



Dear parents and families

CHRISTMAS

I would like to say a HUGE thank you to all our pupils and staff for their hard work over this festive period. The amount of hard work that has gone into the school show has been incredible and I am immensely proud of every single pupil for their hard work and dedication. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank our Parent Council for their support with not only our school performance but also for our Finance Fortnight project.

SOUTH AYRSHIRE COMMUNICATION FRIENDLY ENVIRONMENT (SACFE)

Over the course of the session and into session 2025-2026 we will be working alongside Liz Candlish to achieve our SACFE accreditation. For the accreditation we will focus on 5 key areas - Learning Environment, Supportive Learning Approaches, Adult Interaction Styles, Nurturing Communication and Career Long Professional Learning.

A communication friendly environment is an environment (e.g. whole nursery/school, classroom, corridor dinner hall, building, house, playground, etc.) that **supports the communication of EVERYBODY** who accesses it.

Evidence for Communication Friendly Environments –

- In Scotland, it is predicted that **25% of all children will have a speech, language and communication difficulty** (Equity for All)
- Clear links between speech, language and communication difficulties and literacy – **vocabulary difficulties at age 5 are associated with poor literacy in adulthood**
- Interventions that support **oral language** are rated third in the list of **effective approaches** to improve learning outcomes in schools (Education Endowment Fund)
- A **higher quality language & communication environment** has been associated with **better language and literacy outcomes** at the end of primary (Public health documents, Scotland)
- High level outcomes for SLC are dependent on the **environment being communication friendly** (Equity for All)

South Ayrshire Council's ambition is that all educational establishments will be on their journey to achieving SACFE by 2026. Liz will be running a SACFE workshop at our next Parent Evening and would love to chat to parents/carers about their views and how this can be supported at home.

READING SCHOOLS

The Reading Schools programme, developed by Scottish Book Trust, is an accreditation programme for schools that are committed to building a reading culture for their learners and communities.



The programme supports schools to build a reading culture, where every pupil is encouraged to feed their imagination through books.

There are three levels of accreditation – Core, Silver and Gold.

We are delighted to say that we have now achieved our Core accreditation and have submitted our action plan for the Silver level. Thank you to everyone who has supported us with our reading events and we look forward to more celebrations throughout the year.

SCOT'S MONTH - JANUARY

Over the month of January our pupils will be celebrating and learning Scots. This will include learning and reciting a variety of Scottish poetry, reading books written in Scots, exploring Scottish fashion and tartans, researching the life of Robert Burns and historical women in history and creating comics in Scots.



At the end of the month, we will be celebrating our achievements with a Scottish Afternoon. This will be on Tuesday 21st January at 1.30pm. We are looking forward to sharing this celebration with our parents/carers.

In addition to this, to support our transition to Girvan Academy, our P5-7 class will be attending a Burns Supper organised by South Ayrshire Reads Team. This will take place on Wednesday 29th January (am) at Girvan Academy and we will be joined by Barrhill, Colmonell and Ballantrae primary schools. This will be another opportunity for our parents/carers to be involved in our pupil's learning and I will send out more details closer to the event.

BEAT THE STREET

Beat the Street is coming soon to Carrick! It is open to every age and ability. The game starts on 12 February - 12 March 2025. Why not play along with the rest of your family and friends? There are some great prizes on offer!

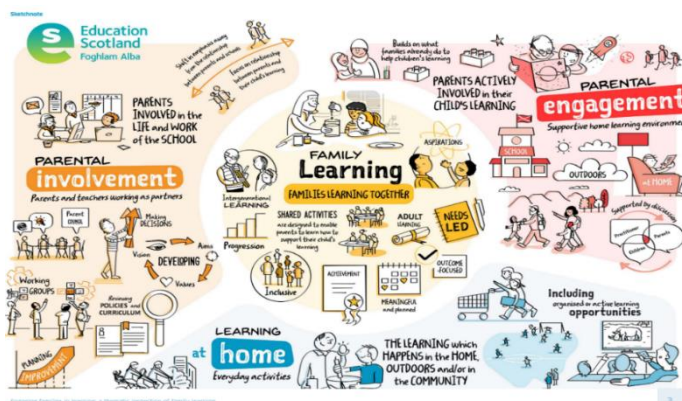


Visit www.beatthestreet.me for more information.

FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

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 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:

School Handbook

Our school handbook has been updated for 2024-2025 and can be found on our school website.

