

Ballantrae Primary School and Early Years

Autumn Newsletter

October 2024

A note from your Head Teacher

Welcome to our first newsletter of our session 2024-2025. I can't believe that the October Holidays are just around the corner. Our first term in school has been busy. Children are now settled into a new year of learning. Primary 1 look like they've always been in primary school and I believe our S1 pupils are also enjoying being at the academy.

In this newsletter you will find some information about what is happening in school over the next term and there is also a section on our School Improvement Plan for this year. As always, if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

School Improvement

Last session we made significant progress in improving the work of Ballantrae Primary School and Early Years. **Learning Journals** have become an important way of communicating your child's progress with you. We also love hearing what the children learn at home, so please keep sharing with us.

Staff and children are becoming confident in recognising **Meta Skills** in their everyday learning activities and our Open Day session will focus on sharing these with you.

Well done to Ballantrae Primary School and Early Years in achieving their **Gold Rights Respecting Schools** Award. This award recognising that we place human rights and needs of all children at the centre of what we do in our school and Early Years.

Our Cluster Improvement Priority continues to focus on **Visual Arts** and we have some exciting work coming up with the children in the near future.

This session, staff, pupils and parents will focus on **Curriculum** and what it means in our community context.

For further information look for our School Improvement Plan and Standards and Quality Report in our School Blog.

Primary 7 Residential

Recently our Primary 7s visited Gowanbank in Darvel for their Residential Experience. During this stay they had opportunities to abseil, tree climb and crate build, all of which were incredibly challenging.



As well as developing their knowledge and understanding of the specific activities and countryside around them, Primary 7s continued to develop their Meta Skills in context. "Meta skills are innate, timeless, higher order skills that create adaptive learners and promote success in whatever context the future brings."



Ethos and Life of the School

ACTIVE SCHOOLS/SPORTS HUB

Kayley Ross, from Girvan Community Sports Hub, continues every Thursday (until June 2024) with after school sports. P1-3 from 3pm to 4pm and P4-7 from 4pm to 5pm.

Caitlyn Flanagan, Active Schools Coordinator – Girvan Cluster, is currently in school for Junior Coach Academy with our P5-7 pupils and also runs a P2-P7 afterschool football club on a Wednesday, finishing on 23.10.24.

FURTHER AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS

Following the October holidays, Mrs Templeton will run an after-school Robotics (Vex Go) for children in P5-7.

If your child is interested in taking part an Xpressions with consent link will be issued soon.

PEEP

Shevon has begun a block of PEEP sessions with our Early Years children and parents. These Family Fun sessions will run for four weeks starting on Wednesday 25th September until 23rd October (excluding 16th October) from 1.45pm -2.45pm in the EY centre. Come along and enjoy singing, rhyming and story time with your wee ones.

SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING

We welcome back Mrs Wilma Brown to support our P5-7 children with Scottish country Dancing. This will culminate in a Day of Dance in Maybole Town Hall on the 22nd November, allowing our children the opportunity to meet and dance with children from other schools in the Girvan and Maybole area.

HARVEST THANKSGIVING ASSEMBLY

Our school Harvest Thanksgiving Assembly will be held in Ballantrae Primary School on Wednesday 9th October at 9.30am. All parents are warmly invited to attend, tea and coffee will be available afterwards. Our assembly focuses on how Harvest is celebrated globally.

LANTERN WORKSHOPS

Our Primary 5-7 children have the opportunity to take part in CRAG lantern workshops on Tuesday 8th and Wednesday 9th of October from 1pm-3pm. If you would like to join us to give a helping hand, we would be delighted to see you.

ADVENTURE CENTRE FOR EDUCATION

We have our sessions booked for ACE this year and are fortunate enough to include P5s due to there being fewer children in the upper school. Last year's activities involved Ballantrae children working alongside their peer group from Colmonell, and this was very well received by all children. This year we will work the same way and all groups will have four sessions each. Our first ACE session of Bushcraft and team games, on Friday, 25th October, will be for Primary 5 children (6 pupils from Ballantrae and 3 from Colmonell). Primary 5s will be out again with ACE the following Friday (1st November).

HALLOWE'EN

Following discussions with parents, the Primary and Early Years (Nursery) will hold a Hallowe'en Party in school on Thursday 31st October from 1pm-3pm. Children are welcome to dress up for the party and can do this in several ways: come to school already in costume, bring costume along and get ready at lunchtime in school or go home at lunch and come back dressed up. We would encourage parents to reuse and recycle Hallowe'en costumes rather than rush out and buy new ones. We especially love to see children being creative in dressing up for Hallowe'en.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

October	
Monday 7 th	Parent Council Meeting (AGM) at 2pm. Everyone welcome
Wednesday 9 th	Harvest Assembly at 9.30am
Friday 11 th	School closes at 3pm for October Holidays Children return on Tuesday 22 nd October
Friday 25 th	P5 ACE Day – Bushcraft / Team Games
Thursday 31 st	Halloween Party : EY to P7 : 1pm to 3pm
November	
Friday 1 st	P6 ACE Day – Indoor Archery / Climbing Wall
Week beginning 4 th	Parents’ meetings including support meetings. (Look out for the questionnaire and your child’s class teacher will be in touch.)
Friday 8 th	Remembrance Service 1.15pm in School Lunch Hall 2pm P7s at Heronsford
Friday 22 nd	P5-7 attending Day of Dance (morning) in Maybole Town Hall
Friday 29 th	P6 ACE Day – Cycling
December	
Tuesday 10 th	Early Years Festive outing to Ayr Farm Park
Wednesday 11 th	School Christmas Lunch
Wednesday 12 th	P1 – P7 Ayr Gaiety Pantomime
Tuesday 17 th	PM: Nativity
Wednesday 18 th	EY & P1-4 Christmas Party : 1pm to 3pm
Thursday 19 th	P5-7 Christmas Party : 1pm to 3pm
Friday 20 th	9.30am Church Christmas Service Please note school closes at the earlier time of 2.30pm Re-open on Monday 6 th January 2025

COMMUNICATION

More detailed information will be issued via Xpressions/Email. We have a few parents who still use email, please look out for information on Xpressions. It’s free to use and keeps all the school communications in one place rather than searching your email inbox for school letters etc..

Dates can also be found on our Blog at: [Ballantrae Primary School and EYC \(glowscotland.org.uk\)](http://Ballantrae Primary School and EYC (glowscotland.org.uk))

And our private Facebook page; if you are not a member please search for Ballantrae Primary School or Ballantrae Early Years Centre and request to join.