



April 2025 Newsletter - Alloway Early Years Centre

Welcome



Term 3

Dear Parents and Carers,

I can hardly believe that we are coming to the end of Term 3 already. As we approach the end of this term, I would like to take a moment to thank you all for your continued support and involvement within the life of the EYC. We so value the relationships we have with our parents

and families, and love having you join us for various events. Term 3 has been a wonderful term filled with growth, learning, and fun, and we are so proud of all the progress the children have made. From our PEEP sessions to Forest Kindergarten, children have enjoyed a range of experiences, and have absolutely earned their Easter holidays! A well done to all the boys and girls for their hard work this term!

Looking ahead, we are excited for the upcoming term, where we will continue to create enriching and enjoyable learning experiences for your child. As always, please don't hesitate to reach out to us with any questions, concerns, or suggestions. We value your feedback and look forward to continuing our collaboration in the next term.

We will end Term 3 with our Easter Service which takes place at Alloway Parish Church on Friday 4th April at 9:45am, and we are delighted that the children starting P1 in August will be joining us for this. Parents are welcome to walk to the church with us and should arrive at the EYC at 9am. The EYC closes on Friday 4th April and reopens at 9am on Tuesday 22nd April 2024.

Wishing you and your family a restful and enjoyable holiday. We look forward to welcoming the children back for another term of fun and learning!

Yours sincerely,

Lauren Miller

Depute Head Teacher



Our Vision and Values



Here are our Vision and Values for 2024-2025, following consultation with staff, pupils and parents last session.

Updates

Children's Belongings

Please remember, children are not required to bring in bags with lots of items from home. A change of clothes, pair of wellies and puddle suit, all of which can be kept in the EYC, is suffice.

Water Bottles

Children are not required to bring a water bottle to the EYC. Fresh water is available in the EYC all day and children are offered milk or water at snack and lunchtime.

Packed Lunches

Some parents choose to send their child with a packed lunch. Packed lunches should consist of a sandwich and one or two other items. We will provide milk and water, so no need to bring a drink.

Clothing

We will continue to work hard to cover up children's clothes when painting or engaging in messy play activities. It is not guaranteed children won't find something to stick to their clothes or wipe on their sleeve. Please ensure you dress your child in appropriate clothing to come to nursery. We will continue to reinforce routines in the EYC and encourage children to put on aprons before engaging in painting or messy play.

EYC Easter Celebration Event

Our Easter Event which took place on Tuesday 1st May was a huge success. We raised £623.90 which will go towards our summer trip to Dolphin House. We wish to thank you for coming along to join us. There was such a buzz in the room, and it was clear that the children loved having families in to celebrate with them. A huge thank you to the staff and children for organising the event. Thank you to our parents and families for the raffle donations and for the delicious cakes.













Look what we've been up to in term 3...















UnderSky

We were delighted to work alongside local play provider, UnderSky, who delivered numeracy based sessions for our children and families. The children had a great time trying to work out who the bramble thief was. They also got to try some delicious Bramble Jam, made by the mouse. Thank you to our parents and families who were able to join us.





Church Stay and Play

We are so fortunate to have a fantastic relationship with Alloway Parish Church. The links we have allow us to work in partnership with individuals from the church, and to provide a variety of events within the school, including our EYC Stay and Play. We are always made to feel so welcome by the church members, and we wish to thank them for hosting a Stay and Play session each term. These are always well attended by our families, and it is always a happy

occasion. We have no more Church Stay and Play sessions planned next term. **Our EYC Stay and Play will take place on Thursday 29th May from 5pm-6pm.**



P1 Transition



Our children who are starting P1 in August will soon be engaging in range of transition activities alongside their P1 peers, and the current P1 teachers. As previously noted, at this stage, we do not have confirmation of children coming to P1 at Alloway, or staffing arrangements, therefore, these visits will be for catchment area children until we have details of placing requests. We look forward to assigning our new P1 children with buddies from P6 once we have confirmation of our P1 pupils for next year. At this stage, please note that our P1 Induction Night will take place on **Thursday 22nd May at 6pm**, and our bump up days will take place on **Tuesday 10th June from 9:30-12:00 (to include lunch with parents)**, and **Wednesday 11th June from 9:30-11:30**. More information will follow.

EYC Transition



EYC Registration has now closed, and we are awaiting confirmation from the local authority about children who will be joining us in the EYC next session. Mrs Miller and Miss McCallum have a programme of transition activities, details of which will be sent out soon. At this stage, however, please note that our EYC Parent Induction morning will take place on **Thursday 5th June from 10:00-11:00am**.

Parental Engagement - PEEP group

Our PEEP and Bookbug sessions with Nicola Lawrence have been well received this term and we wish to thank all the parents and families who were able to join us. We look forward to further sessions which will be running in Term 4, some of which will be aimed towards children who are starting at Alloway EYC next session.



