



# Elderbank Primary, Early Years, Supported Learning and Enhanced Deaf Provision

*Our School Values are a work  
of ART*  
**Acceptance Respect Teamwork**

## January 2024 Newsletter

We are delighted to have welcomed back all our learners after the holidays. We have also welcomed six new pupils to Elderbank Primary and our Early Years' pupils are delighted to be helping out our new learners in the playroom.

The holidays seem like a distant memory as the past 10 school days have been incredibly busy. The very cold and wet weather has arrived and we would like to remind all learners to wrap up warm when coming to Elderbank. We have some warm jackets which are available for anyone needing one in our uniform station just inside the foyer. Please come and help yourself to any items you may require.

### Mainstream - Sharing the Learning

We would like to invite parents and carers into our mainstream classes on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> February for children with surnames A-L and Friday 1<sup>st</sup> March for children with surnames M-Z. However, if the opposite date suits you better than one allocated, please just let us know. We will be offering informal workshops from 1:30p.m. - 2:00p.m. and then visits to the class to allow you to share in your child's learning and be updated on their achievements and next steps.

### Enhanced Deaf Provision - Sharing the Learning Meetings

Our Teachers of the Deaf will be inviting parents and carers into school to discuss the learning of the pupils who attend the Enhanced Deaf provision. This will be shared via Seesaw.

### Supported Learning - Sharing the Learning

Each class within Supported Learning will be inviting parents and carers to share in their child's learning in class or in the community. This information will be shared via seesaw as it is individual to each class.

### Early Years Play - Stay and Play Sessions

We would like to invite parents and carers of children in the Early Years to share the learning with their child in a stay and play session on Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> February 2024.

### Progress Reports - Term 3

We are pleased to say that we will be distributing pupil progress reports on 28<sup>th</sup> March 2024, so please look out for these in your child's bag. We would like to encourage all

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parents and carers to complete the feedback forms provided and send it back to the school, when you receive them.

### Parent and carer consultations with teachers - Term 4

There will be an opportunity to meet with your child's teacher in the school or key worker in the Early Years on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> May. Appointments will be released for parents and carers to book on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> May 2024.

### Mental Health Awareness Week 5<sup>th</sup> -9<sup>th</sup> February

As a school we will be participating in lessons to promote positive mental health and wellbeing at an age appropriate level. Mrs Stewart our Principal Teacher, with a responsibility for pastoral support will be supporting this initiative and she will send separate information to you capturing our learning. Mrs Stewart and Mrs Symonds our Nurture Teacher are always on hand to support any individuals. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you require any information or support for your child.

### World Autism Acceptance Week - 25<sup>th</sup> March 2024

On **Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March 2024**, we would like to invite all children and staff to have a dress down day and wear something blue in recognition of World Autism Awareness day. Each year, the 2<sup>nd</sup> April is known as 'World Autism Day' and this year marks the 17<sup>th</sup> annual Autism Awareness Day. Throughout the month of April, the focus worldwide is on sharing stories and highlighting opportunities, to increase understanding and acceptance of people with autism. Therefore, we would like to show our support by wearing something blue, prior to the holiday and we will continue the focus on our return from the Spring Break.



### Supported Learning News

Mrs Giffney will be starting her maternity leave on the 9<sup>th</sup> February. We wish her well and we look forward to her visiting with her new baby when it arrives. We have appointed a new teacher to replace Mrs Giffney. We are looking forward to welcoming Mrs Elridge who will welcome the pupils back on the 14<sup>th</sup> February. Mrs Giffney will liaise with Mrs Elridge to ensure a smooth transition.

Unfortunately we have had a few classroom assistants on long term sick leave. We are hoping to have all staff return to work in the near future and we are grateful to all staff who have worked together to maintain consistency for our learners.

We are also looking forward to resuming the Rebound Therapy sessions now that our staffing situation has settled. Thank you to the parents and carers who have kindly volunteered to assist.



## Scots Verse Speaking Competition

The annual Scot's Verse Speaking Competition will take place on Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> January 2024. All information relating to your child's poem they have to learn will be shared by their class teacher. Mrs Macfarlane has assembled a panel of judges who will listen to the finalists nominated from each class. Good luck everyone.

