

# Barrhill Primary & EYC Newsletter

## October 2024



Dear parents and families

### TERM 1 ROUND UP!

#### Youth Music Initiative

Our learners across the whole school have been working alongside our Music Specialist, Mhairi Gibson, to learn and perform using djembe drums. We have filmed an African Drumming Performance which has been uploaded to your child's Learning Journal. Mhairi joins us through the Youth Music Initiative and will be with us in school every Tuesday up until March 2025. In addition to the pupils learning a variety of instruments, Mhairi will also deliver Music Heroes Singing and a Musicianship project. To showcase all this amazing learning, we will be holding a parent performance in March next year.

#### Positive Psychology

Our Educational Psychologist, Niamh Gates, will be working with us every Monday until Christmas delivering our Positive Psychology program to our P6 and P7 pupils. Positive psychology is the study of what makes life worth living and it focusses on how people can thrive and succeed in life. This branch of psychology aims to move away from the focus on mental illness or negative aspects of psychology. It aims to boost individuals' wellbeing and use of positive behaviours, reducing negative ones. Research shows that practicing the principles of positive psychology can help boost resilience and improve children's attainment and attitudes.



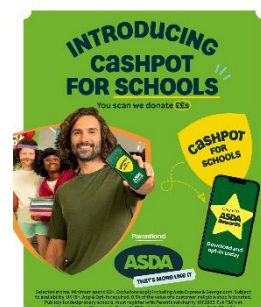
We have chosen to focus this program of study on our primary 6 and 7 pupils as research shows that wellbeing can sometimes dip around the transition to secondary school.

The topics we are covering include – Happiness, optimistic thinking, resilience, self-esteem, discovering strengths, gratitude and mindfulness.

#### Asda Cashpot

Thank you to everyone who has registered to take part in our Asda Cashpot Rewards. **Current total - £86.00**

Parentkind – the charity that supports school PTAs - have teamed up with Asda, who is making millions of pounds available to donate to primary schools across the UK through their 'Cashpot for Schools' initiative – all you have to do is, opt in through the Asda



Rewards app, choose our primary school and shop and scan in store or shop online at Asda.com, between 2<sup>nd</sup> September and 30<sup>th</sup> November 2024

Asda will donate 0.5% of the value of your shop to our Primary school. Also, every time somebody opts in, Asda will give an additional £1 to the school Cashpot. Plus, it doesn't stop there – Asda are also giving £50 to every school to get them started.

### Community Arts

With thanks to CRAG Community Arts, our pupils in P4-7 have been busy creating their lanterns for Carrick's Festival of Light procession. The theme for this year's parade is 'The Bogles Ball' and participants can expect ghosts and goblins to feature large! CRAG lantern workshops also take place every Saturday until October 26 in the Wee School Artspace on Henrietta Street from 10am till 5pm. There will also be lantern workshops in Girvan Library during the school holidays.

### Parent's Evening

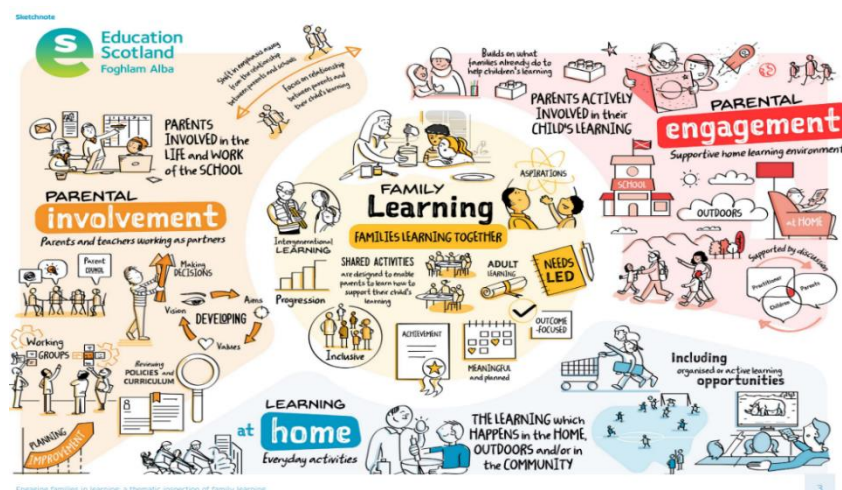
Thank you to everyone who attended our Parents afternoon/evening this week. The pupils were delighted with your 'tickled pink' comments! In addition to our parent appointments, we have made a super start on our Community Experts wall display. This is a great opportunity for the school and wider community to share their skills and have the opportunity to be involved in upcoming projects. I'm pleased to say our Scholastic book fair was a huge success. Thank you to everyone who purchased through our fair. Scholastic is one of the largest providers of free books to schools via our Reward scheme which helps to ensure that as many children as possible have access to books that support reading for pleasure. Every time you buy from the Book Fair, you help to make a difference.



