



# Alloway Primary - Newsletter March 2022

Wow - it's almost the end of March!



Dear Parents and Carers, It is hard to believe we are already in March. It has been such a fast term.

Fortunately, we are now starting to experience some ways of working normally as things are slowly going back to normal in schools. We are however, hopeful that things will continue to move in a more positive direction and schools will be able to do a wider range of activities beyond the school gate with some beyond the school day as before.

Certainly our clubs are ongoing again and the school Orchestra is meeting weekly now. Our Active Sport School team are bringing various opportunities our way again.

We were so sad to hear that Keenan's coaches are no longer trading as they had served this school well over many years.

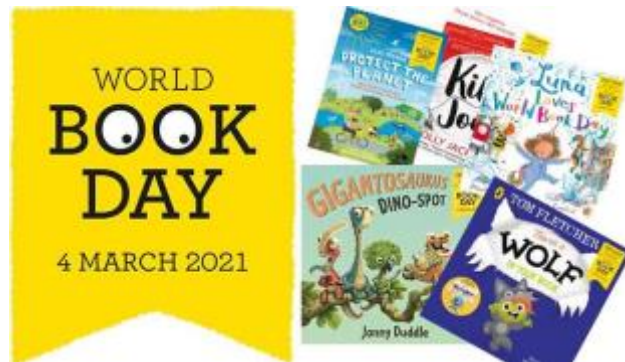
The children looked amazing in their costumes for World Book Week and they all took part in a Readathon over 2 weeks. We noticed children enjoying a whole variety of books and enjoying the quiet time reading in class daily. Staff also enjoyed reading chapter books to the children and also looked great dressed as book characters.

The children all received a book token which they were given to support their reading habits.

The Parent Council have organised for a Book Fair to be in school at the end of March. Children will get a chance to view the books and parents can order and pay online. The books will be sent home from school after all orders have been collated and payment received online.

The parent council will be managing this remotely so please contact them with any issues arising with payment etc.

All details will be on a letter coming from the parent council soon.











## Easter Time



For the first time in over 2 years we are attending the Church as a whole school congregation and are preparing for this with music, songs and stories .

Mr McNaught, our Minister and Mr Hume, the church's youth worker who we met at Christmas ti me will welcome us on the day so please ensure your child has appropriate walking shoes and is dressed for the

weather on the day as we set off just after 9.15 am and should be back in school after 11 am on the day. We finish at **2.30 pm** on this day so children will get their lunch as normal and enjoy a later play time too.

Our Church collection is for UNICEF Children of Ukraine so I know you will try to remember to give your child a donation on the day.

We would be happy to welcome any parent to walk with us to Church but unfortunately we are not at a point where we can invite a congregation too as we need to get back into Church routines safely then we will hopefully be able to invite you when guidance allows us soon. We need all the space in Church for now so we can spread out.

When we go to Church we hope to see children in school uniform of course.

Your child is in school and learning...

## Alloway Primary



## Marking Code

Class teachers will be outlining the learning focus for all classes for Term 4. This will shortly be uploaded to the class pages of the school website<sup>1</sup> and be with you in the new term. This information will also come to you via the See saw app. As always I would encourage you to have a look. This should help you to support your children and talk about what they have been learning in class. We use the See saw app to share learning with you which is a way of reporting also.

I know you appreciate this communication link however we have resumed normal communication channels with you now and ask you to contact the school office as is the norm for routine enquiries and absence reporting within school core hours please.

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<sup>1</sup><https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/sa/allowaypsandeyc/classes/>

Our Scottish Poetry competition took place in school this term. The standard across the whole school from infants through to P7 was super! The judges this year had a very hard job indeed but the following children were chosen overall and awarded at their stage.

Brooke Stewart

Logan Brown

Lily Malakoty

Finlay Hunter

Esha Parkhi

Rebeka Caruthers

Zahra Taylor

Mia Graham

Brodie McKenzie

Lucy Farrell

A very well done to everyone who took part and to the runners up also. We had a lovely afternoon and primary 7 Burns Captains, Saffy and Hayden, kept the afternoon moving along nicely by introducing everyone so well. They then were invited along to the Hospice Burns Supper at The Brig O' Doon Hotel where they rose to the occasion again.

In order to ensure all children are working at appropriate levels, and receiving any support required, we continue to undertake a number of informal and some written assessments with all children across the school. These include reading, spelling, writing, maths and wellbeing. We continue to use the results of these to set clear learning and wellbeing targets for all groups of learners. We will report on their progress using a report format which meets the Reporting Principles agreed upon in South Ayrshire Schools again this session. You should expect to receive this on 27th May followed by a parent appointment on 31st May - details will be issued later.

