

# June 2025 Newsletter - Primary and EYC

Alloway

#### Speeding towards the end of term!

Dear Parents and Carers,

It is hard to believe that we are nearing the end of the session. The weeks are passing so quickly and we have so much happening in the last few weeks of term. It has been such a busy term so far. All our school trips and outings have taken place and the children have had such a lovely time. The Early Years Centre and Primary 2 enjoyed a fabulous day at Dolphin House exploring Culzean and the beach. Our Primary 1 children loved their day at Dumfries House education centre. Primary 3 enjoyed a wonderful trip to Science Centre, learning about how the wind turbines work. Bannockburn was a big hit for Primary 4 and their trip to the . Primary 5 set sail to Belfast to explore the amazing Titanic museum and had such a fabulous time. Our Primary 6 children loved their day at Craufurdland Estates at the Tree Top Trials. The residential trip at Inverclyde was such a big hit with Primary 7. We all had a fantastic time. It is so good to see the children explore beyond our classroom walls and all these experiences brought classroom learning to life. A huge thanks for all our parent helpers who helped out during many of these trips. We really do appreciate all your help.

The children in Primary 4-7 entertained us with this fabulous performance of 'Beyond the Big Top' earlier this month. Their performances in dancing, singing and playing a musical instrument were super and the audiences on both nights were very much entertained by the children. Huge thanks to staff for all their hard work in pulling this together.

The children enjoyed our Heath and Wellbeing fortnight with all the visitors and super learning experiences throughout the week. Huge thanks to all our volunteers, staff and parent helpers who made this possible. Thanks to Mrs McCarrell for planning this. Sports Day eventually happened and the children were excellent and enjoyed this opportunity. Thanks to all the families who supported this event.

Our Primary 7 children really enjoyed their time at secondary school as they prepare for the next chapter of their story. They have been amazing and it has been so lovely to watch them grow and develop during their time at Alloway. I hope they all enjoy their final week of school. Our pre-school children are also ready to move onto Primary 1. They have been fabulous during transition activities and we can't wait for them to join us in school.

It will be the school holidays before we know it. As you prepare for school in August I would encourage all children to wear school uniform. Children often like to bring their own pencil case with resources for the new term. Please also ensure that children have a named water bottle and PE kit/shoes. Information about PE days will be sent out in the new term. Children can also bring a waterproof and or wellies to store in school for outdoor learning. Again, we would appreciate it if all items are named. Please contact us if you need any support with this. Thank you to parents who attended the drop in with BE uniforms last week.

It has been such a busy year for us. We were delighted with the results of our HMIE inspection in January and we continue to build on this positive inspection. We are working on our new school improvement plan and will share new priorities with you in the new term. I can't thank you all enough for your continued support across the session. I really do appreciate this. I truly hope you all have a lovely time no matter what the summer holds for you. We look forward to welcoming everyone back on Wednesday 20th August at 9am.

Yours sincerely,

Fiona

Mrs Fiona Meney

**Head Teacher** 

#### PLEASE NOTE OUR ONLY SCHOOL PHONE NUMBER IS 01292 612490

#### Last day

#### CHURCH SUMMER SERVICE - Friday 27th June 2025

We will go to Alloway Parish Church on the last day of term. The service will start at 9.45am and all parents and carers are welcome. This will be a celebration of the school year and a chance to say farewell and good luck to our Primary 7 children. We will leave school shortly after 9am and will walk down. We are always looking for Parents and Carers to walk down with us. Should you wish to do this please arrive at the school reception at 9am where you will be taken down to the classes. Thank you in advance for this.

#### **EARLY CLOSE 1pm and School lunches**

Please note the school will close at 1pm. Anyone who has ordered a school lunch will get a sandwich option. As previously noted, these had to be ordered by Monday 23rd June at 3pm.

#### Staffing update

Next session we will see some temporary staff join us. We are delighted to welcome Miss Sophie Gardener and Mr Calum Stewart to our staff team. We are also delighted to welcome back Miss Jessica McNeil, Miss Terri Ewing, Miss Anna Ferguson and Mrs Helen Parkinson who will also return to work with us in August.

