Alloway Primary School - October 2026

NEWSLETTER



Nearly the end of Term 1

It is hard to believe that we are nearing the end of the first term. Our Primary 1 children, EYC children and new children throughout the school have settled so well and we are so proud of them.

This has been a busy first term with lots of learning happening across the school. Children have been creating their class charters as we work hard to embed children's rights and our school values. We really do appreciate all your support. We hope you have a lovely October holiday when it comes.

Kind regards,
Fiona Meney, Head Teacher

Diary Dates

- *9th October - Harvest Assembly in shcool*
- *9th October - Stop for Holidays at 3pm*
- *19th October - Inservice Day*
- *20th October - Pupils return*
- *22nd October - Tempest class photos*
- *28th October - P1, 2, 3 Halloween party 1pm*
- *29th October - P4/5 Halloween party 1pm*
- *30th October - EYC Halloween party am / P7 1pm*

School Values

At Alloway Primary we are

KIND
RESPECTFUL
SAFE
INCLUSIVE

Harvest

Our Harvest Assembly is on Friday 9th October 2026. The school will come together to celebrate the Harvest Festival. In response to this we would like to collect foodbank items for our own community and the South Ayrshire Foodbank. Last session we took our food bank collection and created Harvest Bags which were available to our own community first. We want to do the same this year. These will be made up by Primary 7 and shared in the public library after the October holidays. Please feel free to take a bag and give it to someone who would appreciate this. The remainder of our collection will be shared with the South Ayrshire Foodbank. Items for the foodbank can be brought into school from Monday 5th October.

We have been contacted by Alloway Parish Church seeking our support with their fundraising effort this year for Mary's Meals. They fundraise to provide school meals to children across the world in communities that very much need this. They will be collecting any left over foreign currency that will be given to Mary's Meals as part of their fundraising efforts. I know that sometimes people have some foreign currency in the bottom of a drawer. We will have collection buckets in school from Monday 5th October. We will give our currency to Alloway Parish Church who will then send this directly to Mary's Meals.

www.marysmeals.org.uk/

School House Captains

This term our Primary 7 classes held their own house elections. Huge thank you to all P7 children who took part in this. We used the polling booths and voting boxes from the Council elections on our polling day. P4-7 children listened to the speeches from their house and cast their vote. Well done to the following children who are our new House Captains.

Newark - Blue House - Syke and Rosie
Greenan - Green House - Amelia and Fraser
Culzean - Yellow House - Evelyn and Ethan
Rozelle - Red House - Beth and Noah

Extra Curricular

Our extra-curricular programme is up and running for term 1, offering children a range of lunchtime and after school activities, including; badminton, dance, Scripture Union, Reading Club, Mindfulness and Friendship Club, choir, fitness and coding. A huge thank you to school staff, Active Schools and volunteers who give up their time to deliver these opportunities.

Last week, we took a group of P7 children to the Active Schools Cross Country event at Rozelle. This was a super event for the children to be a part of. Huge thanks to the parent volunteers who supported at the event. I am so proud of the effort and determination of all children who took part. Well done to Murray Farrell who took first place within his year group.

Our football teams are now up and running and we look forward to the fixtures starting around October time. A huge thanks goes to Evan Ferguson, Kirsten Hunter and Susan Baillie for running the trials and continuing to support with coaching. Thanks also to Mrs McLeod, Miss Ferguson and Mr Hall who will support this also. I wish all teams the best of luck in the upcoming season.







Early Years Centre Update

What a wonderful start to our new term! We have been busy settling back into EYC, making new friendships, exploring our environment and learning together through play.

💚 Our EYC Values

This term we have been getting to know and understand our four special EYC values:

🌱 Kind – caring for our friends, helping others and using kind words.
🛡️ Safe – keeping ourselves and others safe and making safe choices.
🤝 Respectful – listening to others, looking after our environment and valuing everyone.
🌈 Included – making sure everyone feels welcome, valued and part of our EYC family.

We have been talking about what these values look and feel like in our everyday play and learning.

🌲 Forest Kindergarten

We have also begun our Forest Kindergarten sessions! The children have loved getting outdoors, exploring nature and learning through real-life experiences. We have been developing our confidence, independence and curiosity while enjoying the outdoors together.

🏠 Our Emotions House

We have been learning all about our emotions and how we can recognise and talk about how we are feeling.

Each child has created their very own Mini Me 👧👦 to help us talk about ourselves and our feelings. We have been using our Emotions House to explore different emotions, what they might look like and feel like, and what we can do when we experience big feelings.

