



December 2022 Newsletter

Alloway Primary and EYC

Christmas is coming!

Dear Parents and Carers,

The year is disappearing quickly with Christmas just around the corner. The advent calendars have been opened! This is such an exciting time in school and we are looking forward to a more normal festive season. We have lots of exciting things in our calendar for the children to enjoy.

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 driveways. Please do not park on the pavement or double park. 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. Ayrshire Roads Alliance have been contacted to support. Our Campus Cop has been out to support also. Our Junior Road Safety Officers committee are also looking at ways to promote safe parking.

Parents' Evening was a great success. Teachers really appreciated the chance to meet with parents. Primary 4W parents' evening will be rescheduled soon now Mrs Wylie has returned to work. I will be in touch with P4W parents directly. Huge thanks to our P7 helpers who assisted teachers with the running of the evening.

It has been brought to my attention that some families may not be receiving school emails or Expressions notifications. Please contact the school office directly if you are aware that you are not

receiving our communications to allow us to rectify this for you. We will send out our letters via the Expressions app/or email for those without. We are going to create a Communication policy in collaboration with the Parent Council. This will be with you in Term 3. It is important to us that we streamline our communications to make sure that all parents are kept in touch.

We are very aware of increasing costs in society and increasing financial demands on families. We always take this into consideration when planning school outings as we don't want this to be an additional burden on families. We try to balance this along with giving children a great school experience. We always try to give as much notice as possible for any payments and try to find ways to keep costs down where possible. I would encourage families to contact me directly should they wish to discuss this. I am happy to help and support families where we can. We are very mindful of the pressure families are under just now. We know in the past parents have chosen to give teachers a gift at Christmas. Although this was appreciated, it is certainly not expected, our staff do not want to cause any more pressure on families at this time. This was discussed recently at our Parent Council AGM. Many parents have chosen to give to the Night Before Christmas Campaign. Huge thanks to our Parent Council for organising this. We are very grateful to this charity who provides support to some of our community. Please go onto their website to find out more. If you would like to discuss this with me please contact me directly. Night Before Christmas – Our charitable purpose is the prevention or relief of poverty.¹

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.

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

¹<https://nightbeforechristmas.co.uk/>

Dates for your diary



Please note these key diary dates. In some cases we will send out further information.

8th Dec 2022	P7 Party evening (rearranged date)
12th Dec 2022	Infant Nativity Dress Rehearsal (1pm in church - more information to follow)
13th Dec 2022	Infant Nativity (in church 6.30pm - more information to follow)
14th Dec 2022	Infant Nativity (in church 6.30pm - more information to follow) / Nursery Nativity am
15th Dec 2022	P1-3 Gaiety /P6 Christmas Party*
16th Dec 2022	P4-7 Gaiety
19th Dec 2022	EYC and P1/2 Christmas Party
20th Dec 2022	P3 Christmas Party / P7 Belmont Cluster Party (evening)
21st Dec 2022	P4/5 Christmas Party
22nd Dec 2022	Church Service / close 2.30pm*

*change of day due to SAC holidays changing

Christmas Parties

Christmas Party Arrangements

Christmas Parties – School

Thursday 8th December 2022	P7 (evening)	7.00 – 8.30 pm (rearranged date)
Thursday 15th December 2022	P6	1.30 – 3.00 pm (rearranged date)
Monday 19th December 2022	P1/2	1.30 - 3.00 pm

Tuesday 20th December 2022 P3 1.30 – 3.00 pm

Wednesday 21st December 2022 P4/5 1.30 – 3.00 pm

Children can come home at lunchtime to get changed for their Christmas parties. If this is the case, children should be collected from their cloakroom entrances at 12.00pm but must be returned for 1pm using the main front door. Please note there will be no crossing patrollers on duty during lunch time. If children are staying in school all day they can either come dressed in their party clothes or bring them with them to get changed at lunchtime in school. We had to rearrange the P7 party due to the addition of the Belmont P7 Party on 20.12.22. Please see previous letter for further details. We also had to rearrange the P6 party due to the school now closing on 22nd December at 2.30pm. Please complete the slip already sent home to let us know if children are going home to get changed.

Christmas Parties - EYC

Monday 19th December

Children should come dressed in their party clothes in the morning. Parents are welcome to come at 2.20pm in the hope that we get a special visitor to the EYC.

It's an exciting time and we look forward to the children having a great time!



Christmas Lunch

This year Christmas lunches will be served on Friday, 9th December 2022. We are looking forward to having a lovely Christmas lunch together.

