



Barr Primary & EYC Newsletter October 2026



Dear parents and families,

What a fantastic and busy start we have had to the new school year! It has been wonderful to welcome our pupils back and see them settle so quickly into their class and routines. Across the school, children have been engaging enthusiastically in their learning, taking part in a range of exciting activities, and demonstrating our school values every day. This term has been filled with many memorable experiences, including leadership opportunities, community events and sporting activities.

We have an exciting year ahead with plenty of learning opportunities, special events and activities planned. We look forward to sharing these experiences with you and working together to make this another enjoyable and successful year at Barr. Along with our regular newsletters, information will continue to be shared through your child's Learning Journal or direct from the school office.

Thank you for your continued support.

Miss Eilidh McBean
Shared Head Teacher

UNCRC Article 13 – I have the right to find out and share information

Pupil Leadership

At the start of every school year, our pupils prepare and deliver persuasive speeches as part of the selection process for the roles of School Captain, Vice-Captain, and House Captains for Stinchar and Changue.



I am delighted to announce that, following this year's pupil vote, Leila has been elected as School Captain, with Godfrey appointed as Vice-Captain.

I am also pleased to share that Heather has been elected as Changue House Captain, and Charlie as Stinchar House Captain.

Congratulations to all four pupils on their achievements. We look forward to seeing them represent and support our school community throughout the year



New for this session is the introduction of our Young Leaders of Learning programme (YLL). This important leadership role provides pupils with the opportunity to work alongside staff to help shape and improve learning experiences across the school. Young Leaders of Learning will gather the views of their peers, contribute to school improvement discussions, and help ensure that pupil voice remains at the heart of our decision-making.

I am delighted to share that Ross, Lucy, Hazel and Quin have been selected to undertake this role on behalf of the school.

MACMILLAN

Our pupils enjoyed working in partnership with the local community to deliver a highly successful Macmillan Coffee Morning. The children played an active role in helping with advertising, organising and managing their own book stall, and assisting with serving refreshments on the day.



We are delighted to share that, through the generosity and support of our families and community, the overall amount raised for Macmillan Cancer Support was £1058.50. The pupils were incredibly proud of their efforts and the positive difference they have helped to make for such a worthwhile cause

Community Arts Programme – Carrick Festival of light – Saturday 24th October 6.15pm

Carrick Festival of Light has brought people together for 22 years, creating a wonderful celebration of community pride, creativity and connection in Girvan.



The festival begins with a six-week programme of lantern-making workshops involving local schools, community groups and the wider community. Drop-in workshops at the Wee School Art Space invite everyone to make their own lantern or help the team of artists create larger pieces for the parade. No previous experience is needed and all abilities are welcome. The workshops offer time and space for mindful creativity, reflection and connection, helping participants build confidence and share in a sense of achievement. Peer-led supportive workshops are also provided in designated safe spaces, with local mental health charities helping people experiencing mental health problems to take part. Artists can accommodate anyone who may benefit from a quieter space to create.

On the event day, a spectacular River of Light will wind its way through Girvan from the Glendoune Centre to the shore. The lantern parade will culminate in a fire performance on the beach featuring fire sculptures, drawings, light and sound, bringing warmth and light to the darker months.

More information can be found at – [Carrick Festival of Light 2026 — Lantern Parade | Scottish Mental Health Arts Festival](#)

School Improvement

Each academic session we are required to produce a School Improvement Plan which outlines our main priorities for the session, and a Standards & Quality Report which evaluates the progress made the previous session. You can access both documents on our school website.

Adventure Centre for Education (ACE)

Adventure Carrick for Education was successful last session in securing funding through SP Energy Networks to deliver a series of activity days for children and families during the school holidays. Due to the smaller group sizes, we have been fortunate enough to be included in these exciting outdoor learning opportunities.

The dates for pupils are:

- 4th November – P1-5
- 16th November – P6-7
- 17th November – P1-5
- 26th November – P6-7



Activities will vary and may include canoeing, giant stand-up paddleboarding (SUP), a Cornish Hill walk, and gorge walking.

Further information, including clothing requirements and consent arrangements, will be shared with families nearer the time. We are very grateful to Adventure Carrick for Education and SP Energy Networks for providing these fantastic outdoor learning experiences for our pupils.

Barrometer

We are delighted to share that the pupils of Barr Primary School have taken over responsibility for producing the Barrometer on behalf of the village.

Through this exciting project, pupils will develop valuable skills as they take on the roles of researchers, interviewers, writers and editors, creating and publishing content for each edition. The Barrometer will feature a blend of school news and village life, helping to strengthen links between the school and the wider community.

Throughout the year, pupils will be in touch with a range of local groups, organisations and community members to gather information and stories to share. However, we would also love to hear from residents directly. If you have any news, events, achievements or information you would like featured in a future edition, please contact the school and our pupils will be happy to arrange for it to be included.

As part of the Barrometer takeover, we held a logo design competition for our pupils. We were delighted with the creativity and effort shown by everyone who took part.

We are pleased to announce that Lucy's design

was selected as the winning logo and will appear on every edition of the Barrometer going forward.



Lucy initially created the logo by hand, capturing the spirit of both our school and village community. Her original artwork has since been transformed into a digital version, which will be used for printing and publication purposes while maintaining the key features of her design.