Some children have more complex additional support needs so we have managed to re introduce face to face meetings with some parents and carers so it's lovely to have people back in school albeit tentatively for now.

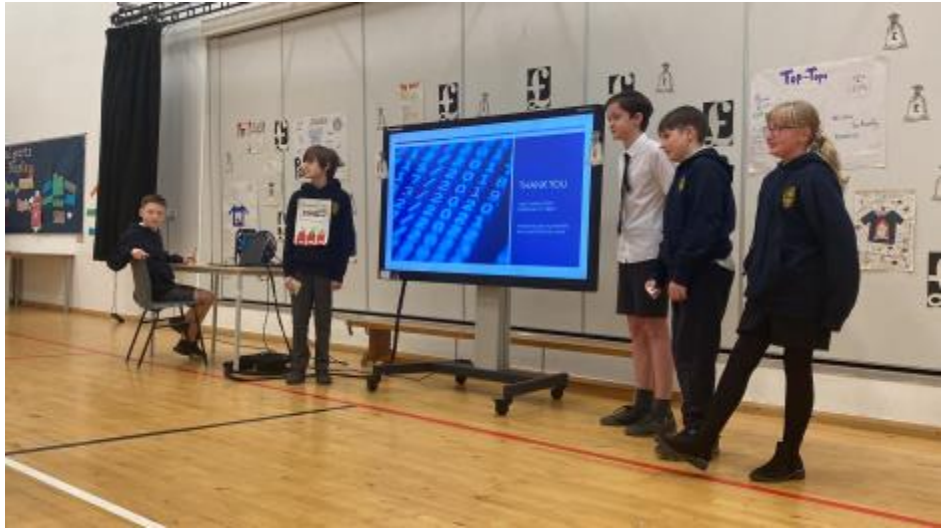
We are very proud of all the children and can not praise their efforts enough. The staff have adapted how they work beyond belief and have coped with many changes imposed quickly over the last 2 years as well as coping with absence levels and recovery work so the holiday looming will be most welcomed and needed to recharge batteries and spend time with friends and family.

I hope you all enjoy a lovely Spring break.