Next session my management team will consist of Mrs Lauren Miller as DHT, Mrs Lisa Stewart 0.8 PT, Mrs Emma Park 0.8 PT and Miss Nicola Rainey 0.8 PT. This team will support me in the leadership of the school. Mrs Joanne Martin, Mrs Lisa Herbert and Mr Rory Hall remain on the teaching team for reduced class contact time, class cover and learning support on a part time basis. This session they will be joined by Miss Jessica McNeil (0.6), Mrs Helen Parkinson (0.2) and Mr Calum Stewart.

South Ayrshire Council have created a Depute Managers Post in our EYC. Huge congratulations to Kirsty McCallum who secured this post. We will also welcome a new Senior EYP and Victoria

Cuff to the role of EYP 0.9. We say thank you and goodbye to Haley Hughes who is moving onto another EYC.

We will also welcome Mrs Lynsey Hedges and Miss Heather McPike to our school assistant team. Huge thanks to Mrs Andrea Morrison and Miss Abigail Maclaughlin who will be leaving us at the end of term. We thank them so much for everything that they have done for us.

We have been supported this session by some super temporary staff who will sadly leave us at the end of term; Mrs Daisey Porte and Mrs Evonne Duncan who have worked so hard this year and we wish them all the very best as they leave us at the end of term. It is always sad to see staff leave but we wish everyone well and thank them so much for all that they have done for us. Mrs Jackson will stop at the end of term for maternity leave. We can't wait to hear some more lovely baby news!

#### The Promise



This session staff have undergone specific training about 'The Promise' and we have achieved our 'Keeping the Promise' award. *The Promise* is Scotland's commitment to care-experienced children and young people. It was created following the Independent Care Review, which listened to thousands of voices—especially those with experience of the care system. *The Promise* sets out what needs to change so that all children grow up feeling safe, loved, and respected. In schools, this means we are working together to create nurturing, inclusive environments where every child is supported to thrive—no matter their background or circumstances.

#### Extra Curricular Activities



We have continued our partnership with Active Schools this term to ensure the delivery of high-quality extra curricular activities. This term's activities have included multisports, dance and duathlon. We have also worked in partnership with Cambusdoon Sports Club, who have delivered Cricket sessions for the upper school. Our children have done us proud across the year, attending various events and competitions, including Duathlon, various dance shows, netball games and tournaments, and orienteering. Well done to all our children for their fabulous achievements across the year.

Our school football teams have played incredibly well this year, winning lots of shiny trophies for the school. We are very proud of the teams, and wish to thank Evan Ferguson and Kenny MacPherson, who have delivered training and coached the teams during matches and tournaments.

Our school choir continues to be run by Mrs. MacKinnon, and we look forward to their performance at the Church Service on Friday. Mrs. Goodwin continues to run Coding Club for the upper primary classes, and this always proves to be very popular.

A huge thank you goes to all the volunteers who deliver clubs and activities within the school. If you have any particular skills, and would be willing to run a school club, please contact Mrs. Miller via the school office. We are always delighted to have extra volunteers.



#### EYC update

This has been another busy term in our Early Years Centre. The children visited Dolphin House for their summer trip and, although the weather wasn't on our side, they had a fabulous day taking part in various outdoor activities. We had our final Stay and Play session, to coincide with the school parents night. Thank you to all parents and families who popped in to see us. The unreliable Scottish weather struck again, meaning that we had to host our Sports Day in the gym and dinner hall. This was a success and the children ran their races so well. Well done to all! Last week, we held our pre-school Graduation Ceremony. What a lovely send off the children got, and it was so nice to see so many parents and families come along to wish the children well in the next exciting chapter in their lives. A huge thank you to the EYC staff for pulling this together, and thank you to the Parent Council for donating school ties for the children's gift bags. On Friday, the children had a ball at the Summer Celebration day. They enjoyed their picnic in the gym hall, and had great fun playing outside on the bouncy castle in the sunshine! Thank you to the Parent Council for providing this.

As part of our learning around sustainability, children have been working hard in our garden, planting and growing our own fruit and vegetables. They have then set up a veg shop in the foyer, where parents and families can make a donation, and help themselves to the produce. Well done to the children and staff for their hard work with this. This is something we plan on continuing next session, and look forward to seeing how it develops.