💛 We are so proud of how the children have settled into the new term and of all the kindness, curiosity and enthusiasm they have shown.

School Improvement Plan - Update

Our School Improvement Priorities for 2026–27

Priority 1 – Raising attainment in literacy

We will continue to develop high-quality approaches to reading, writing, spelling and communication through the Science of Reading and South Ayrshire Reads. There will be a particular focus on helping children become confident, accurate writers by developing sentence construction, vocabulary, spelling, punctuation, grammar, editing and independent writing skills.

Priority 2 – Enriching learning and teaching

We will provide engaging, inclusive and appropriately challenging learning experiences that help every child reach their full potential. Our work will include developing consistent approaches to teaching, play and numeracy; strengthening pupil voice and leadership; improving learning environments; and making meaningful links between learning, life and the world of work.

Priority 3 – Supporting every child to achieve

We will continue to promote excellent attendance because regular attendance supports children's learning, wellbeing and attainment. We will work closely with children and families to provide early, appropriate support when attendance becomes a concern. We will also strengthen the identification and support available for our Young Carers and Teeny Carers, ensuring their wellbeing, attendance and progress are carefully monitored.

Read the full School Improvement Plan

OUR JOURNEY TO IMPROVEMENT AT ALLOWAY PRIMARY AND EYC - SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN 26-27

IMPROVING OUR EYC

1. **COMMUNICATION RICH SPACES**
Develop communication rich spaces by reducing visual clutter and using consistent visual supports, so every child can understand routines and take part in learning and play.

2. **EARLY LITERACY**
Strengthen early literacy and language through staff learning, stories, converstion and playful expereinces informed by South Ayrshire Reads.

3. **ADULT- CHILD INTERACTIONS**
Improve adult-child interactions through active listening, sustained shared thinking and nurtuing support that extends children's learning.

4. **ENRICHING PLAY EXPEREINCES**
Enrich play indoors adn outdoors with inclusive, open ended expereinces shaped by children's interests, ideas and previous learning and expereinces.

5. **CHILDREN'S RIGHTS**
Embed chidlren's rights and wellbeing in everyday interactions adn planning, giving children meaningful choices and using well being indicators.

6. **CURRICULUM IMPROVEMENT CYCLE**
Engage with the Curriclulum Improvement Cycle in order to build staff understanding to deliver our new curriculum by August 2028.

IMPROVING OUR LITERACY

1. **SCIENCE OF READING**
We will continue to engage with South Ayrshire Reads to further develop our approaches to reading.

2. **MORPHOLOGY**
We will embedd the teaching of morphology as a key component of reading and spelling. Staff will engage with the Grammarsarus resource.

3. **STAFF TRAINING IN READING**
Staff will engage in high quality professional learning based on Science of Reading and Morphology. This will have a direct impact on learning, teaching and assessment.

4. **WRITING PEDAGOGY**
Develop a shared whole-school understanding of progression in sentence construction, grammar, punctuation, spelling and vocabulary development.

5. **WRITING DEVELOPMENT**
Focus on the technical compents of writing, ensuring progression across the school.

6. **STAFF TRAINING IN WRITING**
Staff will engage in high quality professional learning based on writing development. This will have a direct impact on learning, teaching and assessment.

IMPROVING OUR CURRICULUM

1. **CURRICULUM IMPROVEMENT CYCLE**
Engage with the Curriclulum Improvement Cycle in order to build staff understanding to deliver our new curriculum by August 2028.

2. **ADAPTIVE TEACHING**
Improve learning environments and adaptive teaching so classrooms support independence and every child receives support and challenge

3. **PEDAGOGY**
Embed our Alloway Expectations in every lesson to include clear learning goals, shared success criteria and high quality questioning. Continue to build on play and enquiry based learning.

4. **NUMERACY**
Strengthen dumeracy teaching across the school through consistent approaches that build understanding, confidence and problem solving skills.

5. **SHARING LEARNING**
Make learning and progress clearer to children and families through target setting, profiling and sharing learning on Seesaw.

6. **PUPIL VOICE THROUGH CHILDREN'S RIGHTS**
Increase pupil voice and leadership through the implementation of Big Meetings, personal projects adn children's involvement in improving the school with a strong focus on developing children's rights.

IMPROVING OUR WELLBEING

1. **ATTENDANCE**
Promote good attendance by helping children and families understand how regular attendance supports learning and wellbeing.

