



# Dykesmains Primary School

## Termly Newsletter



April 2026

### Head Teacher welcome

A very warm welcome back to all our families, pupils and staff. As we begin this new term at Dykesmains Primary School, we look forward to another positive and productive period of learning and achievement. We value the strong partnership we share with our families and thank you for your continued support. Last term we had a great turn out supporting pupils at all our numerous events and this is a vital part of ensuring their continued success. We appreciate the feedback you have given us and this will contribute to our future improvements.

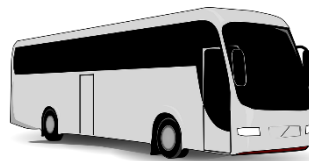
### Learning at home

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. Please check your child's school bag or the school website.

### Class trips

Primary 5 started their new term with a class trip to the Science Centre. They had a great time and represented the school extremely well. The other classes 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, if children can be 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	Friday 15 May
Primary 4	Tuesday 2 June
Primary 6	Wednesday 6 May
Primary 7	Wednesday 29 April



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 Weeks

Health Weeks are week beginning the 11<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> May. The Health and Wellbeing and Sport Committees have worked together to organise many activities focused on health, fitness, nutrition and wellbeing. Classes will come together across the school to take part in themed team games to celebrate the Commonwealth Games and World Cup. Children can come dressed in school t-shirts and sweatshirts and sports bottoms (shorts, joggers or leggings).

## School Improvement Plan update

### Spotlight on Digital Technologies and Creativity

As part of the school priorities this year, we purchased 8 laptops allocated to Primary 4 to 7 for additional support, Sphero Minis and Sphero Indies. Mrs Renton worked with Primary 6 to become Digital Leaders and support teachers and children across the school to use the new equipment.

We are delighted to announce that all the technology development embedded across the curriculum has helped us to achieve the Digital School Award Scotland. Our validator was very impressed with the good practice and recommended that we mentor other schools in this area.



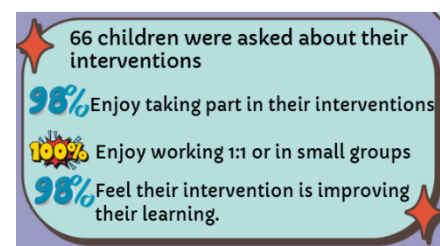
### Spotlight on Family Learning

We have loved welcoming families into school this term. We began by inviting families into our classrooms so that we could share our learning linked to this year's School Improvement Plan. We enjoyed family cooking sessions with Jen from Phunky Foods and Mrs Renton's technology afternoons, where families joined us to learn and create together using Lego Spike, Spheros and Chatterpix.



### Spotlight on Targeted Support

Mrs Bone was successful in securing our Targeted Support Teacher role introduced across the authority. This year, Mrs Bone has supported a wide range of interventions to improve outcomes for pupils. Mrs Bone has introduced Kitbag group work, been trained to deliver an anxiety management programme as well as identifying small groups to boost pupil confidence and skills in literacy and numeracy. Pupils who have received support have provided positive feedback about the support they have received from Mrs Bone and our Pupil Support Assistants this year.



## Parent Portal

The Parent Portal is a secure online system where you can keep up to date with your child's school life. It allows you to view attendance reports, messages and key updates. Through this permissions for school trips and activities are sent and approved. Instead of signing paper forms, you can give consent directly through the portal, making the process faster, easier, and more reliable for both parents and the school. This is required for upcoming school trips. <https://parentsportal.scot/home/>

## Weather

### Hot weather

We are hopeful that the warm weather will stay with us 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. Children often ask to take their cardigan's and jumpers off as they become warm from playing, we will presume that this is acceptable unless advised otherwise.



### 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.

## Parent Council

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


The Parent Council secured £1500 for our library committee who have selected a diverse range of new reading books.