## Enhanced Deaf Provision



The pupils in the EDP have started their experiential learning sessions focussing on their communities. We are also pleased to be working with Miss Bennett, a Deaf Role Model who will be supporting our learners on a Tuesday afternoon. We have also met with representatives from the British Deaf who will offer a workshop in February (date to be finalised) around Declaration of the Rights of the Deaf Child and Deaf Role Models.



## Primary 7 Transition

Our primary 7 pupils who are transferring to Greenwood Academy, will have morning visits on either the 14<sup>th</sup> or 16<sup>th</sup> February and again on either the 25<sup>th</sup> or 27<sup>th</sup> March. Mrs Macfarlane will provide the exact date for each child in due course. The pupils must be in school by 9:00a.m. on these dates to ensure they can join the pupils and staff as they will be walking to Greenwood Academy from Elderbank following registration. The pupils will then visit Greenwood for two full days on the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> June this year. On the full day visits the children will make their way independently to and from Greenwood Academy.

## New Primary 1 Pupils

We are looking forward to welcoming our new cohort of primary 1 learners into Elderbank. We have just received the list of children enrolled for Primary 1 and Miss Auld will provide more details of the transition programme in the near future.

All pupils entering our Supported Learning Provision will also be offered a bespoke transition programme and visits to the department in due course, once these places are allocated via the North Ayrshire Council Inclusion Group.





### School Lunches

Just a quick reminder that school lunches should be ordered at home via the app. This ensures your child receives the lunch choice you have agreed with them.

### School Uniform

We are extremely grateful to all parents and carers for supporting us with their children wearing school uniform. We would like to give everyone a quick reminder of the school uniform below:

- Blue jumper or cardigan
- White shirt or polo-shirt
- Black trousers or skirt
- Black shoes.



The uniform was kept very simple to enable it to be purchased with minimal cost. Remember that we have our Uniform Station available to all (kindly donated by parents and carers), see below for more details. Please note that black tops are **NOT** part of our school uniform.

### Uniform Station

We are very thankful to parents and carers who have donated items for the Uniform Station. Please remember that this is available just inside the foyer and parents and carers are welcome to come into school and collect any items they require.



### Attendance

Every minute counts at Elderbank and we need all learners at school for 09.00a.m. To assist with this we provide a Breakfast Club and we also offer an informal entry from 08.50a.m. each day. This allows all children to be in class and ready to start learning at 09:00a.m. We also have a vehicle drop off lane available from 08:50a.m. where the children can be dropped off and then they can make their way to class independently. Children arriving at school late can miss essential teaching and this can cause them some anxiety. We wish to avoid this and therefore if you require advice or support in getting your child to school on time, please let us know.

We are reviewing attendance. If a child has an attendance rate below 95% we will meet with them to identify any issues which prevent them coming to school and to also offer any relevant support. The Leadership team will also be reaching out to parents and carers so that we can work together to ensure all learners are in school. Please be assured this is a supportive intervention as we are keen to ensure we maximise the learning time for everyone.

### Wider Achievement

We are delighted that many pupils attend clubs out with school learning new skills. Pupils will have the opportunity to celebrate and showcase their wider achievements at a special whole school 'Wider Achievement' assembly once per month on the following dates:

Monday 29<sup>th</sup> January

Monday 26<sup>th</sup> February

Monday 25<sup>th</sup> March

Pupils can bring in certificates or trophies and can also showcase their skills if they wish. Teachers will gather names of pupils wishing to participate in 'Wider Achievement' assemblies on the Friday beforehand. We look forward to recognising these achievements.



### Breakfast Club

The school are pleased to have a breakfast club available in school, and it is open from 8.10 a.m. every day. Please access this via the side door, this is located just through the large gate at the side of the school, nearest the path to Greenwood.



Our Breakfast Club offers a positive start to the school day and the children enjoy toast, cereal, fruit juice and the opportunity to participate in games with their peers. Mrs Hale, Mrs Bennison, Mrs Murray and Miss Patterson support all children each day.

