

People Directorate
Head Teacher – Mrs F Meney

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Date: 21st August 2023



south
AYRSHIRE
COUNCIL



Dear Parents and Carers,

Information for the new term

I trust this email finds you all safe and well. I hope you all have had a good summer. I wanted to write to you at the start of the new term to welcome you all back. We can't wait to welcome the children back and to welcome new children to our school. I am very excited about the session ahead and look forward to working closely with all our children, families and staff throughout the next session. We are excited to welcome our new Primary 1 children, EYC children and also some children joining stages across the school.

School staff have been working on the in-service days to get the school ready and have been involved with training for the session ahead. We are welcoming Mrs Gibson back from maternity leave, she will now be in Primary 1. We had some lovely news at the end of term from Miss McNeil as she welcomed a beautiful baby girl into the world. She is going to come and visit us soon. Miss Rainey has now started her maternity leave so we look forward to some lovely news soon from her. We have welcomed Mrs Kirsty MacLeod to our infant department. She will be teaching in Primary 2 – beside Mrs Melanie McLeod. One Mrs MacLeod and one Mrs McLeod! Miss Downie in our Early Years Centre is moving on and won't be returning after the holidays. We will miss her very much and thank her for all her hard work in the Early Years Centre. Mrs Wylie one of our Primary 4 teachers was appointed just before the holidays as 0.4 acting Principal Teacher. She will join our existing Principal Teacher team. Mrs Park will be our infant PT and Mrs Wylie will support Mrs Stewart to lead the upper department. Mrs Miller our depute head teacher will continue to support me with the running of the school but also in leading the Early Years Centre. We are sending out an Information Booklet for Parents and Carers. Please use this booklet as it is full of useful information, including important dates. We will also continue to send you termly calendars. Please take note of these dates.

We are looking forward to welcoming all the children back to our Early Years Centre and Primary on Monday 21st August. Please find below the arrangements for drop off and pick up. We have supervision in the playground from 8.45am each day so ask that pupils don't arrive prior to this. I thank you in advance for your support. It is important to have a good relationship with your child's class teacher and they should be your first contact. Please contact the school office if you wish to talk to your child's teacher as they are unable to meet with you at the start of and end of the school day. We would ask that only children go into school cloakroom. We hope to have many more planned opportunities this session to welcome parents into school. More information will follow.

Here are the arrangements for drop off and pick up:

Early Years Centre

The EYC doors will open from 9-9.15am and a parent will be able to bring their child into EYC to sign them in. EYC doors will open for collection from 2.45-3pm. New starts have been given a start time for their first day. The extended opening times for the doors allows flexibility for parents with children in both the EYC and school. Staff will be on the door at all times during opening times. Out with opening times parents should use the same entrance but will need to ring the buzzer.

Primary 1 children (Monday)

This is an exciting time for all our new starts. To allow the children to start in a quieter playground we would ask that P1 start at 9.15am on the first day. This is a big day for them and because of this family can attend in the playground on their first day. There will be plenty of opportunities for that all important starting school photo! One parent can bring them into the cloakroom, help them find their coat peg and

bring them into class. There will be a one way system in place to help limit the class being too busy, this will help children settle. School staff will be there to help support this process. All children cope differently with this so don't worry if there are a few tears, we are used to dealing with this and will do all we can to support children and families. School gates open at 2.50pm for pick up at 3pm. Your child's teacher will hand your child over to you at the end of the day. From Tuesday onwards please follow the advice for P2-3 children below. Children will have established a new routine in no time at all.

Primary 2-3 children (Primary 1 from Tuesday onwards)

Children should arrive for 9am. Their class teacher will open the class door and they should go straight in. Children were so good at their routine prior to the holidays so I know that they will remember quickly what to do and go to their new class door. Infant parents come into the playground for drop off and pick up. This routine was working well last term so parents and children should continue to use the large playground gate at the field to access the playground. The school gates will open at 2.50pm to allow parents to come in and stand opposite their child's class door for pick up at 3pm. We would ask that you collect and exit quickly as janitors need to secure the playground which is then used for the Alloway After School's Club.

Primary 4-7

Children should arrive for 9am. Their class teacher will open the class door and they should go straight in. Children were so good at their routine prior to the holidays so I know that they will remember quickly what to do and go to their new class door. Prior to the holidays children in the upper department were coming in on their own and can continue to do this. I know you will speak to your child about their drop off and pick up routine and set up one that suits your family circumstances. Children in the classes facing Doonholm Road use the gate on Doonholm Road and children in classes facing the field use the gate at the top of the bike sheds steps. This routine will be new to Primary 4 children so a parent can come into to support them with this. Parents who have children in multiple classes can decide on a routine that suits and many chose to have meeting points in the playground with older children. If parents are coming into the playground we would ask that you wait away from the class door to avoid congestion for the pupils entering or exiting.

LUNCHES

We use the ParentPay system for lunch. We would remind parents to top up their child's lunch account (P6-7) and pre-order their meals online. If you need any assistance with this please contact the school office. New children to the school and Primary 1 will not have access to this yet but the office are in the process of setting this up once they start with us. We have attached the menu so you can see the choices that the children will offered on the day. We are starting on Week 3.

SEESAW

I wrote out to you at the end of term to say that South Ayrshire Council have instructed schools to stop using Seesaw. We are currently exploring the alternative suggested which is called Learning Journals and will be in touch about this. Please note that in the absence of Seesaw any messages for the class teacher need to be passed on through the school office. If you wish to speak to your child's class teacher please phone the school office to request a phone call back from your child's class teacher. In the interests of pupil safety and security, you should always report to the main office if you have an appointment.

As we approach the new term we look forward to lots of exciting opportunities ahead. Your child's teacher will send out specific information for each class once the term starts. They will let you when PE days are. Children can bring a PE kit with them in their PE bag now and can bring their own pencil case if they want. We want to work together and work closely with our families to achieve the very best for the children. I will be in touch soon in the new term but wanted you to have this information prior to Monday. I can't wait to see all the children looking smart in their uniforms and look forward to working closely with you all as the year progresses.

Yours sincerely

Fiona

Fiona Meney

Head Teacher

