



May 2023 Newsletter - Primary and EYC

Alloway

A very busy term so far

Dear Parents and Carers,

I can't believe that we are nearing the end of Term 4 already with the summer holidays in sight. It has been lovely to have so many events and outings happening. The school is buzzing with lots of different activities and the children are having a great time. We have so much happening and memories are being made. It is lovely to experience term 4 with no restrictions, the first time in many years! We are currently working on our staffing for next session. Once we have this finalised, I will be able to share this information with parents. Our EYC and P1 induction programme is under way and we are enjoying meeting our new children and families.

School Show

Primary 4-7 are busy preparing for our School Show in June. The children are working hard in class as they learn more about the Expressive Arts in order to showcase their talents. We can't wait to see the finished show. It is all very exciting! Ticket links are out to all P4-7 parents and we look forward to seeing it all come together.

Reporting to parents

School reports go out on Thursday. Teachers have worked hard to complete these reports and I know that parents will be looking forward to reading these. As you know we have moved to an online booking system for Parents' Evening. This allows parents more flexibility over booking their appointments. If you are having any issues with this, please contact the school office directly.

The Parent Council book fayre will also be on display on Parents' night for parents to purchase a book if they wish. Please see information from the Parent Council that has already been emailed out.

Summer Celebration

On 9th June we will hold a summer celebration picnic. This will be a fun day where we can celebrate as a school. The children enjoyed this last year when they did this for the jubilee. Children can bring their own special packed lunch and a picnic blanket. Children can wear their own casual clothes (no football colours). The Parent Council have arranged a special treat for the children too. Fingers crossed for a lovely, sunny day!

Health and Wellbeing Fortnight

Mrs McCarrell is currently planning our Health and Wellbeing fortnight along with our Sports Days. She would appreciate any help from parents with this so please get in touch if you would be able to help with an activity for this fortnight. We will send out more information about Sports Day nearer the time. Sports days will be held on Monday 12th June (am for P1-3 and pm for P4-7). Our EYC sports will be held on Monday 19th June.

Retirement

Pauline, our lovely lollipop lady is retiring on 2nd June. She has been our lollipop lady for 36 years and seen many families across the road, come hail or shine! We are so grateful to her and for her loyal service. The children will miss her cheery smile and welcoming words each day. She has had the privilege of seeing families and families of families across the road. She knows all the children and cares very much for them. The Loaning won't be the same without her! We have invited her in for a special assembly on the Friday just before she leaves us. We wish her all the very best wishes for a very happy retirement and thank her so much for everything she has done for our local community.

Summer Service

We will go to Alloway Parish Church on Friday 30th June for our Summer Service. We look forward to showcasing our school talents there. Parents are welcome to walk with us and should arrive at 9am and report to the school office. The service starts at 9.45am. The school closes on Friday 30th June at 1pm and reopens on Monday 17th April at 9am.

Parking

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. They designed a parking banner that we had printed up for the front of the school. We hope this message from the children encourages people to park safely. We all need to work together on this in order to keep our children safe. We have also had complaints of parking in disabled bays in the car park. Please only park in these bays if you have a blue badge.

Good Attendance

We want to encourage good attendance at school. Attendance can have a direct impact on children's attainment. Please see our latest leaflet about encouraging good attendance. <https://bit.ly/3YQTjSp>
When children are ill, please continue to phone any absence into the school office.

We close on Thursday night at 3pm for our long weekend. Children return on Wednesday 31st May.

I hope you all enjoy the remaining weeks of our final term.

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.

May 2023						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30	1 BANK HOLIDAY	2	3	4	5 P4-7 Committees	6
7	8 BANK HOLIDAY P7 Inverclyde with staff and HT	9 P7 Inverclyde with staff and HT	10 P7 Inverclyde with staff and HT	11 P6 W Treetops trail P1 Dumfries House	12 P6 Q Treetops trail	13
14	15	16	17	18 P5 Titanic trip with staff and HT	19	20 Parent Council Fayre 11-1pm – all welcome
21	22	23	24 P2s to Dolphin House	25 Reports issued to Parents (pre-school – P7)	26 HOLIDAY	27
28	29 HOLIDAY	30 In-service day	31 Pupils return Parent Council 6pm			