### Learning Journals

You can stay connected to your child's learning journey through their Learning Journal. This platform provides detailed insights into their academic progress, participation in events, and special moments they wish to share with you. We also encourage you to contribute by sharing any achievements or experiences from home. If you need assistance with your login details, please reach out to the School Office, and we will help you reset your account and provide a new link to set up a password.

## FAMILY ENGAGEMENT



Family learning is an important way of engaging our parents/carers, children and young people in learning. We have created several opportunities across the school year to involve our families and showcase the amazing work our young people are doing every day at school! Please see the table below for a list of the scheduled parent/carer events in school this year:

Date & Time	Event
Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> November @ 9.15am	Family Fun & Learning PEEP sessions - EYC
Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> November @ 9.15am	Family Fun & Learning PEEP sessions - EYC
Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> November @ 9.15am	Family Fun & Learning PEEP sessions - EYC
Friday 29 <sup>th</sup> November @ 9.15am	Family Fun & Learning PEEP sessions - EYC
Wednesday 27 <sup>th</sup> November @ 2.30pm	Parent/Carer Digital workshop - Learning Journals
Monday 10 <sup>th</sup> December @ TBC	Whole School Christmas Nativity
Wednesday 29 <sup>th</sup> January @ 1.30pm	Scottish Afternoon
Wednesday 29 <sup>th</sup> January @ TBH	P5-7 Burns Supper (Barr, Barrhill, Colmonell, Ballantrae)
Friday 28 <sup>th</sup> February @ 1.30pm	Family Outdoor Play
Thursday 20 <sup>th</sup> March @ 2pm	P5-7 Learning Showcase
Thursday 3 <sup>rd</sup> April @ 2pm	Easter Daffodil Tea
Friday 9 <sup>th</sup> May @ TBC	Parent/Carer/Community Electives
Monday 19 <sup>th</sup> May @ TBC	Sports Day
Thursday 22 <sup>nd</sup> May @ 2pm	P1-4 Learning Showcase
March - date/time TBC	Youth Music Initiative Performance
Tuesday 24 <sup>th</sup> June @ TBC	Celebration of Success

## STAFFING NEWS

I'm pleased to say that Mr Paul Marsh will be starting with us after the October holidays. I would like to take this opportunity on behalf of all the staff and pupils at Barrhill to thank Mrs Sharon Trotter for taking on additional clerical hours to help support us during this period of transition.

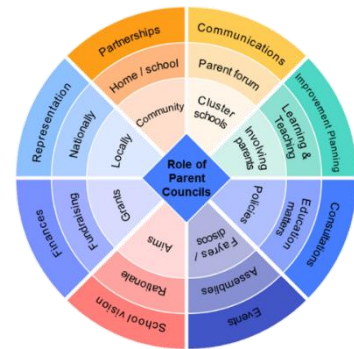
### Students

Every year we welcome students to work with us across our school from early years to P7. In our Early Years Centre, we are joined by Rachel Donald for the next 6 weeks. Rachel is an HNC student from Ayr College. On the 28<sup>th</sup> October our EYC will also be joined by Jennifer Nicol who is studying a Post Graduate in Education at UWS. Following this placement Jennifer will then join our P1-4 class on the 11<sup>th</sup> November for 5 weeks.

## PARENT COUNCIL

Chair – Sally Mayes  
Secretary – Penny Healey  
Vice Secretary – Jade Russell  
Treasurer – Kylie Orr

If you are interested in being part of our Parent Council and making a positive impact on our school, we encourage you to come along to our next meeting on **Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> October at 2pm**



## YOUNG CARERS

A Young Carer is a child under 18 who regularly looks after someone in their family or a friend who is ill, disabled, or has a mental health problem or an addiction.

- Children may engage in:
- Shopping, cooking, cleaning
- Managing medicines or money
- Providing personal care
- Helping get people out of the house
- Keeping an eye on someone
- Providing emotional support



Barrhill Primary School can support young carers. If you, or a family member, needs support please contact Lynne Ferguson (YC Champion) or Eilidh McBean (HT). All contact will be treated in the strictest confidence.

## P6/7 RESIDENTIAL

Thank you to everyone who took the time to vote for our residential trip to Dolphin House. Following the outcome of the vote ALL pupils in Primary 6 and Primary 7 across both Barrhill and Barr Primary School will attend Dolphin House from Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> February until Friday 14<sup>th</sup> February.

