



February 2023 Newsletter - Alloway Primary and EYC

A busy term so far

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have just come to the end of a very busy Scottish fortnight. The new year got off to such a good start. The children enjoyed a wide range of experiences linked to our Scottish theme and it was so lovely to have visitors back in the school again. A huge thanks to Miss Rainey our acting PT for organising this super whole school theme.

As previously mentioned in my last communication with you, parking is still an issue in the school. I receive complaints regularly from concerned parents and neighbours. I have been working with the police again this term to address the traffic concerns around the school. The safety of all our pupils is paramount and again, I would ask parents to consider where they park in and around the school. Please do not park on the pavement or double park. Please also avoid using Upper Crofts as this cul-de-sac becomes very busy. Our Junior Road Safety Officers committee is also looking at ways to promote safe parking. We all need to work together on this in order to keep our children safe. This was also discussed at our recent Parent Council meeting.

We continue to work on our communication with parents. We will continue to update the school calendar and share this with you on a regular basis. We have been working on a communications policy along with the Parent Council. This will be with you later on in the term.

Please note that the school closes on Thursday 9th February at 3pm for the February weekend. It reopens for pupils on Wednesday 15th February at 9am. Staff will be in on Tuesday 14th February for an in-service day. As previously indicated, the next planned industrial action days are Tuesday 28th February and Wednesday 1st March. More information will follow.

In term 2 we were able to show kindness by supporting local charities. In November we raised £694.82 for Children in Need. During our Nativity and Church Service, we raised £1257.21 that will go towards funding for the toilet block at Bandawe Primary School in Malawi. The Parent Council collection for Night Before Christmas was very successful and all our donations were greatly appreciated. Huge thanks for your kindness.

Please continue to phone any absence into the school office.

We are looking forward to a busy term as we approach Easter.

Yours sincerely,

Fiona

Mrs Fiona Meney

Head Teacher

Dates for your diary



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

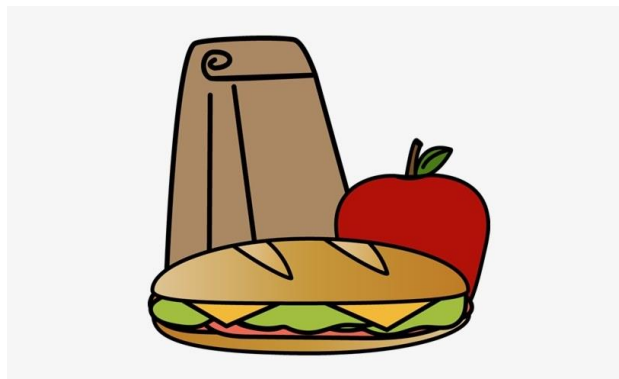
January		February 2023 *new dates					March	
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun		
30	31	1	2	3	4	5		
6	7 *Child's mental health week *Parent Council Disco P1-3 - 5-6pm P4-7 - 6.30-7.45pm	8	9	10 School/EYC Holiday	11	12		
13 School/EYC Holiday	14 In-service day - School /EYC closed to children	15 Safer Internet Day *P7H OE Aerospace *Parent Council meeting 6pm in staff room (new date)	16	17	18	19		
20	21	22	23	24 Interim Tracking reports issued to parents P1-7	25	26		

February		March 2023					April	
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun		
27	28 *Potential Strike day - more information to follow	1 *Potential Strike day - more information to follow	2 World Book Day *Parents' evening optional phone calls. Sign up to time slots - email to be issued with online form	3	4	5		
6	7	8	9	10	11	12		
13	14 Individual P1 and P7 photos	15	16	17	18	19		
20 Developing the Young Workforce fortnight	21	22 *PTR OE Aerospace	23	24	25	26		
27	28	29	30 *P4 Vikingar (information to follow)	31 Church Service 9.45am Parent helpers to meet at foyer for walk to church at 9am. School Closes 2.30pm	Easter Holidays School reopens 17 th April 2023			

Parent Pay and Pre-order lunches

We have moved to Parent Pay and Pre-order lunches. These schemes have been rolled out across the whole authority. Thank you to all the parents who have already signed up. Please contact the school office if you have any issues. We would encourage all parents to pre-order their child's school lunch and also use this system to indicate if your child is taking a packed lunch. Children in P1-5 receive a free school meal to the value of £2.15. This consists of 2 courses - starter and main or main and pudding. Children can order 3 courses but the difference will be taken from your Parent Pay account. We appreciate your patience as we embed this new system.

We will be looking to open school trip payments on Parent Pay soon, which will allow parents to pay up any school trip.