2. **ABSENCE**
Respond promtely to absence through first day contact and follow up with families.

3. **ENGAGEMENT**
Track attendance and engagement closely to spot patterns early and identify children who need support.

4. **TARGETED SUPPORT**
Provide targeted support for families usign the Family First approach to address barriers to attendance.

5. **PARTNER AGENCIES**
Work with partner agencies where chidlren need additional help to attend and in engage in school.

6. **YOUNG CARERS**
Identify and support young carers by monitoring thier attendance and progress adn increasing opportuntiies for them to take part in Young Carers activities.

Class Learning this term

Primary 1 - During Term 1, Primary 1 settled happily into school through their Fresh Start topic, exploring friendships, children's rights, positive choices and emotions using Inside Out. In literacy, the children learned single sounds, developed early reading and blending skills, practised letter formation and strengthened their fine motor skills. In numeracy, they learned to recognise, count and write numbers to 10 using Number Zoo and Little Big Maths, while also exploring shape, pattern and symmetry. Their learning was further enriched through science activities based on the five senses, music, PE, Harvest and the creation of class charters.

Primary 2 - During Term 1, Primary 2 explored rights, responsibilities, relationships and emotions through their Fresh Start topic, The Colour Monster and The Enormous Crocodile. In literacy, the children developed their phonics, reading, handwriting and independent writing skills, with a focus on descriptive vocabulary, capital letters and full stops. In numeracy, they revised number bonds, developed addition and subtraction strategies, sequenced numbers up to 100 and investigated 2D shapes and 3D objects. Their learning also included the water cycle, autumn, Islam and Eid-ul-Fitr, French vocabulary, PE games and ball skills.

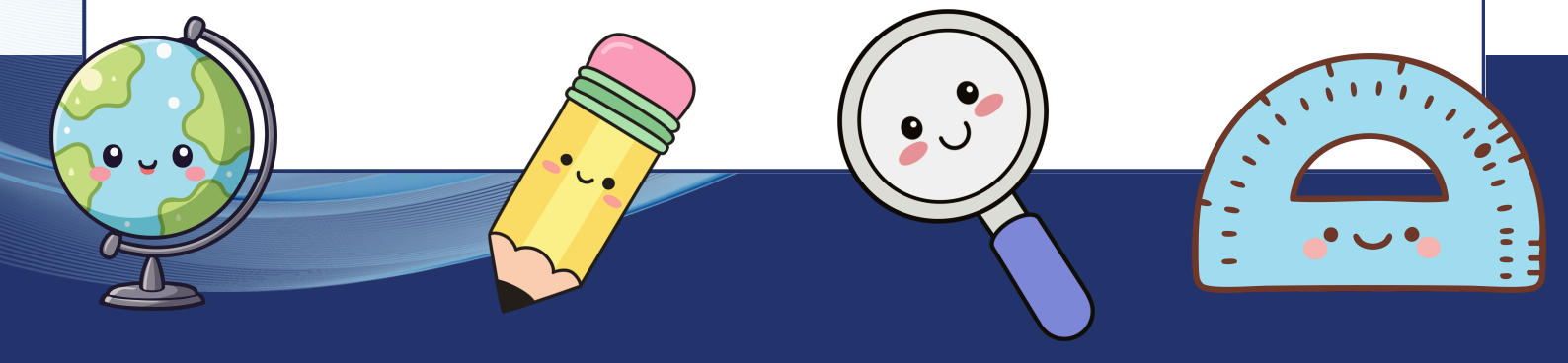
Primary 3 - During Term 1, Primary 3 explored friendships, emotions, kindness, conflict resolution and the school values through their Fresh Start topic, while developing a positive growth mindset and learning about the Global Goals. In literacy, the children strengthened their reading, spelling, grammar and story-writing skills through Mr Majeika and Alfie's Star. In numeracy, they developed their understanding of place value, rounding, estimation, number facts, addition and subtraction, while also exploring shape, symmetry and pattern. Their learning was enriched through PE, art, music and stories from the Old Testament.

Primary 4 - During Term 1, Primary 4 explored children's rights, the school values, democracy and environmental issues through the whole-school theme A Fresh Start. In literacy, the children developed their comprehension through The Land of Roar, strengthened their spelling and morphology, and created imaginative portal stories with detailed settings. In numeracy, they developed their understanding of place value, the four operations, 2D shapes and 3D objects. Their learning also included the five senses, French, digital skills, rugby, hockey, art and playing chords on the ukulele.