June 2023						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Parents' evening (in person)	2	3
4	5	6 P4-7 School Show dress rehearsal – infants to watch	7 P4-7 School Show evening performance (more info to follow)	8 P4-7 School Show evening performance (more info to follow)	9 EYC-P7 Summer Celebration Picnic (more info to follow)	10
11	12 HWB fortnight begins P1-3 Sports Day P4-7 Sports Day	13 P7 transition day 1 (SAC) P1 Induction day 1 (more info to follow) P1-6 Bump Up Afternoon	14 P7 transition day 2 (SAC) P1 Induction day 2 (more info to follow)	15 Alternative sports day (in case of bad weather)	16	17
18	19 EYC sports	20 P6 to Cuzean	21 EYC Summer Concert P7 at Bowling Club – Alloway	22 P7 visit to the Ark	23 P7H at Bowling Club – Alloway	24
25	26 P7 Leaver's service 11am	27	28	29	30 Church service 9.45am Parent helpers to meet at foyer for walk to church at 9am. School closes at 1pm.	

Trips and outings

Primary 7 enjoyed an amazing time at Inverclyde. It was lovely to see them have such a great time. They increased in confidence, independence and challenged themselves. A great time was had by all.

Primary 6 also had a fabulous time at the Tree Top Trials. This was a new experience to us and everyone who went just loved it. The children had a great time.

Primary 5 had the best time in Belfast at the Titanic museum. This trip was amazing and brought their learning to life. It was such a long day but really worth it!

Primary 1 enjoyed their trip to the farm at Dumfries House. They loved exploring and meeting new animal friends. Our EYC also loved exploring Dumfries House and had the best time.

Primary 2 enjoyed exploring the outdoors at Culzean when they visited Dolphin House.

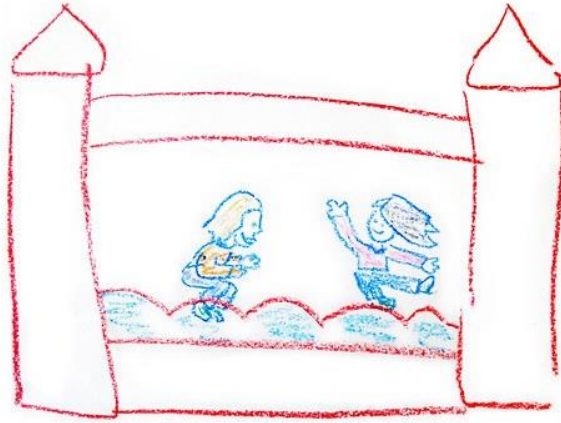
I am very grateful to staff who give their all to ensure these outings happen, often giving up their own time. A huge thank you to parent helpers too who support these. Without all this support these experiences would not be able to happen.



Parent Council Fair

The summer fair was amazing! It was so lovely to see the school so busy. Everyone who attended had the best time. The Parent Council worked tirelessly to pull this together and as a school we can't thank them enough. They were so busy getting everything ready and their hard work paid off. It was such a lovely event. They raised an amazing £5916.49. This is such a fantastic amount. A huge thank you to everyone who attended and contributed. It is so lovely to see our community coming together. This money raised will go directly back to the children. It was lovely to see our gymnastics squad and highland dancers perform too. Thanks so much.

We would also like to take this opportunity to thank the Parent Council who gave a £1000 donation last month to the school fund.



Child-care survey

South Ayrshire Council are looking for the views of parents/ carers on the future of our out of school/childcare services. The consultation is live and will close on 10th June 2023. Please can you complete using the link below.

- <https://forms.office.com/e/WrmsFUetvz>

Use of Mobile Phones and devices in school

We would ask that children do not bring mobile phones or devices to school. These can get lost or damaged and we want to ensure all children are using the internet safely. In some cases, parents give permission for children to bring mobile phones in due to walking home or after school activities. In these cases we would ask children to keep these devices in their bag or hand into their teacher to keep safely until the end of the day. We would ask that children do not use phones or devices in the playground before school or during breaks. We appreciate your support with this.

