



Dear parents and families

### Term 3 Round- up!

Wow, what an incredibly long Term 3 it has been! I am continually impressed by the dedication and hard work of both our staff and pupils as we approach the spring holiday—this year, a full week later than usual! While Term 3 has certainly felt long, it has also been incredibly rewarding. We're wrapping it up on a high note with our Spring Daffodil Tea, where pupils showcased their musical talents and spring artwork. A big thank you to everyone who joined us in celebration and for the generous donations of cakes and hamper items. Congratulations Nick on winning our hamper raffle!

### Reading Schools & World Book Week

World Book Week was a huge success, filled with exciting activities! There were fun dress-up days, Books & Breakfast events with community partners, outdoor reading sessions, and lively reading parties. For more highlights, check out our Twitter!

Thanks to the success of World Book Week and the incredible involvement of parents and the community, we are now well on our way to achieving our Silver Accreditation in Reading Schools. A huge thank you to everyone for their hard work and support!



### Scottish Afternoon & Burns Supper

A huge WELL DONE to everyone who participated in our Scottish Afternoon! Congratulations to Danny in P7 and Belle in P2 for winning the poetry recital in their respective stages.

This year marked the first Girvan Cluster Burns Supper event organised by the South Ayrshire Learns Team. We were delighted to be joined by Barrhill, Colmonell, and Ballantrae primary schools in this celebration. It provided a fantastic opportunity for our P5-7 pupils to showcase their skills in poetry and dancing, while also promoting the transition to Girvan Academy.



### Beat the Street

A big thank you to everyone who participated in Beat the Streets. Despite Barrhill Primary being one of the smallest schools in South Ayrshire, our pupils and families did an amazing job, finishing 10th on the Carrick leaderboard. With 3,277 players in total, the game saw a collective effort of 40,554 miles walked, cycled, and scooted. Great work all around!



## Parent/Family Electives

We are excited to begin our Parent Electives on Friday, 9th May! Parent electives provide a wonderful opportunity to strengthen the partnership between home and school by allowing parents to engage directly with the school community. These electives offer parents the chance to lead various activities, workshops, or learning sessions based on their interests or skills, such as gardening, arts and crafts, sewing, and cooking, helping them feel more involved and connected with the school.

The electives will run for four weeks, every Friday from 9:30 am to 10:30 am. If you can support us with this initiative, please get in touch with the school.

## Books & Breakfast

Books and breakfast were a big hit with the kids, who loved coming in to read and enjoy a light breakfast.

Given the positive response, we hope to continue this initiative into the 25-26 session. We plan to continue offering this soft start to the school day as part of our broader focus on supporting our children's health and wellbeing.



## School Uniform

School uniforms provide numerous benefits, one of the key advantages being the sense of identity they create for pupils. Wearing a uniform helps foster pride in their school and promotes a sense of belonging within the school community. It visually reinforces school values and strengthens the bond between pupils, staff, and the wider community.

Moreover, uniforms play a crucial role in safety outside of school. When pupils are in their uniform, they are easily identifiable, which can be especially important on school trips or during activities in public spaces. This sense of recognition helps keep pupils safe, as it is clear they are part of a specific school group, making it easier for staff and others to spot and assist them if needed. Uniforms also discourage outsiders from mingling with pupils, providing an added layer of security.

South Ayrshire Council offers a clothing grant of £120 per child per year to assist with the cost of school uniforms. Please follow the link to check your eligibility. This link also provides information on free school meal entitlement. While pupils in P1-P5 already receive free school meals (FSM), you may also be eligible for FSM payments during school holidays.

[Free school meals and clothing grant - South Ayrshire Council](#)

Our school uniform consists of a red jumper, V-neck sweater, or cardigan, paired with a white polo shirt. Pupils can wear grey or black skirts/dresses, grey or black trousers/shorts, or a red summer dress. Ties and blazers are also available for purchase from BE Uniforms. Pupils in P7 will receive a leavers hoodie, purchased by

the Parent Council, in a colour of their choice. This hoodie can be worn as part of the uniform throughout the year.

Branded school uniform can be purchased online from BE Uniforms - [www.border-embroideries.co.uk](http://www.border-embroideries.co.uk)

If you are struggling with sourcing uniform, please contact the school office.

## Screen Awareness and Safer Internet

### Screen Awareness

With the constant use of laptops, TVs, phones, and tablets, many of us spend a large portion of our waking hours in front of a screen. While much of this screen time can be productive, useful, and even enjoyable, a significant amount of it isn't. Mindless device usage can negatively impact our mental and physical well-being, affecting sleep, focus, mental health, and relationships.

We aim to help everyone develop a healthier relationship with technology! Reducing screen time is one of the best things we can do for our overall health, happiness, productivity, and connections with others.



During Screen Awareness Week (5th-9th May), our pupils will participate in the 'Be Screen Smart' program to educate us all on the importance of mindful screen usage and maintaining a healthy balance.

## VE – Day 80

VE80 is a shared moment of celebration on 8th May 2025, marking the 80th anniversary of Victory in Europe. This day will commemorate the Allied Forces accepting Germany's unconditional surrender in World War II. A local group has been working on activities to mark this significant event across South Ayrshire, and as a school, we have created a short video interviewing a member of our community to explore family and local area connections to WWII. This video will be submitted into the VE-80 competition and uploaded to our Learning Journals.



A big thank you to everyone for their support, especially to Steve Hampton for sharing his stories of WWII.