CHRISTMAS MENU

Roast Turkey & Pigs in blankets/ Steak & Sausage Pie/ Tomato & Mascarpone Pasta with Vegetable Balls

Roast Potatoes/ Carrot Batons and Peas

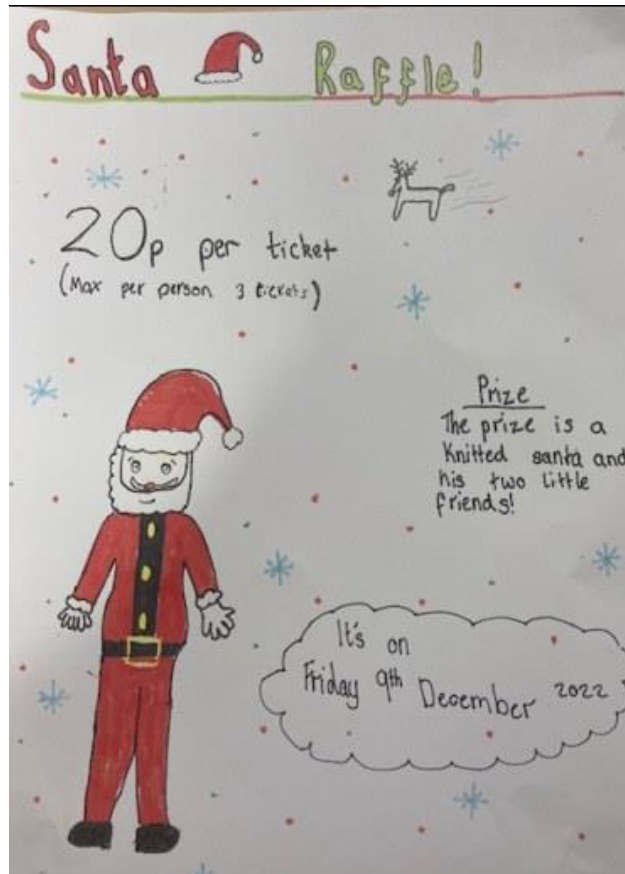
Strawberry and Vanilla Ice cream Tub

or

Chocolate and Vanilla Ice cream Tub

We were given a very kind donation of a beautiful knitted Santa. We are very grateful to Mrs Carswell for this lovely gift. Our School House Captains have decided to hold a special raffle on the day of the Christmas lunch to raise funds for the school. Raffle tickets will be available on the day for 20p.





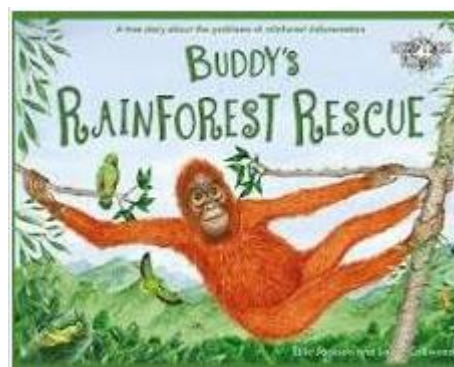
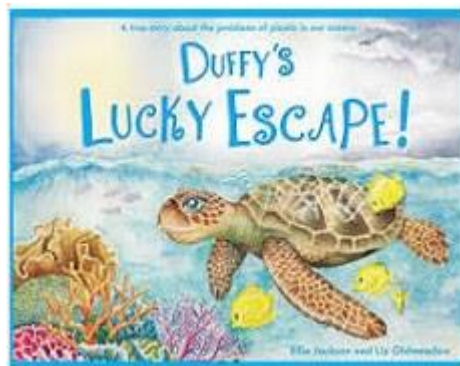
Nativity

