



SKELMORLIE PRIMARY & EARLY YEARS

NEWSLETTER

TERM 1 OCTOBER 2025

A very warm welcome back to our wonderful children, staff and families! What a fantastic first Term we have had, it has been wonderful seeing the children's smiling faces filling the classrooms and playground again! Our learners have settled back into our school and class routines incredibly well, showing everyone how responsible and ready they are. Our learning is already so engaging—we're exploring exciting new topics, getting hands-on with fun activities, and discovering amazing new things every day! Best of all, we've noticed how quickly the children have formed positive friendships and are upholding our school values in and out of the classroom. We can't wait to see what next term brings but we know it will be full of learning, friendship, and fun!



WELCOME SESSIONS

As always, we are delighted to welcome our parents and carers into the school to see all the wonderful learning opportunities that are happening in our school. Thank you to everyone who attended our Welcome Session earlier in the term, the children thoroughly enjoyed showing their visitors around their learning environment and the feedback we received was very positive.

Your input is invaluable in helping us make our school the best environment for every child. We particularly noted the popular suggestion to bring back the school bell to signal the start of the day. We're happy to accommodate this! Starting after the October Break, we will introduce a single school bell at 8:55 AM to let children know it's time to line up for the start of the day.

To ensure we create a calm and supportive atmosphere, this 8:55 AM signal will be the only bell used throughout the day. All other transitions and the end of the day will continue

to be managed by staff, allowing for a quieter, more sensory-friendly environment.

PARENT COUNCIL

Our parent council are a wonderful support to the school. We are so appreciative of the time and energy spent supporting our children in all aspects of their learning. We look forward to working closely with our Parent Council again this session. If you would like to become involved in the fabulous work the Parent Council do, please contact the school for more information.

The first Parent Council AGM was held on 9th October and although we were sad to see our previous elected members step down, we were delighted to welcome new members and elect our new Chair, Treasurer and Secretary. We look forward to working closely with our Parent Council again this session and supporting the exciting events that are in the pipeline!

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

SESSION 2025 - 2026

The School Improvement Plan is a document which sets out the activities we will be undertaking as a school over the coming session. This document is created in collaboration with our pupils, staff and families. Our School Improvement Plan can be found on our school website.

EARLY YEARS CLASS



All of our Early Years children have settled well and are enjoying learning through a range of engaging experiences. The Harvest Stay and Play session was a wonderful opportunity for parents and carers to share the learning with

their children and see first-hand the positive, welcoming environment that is supporting our Early Years children in their progress and development. One of our most effective means of communication is through the use of SeeSaw and it is great to see so many of our Early Years parents and carers engaging so well with this platform. We will continue to use SeeSaw to share children's learning experiences and important information.

P1/2 DINOSAURS

Our P1/2 children are becoming experts on Dinosaurs and are becoming budding palaeontologists! All children have been participating in a range of learning opportunities including measuring, arts and crafts and plenty of play!



PE Days

- P1/2 - Tuesday & Friday
- P3/4 - Monday & Thursday
- P5/6 - Tuesday & Thursday
- P6/7 - Wednesday & Thursday

Please find above the PE days for Session 25/26. Children should come to school on those days suitably dressed to take part wearing navy blue/black or grey shorts/leggings or joggers, and a plain white or blue T-shirt or polo-shirt. It is very important that the children have a change of shoes as no outdoor footwear is permitted during PE to avoid damaging the gym hall floor. Please ensure no jewellery is worn on PE days. If ear piercings cannot be removed, we require earring are covered with medical tape to prevent injury. Long hair should also be tied back, or a bobble provided to do this prior

to the PE session. Please ensure children do not wear false nails.

FLU IMMUNISATIONS

Flu immunisations will take place on Tuesday 4th November this year, children have been issued with consent forms which should be completed and returned to school.

ROAD SAFETY

Please continue to ensure we park in a safe manner around the road accessing the school. **Please note that dropping children off in the school car park from 8.45am - 9am and collecting children from the school car park at 3pm is not permitted, nor is parking on the yellow zigzag lines.** This is to make sure the area is as safe as possible for all of our children and families and we thank you for your continued support in this matter. Our newly appointed Junior road Safety Officers will be responsible for sharing lots of information with our learners and school community and creating exciting activities to highlight the importance of Road Safety - watch this space!



SCHOOL COMMUNITY GROUPS

In Skelmorlie Primary School, our children have an important part to play in making decisions about the life and work of the school. Every child in our school is involved in one of our Committees - The Pupil Council, Eco Committee, Rights Respecting Schools Committee and, new for this session, Library Committee. Committee meetings will be held twice a term where actions are agreed with the children. Below we have outlined a little more information on each committee:

Skelmorlie Pupil Council

One of the ways in which children can have their say and make sure that their views and ideas are listened to is through the Pupil Council.

What is a Pupil Council?

A pupil council:

- Gives our children the chance to tell teachers, staff, parents and other children their ideas and views
- Represents each class in the school
- Meets regularly to talk about important school issues and projects
- Puts forward the class views at council meetings
- Take forward the views of the very young classes, who may find it difficult to put forward their opinions.

Eco Committee

What does the Eco Committee do?

The Eco Committee meet regularly to think of ways to care for the environment and the world around us. Pupils in the Eco Committee are passionate about ways in which they can make a difference. The Eco Team has helped us to achieve the Eco-Schools Green Flag award and the Eco Committee will be working hard to apply for reaccreditation.

Rights Respecting Schools

What is a Rights Respecting Schools Committee?