Congratulations to Lucy on this fantastic achievement. We are proud to have her logo representing the Barrometer as pupils begin this exciting new chapter of creating and publishing the village newsletter.

School Uniform

My thanks to all parents and carers for ensuring that children at Barr come to school each day looking so smart and well presented. We are proud of our school uniform and the sense of belonging it creates.

We will continue to encourage our young people to take pride in their appearance by wearing their uniform every day (excluding outdoor learning Fridays). PE days are still uniform days where children are expected to change in and out of their PE kit.

Medication

For the safety of all children, medication should not be sent to school in schoolbags. If your child requires medication to be administered during the school day, please contact the school office to discuss the arrangements. The appropriate consent forms and documentation must be completed before any medication, including inhalers, can be administered by school staff.

Attendance

A huge thank you to all our parents and families for supporting the school in improving attendance. With your encouragement and commitment, our overall attendance last year was 92.7%. This is a fantastic achievement, and it shows the positive impact of working together to give children the best chance to learn, grow, and succeed. We are so grateful for your continued support and partnership. It is vital for all our children to be in school. Missing out on more time in the classroom risks our pupils falling behind. Those with higher overall absence tend to achieve less well.

This session we are continuing to support families to further improve attendance, with a goal of reaching at least 94%!

DID YOU KNOW? A child who finishes the year with 90% attendance will have missed around 18 full school days. Missing this much learning can lead to significant gaps in knowledge and understanding.

DID YOU KNOW? Children who attend school regularly are more likely to feel confident, build strong friendships and achieve their full potential



Family Learning

Term 2		
Date	Event	Information
TBC	Family Fun & Learning PEEP sessions - EYC	TBC
23 rd October	Parent Halloween Interhouse Celebration	1:30 – 3:00pm
27 th November	Christmas Market	1:30 – 3:00pm
Term 3		
Date	Event	Information
TBC	Family Fun & Learning PEEP sessions - EYC	TBC
29 th January	Scottish Afternoon and Burns Supper	1:00 – 3:00pm
26 th February	Family Outdoor Play Afternoon	1:00 – 3:00pm
23 rd March	School Show	6:00pm
25 th March	Daffodil Tea	10:00am
Term 4		
Date	Event	Information
TBC	Family Fun & Learning PEEP sessions - EYC	TBC
21 st May	Sports' Day	2:00pm
4 th June	Our Learning Exhibition	From 1:30pm to 3:00pm
25 th June	Shining Stars Showcase	1:30pm

Important Timetable Information

Our PE sessions for Term 2 will take place on **Tuesdays and Wednesdays**. Please ensure that your child has a PE kit in school, including:

- A change of top
- Shorts or joggers
- A suitable change of footwear



On **Friday afternoons**, we will continue with our Outdoor Learning sessions. As we will be outside in a variety of weather conditions, please ensure that children come to school with appropriate outdoor clothing, including:

- A waterproof jacket
- Suitable outdoor footwear
- Hat, scarf and gloves as the weather becomes colder



Being dressed appropriately helps children to stay comfortable and make the most of their learning experiences outdoors throughout the year.

Diary dates for Term 2

- ★ Wednesday 21st October – P4-7 HPX Event @ Girvan Academy
- ★ Friday 30th October – Halloween party 1.30pm (pupils can come in fancy dress all day or change into their costume at lunch time).
- ★ Friday 30th October – Flu Immunisations
- ★ Wednesday 4th November – P1-5 ACE Day
- ★ Monday 16th November – P6-7 ACE Day
- ★ Tuesday 17th November – P1-5 ACE Day
- ★ Thursday 26th November – P6-7 ACE Day
- ★ Friday 4th December – Christmas Market & Carol Concert - 1.30pm
- ★ Wednesday 9th December – P4-7 Sports Hall Athletics Event @ Girvan Academy
- ★ Thursday 10th December – Christmas Lunches – pupils only
- ★ Friday 11th December – Whole school Pantomime @ Gaiety Theatre
- ★ Thursday 17th December – Cluster P7 Christmas Party @ Girvan Primary School
- ★ Friday 18th December – Whole School Christmas Alpaca Trek
- ★ Monday 21st December – Christmas Party 1.30pm – Pupils can change into their party clothes at lunch, either in school or at home if preferred.

Diary dates for Term 3 and Term 4 (Please note that some dates may change throughout the year. We'll keep you updated if anything changes.)

- ★ Friday 29th January – Burns Supper & Poetry competition
- ★ Monday 15th March – Parents afternoon/evening
- ★ Tuesday 23rd March – Whole School show
- ★ Friday 25th March – Daffodil Tea
- ★ Monday 12th – Thursday 15th April – P6/7 Residential @ Dolphin House
- ★ Friday 21st May – Sports Day
- ★ Tuesday 8th – Thursday 10th June – S1 Bump up days
- ★ Friday 25th June – Graduation & Shining Stars Celebration

Session 2026 - 2027 Holiday Dates

[School and Early Years Centre term dates - South Ayrshire Council](#)

On behalf of everyone at Barr, please may I take this opportunity to thank families for their support. Working in close partnership with parents is very important to us and we are grateful for everything you have done to help the children settle into school this session.

Eilidh McBean
Shared Head Teacher