



Alloway Primary - Newsletter September 2022

A super start to the new session



Dear Parents and Carers,

We have had such a great start to the new term. It has been lovely to welcome all the children back and see them settle into their new classes. We have also welcomed new children to join the school and it has been lovely to get to know them. I am so proud to be the Head Teacher at Alloway Primary and have appreciated the support that I have had from our school community. I am excited about what lies ahead for us. It has been lovely to welcome new staff into the team this term. Mrs Lauren Miller our new Depute Head Teacher is such a welcome addition to the team and she is looking forward to getting to know you all. Mrs Miller is leading our Early Years Centre on a day to day basis along with having a wider remit where she is involved in supporting me with leadership of the school. She will be relaunching our extra curricular activities soon as well as leading our Developing the Young Workforce initiatives within the school. Our Principal Teacher team this term is made up of Mrs Hopper who is leading the infant department and will be coordinating infant pupil support. She also has a remit for nurture across the school. Mrs Hopper works Wednesday - Friday. Mrs Stewart is leading the upper department, with a focus on coordinating upper pupil support. She also has a remit for Literacy and Assessment and teaches 0.3 in our P5 stage. Miss Rainey has taken on a part time acting Principal Teacher post where she will support leadership within the upper department as well as teaching Primary 7. She has taken on leadership of digital learning and Technologies across the school. All members of our Senior Leadership Team have a wide remit across the school to make an impact on learning, teaching, assessment and pastoral support. They all have a pastoral role in the school and will support pupils and parents alike.

We very much look forward to getting back to normal now we are not following our strict COVID protocols. Thank you to everyone for following our drop off and pick up routines. We really appreciate it. I would continue to ask everyone to consider safe parking in and around the school. This is vitally important to ensure the safety for all. It is also important to us to have good relationships with our neighbours so we really appreciate considerate parking around drive ways. We would also ask people to be vigilant on our pavements so to avoid congestion and ensure our children are safe when walking to school.

Children have enjoyed our new school lunch menus. We are getting used to everyone being back in the dinner hall and the children are enjoying the choice in the menu again. We would really appreciate it if parents and carers in Primary 6 and 7 could keep their child's lunch account topped up. At the moment we are using IPay but will be moving as a local authority to Parent Pay during this session. More information will follow.

I hope that you all keep safe and well. Thank you for phoning in any absence to the school office as per our school procedures.

It is hard to believe that the September weekend is almost upon us. We will stop on Thursday 15th September at 3pm and start back on Tuesday 20th September at 9am. We close for our October holidays on Friday 14th October, with an in-service day on Monday 24th October and the children return on Tuesday 25th October.

Thank you all for your support so far. We look forward to what the rest of this session has in store.

Yours sincerely,

Fiona

Mrs Fiona Meney

Head Teacher

School Vision and Values

Our school vision is very important to us and drives us forward to ensure all children are supported and nurtured to achieve their full potential. At Alloway Primary we believe every child should enjoy and be challenged by the curriculum we offer.

At Alloway Primary School we aim to develop every child to “be the best they can be” by providing high quality learning and teaching throughout a broad and relevant curriculum. We believe the development of the whole child to be vital.

VISION

To create a safe, happy, caring and inclusive school where children, staff, parents and visitors feel valued, are encouraged to succeed, are treated with respect, enjoy learning and actively work together to be the best they can be.

Our assemblies have restarted this session on Monday mornings. We have been looking at our school values of Respect, Cooperation, Equity, Responsibility, Honesty and Kindness. These values are important to us and we encourage everyone in our school community to use these values too.



Roald Dahl Day



On **Tuesday 13th September 2022**, our school will be taken over by a whole host of mischief-making Mr and Mrs Twits, Oompa-Loompas and Matildas!

It's all part of **Roald Dahl Day**, where children are invited to come to school dressed as their favourite Roald Dahl character, or wear his favourite colour- **yummy yellow!** for a wonderfully fun and creative day. Children will take part in a range of activities throughout the day to learn about and celebrate the life and works of Roald Dahl. Children can also bring in their favourite Roald Dahl book to share with the class.

Please do not go to any expense in dressing up, we would encourage children to be as creative as they can be with items they already have at home.

We look forward to our celebration of Roald Dahl and showcasing the children's creativity!

Supporting charities



September is Childhood Cancer Awareness month and we would like mark this by taking part in Wear it Gold day on **23rd September**. Children can, if they wish wear something yellow or gold. This can be as small as badge or hairband or t-shirt or even make their own gold rosette. We do not want anyone to

have to go and buy something for this it is just a way to show our support. We will have donation buckets in each class if children wish to make a small donation of 50p, every little helps. We would be donating our collection to Whiteley's Retreat who work so hard within in our local community to support families both locally and much further afield. This is a cause very close to our school's heart. Our Primary 2 teacher Mrs McLeod is going to be running the Inverness Marathon soon in support of this too. I know that children can have very different experiences of this topic so we will be focusing on the very good work done by Whiteley's Retreat.