#### Parent Council

We can't thank the Parent Council enough for all their hard work during the session. They have bought the school 15 more iPads, paid for an outdoor shed, paid for panto buses, bought planting resources for the EYC, paid for ties for P1 and P7 and paid for inflatables for our summer celebration. They have also held a successful Alloween Fayre, ran our Christmas Card scheme, Book Fayre and supported events such as the school show amongst many things. We have benefitted greatly from their support. Huge thanks to our chair Catriona Andrews and her team for everything they do.

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.

allowayparentcouncil@gmail.com

#### School Uniform

We very much promote the wearing of school unform. This shows that we all belong to the same place and it helps children feel included. We are aware of huge pressures on parents to buy the latest item of clothing or footwear which can be very expensive and these items can get easily lost. School unform takes away this pressure and helps all children feel the same. Working together we can achieve this.

We have a school uniform recycling centre in the Alloway Public Library. This was well used last session. We have been learning about reusing and recycling and have dedicated an area in the library to reuse and recycle our school uniform and seasonal clothes. There is a drop off box for any good quality school uniform to be deposited. Our school community are more than welcome to take uniforms from these rails. Anyone is welcome to use this. Please help yourselves.

The Parent Council have also supported this New To You rail, encouraging people to drop off and pick up seasonal items such as Halloween costumes, waterproofs, wellies, Christmas Party clothes or Christmas jumpers. Please feel free to drop off to Gillian in the library at any time.

Please name all items of clothing.

Every small change is a step in the right direction.



# A love for learning!































































































#### Use of Mobile Phones and devices in school

We would ask that children do not bring mobile phones or devices to school. This is becoming more of an issue in 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 really do need and appreciate your support with this. Technology is developing all the time and very often smart watches can take photos and text etc. The same rules applying to mobile phones apply to smart watches and devices. Children should not use these in school.

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

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



#### Attendance

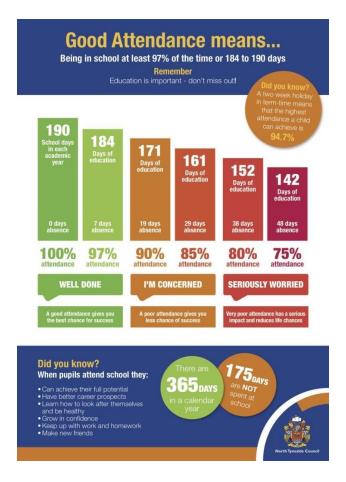


Regular school attendance is an important part of giving children the best possible start in life. The aim should be to attend 100% of the time. We know and appreciate that children can get ill and unable to come to school but would encourage to develop positive attendance patterns within school. There is a focus within the local authority this session on attendance. School attendance is monitored on a regular basis and any attendance issues followed up with parents or carers. The Head Teacher will follow up attendance or late coming issues letters following the local authority policy. Please continue to phone in to the school office when your child is absent. This is the only way to report absence. School starts at 9am. Please encourage prompt attendance. Any late coming or drop off or pick for appointments should be through the school office.

For further information please see our attendance leaflet.

#### Alloway Primary Attendance Leaflet

South Ayrshire Council are launching a campaign to promote improved attendance. I would ask you to look at the graphic below which details the impact of missed days whether absence or term time holidays. Good attendance is between 90-100%, we are concerned about attendance from 80-89% and are seriously concerned if attendance is 79% and below. Mrs Park (Principal Teacher) has this on her remit. She will work closely with families to support good attendance. Please speak to Mrs Park or Mrs Meney directly if you are concerned about your child's attendance.



#### SCHOOL INFO

#### **FIRST AID**

We have been updating our First Aid and Medicines in School policy in line with national expectations. We have updated the forms that we use to allow us to administer medicines in school. If your child needs medicine administered in school you must complete a form at the school office and medicine must be prescribed, in the original packing with information leaflet, with prescribed dose on the medicine and this shouldn't be the first dose. Office staff will

review any medicines held in school every 28 days and will confirm with you that there are not any changes. All medicine we hold must be in date.

#### **PARKING**

Last session I received numerous complaints about dangerous parking in and around the school. This is still an issue. I have been working with the police again and Ayrshire Roads Alliance 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, double park or block driveways. Please also avoid using Upper Crofts as this cul-de-sac becomes very busy. I would ask you to avoid this street and under no circumstances turn with the area in front of the school gates. Keeping children safe is important to everyone so I really appreciate your support with this.