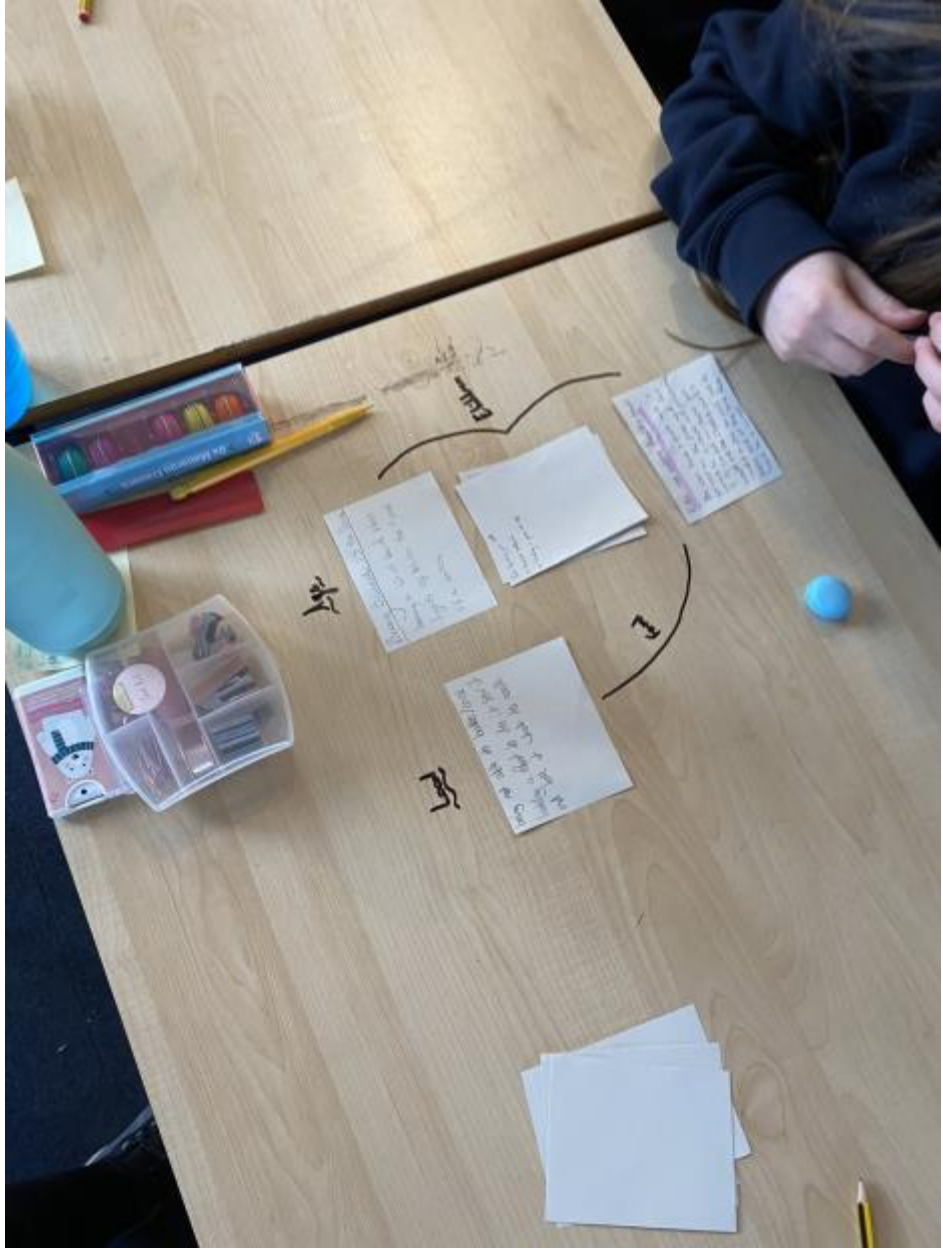










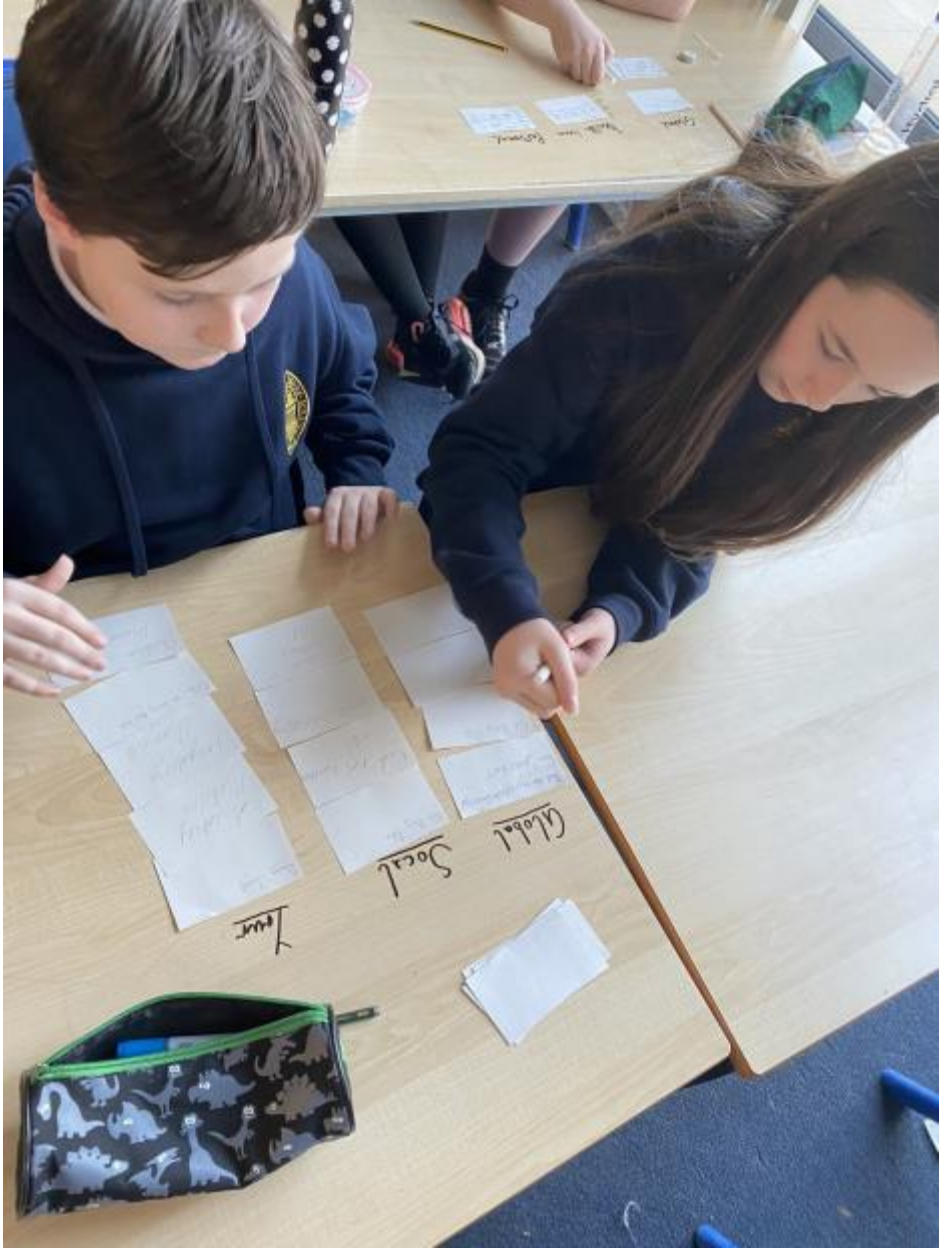










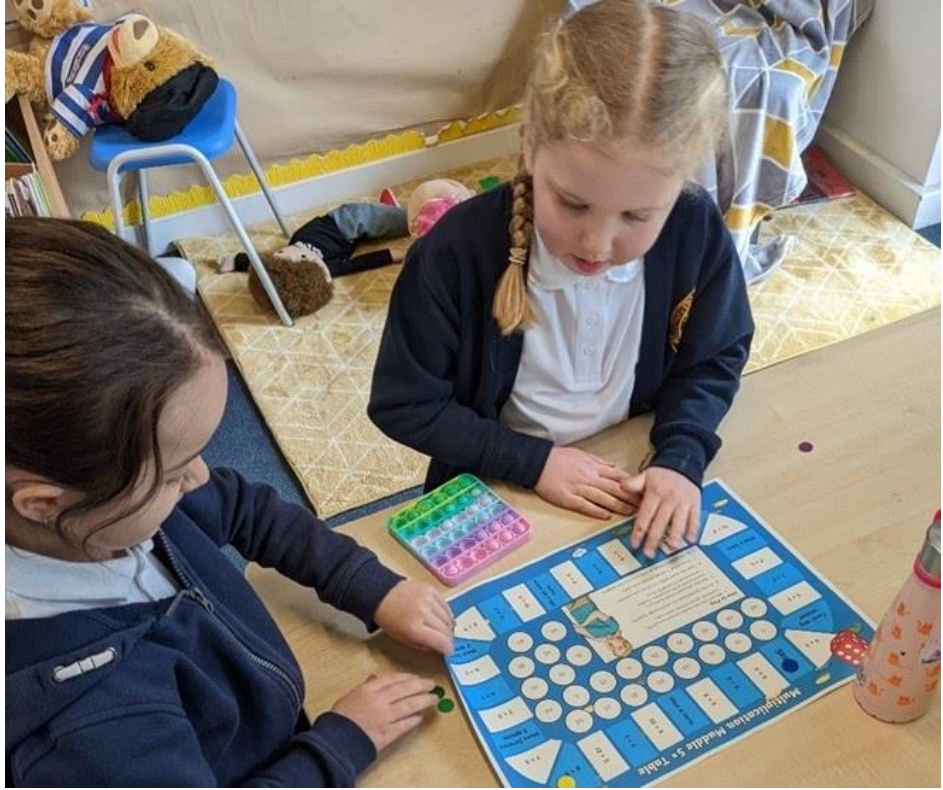




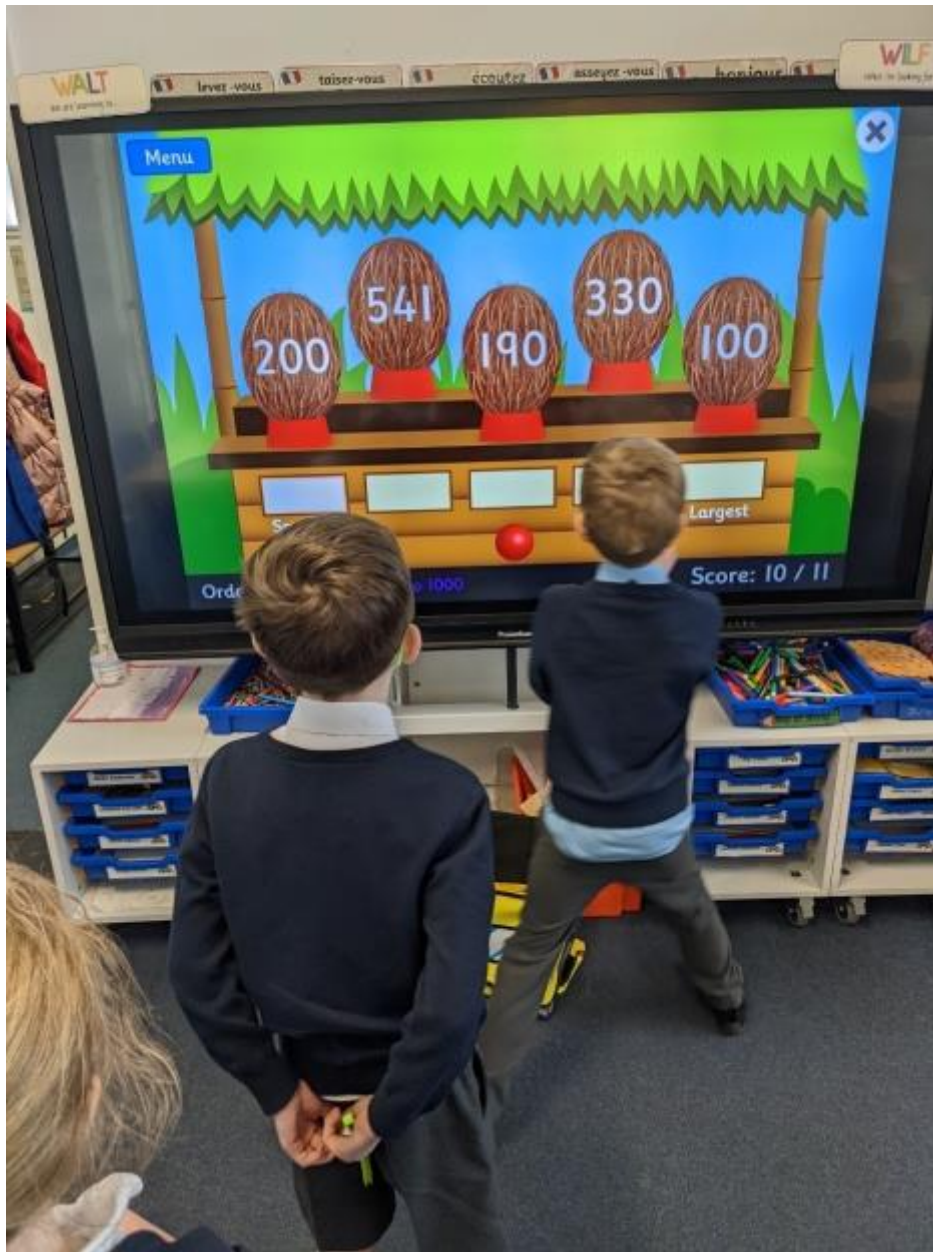


























## Social, Emotional and Mental Wellbeing: Our Nurture Hub reopens



Mr Rory Hall is settling into school as a permanent member of staff and has opened the nurture hub daily for children who prefer a quieter space with an adult presence.

Our fish tank has thrived and children enjoy feeding the fish, playing Lego, I-pad games and building models etc. We now have one set up in our Early Years Centre quiet room also.



The hub is a quiet, safe space for children who need some additional support or a time out of the busy class situation or play ground. The odd sore tummy or friend ship fall out can often be resolved by children simply talking about their worry.

We have created home help boxes for children whose parents may need some help to talk to children about anxiety, loss or change. You are welcome to borrow these.

Please contact Mrs Daubney or myself as will be happy to get these to you.

Our website<sup>2</sup> also contains a lot of helpful information and links for further support with this aspect of your child's health.

