

Barr Primary & EYC Newsletter

October 2024



Dear parents and families

TERM 1 ROUND UP!

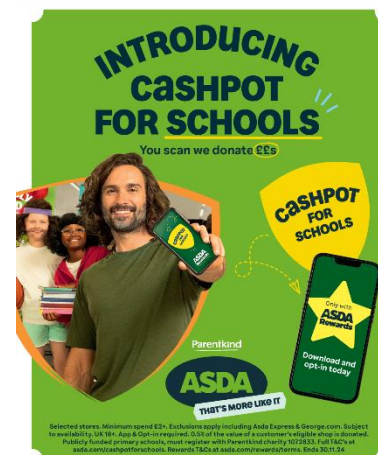
Youth Music Initiative

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.

Asda Cashpot

Thank you to everyone who has registered to take part in our Asda Cashpot Rewards. **Current total - £130.99**

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 2nd September and 30th 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 P2-7 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 26th 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

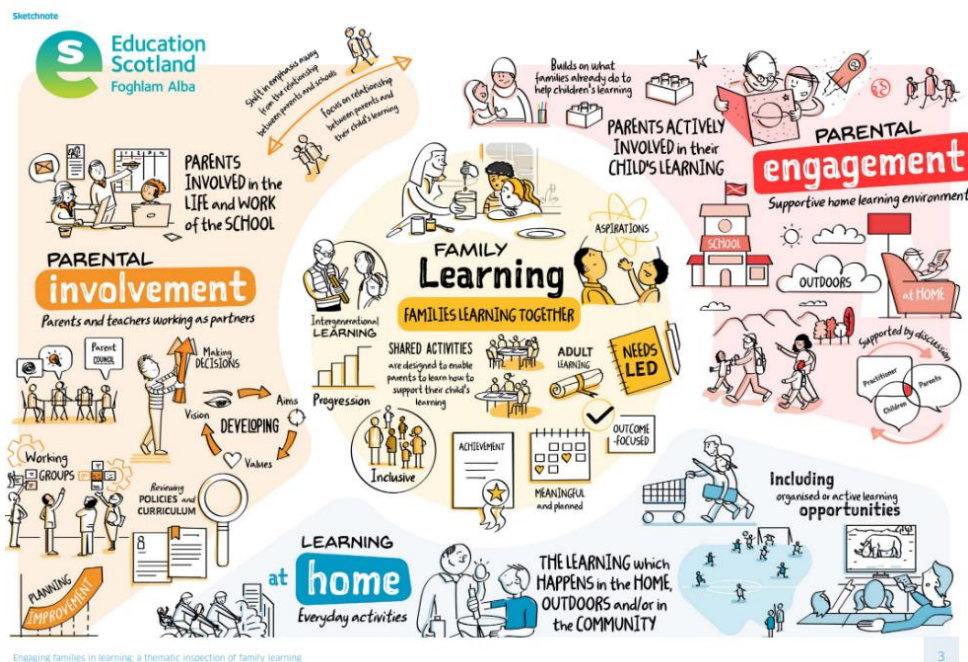
Thank you to everyone who attended our Parents afternoon/evening this week. The pupils were delighted with your 'tickled pink' comments! In addition to our parent appointments, we have made a super start on our Community Experts wall display. This is a great opportunity for the school and wider community 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.

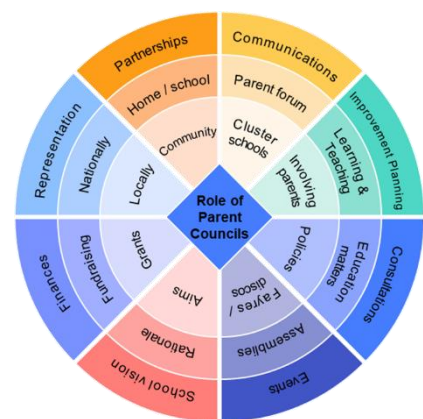
Date & Time	Event
Friday 25 th October @ 9.15am	Family Fun & Learning PEEP sessions - EYC
Friday 1 st November @ 9.15am	Family Fun & Learning PEEP sessions - EYC
Wednesday 13 th November @ 2.30pm	Parent/Carer Digital workshop - Learning Journals
Monday 17 th December @ TBC	Whole School Christmas Nativity
Monday 20 th January @ 1.30pm	Scottish Afternoon
Wednesday 29 th January @ TBH	P5-7 Burns Supper (Barr, Barrhill, Colmonell, Ballantrae)
Friday 28 th February @ 1.30pm	Family Outdoor Play
Friday 21 st March @ 2pm	P5-7 Learning Showcase
Friday 4 th April @ 2pm	Easter Daffodil Tea
Friday 9 th May @ TBC	Parent/Carer/Community Electives
Monday 12 th May @ TBC	Sports Day
Friday 23 rd May @ 2pm	P2-4 Learning Showcase
March - date/time TBC	Youth Music Initiative Performance
Monday 23 rd June @ TBC	Celebration of Success

PARENT COUNCIL

Following the AGM on Wednesday 25th September the new Parent Council committee roles are as follows:

Chair – Carly Roythorne
 Vice Chair – Lindsey McCleary
 Secretary – Rachael Warner
 Treasurer - Felicity Cross

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 **Wednesday 6th November at 5.15pm.**



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

Barr Primary School can support young carers. If you, or a family member, needs support please contact Amy McBirnie (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 Barr and Barrhill Primary Schools will attend Dolphin House from Tuesday 11th February until Friday 14th February.

STAFFING NEWS

Unfortunately, we will be saying goodbye to Mrs Sharon Trotter at the beginning of November as she moves on to pastures new. Sharon has been an amazing asset to the school and she will be sorely missed by everyone. I am sure you will all join me in wishing Sharon all the very best for her new post.

Our clerical position will be advertised and appointed in due course. I will keep you updated with any developments.

Students

Every year we welcome students to work with us across our school from early years to primary 7. In our Early Years Centre, we will be joined by Kaidyn Mitchel from the 4th November for 4 weeks. Kaidyn is a B.Ed. 3 teaching student from University of the West of Scotland.

HEALTH AND WELLBEING: PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Active Schools

Active Schools are currently delivering their Junior Coaching Academy to our P5-7 pupils. The focus for the next block will be 'Spirit of Sport'. 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 can, we will aim to link our afterschool activities to our upcoming competitions -

- Mini Hyrox Competition (pairs) - Thursday 21st November, 4pm-5.30pm, Girvan Academy



PE

Junior class PE days – Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday

Senior class PE days – Monday, 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) - 86.1%
COMPARISON (Sep 23) - 90.1%

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

25.10.24	9.15am	PEEP - EYC
31.10.24	13:30	Hallowe'en Party
01.11.24	9.15am	PEEP - EYC
13.11.24	2.30pm	Digital Workshop for Parents/Carers - Learning Journals
29.11.24	All Day	Outdoor play day
20.12.24	Afternoon	Christmas Party
17.12.24	6.30 – 8pm	Whole school Christmas Nativity
20.12.24	14:30	Close for Christmas
2025		
06.01.25	09:00	Return to school
20.01.24	13:30	Scottish Afternoon
29.01.25	TBC	P5-7 Cluster Burns Supper
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
11.03.25	From 15:30	Parents' Appointments
21.03.25	2pm	P5-7 Learning Showcase
28.03.25	All day	Outdoor play day
04.04.25	10am	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
12.05.25	All day	Sports Day
23.05.25	2pm	P2-4 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 Acting Head Teacher, I look forward to a busy and successful school year with all our families at Barr EYC and Primary School. 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