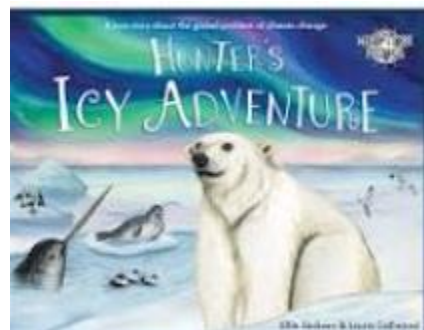
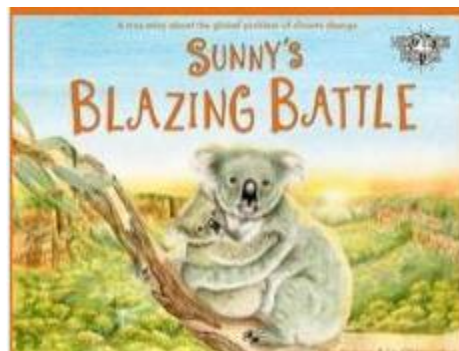
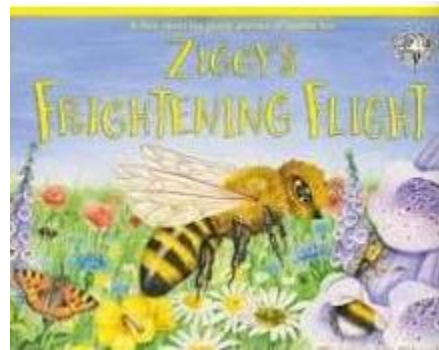
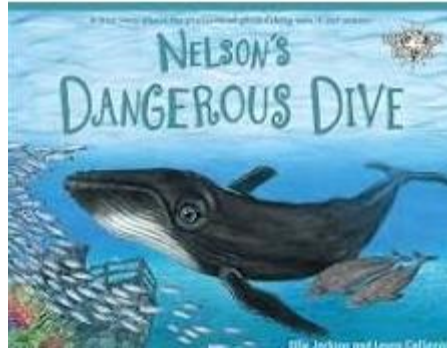
Our Nativity practices are well underway, and we are so impressed with how well our P1-3 pupils are doing with these. We look forward to welcoming our P1-3 families to enjoy the performance at Alloway Parish Church on Tuesday 13th and Wednesday 14th December. Information regarding tickets will be with you very soon.



Eco Visitors

We were very lucky recently at Assembly to have some visitors to talk to us about Climate Change. One of our parents, Mrs Smith, came to talk to both assemblies about Climate Change. We found this really interesting as we were already learning about COP 27 at Assembly. Huge thanks to Mrs Smith for sharing her knowledge with us. The next week we had visitors from the Ayrshire Lions. They spoke to us about being Eco Friendly and have kindly gifted the school some lovely Eco picture books.





St Andrews Ukraine Concert - Rotary Club

Mrs Meney and Mr O'Connell had the pleasure of accompanying our string ensemble on 19th November when they performed at the Rotary Club St Andrew's Concert. The children played so well, with many this being their debut performance. We were so proud of them. Everyone was very humbled by the

performance of the Ukrainian Choir. Our Ukrainian friends were very thankful to South Ayrshire Council and the community of Ayr for making them feel so welcome. We were delighted to support such a worthy cause.



Extra Curricular Activities

Our extra-curricular activities are now up and running at lunch/after school and we would like to say a huge thank you to staff and parents who have volunteered to deliver these opportunities. The activities on offer for our pupils include Zumba, football, funky fitness, chess, reading, mindfulness and choir. As the session progresses, more clubs will be offered. We will be working closely with Ayr Rugby Club across the session to provide additional opportunities.

We have been working alongside Active Schools and had linked up with Belmont Academy to provide additional opportunities for children to engage in activities led by Belmont Sports Leaders. We hope to provide opportunities for our upper primary pupils to take on lead roles in delivering clubs, and further information will follow.

Sporting teams

Huge thanks to Mr Hall who is running a variety of football teams this session for P6/7. We are very grateful to him for volunteering to run this and to Mrs Miller who is supporting him. He has been so impressed with all the children who have taken part and represented their school. Training sessions are also going well. Thanks too to Mr Gribben who has been running P5 football sessions. The children have really enjoyed this.



Thanks also to Mrs McCarrell who organised and supported a swim team who took part in the SAST swimming gala. The children swam so well and proudly represented their school. Well done to all our sporting stars!





Special visitors

All children in the school and EYC enjoyed a special visit from Santa's Reindeer! They stayed all day and the children had fun meeting them, feeding them and finding out some Reindeer facts! They brought some Christmas spirit with them.



Remembrance Day

Our Primary 7 children led a beautiful remembrance service on 11th November. They conducted the service with great respect. It was our privilege to welcome P7 families and member of the local community too to join with us. They had researched 'The Alloway Boys' who are remembered on our school plaque. We would love to thank Mrs Hoyle who supported the children with this task.