## HEALTH AND WELLBEING: PHYSICAL EDUCATION

### Active Schools

Active Schools are due to deliver their Junior Coaching Academy to our P5-7 pupils starting on October 22<sup>nd</sup>. In addition to this we have been offered rugby taster sessions for all pupils ages P5-7 and Hydrox training sessions for P6/7.

Our afterschool club this term has been Basketball and where we will aim to link these to our upcoming competitions -



- Basketball Festival - Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> Oct, 4pm-5pm, Girvan Academy
- Mini Hyrox Competition (pairs) - Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> November, 4pm-5.30pm, Girvan Academy

### PE

Junior class PE days – Wednesday and Friday

Senior class PE days – Tuesday and Wednesday

## CHILD PROTECTION

Everyone has a responsibility for the safety and wellbeing of children and young people in our communities. Should any parent or family member be concerned about the wellbeing of any child, this should be reported immediately to Miss McBean, our Head Teacher, who is the school's Child Protection Co-ordinator.

## ABSENCE / LATE COMINGS

We hold the safety and security of pupils as highest priority. To this end, please could we ask that parents/carers notify the school office immediately if a pupil is going to be absent from school and on each day of their absence. Failure to do so will result in our clerical staff sending a text message asking you to contact the school. Pupils who arrive late to school must report to the main office before heading to class.

*'Last session in South Ayrshire Primary schools, just over 37,000 days (the equivalent of over 220,000 teaching hours!) were lost to unauthorised absence. Poor attendance has been linked to lower levels of attainment, peer relationships, emotional and behavioural difficulties and poorer employment opportunities, which is why we want to see **Every Learner Every Day!**' (South Ayrshire Inclusion Team)*

**SCHOOL ATTENDANCE (Sep 24) - 96.5%**  
**Comparison (Sep 23) - 96.4%**

Please be aware that in line with the authority's 'Maximising Attendance' procedures, a letter will automatically be issued to parents/carers, when a child's unauthorised **absence falls below 90%**. Although you may think this figure is high, **an attendance of 90% over a whole school year equates to missing 4 weeks of education**. You will find more information on council policy and procedures at: <https://www.south-ayrshire.gov.uk/schools/absence.aspx>

### THE YEAR AHEAD

Please note, all dates are subject to change; additional dates and opportunities will be added as the year progresses.

Date	Time	Event
11.10.24	15:00	Close for October holiday
21.10.24	All day	In-service day for staff
22.10.24	09:00	Return to school
25.10.24	All day	Outdoor play day
31.10.24	13:30	Hallowe'en Party
08.11.24	9.15am	PEEP - EYC
15.11.24	9.15am	PEEP - EYC
22.11.24	9.15am	PEEP - EYC
27.11.24	2.30pm	Digital Workshop for Parents- Learning Journals
29.11.24	9.15am	PEEP - EYC
29.11.24	All Day	Outdoor play day
10.12.24	6.30-8pm	Whole school Christmas Nativity
20.12.24	Afternoon	Christmas Party
20.12.24	14:30	Close for Christmas
<b>2025</b>		
06.01.25	09:00	Return to school
21.01.25	13:30	Scottish Afternoon/poetry competition
29.01.24	TBC	P5-7 Cluster Burns Supper @ Girvan Academy
31.01.25	All day	Outdoor play day
10.02.25	All day	Holiday
11.02.25	All day	In-service day for staff
28.02.25	All day	Outdoor play day - Family Day
04.03.25	From 15:15	Parents' Appointments
20.03.24	2pm	P5-7 Learning Showcase
28.03.25	All day	Outdoor play day
03.04.24	10am	Easter Daffodil Tea
04.04.25	14:30	School closes for Easter
21.04.25	09:00	Return to school
25.04.25	All day	Outdoor play day
05.05.25	All Day	Holiday

09.05.24	2pm	Electives
19.05.25	All day	Sports Day
22.05.24	2pm	P1-4 Learning Showcase
26.05.25	All day	Holiday
27.05.25	All day	In-service day for staff
30.05.25	All day	Outdoor play day
06.06.25	All day	EYC & School trip
10.06.25 – 12.06.25	All day	S1 transition events to Girvan Academy
20.06.25	All day	Outdoor play day
23.06.25	13:30	Celebration of Success
27.06.25	13:00	Schools close for Summer

As always, should you have any queries about anything within our newsletter, or in connection with your child's learning, please do not hesitate to contact the school.

I look forward to your support as we work together to provide the very best for our young people.

Best wishes

*Miss Eilidh McBean*