### Parent and carer survey

As always we are keen to have constructive feedback from parents and carers. We will be issuing a short questionnaire on Monday 29<sup>th</sup> January, which we would appreciate if it is completed by Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> February to allow us to focus on the feedback as part of our planned quality assurance activities.

### Mid-term holiday

The School and Early Years will be closed on **Friday 9<sup>th</sup> and Monday 12<sup>th</sup> February** for the mid-term holiday and learners will return on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> February 2024. On **Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> February**, Elderbank is closed to learners as it is an In-Service training day for staff.





## Our Improvement Priorities 2023 -2024

As we shared previously our agreed priorities for improvement are:

1. *To improve digital technology skills across the school and early years to enable learners to transfer skills for learning, life and work and develop high quality moderation across the school and cluster.*
2. *To improve the quality of learning targets for all children to support attainment and achievement.*
3. *To continue to develop and embed opportunities for active pupil participation and leadership.*
4. *To increase language acquisition by providing a contextualised programme appropriate to the needs of Deaf learners.*

As part of our programme for improvement we have been delighted to have staff from the North Ayrshire Council Professional Learning Academy (PLA) working with our learners and staff.

Mrs Dickens and Mrs McFarlane, from the PLA, have focused on setting a quality learning community with a focus on learner engagement and sharing the learning with pupils. Elderbank staff have also been very receptive to ensuring they meet the needs of dyslexic learners and participated in staff training.

Mrs Dickens and Mrs McFarlane also led our parent workshops in November on supporting literacy and numeracy at home.

Rosslyn Lee who has a focus on digital technology has led staff training and also worked with learners focussing on developing skills in using Green Screen Technology, programming Spheros and developing the use of iPads to support learning in numeracy and literacy.

### Parent Focus Group

We are looking forward to our Senior Manager visiting on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> February. The focus of this visit will be our journey through the current improvement priorities. This includes a parent and carer focus discussion group about:-

- Leadership Groups
- Personalisation and Choice Groups
- Opportunities for parents to share in their child's learning - Mainstream, Supported Learning EDP and Early Years
- Open afternoons
- Early Years Stay and Play
- Learning in the Early Years
- Outdoor Learning
- Enhanced Deaf Provision opportunities to learn in the community
- Digital Technologies
- Supported Learning - use of technology to support learning and communication
- Play across Early Years to Primary 3



If any parent or carer would like to be part of the focus group, please contact the school office and we will be in touch with more details. We are hoping to have representatives from all our different provisions. Your help with this would be much appreciated.

### Parent Council Update

The Parent Council have supported the learners recently by donating £2000 from the money raised from fundraising events, towards the cost of the Odeon cinema visit and the Jiggy Wrigglers Christmas Fun events in December. Combined with the school's contribution ensured there was no cost for any pupil. In addition the Parent Council have also made a contribution towards the Primary 7 Leavers' hoodies. The school has paid the remaining costs to ensure each child has a hoodie.

The next Parent Council meeting is **Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> January at 18:15 in the school.**

### After School clubs

We are delighted that staff and Sports Leaders have volunteered to deliver after school clubs. Mrs Stewart co-ordinates the After School programme as part of her Principal Teacher remit. Parents and carers of children who have been allocated a space have received notification. If you have had no communication and your child applied for a place please contact the school office.

### Mainstream Staffing update

Mrs Morrison will be finishing for her maternity leave on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> February. We wish her well as she awaits the arrival of her baby. Mrs Findlay will be joining Elderbank and will assume responsibility for P6/5 for the remainder of the term. We are delighted to have our janitor Mr Sneddon, return to work on a Monday and Tuesday each week as he recovers from his serious injury and hospital stay.

### Early Years staffing Update

Unfortunately Mrs Paterson is unwell and is currently on sick leave. Mrs Carruthers is co-ordinating the continuity of provision for Mrs Paterson's group on a Wednesday - Friday. We wish Mrs Paterson a speedy recovery and hope to see her back soon.

### Curriculum outlines

You should have received a copy of the curriculum plan for your child for this term at the end of last term. If you have not received a copy these are available on the school website.

If you have any concerns please do not hesitate to contact me or the pastoral depute head via the school office on 01294-218632.

Kind regards,

*Miss Robertson*

Head Teacher