The UNICEF UK Rights Respecting Schools Award (RRSA) is based on principles of equality, dignity, respect, non-discrimination and participation. The RRSA seeks to put the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child at the heart of a school's ethos and culture to improve well-being and develop every child's talents and abilities to their full potential. A rights-respecting school is a community where children's rights are learned, taught, practised, respected, protected and promoted. Young people and the school community learn about children's rights by putting them into practice every day.

Library Committee

We're excited to be starting a Library Committee this session. Which will focus on promoting a love of reading across the school. They'll be responsible for making sure the library is a great place for everyone. This means they will help to keep the shelves tidy, making it easy to find books. They'll also get to organise whole school reading activities, like reading competitions or special story times and organising World Book Day. Most importantly, the committee will gather ideas from their classmates about what new books we should buy! They'll be the voice of the students, helping to make our library the very best it can be.

LIBRARY VISITS

Each term the children visit the local library and participate in a topic related activity as well as having time to enjoy the wide range of books.



SEESAW

Again, please note that all classes & EYC will be using SeeSaw as a platform for effective communication with families. This term, we had temporarily paused the use of SeeSaw across the primary school while we rolled out the new Parents Portal system.



To ensure a smooth transition and compliance across all our digital platforms, we needed to take some time to review and acquire the appropriate permissions, particularly concerning the sharing of photographs and videos of children. We want to make sure we are meeting all regulatory requirements as we implement the new portal alongside our existing tools.

Please do not worry! This was a very short-term measure and we plan for SeeSaw to be back up and running imminently. Please keep an eye out for your child's individual SeeSaw learning code that will be coming home in your child's school bag very soon. These codes will allow you to reconnect with your child's class on the platform once the necessary permissions and system updates are complete.

Thank you for your patience and understanding as we work to enhance our digital communication systems. We appreciate your cooperation.

PARENTS PORTAL

Parentsportal.scot is a new digital service to help improve information-sharing between parents and carers and schools by providing direct communication to parents and carers through a growing suite of online services, thus replacing the traditional "schoolbag run". Through parentsportal.scot, parents and carers will be able to grant permissions for school trips, view attendance, complete the annual data check and apply for NEC cards for free bus travel, to name but a few. We encourage anyone who has not signed up to parentsportal to do so to help streamline communication between home and school.

myHappymind

We're thrilled to introduce a new whole-school resource called myHappymind to all our primary learners! This fantastic program is designed to proactively promote positive mental health and wellbeing across the school. Your children will be learning about the science of the brain in an engaging way, giving them practical strategies and tools to help them navigate and manage their emotions effectively.



To ensure continuity and consistency for your child, myHappymind also offers a free and helpful parent app. Look out for an upcoming email with full details about the resource and instructions on how to join the parent app!

CHANGES

Please ensure any changes to telephone numbers, address or emails are kept up to date by contacting the school office.

STAFF 2025

Mrs Cathcart has been asked to continue her Secondment at Largs Primary. She will remain as Head Teacher of both schools and Mrs Campbell and Mrs Young will undertake additional responsibilities in her absence.



SESSION 2025-2026

HT - Mrs Lynne Cathcart

PT (Monday & Tuesday) - Mrs Justine Campbell

PT (Wednesday, Thursday & Friday) - Mrs Suzie Young

P1/2 Mrs Rebecca Docherty & Mrs Nikki Finlayson

P3/4 - Miss Rebecca McClymont & Mr Philip Morton

P5/6 - Miss Lorna Forbes

P6/7 - Miss Amanda Armstrong & Mrs Monica Jackson

Targeted Support - Mr Philip Morton

Additional Support - Mrs Jennifer Peddie & Miss Julia Lindsay

Senior Early Years Practitioner - Miss Jessica Church

Early Years Practitioner - Miss Joanna Henry

Early Years Assistant - Miss Courtney McMillan

Janitor - Mr John Lafferty

Education Business Assistant - Mrs Brooke Wallace

Pupil Support Assistants - Mrs Joan Cameron, Mrs Julie Coupar & Miss Julia Lindsay

Facilities Assistant - Mrs Margaret Barron

Dining & Cleaning - Alyson Polea, Sylvia Forsyth

Diary Dates:

Monday 27th October 2025 - P6/7 Library Visit

Tuesday 28th October 2025- UNCRC Video filming



Thursday 30th October 2025- P5/6 Library Visit

Friday 31st October 2025 - Hallowe'en - Children may come to school in their Hallowe'en costume, class parties in the afternoon. P6/7 to wear clothes suitable for their rugby session underneath their costumes.

Tuesday 4th November 2025 - Flu Immunisations

Tuesday 4th November 2025 - Learning Conversations with Parents/Carers 3.30 - 5.30pm

Tuesday 11th November 2025 - Childsmile

Thursday 13th November 2025 - Learning Conversations with Parents/Carers 5pm - 7pm

Sunday 16th November 2025 - Skelmorlie Primary School Fundraising at Morrisons Supermarket, Largs (please call the office if you are able to donate half an hour between 10am - 5pm) Children must be 10 years or older to assist

Friday 21st November 2025 - Holiday

Monday 24th November 2025 - Holiday

Tuesday 25th November 2025 - In-Service Day

Friday 28th November 2025 - Day of Dance

Monday 1st December 2025 - 'Sparkle Day' Wear something Christmassy to school

Wednesday 17th December 2025 - Christmas Service at the Church

Friday 19th December 2025 - School closes at 2.30pm, EYC closes at 3pm

Monday 27th December 2025 - Friday 2nd January 2025 - Christmas Holidays

Monday 5th January 2025 - 9am Children return to school & EYC