



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

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

March 2024 Newsletter

Dear parents and carers

February has been another busy time at Elderbank. We will share some of our highlights in this newsletter.

Supported Learning

Rebound therapy is now established for the pupils who require this. We are very grateful to the parents and carers who are helping with the sessions. All of the children are enjoying the opportunity to be on the trampoline. Miss Arcaro, Miss Coleman and Mrs Baldock are also doing a great job leading the sessions.

Many of the classes have been enjoying visits in the community, including visiting the café.

The Explorers and the P6 and P7 pupils from the Enhanced Deaf Provision enjoyed the Sportability Boccia festival on Friday 1st March, with our pupils taking 2nd, 3rd and 4th places.

Supported Learning Open Afternoons

As the pupils within Supported Learning would find it challenging to manage a high volume of adults within the premises, each class has had a separate timetable.

Your child's class event has been shared on Seesaw.

Enhanced Deaf Provision

Our Deaf learners have visited Ardrossan and Cumnock along with visits in the local community. The pupils and staff have also made visits to the local area and learned new skills in the local forest.



Pupils have also benefited from the British Deaf Association Deaf Roots and Pride Workshops. The BDA staff including the interpreters were very complimentary about our pupils, staff and school, which is always lovely feedback to receive. The pupils have been working with Kat Bennett a Deaf sign language user on developing their British Sign Language Skills, which is invaluable.

Mainstream

Pupils have enjoyed sharing their wider achievements at the whole school wider achievement assemblies. We have some very talented pupils who have shared their achievements.



The Annual Verse Speaking Competition was also a success. Three pupils represented Elderbank in the Champion of Champions contest; Ruaridh Montgomery, Katie-Anna Ross and Leon-J Vlaanderen, and we are delighted that Leon-J was the overall winner in his age group.

The pupils of Primary 7 enjoyed organising and leading a Burns Supper for Primary 6 pupils and their invited guests. Everyone was entertained by verse speaking, speeches, and musical performances and dancing. A great afternoon was had by all. The invited guests were grateful for their invite and enjoyed the celebration.

After School Clubs



Elderbank has continued to be busy after school with a range of clubs taking place. All of these clubs are offered through the goodwill of staff and our sports leader volunteers from Greenwood Academy.

Well done to the Dance after school club, who accompanied by Miss Hercus and Miss Kirkwood, performed at the NAC Dance Festival at Greenwood Academy. The enthusiasm of all the pupils involved was celebrated by the audience. Well Done.

Mr McAllister and Mr Gillen have continued to coach and accompany the School Football Team. The team are working hard and have demonstrated good sportsmanship at the tournaments they have participated in.

Mrs Stewart continues to do a great job coordinating all of the clubs and she is always trying to find opportunities for as many pupils as possible.

Open Afternoons

We were pleased to welcome parents and carers into classes to share their children's progress on the 23rd February and again on the 1st March. We are also pleased that parents and carers joined in the workshops on Positive Relationships and Digital Technology. We are keen to gather feedback and we will send a link to a short online form from Friday 8th March. The children particularly enjoy sharing their learning journey with adults from home, within the classroom. Our captains and vice-captains were on hand as guides to make sure everyone could navigate the building safely. Pupils are currently adding their comments on their progress to the reports which will be issued on the 28th March.

Early Years

Early Years continues to be a hive of activity. The children have been enjoying outdoors. They have also enjoyed having parents and carers join them for a Play and Stay session.



The transition to Primary 1 has already started with pupils becoming more familiar with the Primary 1 environment, supported by the Early Years staff.

We have also welcomed children who currently attend different Early Years provisions and who will be joining us at Elderbank in August 2024.

Miss Auld is co-ordinating the transition programme and is looking forward to continuing to work with all the children and their families.

Early Years Registration

Early Years registration for session 2024/2025 will open for all children on Wednesday 6th March 2024. This process has been delayed until the revised attendance patterns have been confirmed. This is a North Ayrshire Council decision and we thank you for your patience and understanding. The Early Years registration link will be on the North Ayrshire Council website. Information for pupils returning to Early Years was shared on the 6th March 2024.

School Improvement Visit

We welcomed our Senior Manager into Elderbank on Thursday 15th February. She was able to meet with pupils, staff and parents/carers and she was able to validate our assessment of our work.

Parent Survey

Thank you to everyone who completed the parent/carer survey. This helps us evaluate our work and identify areas for improvement. We will share the results and our agreed actions in a separate document, in the coming weeks.