Extra Curricular Activities

We continue to work closely with our Active School colleagues to plan a range of exciting opportunities for our children. This term, Mrs McCarrell took a group of pupils to the Citadel to take part in a Sport Hall athletics event run by Active Schools. This allowed children to use the skills they had been taught during athletics sessions before Christmas. This was a hugely enjoyable event for all involved. We are excited to welcome Caitlin Anderson in this term to work with our P7 pupils, supporting them in achieving their Junior Coaching Award. In working towards this award, children will develop skills to enable them to lead and coach younger pupils within a variety of sports and activities, and we hope to provide opportunities for our P7 pupils to undertake such coaching activities. In addition, we have an Active Schools apprentice, John Edens, joining us to support our P6 pupils in achieving their Spirit of Sport Award. Spirit of Sport teaches the values of good sportsmanship, resilience, team work and accountability through a variety of different sports and activities. As well as working with P6 pupils, John will be in school on a weekly basis until the Easter holiday to support each class in developing outdoor learning experiences, and will be leading a multi-sports lunchtime and after school club. Caitlin Anderson, our Active Schools coordinator, has also supported the school to access a range of opportunities which will be led by Belmont Sports Leaders. We have the sports leaders joining us in school for a 5 week block to work with our P1 and P7 pupils, and to deliver a lunchtime club for our P6 classes. We also have dance leaders from Belmont joining us to lead a Dance Club after school for our P3 pupils. We continue to seek out opportunities, and we are proud of the links we have with Active Schools.



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.

Every small change is a step in the right direction.



Scottish Fortnight

We have just come to the end of a very busy Scottish Fortnight! Every year the school celebrates not only the life and works of Robert Burns, but what it means to be Scottish (RRS Article 7). This year, the EYC through to P5 had a real focus on developing their map skills by exploring their local area. P5 in particular loved seeing where their poem, Tam O'Shanter, took place.

P7 were also out and about in their local community. They met with Chris Waddell from the Burns Birthplace museum and planned, starred in and produced their own virtual tour of Burns Cottage. You can watch their production here: <https://youtu.be/mCochvXuLXc>

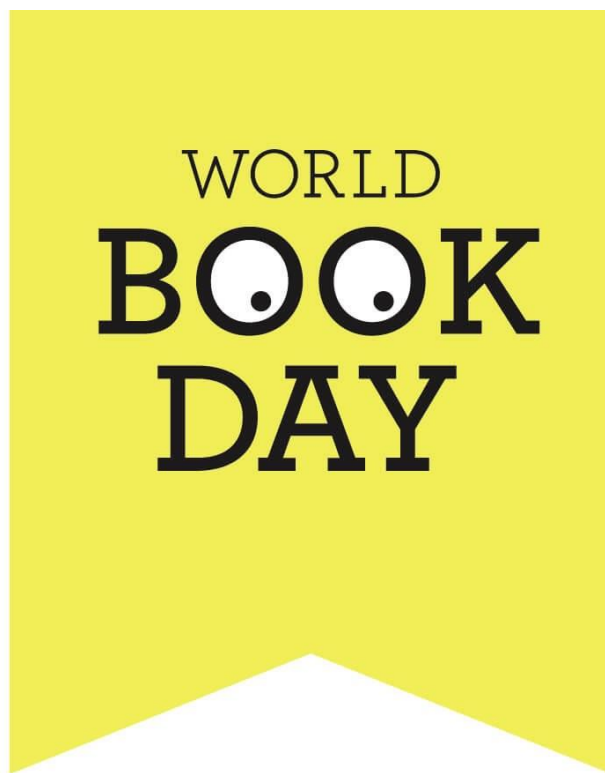
We have been so lucky to have lots of visitors in to school to share their expertise over the fortnight. Sophie Oliver came in to deliver energetic Highland Dance taster sessions to the whole school which was such a hit! P5G loved their storytelling visit from Simon Lamb who delivered an amazing Tam O'Shanter workshop. P7 had a visit from the Belmont music department where they explored pentatonic scales in Scottish folk music. In addition to this, the whole school had a fabulous treat when Mrs MacKay's brother, Euan Baird, came along with his band to deliver a Scottish music workshop. Finally, P6 and P7 had an informative visit from local historian, Niamh Gilfillan, who explored primary and secondary sources with the classes.

To celebrate our learning, P6 and P7 took part in a fabulous Burns Supper. P7 worked hard on speeches, writing the Immortal Memory and traditional 'Toast to the Lassies' and 'Reply to the Laddies'. Our wonderful cook Lynn and her team made us a delicious taster menu and led us in The Selkirk Grace. P6 kept us all entertained with some lovely Scottish songs.

Our fortnight ended with our traditional poetry competition. Everyone who stood on the stage was utterly fantastic – we are so proud of you all!