Some children may suffer from disturbed sleep and this can impact on their overall well being. Sleep Scotland are an excellent support and can be contacted directly by parents/carers for help and support if this is an issue that is affecting your child.

sleepsupport@sleepscotland.org

**0800 138 6565 Monday – Thursday 10am-4pm.**

## Parent Council



The Parent Council continue to meet to discuss the school and support us by fund raising if and when appropriate.

The pandemic has made this all the more challenging but we hope to have a face to face meeting on May 4th at 7.30 pm. This will be my last ever Parent Council meeting before my retirement at the end of June so hopefully by this time the new head teacher is appointed and the news has been shared in advance of the new school session.

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<sup>2</sup><https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/sa/allowaypsandeyc/emotional-and-mental-health-and-wellbeing/>

Whilst on the subject I must say a huge thanks to our current parent council who with the support of staff, children and friends in the community organised our Christmas Raffle which made a profit of £2062 and for selling Christmas cards £758 all from the children's all from the children's own drawings. This was a really successful fundraiser, raising our school funds. Well done everyone!

We are very grateful to everyone who donated a prize for the raffle and to everyone who purchased Christmas cards.

The funds we have raised are to go toward leaver gifts for P7, a Trim Trail for all the children to enjoy in our grounds as well as a treat for the children at the Jubilee picnic.

## Charity support

We are mindful of asking for support at a time when some of our own families require our help locally. The whole school community is obviously very aware of the charity workers supporting people of Ukraine so we will be planting and growing sun flowers which were donated to us by Mrs Taylor who is one of our support staff here and would ask that the children add to a collection for this charity work on the day of our Church Service on the final day of term.

This will go to UNICEF to support their work, as I mentioned above.



## Hot Lunch Service



Mrs Laing and the ladies continue to serve lunch to the Early Years centre, the infant and upper department and will be following the menu attached after the break.