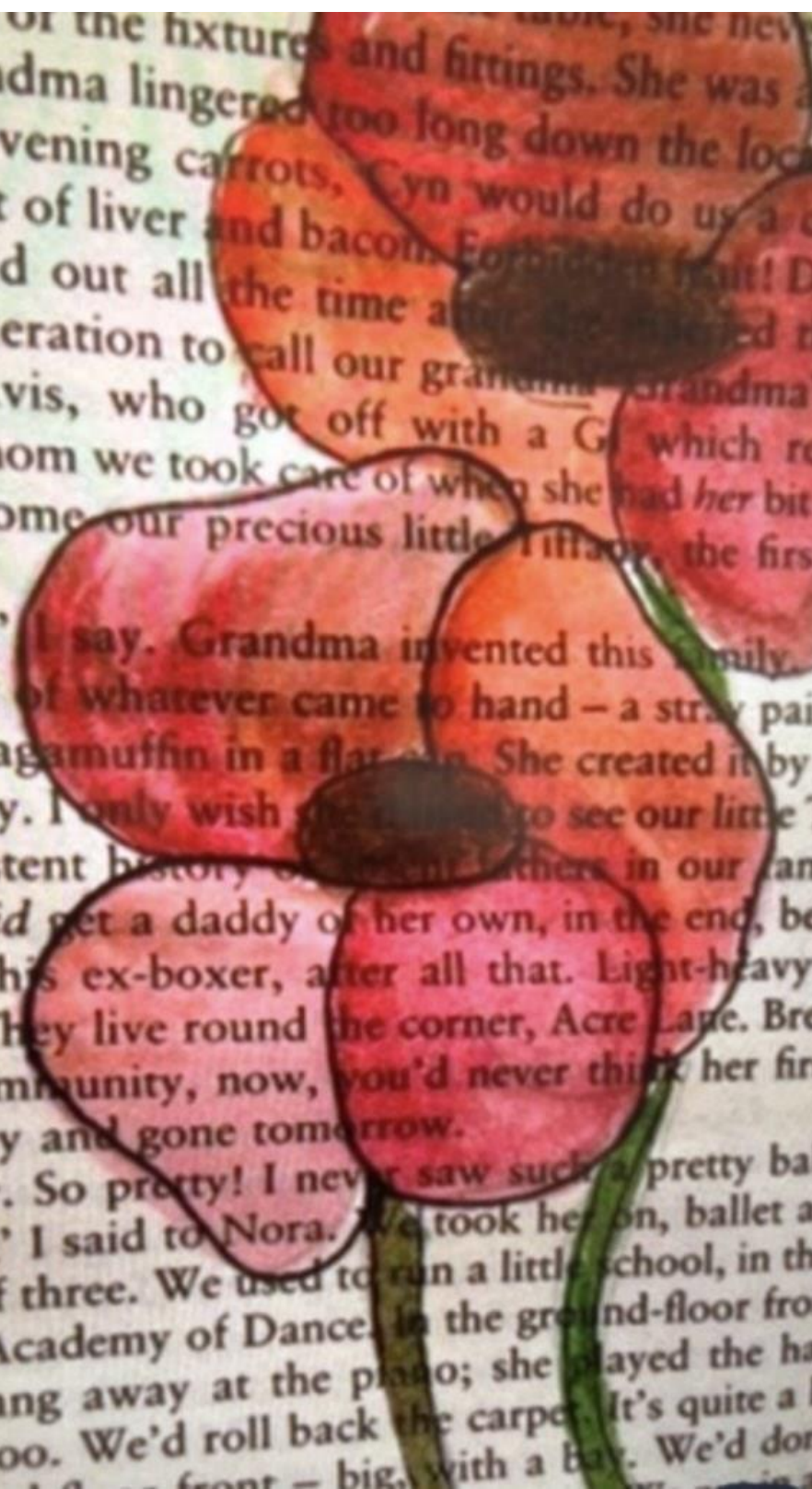




...one of the fixtures and fittings. She was a breath
If Grandma lingered too long down the local and
ate the evening carrots, Cyn would do us a couple
ops, a bit of liver and bacon. Forbidden fruit! Delish.
ere in and out all the time and I loved that ca
cond generation to call our grandma 'Grandma'. It wa
dest, Mavis, who got off with a G which resulted
renda, whom we took care of when she had her bit of trou
rought home our precious little Tiffany, the first Black
amily.