World Book Day



In preparation for World Book Day, on Thursday 2nd March 2023, all children are being challenged to "Read the Rainbow". Children will 'tick off' a colour by reading or listening to a book which represents each colour of the rainbow; this could be the actual colour of the book, in the title, a character in the book, the author - however they can do it! 😊 Each child will receive a 'Read the Rainbow' record and the title of the book can then be recorded next to the colour. Each child who completes the rainbow will get a certificate and all completed entries will be put in to a prize draw to win a Waterstones gift voucher- we will award 1 per stage. On World Book Day we will all wear rainbow colours to school to celebrate our reading achievements- of course if children prefer to come dressed as their favourite book character, we would also love that! 😊 This will be open to everyone in our EYC to P7.



2023 Read The Rainbow Challenge

Read (or listen to) books from each colour of the rainbow before World Book Day (2nd March 2023)

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Developing the Young Workforce Week

At Alloway Primary, we are keen to provide all children with opportunities and experiences which will support them to develop skills for life, learning and work. Developing the Young Workforce is at the heart of this. In partnership with the Chamber of Commerce, Mrs Miller and the DYW Pupil Committee have been seeking out opportunities to link with local businesses, who will visit classes to provide information linked to topic work. The DYW Committee visited Ayr United Football Club prior to the Christmas holidays, learning about the range of jobs involved in a football club. The pupils in the

committee will be presenting the information to the school during the Developing the Young Workforce Focus Fortnight at the end of March. During this fortnight, the committee are hoping to invite parents in to the school to share information about their careers, and all parents will shortly receive a letter asking for help with this. In partnership with the Chamber of Commerce, the committee will also be organising a Careers Fayre which will take place during this week. This will provide a range of exciting experiences for our children.



<https://youtu.be/R69YKFmlcNA>

Pupil Voice - School Committees



Committees

Pupil voice and inclusion is extremely important within our school and every child from P4 to P7 are members of a committee to ensure their voice is heard (Article 12). The children and staff alike were so excited to meet with their committee – this is the first time we would meet in mixed-stage groups since the pandemic. We meet each month, often working alongside other committees to make changes to our school and organise events. There are many committees such as Developing the Young Workforce, Digital Leaders, RRS and Anti-Bullying. P1-3 are also involved as part of the Little People Big Voices group and they often join in with P4-7 committees to have their say. Have a look on our website for a full committee list!

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. 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, Claire, Michelle or Julie. The Parent Council have kindly donated money towards the panto buses and party foods. We also really appreciate the Christmas film night and the Christmas Cards that they arranged. Huge thanks for this. We look forward to the Parent Council discos on Tuesday 7th February. P1-3 - 5-6pm / P4-7 6.30-7.45pm. Please see letter for further information.

Office bearers: Laura Cameron (chair), Catriona Andrews (vice-chair), Michelle Gass (secretary), Claire Campbell (Treasurer) and Julie Grant (Fundraising convener)

allowayparentcouncil@gmail.com

Meeting dates:

Wednesday 15th February 6pm

Tuesday 18th April 6pm

Wednesday 31st May 6pm



Supporting 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 - <https://hscp.south-ayrshire.gov.uk/YoungCarers> Belmont Family First are based in Belmont Academy and provide targeted support for children and families from P6 onwards. Please speak to Mrs Meney for further information.

The Exchange Counselling Service is a targeted service for children who may be struggling emotionally. More information can be found on their website. <https://www.exchange-counselling.com/>

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.



School Improvement Planning groups

Our school improvement plan focuses on developments in Literacy, Numeracy, Health and Wellbeing and Social Subjects. All staff are signed up to a group and work together to implement school improvements. Please see an update below from each group.

Literacy

Mrs Stewart leads Literacy across the school with the support of the Literacy group. We are focusing on a number of Literacy targets throughout the school, with individual projects being led by staff focusing on Handwriting, the use of Digital technologies to support Literacy, Active spelling strategies, Literacy across the curriculum and Talking and Listening. In line with our school, local and national priorities, Outdoor Learning remains a focus for us this session and we have recently been awarded a Playground Learning Consultation from 'Love Outdoor Learning', thanks to Mrs Parkinson and Mrs Goodwin who lead this aspect of Literacy; this will take place in June. We are continuing our work on Talk for Writing and have recently enjoyed CLPL from Mrs Daubney, who is now a Talk for Writing lead for Scotland.

Mrs Miller continues to drive the development of Talk for Writing across the school. Working alongside Local Authority colleagues, Mrs Miller is gathering a range of information, and using this to ensure Talk for Writing is planned and delivered effectively across the school, and to ensure children are engaged and motivated by the Talk for Writing experiences. From EYC to P7, children are developing their writing skills through a range of stimuli. Staff have also been provided with additional training following a staff survey which was completed prior to Christmas. It is amazing to observe how children's confidence and ability in writing is developing across the school.