Children are bringing their own lunch to school or ordering a lunch each morning so it is helpful if they know the menu.

At times our suppliers have not been able to meet our order and change products so there may be an odd occasion when the menu has to be changed with little notice but these incidents are rare and understandable.

The team do a great job and enjoy seeing the children enjoying their lunch times again and we hear lots of *Thank you* and *Please words* as we expect to see and hear good manners as we personally serve them each day.

All the children are back in the lunch hall now except p7 as we lack space in the current set up but after Easter they will join us as we will by that time have amended our routines and timings again. We are also expecting additional tables to arrive soon to allow them the space to join their p1 buddies over lunch time.

## School Outings/Planned Trips



Our EYC are planning on taking children to a local park and a play barn followed by a trip to Belleisle to play and then picnic.

All primary 1 children and P2M are going to Culzean Country Park on 8th June.

P2C and P2M are also going to the park on Friday, 10th June. All classes will enjoy a work shop called "The Wee Explorer" and a picnic as well as fun in the park. Unfortunately, they can not all go on the same day as the work shops are capped to 15 children and we do not have the same choice of bus companies to provide larger coaches.

P3 are visiting Culzean Country Park on Monday 6th June for a Senses workshop, picnic and park visit and P4 head to Largs Viking Centre for their Workshop/Museum visit and will have time to play on the sea front also and picnic if the weather allows.

P5 and P6 are heading to Dumfries House/ Summerlee Outdoor Museum respectively on 15th June for their own exciting activities/workshops too.

P7 are off to Inverclyde Sports Centre on Monday 9th May and will return on the afternoon of 11th May around 4pm after a residential visit.

We are also planning an end of trip outing and hope that some of the money we raise in the school show will subsidise this in part.

There will be regular visits to Rozelle Park in the new term as we will be out and about more, involved in learning in our local area.

NB .The cost of outings has escalated recently and there are fewer bus options available so these dates may be subject to change out with our control but we will do our best to keep costs as low as possible and limit spending money for the day. Please adhere to pocket money spending limits.

To celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee we are planning a picnic outdoors with games and music as well as entertainment.

This will be on Wednesday 1st June before the long weekend on 2nd June 2022. Children can bring in a special picnic lunch on the day and the parent council will also provide ice cream treats.

We will be making decorations and will be learning about the decades in the Queen's 70 year reign.

## Fair Trade Tuck Shop returns on Friday 25th March

Primary 6 D/H write to you with great news; the return of Fairtrade Tuck! We will be running a Fairtrade Tuck Shop before the Easter break as a treat for children and staff and to promote the Fairtrade ethos; ensuring a fair wage for farmers and their communities. This is not for profit but to ensure and promote Fairtrade so our costs reflect this.

Items on sale are Fairtrade and have the Fairtrade logo with some items subscribing to Coco Life (Cadbury products).

Nomo Creamy Chocolate bars\* free from dairy, gluten, egg and nut will also be available.

We have ordered the stock and will work as the shopkeepers.

Here are our products and prices:

Divine Choc Milk Orange: 80p, Divine Choc White: 80p, Divine Choc Dark: 80p, Divine Choc Salted Caramel: 80p, Divine choc Cappuccino 80p, Divine Choc Milk: 80p, Vanilla Fudge 50p, Choc Chip Cookies, 75p. Nomo Creamy Chocolate Bars 80p\*: Maltesers: 40p, Freddo Frog 15p, KitKat 20p, we will also include fresh fruit bananas, tangerines, apples at 10p each.

If this is a success then the tuck shop will open monthly as previously.



## School uniform- Dressing for the occasion



We are extremely proud of our school uniform. We would ask for your co-operation in ensuring children wear appropriate uniform to school. Thanks for your support!

We have a number of spare new and used uniform items in school –jackets, sweatshirts, new trousers, new shirts etc.

We are aware that finances can be tight for some families at the moment so we are keen that families are supported. If you could make use of any of these items, I would ask that you contact me at the school. I would happily help in a confidential, discrete manner.

We are very grateful to a local organisation who donated new uniforms so please do not be stuck.

All children now require to have a PE kit in school for PE days. We would ask that ALL parents ensure their children have a PE kit – shorts, shoes and if outdoors perhaps jogging trousers could be available on PE days.

It would be great if the little ones could try this kit on at home a few times then try putting it back in their bags before it comes into school. It should be clearly named as we already have lost property with no labels so we can not return it easily.

Children need out to play and learn as well as exercise as often as the weather allows but coats are essential as are hoods or hats please. Please label every item carefully.

Children are starting to arrive some days without coats- it is too cold yet so please ensure they bring a coat and if the weather changes they are prepared.