## Resources in class to support focus

There has been an increase in children bringing in toys to use as fidgets. However, each class has created their own resource kits to include fidget resources and soft toys to support regulation and focus. These are identified as supports and should be used to improve focus and readiness for learning however if not used correctly, they can become a distraction. Our Health and Wellbeing committee are currently working on information to promote this. We would like to ensure that only school resources are being used to support pupils in classes. In some cases, children may have individual plans and a need for personalised tools. This is discussed in partnership with home and school, therefore we ask for children not to bring in their personal belongings.

SUPPORT FOCUS USING

### FIDGET TOOLS





What are fidget tools?  
Fidget tools are used to support some children stay focused and regulate their emotions. Each class has a range of fidgets in their Zones of Regulation tool kit boxes.


Why might a fidget tool be needed?  
Some children experience restlessness, worries, sensory needs or repetitive behaviours such as chewing or picking. Fidget tools help them remain engaged in learning. Not every child needs a fidget tool but for some it is needed and part of their plan.


When should they be used?  
Fidget tools should be used during learning, quietly, and as directed by staff. They should not be treated as toys or used to distract others.

Choosing the right tool?  
School fidget tools should be used, children are not encouraged to bring resources from home unless discussed as part of their plan.

 **Lip biting / chewing:** Chewelry, chewable toppers  
Helps prevent damage to lips/clothing.

 **Skin picking / nail biting:** Putty, textured rings, Velcro  
Keeps hands busy.


 **Restlessness:** Stress balls, fidget cubes  
Allows movement while seated.

 **Emotions:** Soft sensory items, squishy toys  
Supports calming.







DYKESMAINS HEALTH AND WELLBEING COMMITTEE

SUPPORT FOCUS

### FIDGET TOOL VS DISTRACTION



What is the difference between a fidget and a distraction?

<p>Fidget tool</p>  <p>The tool needs my hands but the task doesn't.</p>	<p>It's a distraction</p>  <p>The tool and the task needs my hands.</p>
<p>Fidget tool</p>  <p>The tool needs my eyes but the task doesn't.</p>	<p>It's a distraction</p>  <p>The tool and the task need my eyes.</p>
<p>Fidget tool</p>  <p>The tool is the task. The item needs my brain.</p>	<p>It's a distraction</p>  <p>The tool and the task needs my brain. Your brain can't concentrate on two things at the same time.</p>

DYKESMAINS HEALTH AND WELLBEING COMMITTEE

## 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 out with 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.

## 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

Monday 20 April	School Opens 9 am	
Wednesday 22 April	Primary 5 class trip	Science Centre
Wednesday 29 April	Primary 7 class trip	Bouncestation
Monday 4 May	Holiday – school closed	
Wednesday 6 May	P6 class trip	Dumfries House
Thursday 7 May	School closed to pupils - Polling Station	
Friday 8 May	P6 visit to Ardrossan Academy	Ardrossan Academy
Tuesday 12 May	P7 Transition Parent/Carer meeting	Ardrossan Academy
Wednesday 13 May	Sports Day – 1.30pm	School Playground
Thursday 14 & Friday 15 May	P7 Visit to Ardrossan Academy	Ardrossan Academy
Friday 15 May	P1-3 class trip	Whitelees Windfarm
Tuesday 19 May	P7 Transition St Matthew's Academy 9.30-2.30 Parent Welcome 6.00pm	St Matthew's Academy
Wednesday 20 May	P7 Transition St Matthew's Academy 9.30-2.30	St Matthew's Academy
Monday 25 May	In Service Day – pupils not in school	
Thursday 28 May	P7 Transition Disco	Ardrossan Academy
Tuesday 2 June	Primary 4 class trip	Maritime Museum
Friday 5 June	Parent Council Fun Day	Playground
Friday 5 June	P7 Transition Potted Sport 1.30pm-3.30pm	Ardrossan Academy
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	Gym Hall
Thursday 11 June	School Show P4-7 Parent performance 9.30am	Gym Hall
Wednesday 17 June	Class Bump Up – pupils in new classes 11am - 12pm	Classes
Wednesday 17 June	P1 Celebration – 9.15am P7 Fleck Celebration – 1.45pm	Gym Hall 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	<b>School Closes at 1 pm</b> for Summer Break	

