

COMMUNITIES & EDUCATION DIRECTORATE
Executive Director: Andrew McLelland
Cunninghame House, Irvine KA12 8EE
Tel: 01294 310000 www.north-ayrshire.gov.uk

Woodlands Primary School
Woodlands Avenue
Irvine
KA12 0PU
Tel: 01294 279532



WOODLANDS PRIMARY & EYC

January 2026 Newsletter



Teamwork

Effort

Kindness

Dear Parents/Carers,

Happy New Year and welcome back to an exciting new term at Woodlands. I hope you all had a restful and enjoyable holiday, spending quality time with loved ones.

This term will focus on developing key skills that are essential for every child's success. Improving literacy and numeracy will be at the heart of our learning journey, helping pupils build confidence and a strong foundation for their future. Attendance remains a key priority as we know that being present in school every day is vitally important to improve attainment and wellbeing.

Winter is certainly still with us, shorter days and darker evenings. As it remains cold, wet and windy, we ask that you send children to school with layers they can remove, e.g. jumpers, cardigans and that weatherproof jackets are worn everyday as the weather changes quickly in Scotland! Please help yourself to spare uniform items from the school uniform bank or call us and we can pop items in schoolbags if your child requires anything.

We have many exciting activities and initiatives planned to engage and inspire our pupils while challenging them to achieve their very best over the coming weeks and months. Let's work together to make this term a memorable and rewarding one.

We're *runnin'* a brilliant Scots Week, where every class will focus on aspects of Scotland, with art tasks, technology activities, and loads o' Scots literacy. It'll be a *braw* week! Thanks to Mrs Gunn and Miss Caldwell for organising this for across the school.

We look forward to working in partnership with you as always.

Warm regards,
Mr Wilson

Head Teacher

Attendance

- ✓ Strong attendance helps children develop positive routines, responsibility, and good habits that will support them throughout school life and beyond.
- ✓ Being in school every day allows learning to build progressively, helping pupils feel more confident and less anxious about keeping up with lessons.
- ✓ Regular attendance sends a clear message to children that education is valued, encouraging motivation, effort, and pride in their achievements.
- ✓ Our attendance has risen from an average of 89.9% last year to 90.5% so far this year, and we are committed to working together to keep this encouraging upward trend going.



Attendance Matters



Robert Burns

We will be hosting our annual Burns Poetry Competition over the coming weeks. This event is a wonderful opportunity for pupils to develop key listening and speaking skills while celebrating Scottish culture.

We are excited to hear all participants this session and look forward to a lively Scots poetry final afternoon in February.

A huge thank you to all parents and carers in advance for supporting their child at home by practising their poem with them, your encouragement really makes a difference!

The poems each class are learning are as follows:

P1C - Tae a Thistle
P1S- Tae a Thistle
P2H - Mrs Nae Offence
P2N/T - Embdy lost a jaicket?
P3G- Twa Leggit Mice
P3S- Twa Leggit Mice
P4S- Willie Wastle
P4G- Willie Wastle
P5P- To a Louse
P5B/L- To a Louse
P6O- To a Mouse
P6G- To a Mouse
P7M- Address to a Haggis
P7C- Address to a Haggis

School Clubs

Thank you to all parents and carers for your continued support. We are delighted to be offering a range of after-school clubs this term, organised by our school staff and with support from North Ayrshire Active Schools. The clubs available include Sports, Lego, Gymnastics and Mindfulness, and we are pleased that Netball and Football will continue. There will also be more opportunities for pupils to join different clubs as the term goes on. We hope families will encourage children to get involved and enjoy these fun activities.

Additionally a new youth-club-style lunchtime club, run by pupils, will be starting in the coming weeks. Open to all pupils every day, it will offer a fun, relaxed space full of activities such as foosball, Jenga, board games, and any other ideas pupils want to try. This club aims to give everyone a chance to unwind, socialise, and enjoy themselves while supporting positive wellbeing. We hope it will be a popular addition to the school day and a place where friendships can grow.