'Family,' I say. Grandma invented this family. She pu
ether out of whatever came to hand - a stray pair of or
abes, a ragamuffin in a flat cap. She created it by sheer f
personality. I only wish she could see our little Tiffany
s a persistent history of absent fathers in our family, al
Tiffany *did* get a daddy of her own, in the end, because I
married this ex-boxer, after all that. Light-heavyweight.
Baptist. They live round the corner, Acre Lane. Brenda's a
of the community, now, you'd never think her first fello
here today and gone tomorrow.

Tiffany. So pretty! I never saw such a pretty baby. 'Bo
the stage,' I said to Nora. We took her on, ballet and tap,
the age of three. We used to run a little school, in those day
Brixton Academy of Dance, in the ground-floor front. Our
would bang away at the piano; she played the harmoniu
church, too. We'd roll back the carpet. It's quite a lovely r
front - big, with a bay. We'd done it up in a big mit





Children In Need

Our Pupil Council decided to raise money for Children in Need. The children in the school enjoyed wearing their PJs. They also enjoyed the special Pudsey cakes and guess the sweetie jar. They raised £694.82. A huge well done to the Pupil Council.















School Uniform Recycling

Our Eco Committee have set up a school uniform recycling centre in the Alloway Public Library. We have been learning about reusing and recycling and have dedicated an area in the library to reuse and recycle our school uniform. There is a drop off box for any good quality school uniform to be deposited. Our Eco Committee will sort this onto rails. Our school community are more than welcome to take uniforms from these rails. Anyone is welcome to use this. Please help yourselves.

Our Parent Council have also set up a Christmas Jumper and Party dress exchange. Please feel free to help yourselves.

Every small change is a step in the right direction.

ALLOWAY PARENT COUNCIL PRESENTS...

new to you Christmas Jumpers

IF YOU HAVE ANY OUTGROWN OR UNUSED CHRISTMAS JUMPERS OR PARTYWEAR, SIMPLY POP IT INTO OUR DONATION BOX AT ALLOWAY LIBRARY BEFORE FRIDAY 18TH NOVEMBER.

EVERYONE IS WELCOME TO SELECT A 'NEW TO YOU' ITEM, WHETHER YOU HAVE DONATED OR NOT, FROM MONDAY 21ST NOVEMBER UNTIL STOCKS LAST.

Monday 21st November
Alloway Library

The jumpers and partywear are free for everyone!



Additional Support Services for children and families

- South Ayrshire Council provides a Young Carers service for children who have caring responsibilities. More information can be found in the following website - South Ayrshire Young Carers Service - Health and Social Care Partnership (south-ayrshire.gov.uk)²
- Belmont Family First are based in Belmont Academy and provide targeted support for children and families from P6 onwards. Please see their attached parent leaflet for further information. Belmont-Family-First-Family-Document-Final.pdf (glowscotland.org.uk)³
- The Exchange Counselling Service is a targeted service for children who may be struggling emotionally. More information can be found on their website. Primary | Exchange Counselling (exchange-counselling.com)⁴
- Turn to Us is a website to help families find appropriate financial support during these challenging times. <https://www.turn2us.org.uk/>

Please speak with Mrs Meney directly if you need any further information about any of these services or you feel your child/family would benefit from them.

Pupil Voice - School Committees



Committees

Our committees are making excellent progress driving forward change within our school. The Eco Committee and Rights Respecting School Committee recently joined forces to have a big litter pick around our school grounds. They hope to take this project out into the community in the New Year. Similarly, the Nurture Committee got to work ensure our school environment was tidy, welcoming and productive for learning.

As part of our World Cup focus, our DYWF Committee and Sports Leaders have an exciting opportunity in the coming weeks. They are lucky to be joining forces with Ayr United Football Club to learn about the different jobs within football. Our Sports Leaders hope to bring back some exciting drills to share throughout PE lessons.

Please visit our committee pages on our website for more information and updates!

²<https://hscp.south-ayrshire.gov.uk/article/35908/South-Ayrshire-Young-Carers-Service>

³<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/sa/public/allowaypsandeyc/uploads/sites/10359/2022/11/24162224/Belmont-Family-First-Family-Document-Final.pdf>

⁴<https://www.exchange-counselling.com/primary>

Parent Council

The Parent Council is a great opportunity to become more involved and get to know more about your child's school and the environment for learning. It is a separately constituted group who are expected to work in close partnership with the school and the local authority. The Parent Council works with Head Teacher in partnership to discuss whole school priorities and whole school developments. The Parent Council meetings identify ways of working together to help parents to make the most out of learning opportunities in the home and community. The Parent Council also supports the school through fundraising. Parent Council meetings dates will be sent out soon. These meetings are there to discuss whole school working and Mrs Meney will provide a school update. Any individual matters or matters pertaining to individual pupils should be directed to the class teacher or senior leadership, rather than the Parent Council. We look forward to welcoming parents to join this group. If you would like some more information please contact Laura, Catriona, Michelle or Julie. The Parent Council have kindly donated money towards the panto buses and party foods. Huge thanks for this.

allowayparentcouncil@gmail.com

Office bearers:

Laura Cameron (chair), Catriona Andrews (vice-chair), Claire Campbell (treasurer), Michelle Gass (secretary) and Julie Grant (Fundraising Convener)

Please see their latest newsletter.

