



Dykesmains Primary School

Termly Newsletter



January 2026

Welcome

We would like to wish you all a Happy New Year. We hope you've had a lovely festive break and that all pupils are rested and ready for the new term. We had a busy second term with many events and activities enjoyed across the school. We would like to thank our Parent Council for organising such a successful Christmas fayre and to everyone for their support of this. Funds raised will continue to provide additional experiences to pupils across the school.



The visit to 'Aladdie' at the Gaiety Theatre was a huge success and our children were a credit to you all joining in with singing and enjoying the fun.

A huge well done to our infant classes who performed '**Knock Knock, the Nativity**'. Pupils and staff worked very hard to create such a great performance, with this being the first time many pupils have performed on our stage to a large audience. Our families, residents from Arranview and South Beach care homes and our partner Early Years establishments all loved the performances. We are extremely proud of all of our pupils.

The term was finished off with Christmas parties for all and a wonderful assembly, led by P7 pupils, showcasing our very talented Dykesmains pupils.



Parent/Carer appointments

During this term, Parent/Carer meetings with your child's class teachers will be held on Thursday 19 March and Tuesday 24 March, all appointments will be held between 3.15 and 5.15pm. Letters will be issued in advance of these dates and appointments **must** be made by the deadline set in the letter. Alternative appointments out-with these dates and times cannot be accommodated.

Class termly newsletters

Class termly newsletters will be shared alongside this newsletter to provide information on what is being covered across the term in Literacy, Numeracy, IDL and any stand-alone curricular areas. These newsletters provide parents/carers with an overview to support discussion on learning at home. Copies will be available on the school website.

Primary 1 and Primary 7 date changes

Please note a date change to the following planned events:

Wednesday 28 January- Primary 7 Burns' Supper (1 adult invited per child)

Wednesday 17 June - P1 Celebration and P7 Fleck Awards (2 adults invited per child)

This is to ensure that all class teachers can be involved in the celebrations as well as accommodating our attendance at events we have just been informed of. Further information will be provided to pupils.

Late coming and early collection

There has been an increase in the number of children regularly being collected early from school. We understand that there will be times that this is unavoidable but we ask that you are mindful to keep this to a minimum. Children leaving school early is disruptive for pupils and classes and is detrimental to your child's learning. Please ensure any appointments are made after school or during school holidays where possible.

In addition to this, we understand that at times circumstances can result in children being collected late after the school day. Where possible we ask that you make alternative arrangements for your child's collection and advise the office. There may be exceptional circumstances when this is not possible but we would hope that on most occasions alternative arrangements can be made.

Pupils should arrive to school before 9am in time for the bell. The class doors will be supervised until 9.05am. After this, children coming through the office will be logged as late on the North Ayrshire system and procedures will be followed where we have any concerns. We would always seek to support families to make morning transitions into school positive for our children. Morning classroom routines are in place to support pupil wellbeing and setting children up ready to learn. Children coming into class late may miss important teacher instruction and learning points.

Adverse weather conditions (school entrance and exit for pupils)

When the weather is icy or snowy, we will send out communication in the morning through Eduspot to advise of alternative entrance into and exit from school. For safety we ask that all pupils and parents use the path from the main gate and that pupils enter the school through the first available door (referred to as the STEM doors). We take steps to reduce risks of slips and falls by cleaning and salting this route but ask that you ensure care is taken on pathways as they can still be slippery. On the days children enter the school through the STEM doors, they will most likely exit the same way unless you are advised otherwise. This may cause a slight delay leaving the school as all children are leaving through the same doors. On rainy days, children will enter through their usual door. Supervising staff will monitor and supervise children's safe arrival into class.

Changes for parents/carers supporting school activities

This is a reminder that any parents who wish to volunteer to support class trips or school events must be part of the PVG scheme as this is now a legal requirement for all adults supporting our activities. Thank you to our parents who joined the PVG scheme with our Parent Council, we are now required to update these directly to our school. Mrs Smith will use previous information provided to associate you directly with the school, if you **do not** wish this further update, please contact the school before **Friday 30 January**. If you have not yet joined the PVG scheme and wish to support school activities, please scan the QR code and we will be in touch.



Breakfast club times

Our breakfast club continues to be very well attended. It is currently funded through our Pupil Equity Fund allocation. There is no cost to attend the breakfast club, however any small donation is appreciated to help contribute towards the cost of cereal, milk, bread and fruit.

Can we politely remind parents/carers that children should be brought to the office door between **8am and 8.15am**. Please be aware that there is no adult supervision before 8am and children cannot be left at the office before this time. It is the responsibility of parents to drop off all pupils at breakfast club to ensure their safe arrival.

Open afternoon invitation

Families are invited into their child's classroom on the afternoon of Wednesday 11th February. This is an opportunity for children to share their learning in line with our school improvement plan for 2025-26. Families with more than one child can flow between relevant classes. The office doors will be open from 1.35pm for adults to congregate in the gym hall prior to visiting their child's class between 1.45pm and 2.45pm. Adults will collect their child at the normal time and place at 3pm on the bell.

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

Monday 5 January	School opens 9 am	
Wednesday 28 th January DATE CHANGE	P7 Burns Supper 1.45-2.45pm	Gym Hall – Parent/Carer of P7 pupils
Friday 6 February & Monday 9 February	Holiday	
Tuesday 10 February	In Service Day – Pupils not in school	
Wednesday 11 February	Whole school open afternoon 1.45-2.45pm (doors open 1.35pm). Focus on pupils showcasing school improvement priorities.	In classes/school areas- Parents/Carers invited
Thursday 12 February	P7 pupils to AA Burns Support 1.45pm- 2.45pm	Ardrossan Academy
Thursday 5 March	World Book Day	Information will follow
Thursday 19 March or Tuesday 24 March	Parent Evening Appointment- time slot between 3.15-5.15pm	Pupil class bay
Wednesday 25 March	Parent Council Spring Disco (after school)	Gym Hall
Wednesday 1 April	Spring Assembly 9.15am	Gym Hall – Parents/Carers
Thursday 2 April	School Closes 2.30pm for Easter Break	

TERM 4

Monday 20 April	School Opens 9 am	
Monday 4 May	Holiday – school closed	
Wednesday 13 May	Sports Day – 1.30pm	School Playground
Monday 25 May	In Service Day – pupils not in school	
Tuesday 9 June	School Show P4-7 Partner Early Years Centres and local care homes invited.	Gym Hall
Wednesday 10 June	School Show P4-7 Parent performance 1.45pm	
Thursday 11 June	School Show P4-7 Parent performance 9.30am	
Wednesday 17 June	Bump Up Day – pupils in new classes 11am -12pm	
Wednesday 17 June DATE CHANGE	P1 Celebration – 9.15am	Gym Hall
	P7 Fleck Celebration – 1.45pm	Gym Hall
Tuesday 23 June	Dykesmains Got Talent Competition	Gym Hall
Wednesday 24 June	Summer Assembly 9.15am	Gym Hall Parents/Carers
Wednesday 24 June	Primary 7 Leavers Event 1.15 -3pm (supported by Parent Council)	
Monday 29 June	Dykesmains Got Talent Final (winners announced 30/6)	
Tuesday 30 June	School Closes at 1 pm for Summer Break	