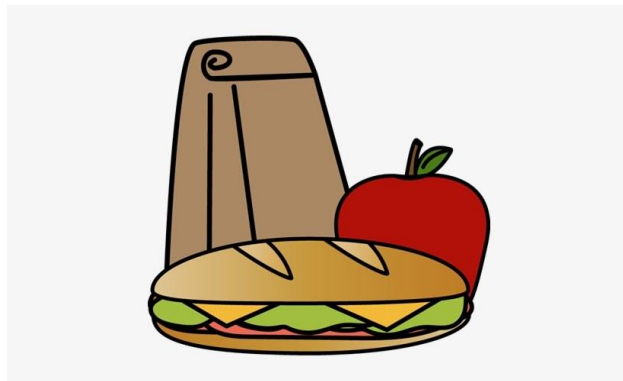
Here is a link for information for parents on children using mobile phones safely.

<https://saferinternet.org.uk/guide-and-resource/parents-and-carers/phones>



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 £2.35. 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.



Extra Curricular Activities

We have had another busy term in terms of our extra-curricular activities. The children have enjoyed a range of activities, including netball, athletics, basketball, chess and choir. A huge thanks to the staff and

parents who volunteer to run these activities! A thank you once again to Mr Hall who has shown great dedication in running our P6/7 football teams, they have had great successes this session, and we wish them the best of luck in upcoming matches. Our gymnastics team did so well at Flipfest and have been enjoying demonstrating their skills during performances in school.

If any parents have a particular interest and would like to run an after-school activity next session, please contact the school office.



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.

We will have fully stocked rails available right through the summer holidays in the school library. We would encourage people to use this facility.

Every small change is a step in the right direction.



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.

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 31st May 6pm

Latest newsletter: <https://bit.ly/3LnzVcD>

All minutes from meetings can be found on the school website.

Supporting Children and Families

We understand that sometimes children and families require additional support for specific issues. Please see below for a range of ways that we can support our children and families.

Young Carers

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

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

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

Turn to Us is a website to help families find appropriate financial support during these challenging times. <https://www.turn2us.org.uk/>

The South Ayrshire Council Information and Advice Hub

A free, confidential, and impartial, information and advice service to people living in South Ayrshire.

Advisors are fully trained to deal with your welfare rights and issues related to money and debt advice. They can also refer you to a number of partner agencies to ensure you receive all of the support you need tailored to your individual circumstances.

Information and Advice Hub - South Ayrshire Council (south-ayrshire.gov.uk)¹

Free School Meals and Clothing Grant

Free school meals and clothing grant - South Ayrshire Council (south-ayrshire.gov.uk)²

¹<https://www.south-ayrshire.gov.uk/information-and-advice-hub/>

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

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.

Schools are now required to consider the cost of the school day in order to support families and to develop a Poverty Proofing Policy to help support this. We have developed our own policy in line with Government requirements. This was given to our Parent Council for consultation and feedback. We aim to create a balance between providing experiences for children and making this accessible for all. The policy demonstrates how we aim to go about this. We would encourage parents/carers to contact Mrs Meney directly for support if required. We do have ways to support families and Mrs Meney can arrange this or signpost families in the right direction. <https://bit.ly/3mTpkfo>

The cost of school trips are rising, particularly due to the costs of buses. We are very aware of trying to balance giving children valuable experiences against the cost. We will always try to open Parent Pay in advance to give the opportunity to pay up trips. Please contact Mrs Meney directly if you require support with this.

Hospital stays

We were recently passed information about a patient fund for when children are admitted to hospital. I hope no-one is in this position but wanted to share the information encase it is ever needed.

The Young Patient Family Fund reimburses food / travel costs etc for carers of children who are admitted as **inpatients** at hospital.

Further info and grant form can be found in the link below.

<https://www.mygov.scot/young-patients-family-fund>



²<https://south-ayrshire.gov.uk/free-school-meals>

School Improvement Planning

This term we are evaluating our current School Improvement Plan and will be writing a new plan that will last for 2 years. I have asked the Parent Council to consult with me regarding this. The new school improvement plan will be shared with Parents in the new term, along with our Standards and Quality Report about this session.

Our Pupil Equity Fund paperwork has been submitted. We are receiving £18,375. The plan has been submitted with the money going towards school assistant hours within the school in order to support and challenge pupils.



A love for learning!







Communication

Please click on the link to access our school Communications Policy. <https://bit.ly/3Fpp2TP>

Our school website³ and Twitter⁴ 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.

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

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



³<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/sa/allowaypsandeyc/>

⁴<https://twitter.com/AllowayPrimary>