Date & Time	Event
Tuesday 21st January @ 1.30pm	Scottish Afternoon
Wednesday 29th January @ 10am	P5-7 Burns Supper (Barr, Barrhill, Colmonell, Ballantrae)
Friday 28th February @ 1.30pm	Family Outdoor Play
Thursday 20th March @ 2pm	P5-7 Learning Showcase
Thursday 3rd April @ 10am	Easter Daffodil Tea
Friday 9th May @ time TBC	Parent/Carer/Community Electives
Monday 19th May @ time TBC	Sports Day
Thursday 22nd May @ 2pm	P1-4 Learning Showcase
March - date/time TBC	Youth Music Initiative Performance
Tuesday 24th June @ time TBC	Celebration of Success

Class	Date	Activity	Recommended Clothing
P1-3	12/03/24 Mrs McIlwraith	Bushcraft & Woodland Skills Day - Pinclanty Woodland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Full change of warm clothes • Wellies or walking boots (if you have them) • Waterproof jacket and trousers (if you have them) • Thick socks
	21/05/25 Mrs McIlwraith	Beach Adventure Walk - Maidens/Culzean	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wear (if you have them) warm clothing which is wind and waterproof. It is better to wear many layers to regulate body temperature rather than one thick one. • Footwear – wellies, old boots or trainers with good grip • Full change of warm clothes • Thick socks

Class	Date	Activity	Recommended Clothing
P4-5	05/03/25 Mrs McIlwraith	Beach Adventure Walk - Maidens/Culzean	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wear (if you have them) warm clothing which is wind and waterproof. It is better to wear many layers to regulate body temperature rather than one thick one. • Footwear – wellies, old boots or trainers with good grip • Full change of warm clothes • Thick socks
	28/05/25 Mrs McIlwraith	Canoe Raft - Mouth of the Doon / Loch Trool or Maberry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Full change of warm clothing and a hat • Thick socks • Waterproof boots or wellies • Waterproof jacket and trousers • Towel • Old trainers to get wet

Class	Date	Activity	Recommended Clothing
P6-7	19/03/25 Mrs McIlwraith	Canoeing - Mouth of the Doon/ Loch Trool or Maberry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Large towel • Full set of suitable clothing to be worn underneath waterproofs • Full change of clothes including hat • Socks • Spare trainers to get wet
	04/06/24 Miss McBean	Gorgewalk - Glenapp	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Large towel • Change of clothes • Old shirt and trousers or shorts • Swimwear for underneath wetsuit • Old pair of trainers for getting wet

Class	Date	Activity	Recommended Clothing
P1-7	17/06/25 All Staff	Barrhill local area walk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Footwear- walking boots or trainers with good grip • Waterproof jacket and trousers • Full change of warm clothes • Thick Socks

P6/7 RESIDENTIAL

Our P6-7 residential is confirmed for 11th Feb – 14th Feb 2025 to Dolphin House. You will receive further information in due course.

HEALTH AND WELLBEING: PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Active Schools

Active schools will continue to work with the pupils at Barr next term and have arranged for the pupils to receive some Pickleball taster sessions.

PE

Junior class PE days – Monday and Wednesday

Senior class PE days – Monday and Wednesday

Please make sure PE kits are either brought in for the first day of term to be kept in school or brought in for each PE day.

Swimming Lessons

Our **Primary 5** pupils will begin their swimming lessons in January. They will be transported by car and accompanied by Miss Young. Please note the highlighted change, this is to accommodate the Burns Supper at Girvan Academy on the 29th January.

Wednesday 8th January

Wednesday 15th January

Wednesday 22nd January

Monday 27th January

Wednesday 5th February

Wednesday 12th February

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.

ATTENDANCE

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.

South Ayrshire council have launched the 'Every Learner, Every Day' campaign to highlight the benefits of going to school, such as having fun with friends, learning about the world, and developing life skills. South Ayrshire young people have been appearing in adverts and posters to help encourage attendance and highlight positive experiences at schools within South Ayrshire. You will find more details at <https://south-ayrshire.gov.uk/ELED> or on our Twitter page.



#EveryLearnerEveryDay

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE (Dec 24) - 91.5%
COMPARISON (Dec 23) - 93.0%

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
20.12.24	14:30	Close for Christmas
2025		
06.01.25	09:00	Return to school
21.01.25	13:30	Scottish Afternoon/poetry competition
29.01.25	10:00	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
20.03.25	2pm	P5-7 Learning Showcase
28.03.25	All day	Outdoor play day
03.04.25	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
09.05.25	2pm	Electives
19.05.25	All day	Sports Day
22.05.25	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.

On behalf of myself and all the staff at Barrhill Primary school we hope everyone has a wonderful Christmas and New Year when it comes.

Best wishes

Miss Eilidh McBean