#### **COMMUNCIATION**

Our school staff are very committed to getting it right for your child and work very hard to do so. I am lucky to have such a talented and hard working staff who really care about the children and meeting their needs. Last year we working on improving how we communicated dates with you. We will continue to email you via the expressions app and send home termly calendars. All key dates have already been sent home in the welcome booklet and are included again in this newsletter. Please keep an eye out for updates on your expressions app and save any important communications to your Favourites folder. Please contact the school office if you have any issues with the expressions app. If you become aware that you haven't received communication from us, please contact the school office directly to ensure we have the correct email address for you. From parent feedback we understand that Learning Journals isn't working the way that Seesaw did and that parents are missing this app, we understand and appreciate this but unfortunately this is the only app that we are allowed to use. We continue to look into the best ways of using this app. As always, if you have any issues accessing the app, please contact the school office.

#### **LOST PROPERTY**

We are beginning to accumulate lost property again. Please ensure all items of clothing are named, this makes lost items very easy to return.

#### **ALLOWAY PUBLIC LIBRARY**

We are grateful to have a super relationship with Alloway Library. Gillian welcomes us weekly to explore the library and helps children develop a love for books. If you are not already a member of the library we would urge you to join. One service that we would like to promote is the audio book lending app called, the 'Libby' app. <a href="https://help.libbyapp.com/en-us/6103.htm">https://help.libbyapp.com/en-us/6103.htm</a>
This app is super and gives adults and children's audio book for free. Developing a love for stories is something we would always want to encourage. Listening to stories is something that is so beneficial. If you need help downloading this app and linking it to your library account, please go in and speak to Gillian White or any of the library staff.

#### **Internet Safety**

I am sharing this information with parents and carers again as we are becoming increasingly aware of issues with children happening through inappropriate use of the internet and social media. There are so many useful aspects to the internet as it opens up so many opportunities for children but also brings a children into a world where they need to be aware that not everything can be as it seems. We have become aware that some children are using sites such as Snapchat and What's App and wanted to share the Parent Guides to using these apps as we are aware that children have encountered issues when using these apps. Many apps have age restrictions on them. I hope you find these information booklets useful. We also use the website - Think U Know with the children. <a href="https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/">https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/</a> Here is the parent webpage which may also be useful.





## 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 - <a href="https://hscp.south-ayrshire.gov.uk/YoungCarers">https://hscp.south-ayrshire.gov.uk/YoungCarers</a>

#### **Family First**

This cluster support is based in Belmont Academy and provide targeted support for children and families . 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. <a href="https://www.exchange-counselling.com/">https://www.exchange-counselling.com/</a>

#### Turn to Us

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

#### 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)

#### **Free School Meals and Clothing Grant**

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

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. <a href="https://bit.ly/3mTpkfo">https://bit.ly/3mTpkfo</a>

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.

#### **Digital Poverty Alliance – Tech4Families Programme**

Digital Poverty Alliance is a charity and part of their mission is to drive digital inclusion. They're working alongside Curry's to provide laptops for families in need in five areas across the UK and Ayrshire is one of these areas. If your children don't have access to a computer, we would encourage you to find out more. This <u>link</u> will provide more information with access to the application.

This is a great opportunity to assist our young people with access to IT, where they are currently struggling. Please note however that this device will not be managed and supported by South Ayrshire Council and therefore will not be able to connect to the Council network or Wi-Fi.

#### **SLEEP SCOTLAND**

Sleep Scotland have a wonderful free resource that can help parents and children to learn more about their sleep and develop better bedtime routines. Sleep is essential to brain function, by helping children to sleep better, we can help them to succeed in school. See attached information.

#### **Ayrshire Cancer Support**

Ayrshire Cancer Support have services available for children. Please see attached information from their service.

#### Women's Aid

Please see attached leaflet from Women's Aid.







#### CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SERVICE

Our service offers therapeutic support on a one to one and group basis for children and young people aged 5 to 25 who are affected by their own cancer diagnosis or that of

a significant person in their life, or who have been bereaved as a result of cancer.

We provide a safe space for children and young people to explore and share their feelings and support them to develop helpful coping strategies. We offer services in a kind, caring and compassionate way and have children and young people's wellbeing at the heart of everything we do.



We have qualified and experienced practitioners who can offer support within one of our centres or in a school, college or the local community.