<https://bit.ly/3AF7osX>

Christmas Film Treat

The Parent Council are organising a Christmas treat for the P1 to P7s children on the night of Monday 5th December. A cinema will be brought to Alloway Primary (operated by The Iris, Ayr) and the children will be invited to one of two screenings - infant and upper school. Our gym hall will be set up as a cinema.

Children should be dropped off at the main entrance of the school. An adult must sign them in. At pick up time we will open the **main playground gates and front gates** and parents/carers should go to your **child's classroom door**. You will be brought into the class room to sign your child out. All children **must be collected from the classrooms** and signed out. This allows for the change over between showings and ensures all children are safely picked up at both showings. P3C should be collected via the main P3 classrooms.

There is no charge to see the film however, the Parent Council are preparing snack packs including sweets and popcorn which will be on sale for £2. Children should bring their own water bottle with them. This will be a lovely festive evening for the children. I know that the Parent Council are looking for parent helpers to support with this event. Please contact them at allowayparentcouncil@gmail.com⁵

⁵<mailto:allowayparentcouncil@gmail.com>

to volunteer if you haven't already done so. This is a brand new event for Alloway Primary so we are very grateful to the Parent Council for organising this.

	Film	Doors open	Movie starts	Pick up from classrooms
Primary 1-3	The Grinch (cartoon)	4pm	4.20pm	5.55pm
Primary 4-7	Arthur Christmas	6.15pm	6.35pm	8.15pm

Primary 5 Titanic Trip

After consultation with parents we have decided to take our P5 children to the Titanic on 18th May 2023. This is something the school did pre-Covid and it was such a worthwhile experience for the children. As part of the organisation the children will be trying to fundraise in order to support the costs. They will be carol singing at the Burns Museum on 13th and 14th December. They are also busy planning what else to do. They have been writing to local businesses to sponsor them. Huge thanks to Ayr Farm Park who have kindly donated £100 towards this. We know that these trips can be expensive so I would urge families to contact me directly if they wish to discuss this with me. We are mindful of this and do what we can to keep costs down.

School Meals and Clothing Grant

Free school meals and clothing grant - South Ayrshire Council (south-ayrshire.gov.uk)⁶

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

The Scottish Government have authorised the Council to make a support payment to parents/carers of £260 per child in their family who are entitled to receive a free school meal.

The Council's current eligibility for this payment extends to children who are in receipt of a clothing grant, as a result of an assessment of income. Payment will be processed direct into your bank account on 9th December. This will be the final payment administered by the Council's Education Department.

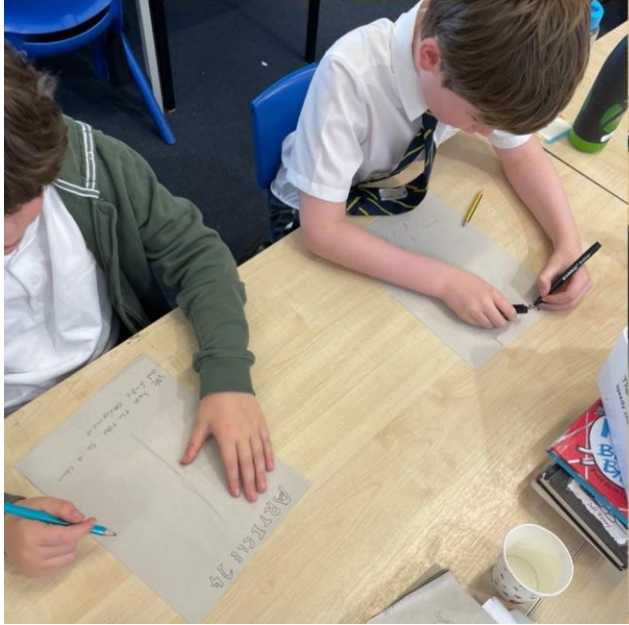
Going forward, the new Scottish Child Payment will be processed by Social Security Scotland, applications opened on 14 November 2022 and all families in receipt of qualifying benefits are encouraged to apply as soon as possible using the following link;

www.mygov.scot/scottish-child-payment⁷

⁶<https://south-ayrshire.gov.uk/free-school-meals>

⁷<http://www.mygov.scot/scottish-child-payment>

A love of learning!