## School Photographs

Tempest Photography will be visiting Barrhill Primary School & EYC on Monday, 28th April at 1pm to take pupils' photographs. Please ensure that pupils are wearing full school uniform. Thank you!

## Parent Council

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

A big thank you to our Parent Council for all their ongoing support of the school. The Parent Council plays a vital role in strengthening the partnership between the school, parents, and the wider community. They help organise events, fundraise for school resources, provide valuable feedback, and support school improvement initiatives. Their involvement makes a real difference in creating a positive and enriching environment for our pupils. We truly appreciate all their hard work and dedication!



## Secret Gift Room

We are planning to have a Secret Room available for all children to allow them to purchase a small gift for a family member next Christmas at pocket money prices.

This will give all our children the opportunity to choose and wrap a gift and take it home to put it under the tree.



We are collecting unwanted Christmas gifts and unused gift sets, toiletries, mugs, chocolates, socks, gloves, fidgets, photo frames, make up - anything that you would think the children would like to buy. We will also be happy to accept donations of wrapping paper, gift bags, sellotapes and ribbons. Gifts will range from £2 -£4.

Please send any donations into school over the course of the year ahead. The Secret Room will be open to our pupils throughout the month of December.

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 **Monday 28<sup>th</sup> April @ 8.30pm (MICROSOFT TEAMS ONLINE)**

## 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.

### Adventure Centre for Education

We have had an amazing start to our ACE days and the pupils have loved the activities arranged so far. You will be able to view some photos on your child's Learning Journal. I have added below the information for the next ACE days as a reminder

Class	Date	Activity	Recommended Clothing
P1-3	21/05/25 Mrs McIlwraith	Beach Adventure Walk - Maidens/Culzean	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• Footwear – wellies, old boots or trainers with good grip</li> <li>• Full change of warm clothes</li> <li>• Thick socks</li> </ul>

Class	Date	Activity	Recommended Clothing
P4-5	28/05/25 Mrs McIlwraith	Canoe Raft - Mouth of the Doon / Loch Trool or Maberry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Full change of warm clothing and a hat</li> <li>• Thick socks</li> <li>• Waterproof boots or wellies</li> <li>• Waterproof jacket and trousers</li> <li>• Towel</li> <li>• Old trainers to get wet</li> </ul>

Class	Date	Activity	Recommended Clothing
P6-7	04/06/24 Miss McBean	Gorgewalk - Glenapp	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Large towel</li> <li>• Change of clothes</li> <li>• Old shirt and trousers or shorts</li> <li>• Swimwear for underneath wetsuit</li> <li>• Old pair of trainers for getting wet</li> </ul>

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

## **P6/7 Residential**

P6/7 had an amazing time at the Dolphin House Residential! We hope you've been able to stay up-to-date with all the photos posted on our Twitter page.

A huge thank you to our staff who gave up their time to accompany the kids on this incredible experience. Your dedication and support made it all possible, and we truly appreciate everything you did to help make it such a memorable trip!

Next year, our P6/7 pupils will have the exciting opportunity to visit Inverclyde (SportScotland) in May. Stay tuned for more details!

## **Communication**

As a school, we will be transitioning from traditional permission letters with tear-off slips to using Microsoft Forms. This change is aimed at eliminating the need for printing and returning physical forms. If you are unable to access these forms online, please reach out to the school office for assistance.

## **Health & Wellbeing: Physical Education**

### Active Schools

Active schools will continue to work with the pupils at Barrhill next term.

### 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. Where a child has no PE kit, a kit will be provided to them for the lesson.**

### **Bike Ability – level 2 – P6 & P7**

Bikeability Level 2 is a cycle training program designed to teach children how to ride safely and confidently on the road. It is aimed at children who have completed Level 1 and are ready to practice cycling in more challenging, real-world situations.

In Level 2, participants learn how to:

- Ride on quieter, local roads
- Signal clearly to other road users
- Position themselves correctly on the road
- Make safe turns, junctions, and road crossings
- Understand and follow road signs and markings

The training helps children develop the skills and confidence to cycle safely in everyday traffic, encouraging independence and promoting active travel.

P6 and p7 will be working on their Level 2 on –

Monday 19<sup>th</sup> May - 11am – 12.30pm

Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> June - 11am – 12.30pm

Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> June - 11am – 12.30pm

Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> June - 11am – 12.30pm

Please make sure your child attends school with suitable clothing and their bike and helmet.

### 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 (Mar 25) - 91.7%**  
**COMPARISON (Mar 24) - 93.3%**  
**SOUTH AYRSHIRE AVERAGE (MAR 25) - 93.8%**

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>



## Diary Dates

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

Date	Time	Event
04.04.25	2.30pm	School closes for Easter
21.04.25	9am	Return to school
25.04.25	All day	Outdoor play day
05.05.25	All Day	Holiday
19.05.25	1pm	Sports Day
02.06.25	1.30pm	Whole school 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
30.05.25	All day	Reports home to Parents/Carers
10.06.25 – 12.06.25	All day	S1 transition events to Girvan Academy
13.06.25	All day	EYC & School trip
20.06.25	All day	Outdoor play day
24.06.25	2pm	Celebration of Success
27.06.25	1pm	Schools close for Summer

On behalf of myself and all the staff at Barrhill Primary school we hope everyone has a wonderful Easter holiday and we will see you all back for Term 4 on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> April.

Best wishes

Miss Eilidh McBean