We have been changing children so would appreciate our stock of pants/socks/school uniform returned if you are able to do so.

PE bags will come home for washing and to check for best fit at the end of the term and need to come back in after the holiday period please. Please note PE is often outdoors so if the weather should improve in the new term then ensure sun screen is also applied if necessary.

## Loose parts play



<https://youtu.be/PFEq6Mlc490>

*1 - We are still collecting loose parts such as plastic pipe and wooden reels to encourage imaginative, open ended play in our play areas.*

*We also have lots of new resources and furniture for our infant department to encourage learning through play and provoke enquiry based learning too.*

*We would be grateful if you would ensure when you arrive with toddlers that they do not move the pieces around as we may have left them in a particular way for a reason.*

## Upcoming Events

Alloway Presents...

A Night at the Movies



Our upper department are working on a school show performance which involves the children performing on stage. This will be a department project and will be filmed and shared with parents as a little fund raising event.

Hopefully next session our live audience will be allowed again and we can plan in the way we did previously with a live band and orchestra etc however for now we have adapted our plans and skill set accordingly so p7 will also be film makers and enjoy editing and all the technical skills involved in a project like this.

Our p7 teachers wanted you to know that *throughout this term, Primary 7 have been working so hard on their Enterprise project. They formed business teams and adopted a role within their groups which highlighted their skillset. They quickly got to work designing their school show logo for this year's production, "A Night at the Movies."*

*In preparation for their Dragons' Den pitch they researched production costs, prepared a sales presentation and even created exciting, professional adverts! Last Friday, they delivered their pitches to our Dragon in a confident, professional manner. Every group was fantastic however there could only be one winner... and this year it was Top-Tops!*

*Their simple design was carefully considered to embody this year's theme whilst been cost-effective to produce. We love it and hope you do too.*

*All children are invited to bring in a white t shirt with a crew neck and P7 will print it for them. We ask for a £1 donation to pay for the printing costs and this will be their performance t shirt when they appear on stage for filming their stage/class show piece.*

*Please ensure your child has its name on the label as we will end up with 100s of t shirts as every child in the upper department is involved.*

*We bought a special machine to allow a printing project to happen this year as we try and tackle any barriers we have met due to the pandemic costs rising and making ordering goods so challenging.*

*Mrs Wylie is returning to work soon after a maternity leave so will be in school and will work with children on this printing project - they certainly are becoming great entrepreneurs.*

*Can we ask that short sleeved cotton, white T shirts are brought into school as soon as you find one that is suitable and we can get printing .*

COVID update

**C** **VID-19**  
**UPDATES**



### Children or Family Members Showing Symptoms

Where any child, or any family member in the household is showing any COVID symptoms such as a high temperature, a new, continuous cough, loss or change to sense of smell or taste, parents should take advice from NHS Inform<sup>3</sup> and book a test. If you don't have access to the internet, please contact the helpline on: **0800 028 2816**

The child should **NOT** under any circumstance, attend school and should self-isolate for the current specified period. The school should be informed immediately.

### What to do if the coronavirus (Covid-19) test is negative?

If the test result is negative, children can return to school as long as they feel well enough to do so, and have been fever free without the use of medication for 48 hours. Self-isolation is no longer required. We would ask that parents keep us fully informed.

### What to do if the coronavirus (Covid-19) test is positive?

If the test result is positive, your child **should not return to school** and you should follow the advice from the Test and Protect Team<sup>4</sup>. In this case, it is vital that parents contact the school immediately.

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<sup>3</sup><https://www.nhsinform.scot/campaigns/test-and-protect>

<sup>4</sup><https://www.nhsinform.scot/symptoms-and-self-help>

## **Responsibility of Parents re Health & Wellbeing**

The procedures the school would follow in the case of a suspected case of COVID are clear. For this reason, it is important that parents keep the school fully updated with the reason for all absence from school. Where we have two or more confirmed cases of COVID-19 within 14 days, or an increase in absences due to suspected or confirmed cases of COVID-19, we would make prompt contact with the local Health Protection Team and local authority. Where we have increased rates of absence due to respiratory illnesses, we will also contact our local Health Protection Team for further advice. It is **VITAL** that parents keep the school fully informed about any changes to the health and wellbeing of any child or member of the household.

## **Children Taking Unwell at School**

Any child who takes unwell at school would be cared for in the normal way. We expect that there will continue to be children who report feeling sick, have a sore stomach, a cold, sore throat, headache etc. and parents or one of their emergency contacts will be called as normal. Where a child is displaying COVID symptoms and begins to feel unwell at school, parents will also be called and asked to attend **immediately**. The child will need to be removed from the class and will be supervised in our identified, isolated area by a member of staff until the parent arrives. The school has facilities to take children's temperature as a precaution. Where there is growing concern about the health of any child or staff member, an ambulance would be called. All parents must follow national guidance, including testing.

