

St. Bridget's Primary School, EYC & ENR  
Hagthorn Avenue, Kilbirnie KA25 6EJ  
Tel: 01505 683293  
E-Mail: [stbridgets@ea.n-ayrshire.sch.uk](mailto:stbridgets@ea.n-ayrshire.sch.uk)  
Website: <https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/na/stbridgetsprimary>



## **HEAD TEACHER LETTER 3 OCTOBER 2025**

Dear Parents and Carers,

We hope everyone enjoyed a restful and happy October holiday. It has been lovely to see the children return refreshed, enthusiastic and ready for another busy term of learning. As we move through October, we would like to share some updates and reminders from across our school community.

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### **School Inspection Update**

As families know, the school was inspected in June by Education Scotland. Publication of the report has taken longer than expected, but it has now been published and we are able to share it with staff and families. The inspection and its findings were based on a careful review of the school's work, policies, procedures, attainment records and other evidence over a number of years, not just the period immediately before the inspection.

All families have been emailed a copy of the letter highlighting the strengths of the school and the areas identified for improvement. The email also includes a link to the full report. We want to assure families that we are actively addressing the points raised and have already made progress in implementing the necessary improvements.

We thank parents and carers for their support and look forward to welcoming both Education Scotland and the Care Inspectorate back to St Bridget's within the next few months to see how we have improved.

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### **Halloween Celebrations**

We are excited to welcome families into the PTA/PC Pumpkin Patch today from 3pm! We hope to see everyone along and would like to thank the PTA/PC for all their hard work in organising this.

On Friday, we are also looking forward to welcoming children in Halloween costumes (or non-uniform if they prefer not to dress up). The PTA/PC will be hosting a party for P1–3 from 9.30–10.30am and for P4–7 from 1.30–2.30pm.

We hope everyone has a fantastic, frightful, fun-filled Halloween!

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### **Parent and Carer Workshops**

A huge thank you to all the families who attended the Parent and Carer 'Values and Promoting Positive Behaviour' workshops with Mrs Robertson, as well as those who joined the Phonological Awareness

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workshops. We really value your engagement and look forward to continuing to work together to make the agreed changes and build on our shared goals for our pupils.

### **Infant Stay and Play Sessions**

Thank you to our infant families who came along to the recent Stay and Play sessions. It was wonderful to welcome you into our classrooms and share how your children learn through play. We are excited to invite you back once our new play zone is ready, complete with new furniture and resources.

### **Classroom Updates**

We are delighted to share that four of our classrooms have been fitted with brand new tables and chairs. The children are really enjoying their refreshed learning environments, which are already helping to create bright, comfortable and engaging spaces for learning.

### **Leadership Opportunities**

Following on from Term 1, our P6 pupils became St Bridget's Playground Pals, a name they chose themselves. They support play in the infant playground all week, helping younger children and organising playground games. The children work on a rota, and the initiative has been very successful so far.

Our P7 Buddies have continued to meet with P1s and have lunch and play together on Fridays, providing support and friendship to our youngest pupils. We will keep you posted on other wonderful leadership opportunities happening across the school.

### **Beat Buddies Music Session**

Our Middle and Upper School classes recently enjoyed a fantastic music session with Beat Buddies. The children had a great time learning through rhythm and song, and we hope to welcome Beat Buddies back again later in the year for another lively musical experience.

### **Primary 7 Transition Information**

We have shared P7 transition information with families in relation to St Matthew's Academy. Families will be asked to share their academy plans with North Ayrshire Council (NAC) in January. Children who are not attending St Matthew's will then be offered transition support at their chosen academy.

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### **Attendance and Punctuality**

We are continuing to focus on improving attendance and punctuality in line with North Ayrshire Council policy. Please support us by ensuring your child arrives at school on time and ready for the bell each morning. Many children are currently arriving late and missing the first 20–30 minutes of learning, which often includes key teaching in areas such as spelling, reading, and numeracy.

We understand mornings can be challenging and are happy to support families who may need help with routines or attendance. Please contact us if you would like to discuss this.

Currently, a significant number of pupils have attendance below 90%, with some below 80% and a few around 50–60%, meaning they have already missed a considerable amount of Term 1 learning. As per council policy, letters will be sent home over the coming weeks for children whose attendance is a concern, and we ask that families work with the school to address any issues.

Regular attendance is essential for progress, confidence, and wellbeing, and we thank you for helping us make this a top priority.

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## **Allergy Awareness**

We are an allergy-aware school and take the safety of all children very seriously. This means we are mindful of all types of allergies, not just nut allergies, and have individual care plans in place for children who need them. North Ayrshire Council Catering are very proactive in managing allergies and ensuring food safety across the school. However, nut allergies remain a particular concern, as unlike most other allergies, nut particles can be airborne and may cause a severe reaction without direct contact.

To help us keep everyone safe, we kindly ask that:

- All snacks and packed lunches are completely nut-free
- Children do not share food with others, and families talk to their children about this

If you have any concerns or questions about allergies, please contact the school directly.

## **Dressing for the Weather**

As the autumn weather sets in, please ensure children come to school with a warm jacket and clothing suitable for the season. The children spend time outdoors at playtime and lunchtime each day to enjoy some fresh air and exercise, unless it is raining heavily. Thank you for helping us make sure all children are dressed appropriately and can enjoy their break times comfortably.

## **Eduspot and ParentPay**

We kindly ask families to order school lunches in advance. When lunches are not pre-ordered, teachers have to spend valuable time each day collecting choices for 25 or more children, which takes time away from learning. Ordering in advance helps lunchtimes run smoothly and allows teachers to focus on teaching.

Thank you also to all families who have downloaded Eduspot and are using ParentPay. We now use Eduspot for school messages instead of text messaging. If you are experiencing any issues with either platform, please contact the school so we can provide support.

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## **Diary Dates**

Please see the attached document for key dates from now until June. These include upcoming events, workshops, holidays and celebrations. We will continue to update families as new events are confirmed.

Thank you for your continued support and partnership. Together, we are helping every child learn, grow and thrive.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Elaine Sanderson  
Interim Head Teacher  
St. Bridget's Primary School, EYC & ENR