We can offer one to one counselling, as well as more creative approaches, using play and therapeutic art activities to help children and young people express themselves and talk about what is happening in their life.





We want to support individuals to develop their resilience and find ways to manage their emotions, loss and grief, to allow them to be able to make sense of their world and find ways of taking the next steps in their life. We work with other organisations to ensure the child or young person receives the very best support to meet their needs, at a time that is right for them.

We can provide support for families and can help develop peer support through groupwork, such as bereavement, anxiety and resilience, mindfulness, outdoor and other activity based groups. Children, young people and families can also access complementary therapies. We work in a person-centred way, therefore following assessment with a practitioner, the child, young person or family will agree together on an individualised plan of support.

We can provide resources and signpost to other services who can help with other areas of the child or young person's life. We are happy to provide support to schools and can plan that based on individual need; please contact Gill Birrell, Service Lead, at <a href="mailto:cyp@ayrshirecs.org">cyp@ayrshirecs.org</a> for more information.

Children and young people's safety is paramount, and we have policies and procedures in place to ensure safe working practices.

Requests for support can be made by completing a form on our website <a href="https://www.ayrshirecs.org/services">www.ayrshirecs.org/services</a> or by calling 01563 538008.





# Climbing Group

For children and young people who have been affected by or bereaved through cancer

Have fun

**Build confidence** 

Meet new people

Try something new

Wednesday 6.30 - 8pm

8th, 15th, 22nd, 29th November 6th , 12th December





#### **REGISTER NOW**

- Via this QR codeCall 01563 538008Email cyp@ayrshirecs.org









#### Womens Aid

# AIMS OF THE SERVICE

- To help children and young people have a better understanding of Domestic Abuse and their experiences.
- To gove children and young people the opportunity to talk about their experiences in a safe environment
- To help children and young people keep themselves safe through awareness raising and safety planning
- To improve wellbeing and confidence through support with their keyworker
- To provide family support to improve family relations
- To provide support to young people struggling with abuse in their own relationships

#### **CONTACT:**

If you feel you need support you can contact us directly, through your school or a trusted adult.



Main office 01292 266482 Children and Young People's Support Service 01292 267067



sawacyp@sawamail.org.uk



28 Sandgate Ayr KA8 1BW Opening Hours Monday - Friday 9am - 4.30pm



CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

Company Ltd by Guarantee Company Number SC339514 Registered Charity Number SC002364

### CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SUPPORT SERVICE

01292 267067

WWW.SOUTHAYRSHIREWOMENSAID.ORG.UK

FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK @SOUTHAYRSHIREWOMEN'SAID



# What is Domestic Abuse?

Domestic abuse is a pattern of controlling behaviour by someone you are, or have been in a relationship with. The abuse may be constant over a long period of time or it may be short lived. Domestic abuse has many forms and is not always physical. It could be mental, verbal, sexual or financial abuse. It can include things such as name calling, putting you down and controlling the things that you do.

If this is happening at home or in your own relationship it can be very hard to deal with. Talking about how you feel can help you to cope and make sense of what is happening.

We provide support to boys and girls up to the age of 18.

#### We provide:

- 1-1 sessions in a safe environment
- Advocacy work
- Group work/activities
- family sessions
- Awareness raisina
- Support for teenage relationships
- Child centered approach

Our service is fully confidential to the Child or Young Person we are supporting. However, there may be occasions where it is necessary to share things with other agencies to ensure the safety and wellbeing of that Child or Young Person.



#### Parents' Portal

#### **How to access Parentsportal**

Download the parentsportal.scot APP using the QR codes

OR visit https://parentsportal.scot/home/.

- 2. Log in to Parentsportal using 'my account'. If you already have a mygovscot 'my account' click the link to Sign In. If you don't have a mygovscot 'my account' click the link to register for this in the first instance, and then sign In.
- 3. Once registered you will be prompted to **'Link Your Child'** where you can provide details relating to your child. Once the details are matched you will be sent a security code to either your mobile number or email address registered with the school. The security code is to provide additional security before your child's record is linked. Your request will then be sent the school for approval and you will be notified of the decision to approve the link on your email.
- 4. The details added must match the information held within the school or a match may not be found. If anyone has any issues, please contact the office who will be able to provide assistance.



#### Communication

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

Our school <u>website</u> and <u>Twitter</u> (X) 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.

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.