P7 Arran Residential



Primary 7 classes are off on their Arran Outdoors residential trip on the week beginning 19th January. This is an exciting time for pupils as they make lasting memories while developing important life skills. During their stay, they will take part in a range of outdoor activities that build confidence, teamwork and independence. There will be plenty of adventure, new challenges and (hopefully!) some sleep too. We can't wait to hear all about what they get up to, the experiences they enjoy, and whether the

teachers survive the weekend just as well as the pupils do!

Teamwork

Effort

Kindness

Help Required



Our wonderful PTA have bought a shed for storing the items they use throughout the year to support their work. This storage space will help them continue the amazing work they do, which has a positive impact on every child in the school and the early years centre.

The shed has arrived, and now we need a few volunteers to help put it together. If you can spare a little time, your help would be greatly appreciated!

Please contact the PTA directly via their Facebook page, or email me at gordonwilson@ea365.n-ayrshire.sch.uk if you're able to lend a hand.

Thank you so much in advance for any willing helpers, your support really does make a difference!

Parking

Parking around the school was raised as a topic at our recent Parent Council meeting. We would like to remind all parents and carers about the importance of parking safely and considerately to help keep our pupils safe. Please avoid parking on grass verges, as this can damage the area and create hazards for pedestrians. Disabled parking spaces should only be used by those with the appropriate blue badge. By following these simple guidelines, we can ensure drop-off and pick-up times remain safe for everyone. Thank you for your continued support in keeping our school community safe.



Teamwork

Effort

Kindness

Hoodies

A reminder for any P7 parents and carers: if you would like to purchase an additional leavers' hoodie, you can do so via this link:

<https://ayrshireuniforms.co.uk/collections/woodlands-primary-school>.

All P7 pupils have now been issued with their leavers' hoodies, which they can wear with pride as a symbol of their time at Woodlands and for leading the way in our school. A huge thank you to the PTA for their support in organising this special tradition.

Diary Dates:

Please see diary dates from now till the end of March. In the meantime please get in touch if there is anything you wish to discuss.

Thank you for your continued support.

In partnership,

Mr Wilson

Head Teacher

Woodlands Primary School and EYC

DIARY DATES

January - April 2026	
Monday 5 th Jan	Pupils and Staff return to school
Monday 19 th Jan	P7 Residential to Arran
Thursday 22 nd Jan	Supporting Literacy at Home Workshop (P1-P3) 2:30pm
Monday 26 th Jan	Scots Week - whole school
Beginning of February (date TBC)	Children to recite Burns Poetry
Tuesday 3 rd February	Woodlands Trio visit with Elderbank and Castlepark Schools
Wednesday 4 th February	EYC Registration Opens
Friday 6 th , Monday 9 th & Tuesday 10 th February	School Holiday
Thursday 19 th February	Learning Café - Parents/Carers chance to visit their child(ren) in classes.
Thursday 19 th February	Parent/Carers Survey to be sent out
Friday 20 th February	World Thinking Day (Sunday 22 nd February) - Brownies, Guides, Beavers, Cubs & Scouts. If your child attends either of these organisations including Sunbeams, Rainbows, Boys'

Teamwork

Effort

Kindness

	Brigade etc they can all wear their uniforms on this special day.
Tue 3 rd and Wed 4 th March	North Ayrshire School Review
Thursday 5 th March	World Book Day 2026 (info to follow as the Reading for Engagement Committee plan this day)
Friday 20 th March	Class Newsletters to Parents/Carers
30 th March to 3 rd April	World of Work Week - Whole School
Wednesday 1 st April TBC	Learning Conversations (Parents Evening) Date TBC
Friday 3 rd April to Monday 20 th April	School stops at 2.30pm for School Easter Holidays
Monday 20 th April	Pupils and Staff return to School