

Educational Services

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Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you all enjoyed the lovely weather this weekend. We are now into the fourth week of the new term, with lots happening in school. Thank you to all the parents who contributed to our Homework survey. We really did value your input and information will be sent out shortly with the results of this and how this will impact homework in the future. Unfortunately Mrs Miller is unwell and absent from work just now. She is recovering at home but very much misses everyone and hopes to be back at work soon.

Big Meetings

We have changed the way we do class committees now and these have changed to Big Meetings. Miss Rainey sent a letter last week about this. This is an exciting change as it ensures all classes take part in Big Meetings weekly. We really do value children's voice and leadership within the school and this change will allow children more opportunity to have a say in decisions that happen within the school.

House Captain Elections

This Friday we are holding our Primary 7 House Captain Elections. Primary 7 are learning about democracy and are holding their own elections for House Captain. Thank to all in Primary 7 who are taking part in this. I look forward to our new House Captains representing the school across the year.

Alloway Mural Project

On Friday morning I have been invited to take a small group of children to the opening of the Alloway Tunnel Mural Project. Class teachers are selecting names at random in order to make this a fair selection and selected pupils have received a letter. We have been so delighted to take part in this exciting and creative project that is right on our doorstep. Last session classes visited the mural and I am sure that they will continue to do so.

Parent Council

Our Parent Council AGM was last week. Thank you to everyone in attendance. The minutes can be viewed on our school website - [Alloway Primary Parent Council AGM minutes](#). I also gave a presentation about our School Improvement Priorities. A link to this is also on the school website – [School Improvement Priorities Presentation](#). Our new office bearers have been elected and we are very grateful to them for taking on these roles this session. They are Catriona Andrews (chair), Kasia Munro (vice-chair), Claire Campbell (treasurer), Michelle Gass (secretary) and Janine Leonard (Fundraising Convener). Huge thanks to Laura Cameron who stepped down as chair last session and to Julie Grant who also stepped down as fundraising convenor. We are very grateful to them for all their hard work. The Parent Council have signed up to the Asda Cashpot for Schools Campaign.

Please sign up for the Asda Rewards app and add us as your school. Our Cashpot gets a reward every time you shop.

School Improvement Visit

This session we are scheduled to have a local authority improvement visit. A team of 4 will come to work with Mrs Miller and myself on Wednesday 25th and Thursday 26th September to look at learning and teaching within the school. We are looking forward to having these visitors in the school and to the dialogue that this visit will bring as we continually strive to improve our school. The team would like to meet with a focus group of parents on Wednesday 25th September from 2.15pm to 3pm. We are looking for up to 10 parents who could come and meet and be part of this focus group. If you would like to take part please phone into the school office as soon as possible to register your interest. The team will also meet with pupil focus groups, school staff and visit classes and the Early Years Centre to observe learning and teaching. The team is led by Gavin Pitt our Quality Improvement Officer. Feedback will be shared with me at the end of the visit and in turn, I will share this with our school community.

Attendance

Mrs Park is leading our work on improving school attendance. She is monitoring attendance closely and working with families to ensure all children maximise their school experience. You will have seen the South Ayrshire Council Campaign, 'Every Learner, Every Day' which highlights the importance of coming to school. Every Learner, Every Day Please remember to phone into the school office or use Parents' Portal to report absence.

South Ayrshire Reads

Mrs Stewart is leading our other area of school improvement which is South Ayrshire Reads. As a school we are reviewing how we teach reading in line with the Science of Reading approach and are being supported to do this by the South Ayrshire Reads team. Staff are undergoing targeted training in this area and you will see changes in how we teach reading in school and homework given. Mrs Stewart will be writing out to parents shortly about this and will be offering a workshop to parents soon. In Term 3 there will be a further opportunity to come to a workshop ran by the class teachers. This is an exciting project. We are in year 2 of this authority project and all the schools last year talk very highly of it. We are looking forward to being part of this.

Open Afternoon

We have our open afternoon next Thursday afternoon and look forward to welcoming families into the school. A letter has been sent out explaining the arrangements. It is a great opportunity for you to see your child's class but please be aware that this a very busy experience for children so not the normal school day. Please speak to your child's class teacher should you feel that this may be too overwhelming for your child and we can plan around this.







Parking

We continue to become concerned about parking and dangerous driving around the school. We would urge you to consider carefully where to park around the school avoiding neighbours' drive ways and Upper Crofts. We also have had concerns from our community about how children cross the roads on their way to and from school. We will continue to talk to children about road safety and would ask you to do the same as we all work together to keep our children safe.

Parents Portal

Thank you to everyone who has signed up to our Parents Portal app. We are aiming to get 100% of the school signed up. Once you have signed up please ensure you have completed your child’s annual data check forms as we can’t take your child out on a school trip without these. Please phone the school office if you have any issues. I am very aware of the number of platforms the school is using and aim in the future to streamline this where we can. Apart from Learning Journals, these are apps that we need to use in line with South Ayrshire Council communications. Once we have the majority of families signed up to Parents Portal we will be able to try and streamline our communication methods. We are becoming more familiar with the capabilities of the app now and as we continue to do so we will aim to streamline things. The school calendar has been added to the Parents Portal app so all your dates are there for you. Please see the table below which explains how we are currently using the platforms assigned to us.

PARENTS PORTAL 	PARENT PAY 	XPRESSIONS/GROUPCALL 	LEARNING JOURNALS 
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual Data Checks and updating children’s personal information throughout the year. It will replace the paper Annual Data Check form. • Parents can access their child’s attendance on a daily basis. • Parents can report attendance. • Parents can access all apps listed through Parents Portal. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ordering school lunches. • Paying for and giving permission for school trips etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Groupcall will still be used for messages and emails from the school. • Parents can message the school using Groupcall. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teachers will use this app to share information about your child’s learning.

Apologies for the long letter but wanted to capture all the important things in the one place. Looking forward to seeing you at our open afternoon next Thursday.

Kind regards,

Fiona
 Fiona Meney
 Head Teacher