Primary 5 - During Term 1, Primary 5 explored children's rights, emotions, relationships and the school values through their Fresh Start topic. In literacy, the children studied The Boy at the Back of the Class, developed comprehension and higher-order questioning skills, and strengthened their creative writing through VCOP and Talk for Writing. In numeracy, they explored place value, rounding, the four operations, problem-solving and angles. Their learning also included light and shadows, French, digital and touch-typing skills, ball skills, art, music, world religions and moral choices.

Primary 6 - During Term 1, Primary 6 explored children's rights, emotions, positive relationships, resilience and the school values through their Fresh Start topic. In literacy, the children studied Kensuke's Kingdom, developed their comprehension, vocabulary, phonics and morphology, and created engaging writing using structure, word choice and figurative language. In numeracy, they investigated place value, rounding, the four operations, problem-solving and data handling. Their learning also included the Solar System, Eric Liddell, French, basketball, music and art.

Primary 7 - During Term 1, Primary 7 explored rights, responsibilities, democracy, equality and discrimination through their Fresh Start topic, learning about influential figures including Rosa Parks, Martin Luther King and Nelson Mandela. In literacy, the children developed personal writing, poetry, debating and research skills, while in numeracy they investigated large numbers, decimals, factors, primes and circles. Their learning also included emotional wellbeing, micro-organisms, the digestive system, political art, drama, handball, badminton and the creation of online learning portfolios.



School Uniform

We 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.

We have a school uniform recycling centre in the Alloway Public Library that parents are welcome to take from or add to. At this time of year we would encourage Halloween costumes to be added to this swap shop.

The Parent Council have sourced navy PE t-shirts. Children will be welcome to wear these for PE lessons and for any sports events/teams in the new session. They also have quarter zips and school hoodies.

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.



Parent Council

Thank you so much to our Parent Council for all their hard work . We really do appreciate it. They worked so hard on their stall for the Air Show and raised £3100. We really do appreciate all the effort from all the volunteers who did this in order for the money to come directly back to the children.
The letter has just gone out for our panto at the Gaiety and the Parent Council are kindly paying for all the buses to take the children there.
The Parent Council AGM is on 21st October at 6.30pm. All parents are welcome.
allowayparentcouncil@gmail.com

YOUR SCHOOL LOTTERY

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. We will follow up attendance or late coming. 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. Mrs Park our Principal Teacher has this on her remit and is there to support families to help promoting positive attendance patterns.

Alloway Parent Council Lottery

On behalf of the Parent Council we invite you to participate in the Alloway Primary School lottery. It's a fantastic way to bring the wider community together, in partnership with our school, and at the same time give something back. We hope to raise funds that can support and enrich the education of our children. The lottery is £1 a week with a minimum 4 week cancellation period. Every week someone from the Alloway community will win 25% of the takings, with 40% going to our school fund.
Visit https://www.yourschoollottery.co.uk/play *and search for 'Alloway Primary' to sign up. Your support is greatly appreciated and we wish you good luck!*

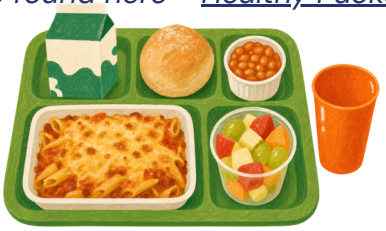
School Lunches

We use ParentPay for ordering and paying for School Lunches. The system works best if everyone orders in advance. ***Orders for the following week should be in each Friday by 12pm.*** *This will allow Lynn our school cook to accurately order food for the following week. Please speak with your children about what you are ordering for them to avoid any upset in the dinner hall as the kitchen staff give the children what you have ordered.*
The system was set up by the Council to optimise food ordering and minimise food waste. If there are any left overs at the end of service, the children left in the dinner hall will be offered seconds. Lynn and her kitchen team work so hard to make sure the children are fed. Please contact the school office if you have any issues with ParentPay. 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 only order 2 courses.