Pupil Attendance

We continue to support good pupil attendance. It is essential that children are at school every day and on time. Please remember to call the office before 9am if your child will be absent. If you have any concerns about attendance, please make contact with a member of the leadership team.

Allergies



Please remember we are a nut free establishment. As we cannot determine the contents of chocolate spread, please do not send in any items for lunch with chocolate spread.

Lollipops

In the interest of safety, lollipops are not permitted in school. These are a choking hazard in the playground. We have explained this to all pupils as part of the assembly programme.

Primary 7 Transition

The next planned dates for transition visits to Greenwood Academy are Monday 25th March or Wednesday 27th March. Mrs MacFarlane will send a reminder to pupils and parents with their allocated dates.

The Greenwood Academy Parent and Carer Time to Talk Teams event takes place on Wednesday 20th March. Details were emailed to Primary 7 parents and carers separately.

Respecting School Property

Unfortunately, there have been incidents in the P5-P7 area of deliberate misuse of the boys' toilets. This has resulted in damage to the fixtures and fittings. Therefore, we have had to make adaptations to the supervision of these areas. We are closely monitoring the situation and we will have to contact parents and carers of any child suspected of contributing to this.



The majority of our pupils are to be praised for their respect of the facilities, but as explained to the children, it is everyone's responsibility to look after the school.

Mobile Phones

Just a reminder that any mobile phone brought to school by a pupil **must** be switched off and given to the class teacher for safe keeping without exception. Children attending Breakfast club should also switch off their phone and give it to a member of staff for safe keeping during Breakfast club.



Cash for Kids

We have entered the Cash for Kids fundraising event and we hope to have similar success to last year.

Mrs Stewart and her leadership groups will be coordinating events. This includes a sponsored fitness event, coffee morning, Easter crafts and many more fun activities. We hope the Elderbank community will support this fundraising effort. We have included the flyer with this email. The two family events are the Family Bingo on Tuesday 12th March from 6p.m. - 7p.m. and the Coffee Morning on the 20th March. All details are on the flier included on the final page of this newsletter.

Parent Council

The Parent Council continues to support the work of the school on behalf of the parents and their families. They recently organised a Valentine's disco which was supported by school staff. They have also donated money towards the P7 leavers' hoodies. They are also currently planning an adult fund-raising event for May. The Parent Council welcome new members and as always your support. The next meeting is Tuesday 26th March at 6:30p.m.



Staffing Update

As we have a large staff at Elderbank, we can have many changes which we try our best to minimise the impact for our learners.

Teaching Staff

Miss Rose will be returning from sick leave on a phased return in March, but Mrs Swan will remain the full-time class teacher of P5 until June 2024.

Mrs Findlay has assumed responsibility for P6/5. Mrs Morrison has started her Maternity leave and is delighted to share she had a wee boy on Wednesday 6th March.

Mrs Eldridge has now assumed responsibility for Base 11 pupils as Mrs Giffney has started her maternity leave and she is eagerly awaiting the birth of her baby.

Support Staff

Ms McLellan who was based in the Pioneers has taken the difficult decision to resign her post following sick leave.

Ms Truss and Mrs Barcock are currently working in our Supported Learning Provision until the Easter Holidays to provide continuity for our pupils.

School Lunches

Within the mainstream school we have reverted to two lunch sittings. New lunch times below;

Time	Classes
12.00-12.45pm	P1 P2/1 P2 P4 P6/5 P7/6 P7H

Time	Classes
12.30-1.15pm	P3/2 P3 P4/3 P5 P5/4 P6 P7M

Easter Holiday begins- Thursday 28th March

School finishes early for the Easter Holiday. Taxis will leave from 1:45p.m. for Supported Learning and Enhanced Deaf Provision learners. Mainstream classes will finish at 2:30p.m.

Early Years will finish at their usual time.

As always, if you have any queries or questions, please do not hesitate to contact myself or the link DHT via the school office on 01294 218 632

Kind regards,

Miss Robertson

Head Teacher





CASH FOR KIDS FUNDRAISING EVENTS 2024



4th March – 25th March

Guess the Bunnies Birthday – 20p (Easter egg and bunny prize)

Guess How Many Sweets are in the Jar – 20p (win the sweets)

Buy a Square – 50p per square (Easter egg prize)

Thursday 7th March

Book Sale – 20p–£1 per book

Friday 8th March

Whole School Fitness Event – 50p

Tuesday 12th March (6pm–7pm)

Bingo – £1 per family

Friday 15th March

Splash the Teacher – 50p per throw

Wednesday 20th March

Coffee Morning



More Information to Follow