Forest Kindergarten

Haley has been continuing to lead successful Forest Kindergarten sessions for the children in the EYC. The children have loved taking part in these experiences, and we are so fortunate to have these areas to make use of on our doorstep.





Rozelle Park

30 JAN 2025



Continuous Improvement in the EYC

Staff have been working extremely hard this session to continue to make improvements within the EYC, and all staff have undertaken a leadership role within the development of the EYC. The process of continuous improvement has involved staff visiting other EYCs to observe and share good practice, and visiting specialists providing additional training, such as, the South Ayrshire Reads team. These visits and training opportunity have had a positive impact in the EYC, and have given staff increased confidence and capacity to take forward different approaches.

As always, we value your feedback. If there is anything you wish to share with us, please speak to a member of the EYC team.



Pre-school Developmental Milestones

Staff are continuing to set up experiences in the EYC to help children develop in their pre-school developmental milestones. For parents of pre-school children, your child's developmental milestones profile will be shared with you. We have created a ThingLink to enable parents to support their children with Developmental Milestones at home -

Language and Communication - <https://www.thinglink.com/card/1408076257597325313>

Numeracy and Maths - <https://www.thinglink.com/card/1408078416518840321>

Health and Wellbeing - <https://www.thinglink.com/card/1408078032031186945>



Care Plans

It is important to us to have good relationships with families to ensure that we meet children's needs. We have shared the Care Plans for this block and staff are in the process of evaluating these. New Care Plan meetings will take place after the Easter holidays at which point,

keyworkers will arrange to meet with you to discuss your child's progress and next steps, and gather your feedback. We want to ensure a partnership approach to supporting children and to consider your child's needs when supporting them to achieve their full potential. Please keep key workers up to date with any important information regarding your child. We are required to keep an up to date care plan for each child which is reviewed on a termly basis. This is a requirement of the Care Inspectorate.



Lunch Routines



Staff have worked very hard to create a homely environment for children to enjoy whilst eating their lunch. Staff sit with the children at lunchtime, and children are encouraged to develop independence during snack and lunch routines.

Snack

At Alloway EYC we encourage healthy eating. We have a morning snack of a carb and fruit with milk and water, lunch provided by the school kitchen with water and afternoon fruit snack with

water and milk. This session the government are providing milk and fruit daily for each EYC child. We will still be providing children with carbs and dairy to meet our nutritional guidance.

School Lunches

We will continue to provide hot school meals each lunch time. Lunchtime is a lovely time where the children can eat together with staff and share stories. We are encouraging good manners and the children enjoy this time together. Our lunch is provided by the school kitchen. The menu will continue to be shared in advance on the EYC board.

Packed Lunches

Parents can choose to provide a healthy packed lunch for their child if you feel your child would prefer this to a school meal. This should consist of a sandwich and one or two other items. We will provide milk and water so no need to bring a drink. We would ask parents to provide a healthy lunch. Children do not need a large packed lunch as they are still getting their morning and afternoon snack. It is really important that lunches are labelled with your child's name as these are stored in our fridge as per government guidance. Unfortunately we can't accommodate lunch boxes and padded lunch bags due to space and infection control procedures.

Healthy lunch suggestions:

Sandwiches

Crackers, breadsticks,

Rice cakes

Fruit

Vegetables

Yogurts

Cheese portion

Please avoid crisps, sweets and chocolate bars.

PLEASE NOTE, WE ARE A NUT FREE SCHOOL AND EYC

Routines for Changing Children

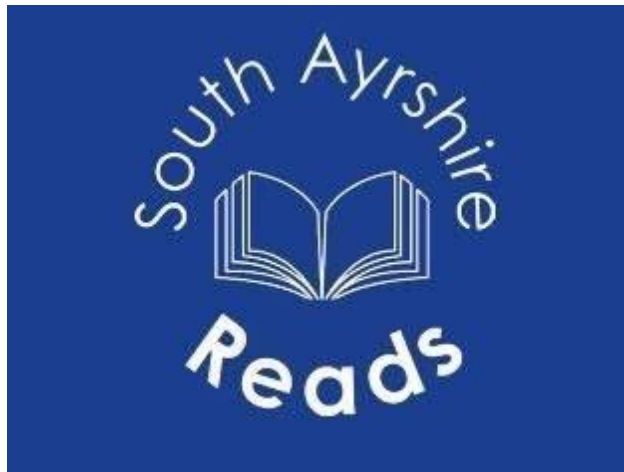
We understand that some of our children are still learning to use the toilet, and accidents can happen. **Please ensure your child has a change of clothes within the EYC.** Should your child require pull-ups or nappies, we ask that your child has a supply of these in their bag. Please discuss any concerns with your child's keyworker, and they will be happy to support.