Our last collection at our Summer Service raised £162.00 for SANDS. We are also very proud of Mrs Hopper who will be running the London Marathon in support of this charity, in memory of her daughter, Eva.

We wish Mrs Hopper and Mrs McLeod all the very best as they take on their individual marathons at opposite ends of the country.

Harvest Festival



We will be celebrating our Harvest Festival on Friday 14th October in school. We look forward to coming together as a school to mark this occasion. If you are able to we would ask that children donate to the foodbank. This is what we would normally do at Harvest time. This year our some of our upper primary committees will be taking the foodbank donations and making up Harvest bags to give out to our local community. The bags will be available in Alloway Public Library for collection from 23rd October for 2 weeks. We would encourage anyone to lift a bag and pass it to someone who would appreciate this. After 2 weeks we will box up any items that are left and donate these to the our local foodbank.

Welcoming parents and carers into the school



We are very pleased that we can now invite parents into our school for workshops and events. Primary 7 parents enjoyed a workshop last week with staff where they found out more about what happens in this special transition year. Thank you to everyone who attended. All stages will be offering a parental workshop across the session. More details to follow.

We are delighted to invite P1-7 parents into school on **Thursday 15th September, where will hold an open afternoon.** This will allow parents the opportunity to come into see their child in school and find out more about what they have been learning. This was always a lovely opportunity for parents and we are so pleased to be able to open our doors again in this way. This will be a great opportunity to see your child's class and meet their teacher. There will be a further opportunity in November for a more formal conversation with your child's teacher during our first Parents' Evening.

Some of our children have never experienced this before and some haven't been part of this for a very long time so we are very aware that a very busy classroom may be somewhat daunting to some children. In order to help make this a valuable experience for all children we would ask that adults come in one at a time to ensure the classrooms don't get too busy. Both parents are more than welcome to swap in and out and this should be of help to parents with children in multiple classes. The children will have work to show you and will be engaging in tasks over the afternoon. It is very important that all children stay in class at all times as the school will be so busy. Children should not be taken home early or taken to visit sibling classes. Class teachers will talk to children about this prior to the afternoon. We really appreciate your support with this as we ease the children back to this type of experience.

Our janitors will open the main school gate in Upper Crofts at 1.30pm. Parents should enter via this gate and walk round to your child's class door. Parents should enter the school via the cloakroom door. There will be a sign in/out sheet in the class and a QR code survey that we would kindly ask that you complete. Open afternoon will run from 1.30-2.45pm. Parents are welcome to come and go during this time.

Our Early Years Centre will operate Stay and Play sessions from 26th -30th September where parents will be able to come and stay and play with their child. EYC staff will meet parents for a Care Plan appointment from 12th-15th September. Please sign up in EYC corridor if you haven't done so already.

We cannot wait to open our doors again and share our learning with you. Looking forward to seeing you on 15th September.

A further opportunity will be found on **13th October at 6pm** where we will share our learning in the school via the **School Curricular Workshop**. This event is for parents only and will give an general overview of our school priorities and give you a deeper insight into learning at Alloway Primary. There will be a presentation first then the school hall will be set up with learning stalls from every class where teachers will showcase learning at each stage. More information will follow.

School Improvement Planning

This session we are continuing with Year 2 of our School Improvement Plan with a focus on developing in Literacy, Numeracy, Health and Wellbeing and Social Subjects. All school staff have signed up to an improvement plan group and we look forward to seeing these develop across the year.

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| <p>1</p> <p>During assessment and evaluation in Literacy, numeracy, health and wellbeing, we will continue to focus on writing.</p>  | <p>To ensure all children have access to high quality learning experiences in handwriting.</p>  | <p>To ensure high quality teaching and learning of literacy and handwriting for all children.</p> | <p>To ensure quality assessment of learning through a variety of approaches in order to meet attainment.</p> | <p>To engage and support parents in learning opportunities in order to help to support attainment.</p> | <p>Share progress</p> <p>To ensure teacher confidence in teaching for understanding approaches in practice in collaboration with all primary and secondary schools to learning English.</p> |
| <p>2</p> <p>Read children's books to further understanding the 4MAT system.</p>  | <p>To read children's literature and explore in the most relevant themes with a particular focus on social and emotional well-being and learning.</p> | <p>To ensure to focus on using the 4MAT system in order to meet attainment.</p> | <p>To support children's social and personal well-being through the 4MAT system.</p> | <p>To ensure teacher confidence in teaching for understanding approaches in practice in collaboration with all primary and secondary schools to learning English.</p> | <p>Share progress</p> <p>To ensure teacher confidence in teaching for understanding approaches in practice in collaboration with all primary and secondary schools to learning English.</p> |
| <p>3</p> <p>To ensure all children and young people have access to high quality, meaningful learning experiences.</p>  | <p>Read children's literature and explore in the most relevant themes with a particular focus on social and emotional well-being and learning.</p> | <p>Quality teacher learning experiences which ensure an increase in pupil attainment.</p> | <p>Use children's social skills of empathy, mutual respect and respect for others.</p> | <p>Teachers have a deeper understanding of the impact of the 4MAT system on children's learning, play and engagement, which the school department.</p> | <p>Share progress</p> <p>To ensure teacher confidence in teaching for understanding approaches in practice in collaboration with all primary and secondary schools to learning English.</p> |