Numeracy

Miss Rainey leads this project with the Numeracy Working Party. Our main projects are as follows:

- Continue to embed SAC approach to teaching numeracy – concrete, pictorial, abstract.

- Continue to seek opportunities for high quality outdoor learning.
- Use play provocations to engage learners in numeracy.
- To motivate and engage learners through focus days/weeks.
- Embed a consistent approach to algebraic reasoning.

We have already celebrated a successful Maths Week Scotland where we explored 'The Beauty of Maths' and Miss Queen planned a focus on finance week. Our whole school recently had a focus on The World Cup where we had the opportunity to tie in our finance skills to real life scenarios.

Mrs Harrison has been part of an authority working party exploring algebraic reasoning. The group is working to develop a consistent approach to algebra between primary and secondary schools. Mrs Harrison will be delivering a workshop to staff later in the term.

Health and Wellbeing

Mrs Meney leads this project with all staff. This term we have had a focus on resilience in children. This is something that we are working on in class. We are looking at the different areas of resilience and staff are focusing on areas relevant to their class. Mrs Meney and Mrs Miller continue to lead weekly assemblies that always have a focus on Health and Wellbeing. Mrs Hopper has set up a small nurture group which follows a focused approach to nurture with children. This project has been set up in conjunction with our Educational Psychologist. We continue to have the Health and Wellbeing needs of our pupils at the heart of what we do.

Inter Disciplinary Learning

Mrs Hopper leads the Interdisciplinary Learning project with staff. The group is working to create a skills based curriculum to ensure our children are equipped for their place in an ever evolving world. The group has recently piloted two whole-school approach themes within the contexts of 'The World Cup' and 'Scotland'. Both themes have provided a baseline for future planning of our curriculum. Another key focus is to consider the place of Social Subjects within interdisciplinary learning, providing children with exciting opportunities for investigation, exploration and problem solving – skills for life.



Talk for Writing

Staff have been working hard to continue to develop the Talk for Writing programme across the school. Talk for Writing is powerful because it is based on the principles of how people learn. The approach enables children to read and write independently for a variety of audiences and purposes within different subjects. From the EYC up to P7, children have been taking part in Talk for Writing blocks based on a range of different stimuli. Staff recently completed a survey focusing on Talk for Writing, and using the results from this survey, we were able to provide additional training to enable all staff to develop confidence and competence in delivering the programme. Mrs Miller continues to take this forward across the school, and is working with colleagues within the Local Authority to ensure Alloway is providing the very best writing opportunities for all children.



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.



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

A love for learning!

















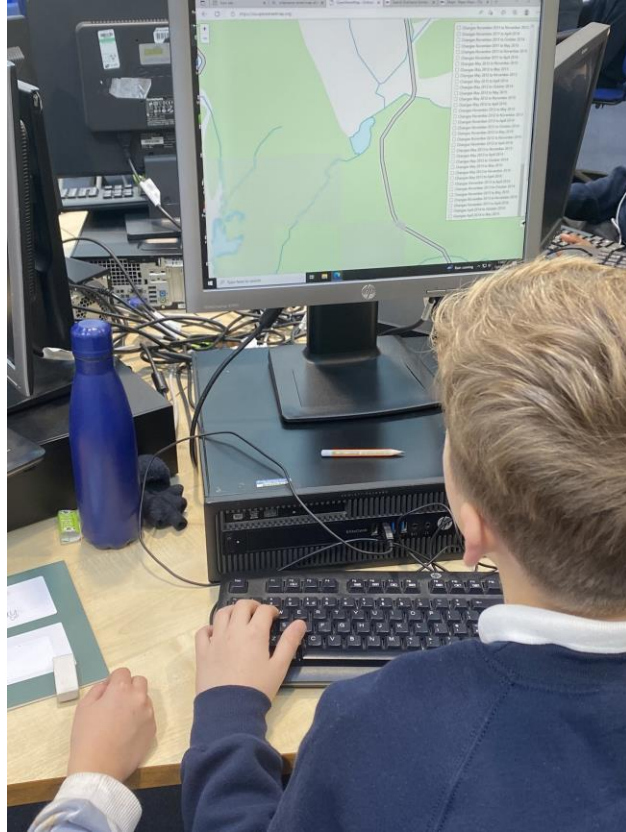




















Communication

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. Please check your Xpressions App for messages from the school. Please click on the flag icon to flag important messages. Please contact the school office if you are having any issues receiving school communications.

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

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

³<https://twitter.com/AllowayPrimary>

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

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