Medication



If your child requires medication on a short or long term basis, or has any allergies, **you must speak to your child's keyworker to book an appointment with Kirsty McCallum (Senior EYP).** This will allow us to complete the required paperwork, and to ensure we meet the needs of your child.

South Ayrshire Reads



We are so excited to be working alongside the South Ayrshire Reads team this session to continue to develop literacy learning in our setting. As well as providing staff training, the team will work alongside staff and children to ensure a consistent approach to literacy learning, and to upskill our EYPs and staff to effectively develop reading skills in our youngest learners.



Parking



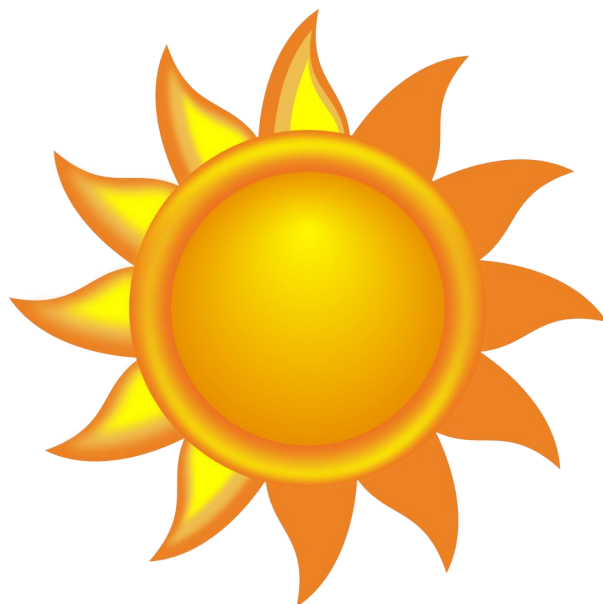
Parking is always at a premium at the school. We have recently had some concerns from local library users about parents parking in disabled spaces. This means that those who really need the spaces cannot access the library easily. The car park is for the use of staff and visitors to the school and the library. Parents should not drop their children off in the car park. Children are not allowed in the car park at any time. Please do not park in the disabled bay if you have no entitlement. Our parents are also concerned about the way some cars park and this is often on the agenda at the Parent Council. There is a drop off zone in front of the school. This is not a car parking facility. **Parents should not park in the drop off zone or bus bay and should adhere to the road markings.**

We thank you for your support in these matters and hope that the school and parents can work together to provide a safe environment for the children.

Outdoor Play

Please remember that our children play outside everyday therefore it is important to bring appropriate clothes. We hope to see some sunshine in term 4, so it will be important that your child has suncream in the EYC. More information will be sent out in due course.

Staff are working with the children this year to talk about the risks benefits in play and children will be involved in assessing the risks before they play.



Special Achievements and Birthdays



We love to celebrate children's wider achievements! We are always eager to learn and find out what the children get up to or achieve out with the early years setting so that we can celebrate this. Please continue to send photos for our WOW Wall in the foyer. Children are so proud of the things they do out with nursery and it is lovely for us to display this.

We love to celebrate birthdays in the Early Years Centre. When it is your child's birthday we will celebrate this by letting them choose from the birthday box and they will get a birthday card from nursery. Children love this celebration and love to hear their friends sing 'Happy Birthday' to them. **We would kindly ask that parents don't bring in birthday cake/sweets as we strive to follow Food Guidelines about healthy eating. We also have children in the EYC who have allergies.**

Diary Dates (provisional)



Please note these diary dates for the forthcoming session. These may be, on occasion, subject to change. Please refer to this list for any forthcoming dates. This will be updated on every newsletter and new dates added.

Tuesday 22nd April - EYC reopens @ 9am

Thursday 24th April - P1 Transition Visit (Alloway EYC)

Thursday 1st May - P1 Transition Visit (Alloway EYC)

Monday 5th May - HOLIDAY

Thursday 8th May - P1 Transition Visit (Alloway EYC)

Tuesday 13th May - P1 Transition Visit (Alloway EYC)

Thursday 22nd May - 6:00pm - P1 Parent Induction Night

Monday 26th May - HOLIDAY

Tuesday 27th May - INSERVICE DAY (SCHOOL CLOSED)

Thursday 29th May - 5:00-6:00pm - EYC Evening Stay and Play

Friday 30th May - P1 Transition Visit (Alloway EYC and other nurseries)

Wednesday 4th June - P1 Transition Visit (Alloway EYC and other nurseries)

Thursday 5th June - 10:00am - EYC Parent Induction Session

Tuesday 10th June - 9:30-12:00 - P1 Bump Up morning (to include parent lunch)