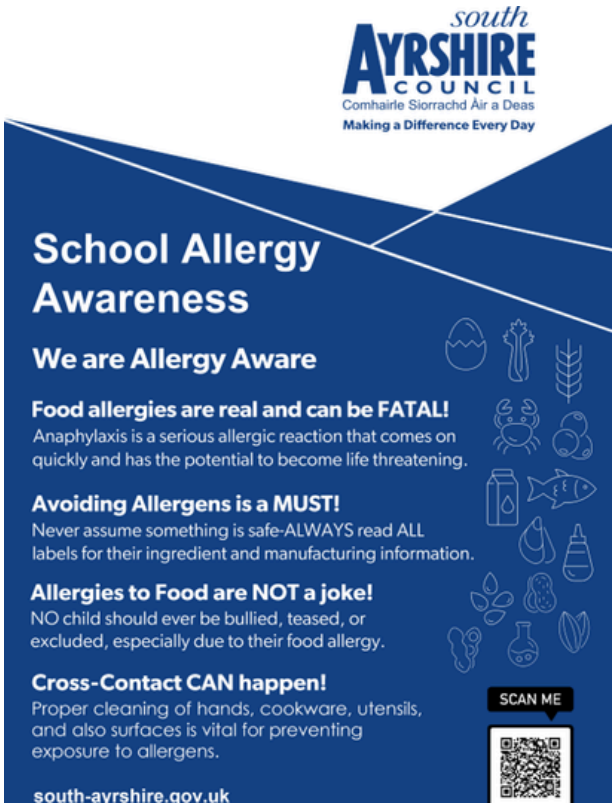
School Meal Menu
If your child has an allergy or requires a special diet, please complete the South Ayrshire medical diet form. This is a requirement of all South Ayrshire Schools and Early Years Centres. Please note that we are a NUT FREE school which we would ask parents and carers to adhere to when sending in snacks and packed lunches.

Special diets and allergies
Please access the above website if your child has allergies or a special diet. It is important that we have a special plan for them. We are an Allergy Aware School.

Children sometimes opt to bring in a healthy packed lunch. Information on Healthy Packed lunches can be found here - Healthy Packed Lunch ideas



Allergy Aware



Admission to School /EYC

School Registration Dates for South Ayrshire are Changing!

We would like to inform all parents and carers of a change to registration dates which will come into effect from October 2026. Any child joining a South Ayrshire Early Years Centre (EYC), starting Primary 1 or those transferring from Primary 7 to Secondary School during session 2027-2028 will benefit from this change.
Please note the changes to registration dates will begin from October 2026 and will continue into future sessions.

Primary 1 Registration Week
Primary 1 registration week for children due to start school in session 2027-2028 will take place from 26 October 2026 – 1 November 2026.

Primary 7 – Secondary School Transfers Week
For pupils moving from Primary 7 to Secondary School in session 2027-2028, registration week will take place from 16 November 2026 – 22 November 2026.

Early Years Centre Registration Week
For any child joining an EYC during session 2027-2028, registration week will take place from 25 January 2027 – 31 January 2027.

Find out more here!
Registering for Primary 1
https://www.south-ayrshire.gov.uk/article/25943/Admission-to-primary-schools

Primary 7 to Secondary School Transfers
https://www.south-ayrshire.gov.uk/article/25940/P7-S1-transfer-arrangements

Registering to join an EYC
https://www.south-ayrshire.gov.uk/article/26976/Register-for-Early-Learning-and-Childcare

Parking

This session I received numerous complaints about dangerous parking in and around the school. This is still an issue. 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. I am becoming increasingly concerned about unsafe dropping off and parking in 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 or stop on double yellow lines or zig zag lines. I have been in continued talks with South Ayrshire Council about this. Keeping children safe is important to everyone so I really need everyone's support with this. I really need ALL parents support with this.



Child Protection

At Alloway Primary School and EYC we continually strive to keep children safe and protected from harm. This is the responsibility of all. We recognise our legal and moral duty to promote the well-being of children and protect them from harm.
In our School Mrs Fiona Meney (HT) is the Child Protection Co-ordinator and Mrs Lauren Miller (DHT) is the Depute Child Protection Co-ordinator. For more information about this, please see our school webpage - Alloway Primary - Child Protection Webpage

Mobile Phones and Devices

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 , smart watches or devices during school hours. 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



Lost Property

Lost property can be an issue in school. Please ensure all items of clothing are named, this makes lost items very easy to return.
Please contact the school office to access our lost property.



ASN websites

More information can be found in the following website - South Ayrshire Young Carers Service
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. We have compiled a page on our website that has links about our Staged Intervention Process, Neurodiversity, Sleep Scotland, Dyslexia and NEST. Please visit:
ASN page - Alloway Primary Website

South Ayrshire Council provides a Young Carers service for children who have caring responsibilities. Please see this webpage for more details and speak to us at the school for more information.

Young Carers Webpage