It is important that we continue to look at the facts and accept that we are all trying to do the right thing and not ask or approach anyone else to discuss their personal details or circumstances whilst remaining vigilant. Please try to ignore rumours which can lead to upset and misinformation – we will share any information we have that you need.

## **Use of Face Coverings**

The Scottish Government has issued new guidance to schools about the use of face coverings, which came into operation on Monday 31 August. These measures were put in place as precautions and are based on the latest scientific advice. Face coverings are not generally required in classrooms or other learning environments.

In primary schools this guidance applies only to children using school transport and all these parents were called to discuss so that children could be prepared.

They are not required to wear face coverings at any other time but may choose to do so. In this situation, it is really important that young people know how to put on, remove, store and dispose of face coverings safely, to avoid inadvertently increasing the risks of transmission. Please go over these key points with your child. We will be reinforcing them regularly at school too.

- Face coverings should not be shared with others.
- Before putting on or removing the face covering, hands should be cleaned by washing with soap and water or hand sanitiser.

- The face covering should cover the nose, mouth and chin.
- They should not touch the front of the mask or pull it under the chin.
- When temporarily storing a face covering (e.g. during classes), it should be placed in a washable, sealed bag or container.
- Avoid placing the face covering on surfaces, due to the possibility of contamination.
- Re-usable face coverings should be washed after each day of use in school.
- Disposable face coverings must be disposed of safely and hygienically in a bin (sadly, we can see these starting to litter our town).

## School Holidays



We close on Friday 1st April for the Spring/Easter break at 2.30 pm and return again on Tuesday 19th April for the term ahead which finishes on Friday 29th June for the summer holidays.

We are closed on Monday 2nd May for a holiday and there is also an in-service day on Thursday 5th May so only staff will be in school. Children return the next day on Friday 6th May.

I believe our halls are to be used as a polling station on 5th May also. Please do not access the class rooms while you attend to vote.

You can find all school holiday dates for this session, as well as next session here<sup>5</sup>.

Thankyou all for your continued support. I hope the sun shines over Easter and you all enjoy the outdoors when you can and that you and your families all remain safe and well.

*Karen Butler*

## Dates for diaries

- 1 April - Church Visit ( can opt out for religious reasons). School closed 2.30pm
- 19 April - School reopens for term 4
- 25 April - Curriculum flyers issued /on web site
- 29 April- Final payments on I pay for P7 Inverclyde Trip \*
- 2 May - Local Holiday
- 4 May - school closed at 3pm /parent council meeting
- 5 May - In service Day for staff
- 6 May - Pupils return
- 9 May - P7 to Inverclyde Residential Trip
- 11 May - P7 return 4pm approx.
- 12 May - visit from EYC children from other centres
- 20 May - Child Smile in school
- 23 May - Tempest Photographer for P7/P1 and 6pm parent induction in hall for new P1 intake.
- 27 May - Reports issued in bags
- 30 May - Local holiday /school closed
- 31 May- Pupils return
- 1 June- Parent appointments and Jubilee Picnic
- 2/3 June -Queen's Jubilee Bank Holiday school closed
- 6 June - P3 and P4 outings
- 7 June - School show celebrated and enjoyed in school /link sent out to parents and carers
- 8 June - P1 and P2M outing
- 10 June - P2C and P2McN outing

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<sup>5</sup><https://beta.south-ayrshire.gov.uk/school-holidays>

13 June - Sports Day

14 June - Bump Up day

14/15 June - Transition Days for P7

15 June - P5 and P6 outings

16 June - Nursery sports

17 June - Alternative date for Primary Sports if rained off !

23 June - Primary 7 leavers' service at 11am - parents invited to attend if guidance allows.

29 June - Final Church Service /Close for summer holiday.

NB. We do have some other arrangements for year groups /classes. As always we will share when confirmed.

## Communication

Our school website<sup>6</sup> and Twitter<sup>7</sup> pages are both regularly updated. These are really quick and easy ways to keep up to date with school life.

Newsletters also help you keep up to date and our Blog is also very current.

Class teachers will have offered you the use of the See saw app also. Staff will issue some class information using the See saw communication app.

We will text you using our school system but this is a one way message system and of course we will regularly email you but we do depend on you supplying us with the correct, up to date contact details and numbers.

We are a Rights Respecting School and do not appreciate discussions around any of our children, staff or parents on any social media platforms.

We do **not** have a Facebook Page.

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<sup>6</sup><https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/sa/allowaypsandeyc/>

<sup>7</sup><https://twitter.com/AllowayPrimary>