School Meals and Clothing Grant

Free school meals and clothing grant - South Ayrshire Council (south-ayrshire.gov.uk)¹

Click above for further information about applying for a free school meal or clothing grant.

Pupil Voice - School Committees



¹<https://south-ayrshire.gov.uk/free-school-meals>

This session we are relaunching our school committees in P4-7. This is a super opportunity for children to contribute to the work and life of the school. We will be running the following committees and look forward to seeing their input across the school.

Committee List 2022

Dyslexia and Inclusive Schools

Digital Champions

Sport Leaders

Developing the Young Workforce

Eco

Pupil Council

Rights Respecting School

Modern Languages

Social Awareness

Nurture

Junior Road Safety Officers

Fairtrade

We also look forward to starting our programme of wider achievement and clubs soon. More information will follow.

We are delighted to hear the music of the school orchestra filling the school now on Friday afternoons. It is lovely to have our music specialists back in school. We look forward to their future performances.

A love for learning!





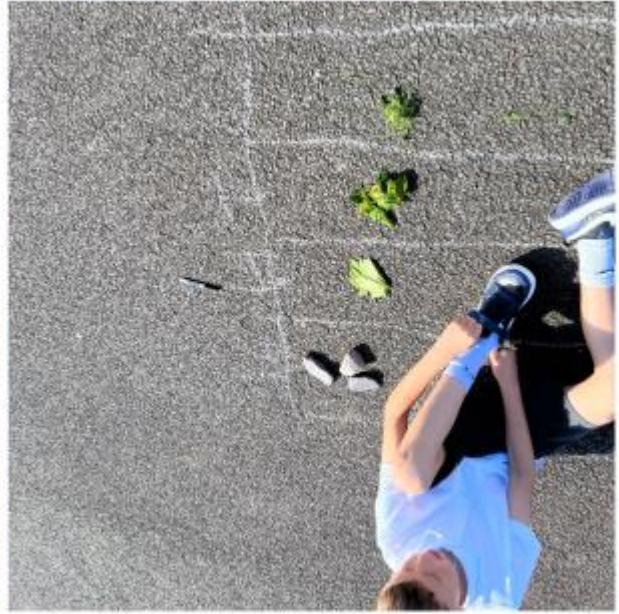
3 times table and place value!













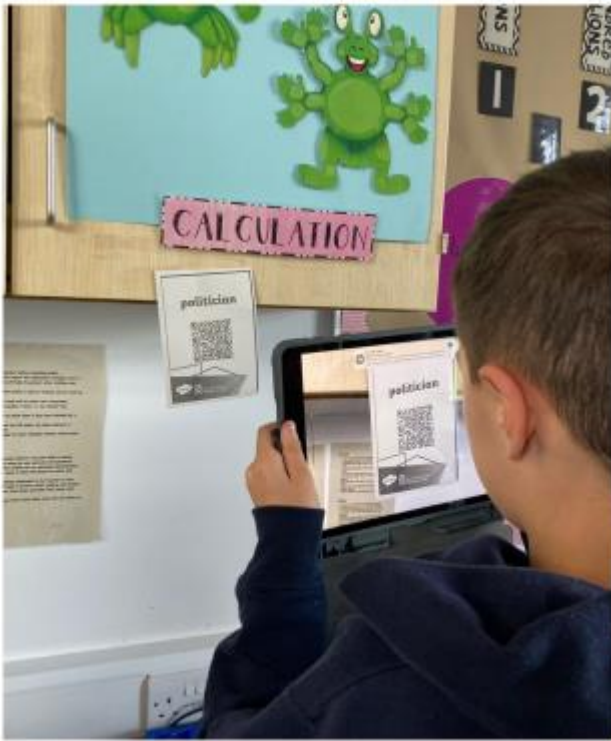
















Communication

Our school website² and Twitter³ 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.

²<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/sa/allowaypsandeyc/>

³<https://twitter.com/AllowayPrimary>

We continue to use the Expressions App for communication and 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.