ARTICLE 24



We have the right to a clean and safe environment.

Article 27:



We have the right to
Clothes.

Article

1



Every child has these
rights









Assembly Hall













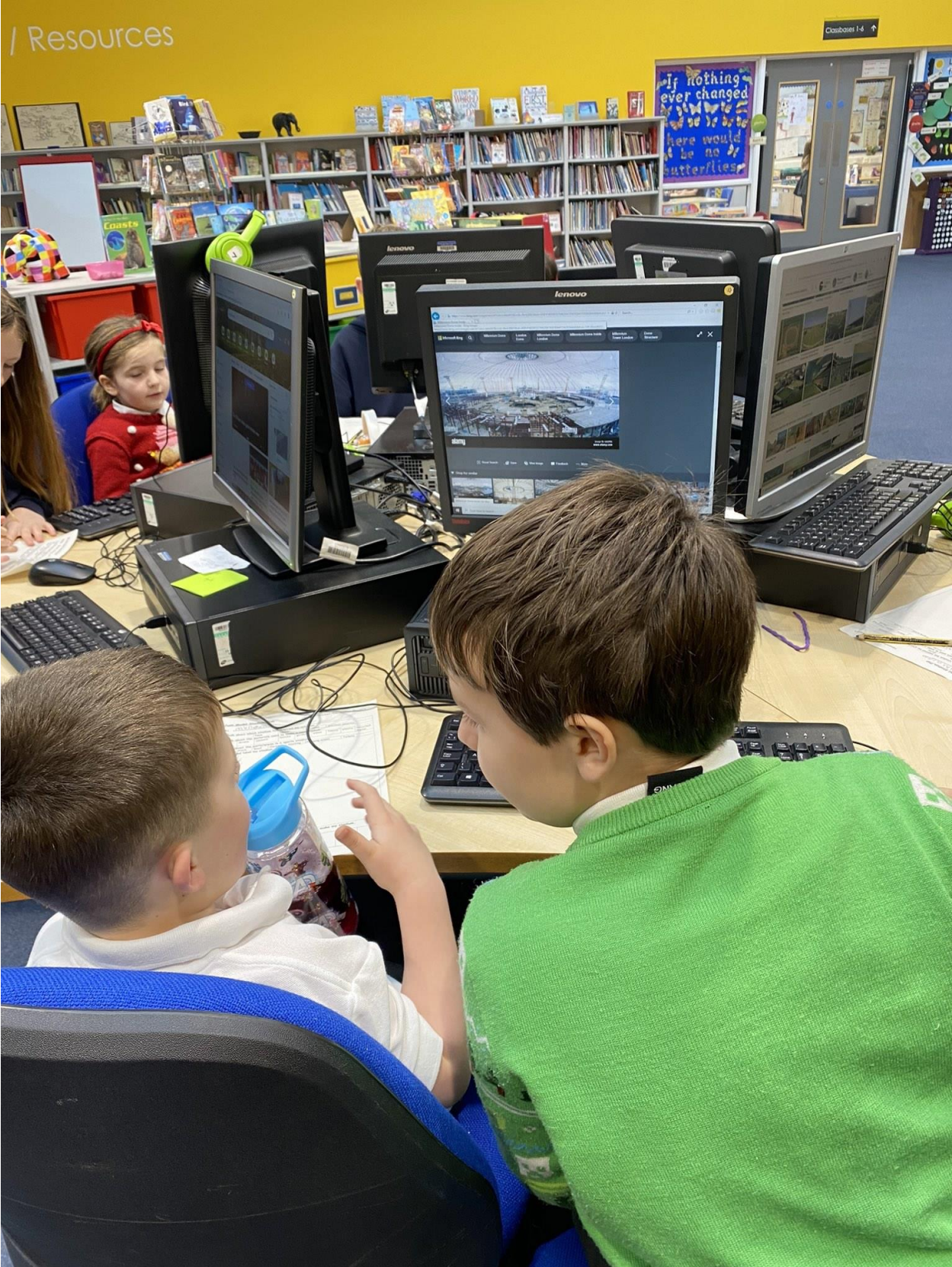






















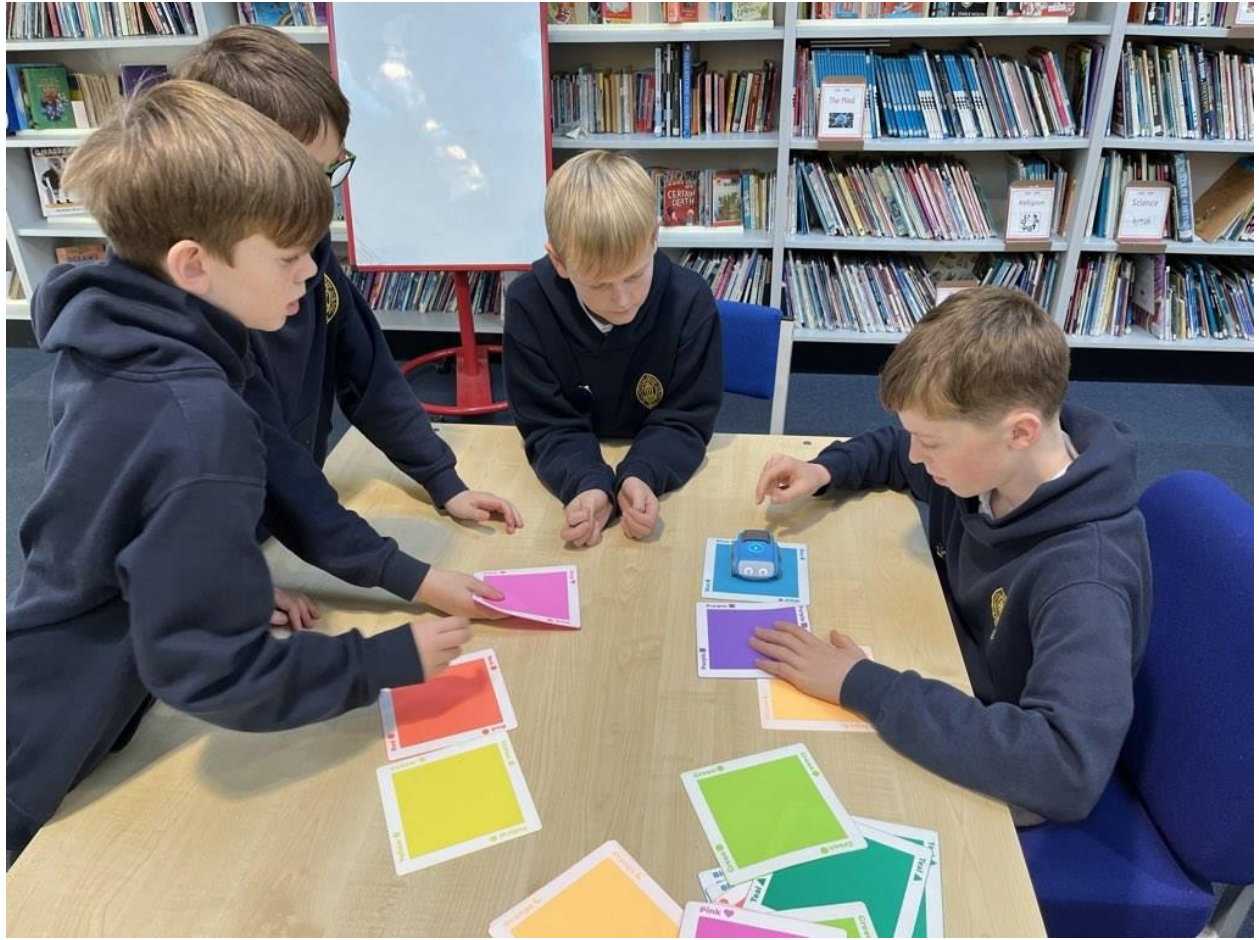














Communication

Our school website⁸ and Twitter⁹ 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 have offered use of the Seesaw app also. Staff will issue some class information using the Seesaw communication app. This is only in use from 8.30-4.30pm and we would ask that parents do not post out with these times. Staff will only respond during working hours.

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. Please contact the school office if you think you are not receiving school emails or communications.

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.

We ask that photos and videos posted on any of our digital platforms are not shared.



⁸<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/sa/allowaypsandeyc/>

⁹<https://twitter.com/AllowayPrimary>