxes to help manage emotions throughout the day.

This year, Barnado's worker Alana, has supported wellbeing for pupils across the year. This has involved small group work and 1:1 support. Alana's role provides emotional support to pupils and their families, helping children to identify effective strategies when managing feelings, emotions or worries.

Your views

We are keen to have your say on your thought on the areas that we have identified to improve this academic year and we would appreciate your time completing this survey to provide your views on what you feel makes the most difference to your child's learning. <https://forms.office.com/e/vB11VV4gXx>

School Improvement Plan and
Pupil Equity Fund planning 2025



Weather

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.

Hot weather

We are hopeful that the warmer weather is approaching this term. Unfortunately, staff are unable to put sun cream on pupils. We recommend that lotion is applied in the morning at home, lotion can be kept in pupils bags for them to top up before going outdoors.



Parent Council

Thank you to our Parent Council for organising a super spring disco for all classes. The children especially enjoyed their Easter visitor who delivered prizes to the Easter Egg competition winners and a tasty treat for everyone.

This term, the Parent Council are bag packing in Asda on Saturday 10 May, please make contact if you are able to support this. Also in partnership with our Pupil Council, they are organising a sponsored bounce on Friday 6 June. More information to follow.

Devices in school (phones and smart watches)

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 on 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.

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 are 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.

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.

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. If a pupils has new piercings, micro-tape should be provided.

If children do not have their kits, we will 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.

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 4

Tuesday 22 April	School Opens 9 am	
Monday 5 May	School closed	
Wednesday 7 May	Primary 1-3 class trip 9.00-3.00pm	Eglington Park
Thursday 8 May	Primary 5 class trip 9.00-3.00pm	Science Centre
Tuesday 13 May	Ardrossan Academy P7 Parent Information Evening 6.00-7.00pm	Ardrossan Academy
Thursday 15 & Friday 16 May	P7 transition days	Ardrossan Academy
Thursday 22 May	Primary 6 & 7 class trip	Cinema and Basebowl
Friday 23 & Monday 26 May	Inset Day/School closed	
Wednesday 28 May	Sports Day 9.20 – 10.20pm	
Thursday 29 May	Primary 4 class trip 9.00-3.00pm	Dumfries House
Monday 2 June	Dance finals (after school)	St Matthews
Monday 2 June - 20 June	Health Weeks	
Friday 6 June	Parent Council Fun Day – Sponsored Bounce	School grounds
Monday 16 June	iCycle tests P7 pupils	
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	



The Chocolate Factory- P4-7