Tuesday 10th June - 10:00am - EYC new starts PEEP session

Wednesday 11th June - 9:30-11:30 - P1 Bump Up morning

Wednesday 11th June - 1:30pm - EYC new starts PEEP session

Friday 13th June - EYC Sports Day

Monday 16th June - 10:00-11:00am - EYC new starts stay and play session

Wednesday 18th June - 1:30-2:30pm - EYC new starts stay and play session

Thursday 19th June - 10:00 - EYC Graduation

Friday 20th June - Whole school summer celebration day

Friday 27th June - 9:45am - Summer Service @ Alloway Parish Church

Friday 27th June - SCHOOL CLOSES

Speech and Language Development

A colorful poster for 'Get wee people chatting'. The top half features a blue sky with white clouds and a rainbow. Four diverse children are jumping over the rainbow. The text 'Get wee people chatting' is written in a large, bold, blue font. Below the illustration, there is a telephone icon and text about a helpline. Social media icons for Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram are listed with their respective handles. The NHS logo for Ayrshire & Arran is in the bottom right corner.

Get wee people chatting

The helpline is available every Tuesday between 2pm and 4pm by calling 07833095374. A virtual drop-in appointment can be arranged for a Thursday afternoon between 1pm and 4pm by calling or texting 07833095374 to arrange an appointment.

@weepeoplechat

South Ayrshire Childrens Speech & Language Therapy

@ayrshireSLT

NHS
Ayrshire & Arran

Development of speech and language is incredibly important in the early years. In South Ayrshire we work closely with the Speech and Language Therapy team. Please feel free to contact SLT team or Early Years Centre staff for more information or if you have a concern. Early intervention is key and NHS Speech and Language services offer a virtual drop in or phone helpline which allows parents/carers to discuss any concerns with a therapist. More information can be found by clicking on this link. [Speech and Language drop in information](#)



Early Years Twitter and School Website



Please follow us @AllowayEYC

We are using this feed to share pictures and experiences from the EYC. We will also link to community events and helpful Early Years information.

<https://twitter.com/AllowayEYC>

More information about the EYC and School can be found on our new website. <https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/sa/allowaypsandeyc/>

Parent Council

Be at the heart of your child's learning.



Alloway Primary School has a very active Parent Council. They meet monthly with Mrs Meney and Mrs Miller to discuss issues that relate to the school. They also raise funds to support the work of the school and have our children have benefited greatly. The Parent Council represents the parent body of the nursery and the school and they would like to encourage you to join them. It is important that Early Years Centre parents feel welcome to attend, this is not just for parents of school children.

Early Years Centre Information

Early Years Centre Policies

Please take a look at our nursery policies. We have been updating some of our policies to ensure they are current. These will be added to a policy section on our school website.

Early Years Centre Website

Please look on our school website for more information about our EYC.

[Alloway Primary Website - EYC page](#)

Alloway EYC Twitter - Follow Alloway EYC on our Twitter page.

Allergen Information

On 13th December 2014 the EU Food Information for Consumers Regulation (EU FIC) came into force. There are 14 major allergens which need to be declared when used as ingredients in food.

We are now required to display a list of 14 allergens and indicate when these are present in the food we serve. We have put a menu with the allergens highlighted in a display in the nursery corridor. Please refer to this display. We already are aware of some allergies that children have and have procedures in place to deal with this. Please speak to your child's key worker if your child has any allergies that staff should be aware of.

PLEASE NOTE - ALLOWAY PRIMARY AND EYC ARE A NUT FREE SCHOOL.

More information on the new regulations can be found on this website:

<http://www.food.gov.uk/news-updates/campaigns/allergen-rules>



Child Protection and Safeguarding



Early Years staff provide support to children and young people in their daily work and have a vital role to help protect them from harm. They help keep children and young people safe and well by:

- Helping them learn about their personal safety, including internet safety.
- Being a trusted adult who children and young people may turn to for help, and who will take them seriously

- Identifying when children and young people may need help
- Understanding the steps that must be taken when there are concerns for children's and young people's safety and well being. The **EYC has a Child Protection Co-Ordinator, the Head Teacher, Mrs Fiona Meney**. She will co-ordinate the nursery's response to concerns for children and young people's safety and wellbeing. The Authority has a designated officer for Child Protection who will ensure schools work effectively to keep children safe and well. If you have any concerns about the safety and wellbeing of a child or young person, including a 'gut feeling', talk about this to the school's Child Protection Co-Ordinator or another member of staff. Mrs Lauren Miller (DHT) will deputise for Fiona in her absence.

Child Protection

The Child Protection Coordinator for the school and EYC is Mrs Fiona Meney (Head Teacher). She will coordinate the response to concerns for children and young people's safety and wellbeing. Mrs Lauren Miller (Depute Head Teacher) will coordinate the response to any concerns raised, in the absence of Mrs Meney. Please follow the Child Protection Policy if reporting a concern.



Mrs Fiona Meney
- Head Teacher



Mrs Lauren Miller
- Depute Head Teacher