



Colmonell Primary School and Early Years



Autumn Newsletter

October 2024

A note from your Head Teacher

Welcome to our first newsletter of our session 2024-2025. I can't believe that the October Holidays are just around the corner. Our first term in school has been busy. Children are now settled into a new year of learning. Primary 1 look like they've always been in primary school and I believe our S1 pupils are also enjoying being at the academy.

In this newsletter you will find some information about what is happening in school over the next term and there is also a section on our School Improvement Plan for this year. As always, if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

School Improvement

Last session we made significant progress in improving the work of Colmonell Primary School and Early Years. **Learning Journals** have become an important way of communicating your child's progress with you. We also love hearing what the children learn at home, so please keep sharing with us.

Staff and children are becoming confident in recognising **Meta Skills** in their everyday learning activities and our Open Day session will focus on sharing these with you.

Well done to Colmonell Primary School and Early Years in achieving their **Gold Rights Respecting Schools** Award. This award recognising that we place human rights and needs of all children at the centre of what we do in our school and Early Years.

Our Cluster Improvement Priority continues to focus on **Visual Arts** and we have some exciting work coming up with the children in the near future.

This session, staff, pupils and parents will focus on **Curriculum** and what it means in our community context.

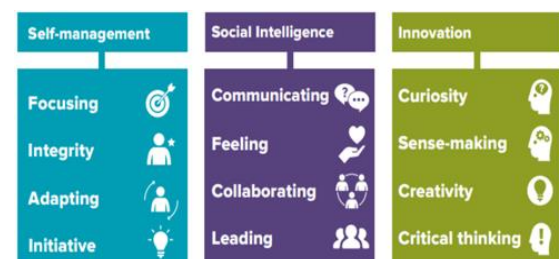
For further information look out for our School Improvement Plan and Standards and Quality Report in our School Blog.

Primary 7 Residential

Recently our Primary 7s visited Gowanbank in Darvel for their Residential Experience. During this stay they had opportunities to abseil, tree climb and crate build, all of which were incredibly challenging.



As well as developing their knowledge and understanding of the specific activities and countryside around them, Primary 7s continued to develop their Meta Skills in context. "Meta skills are innate, timeless, higher order skills that create adaptive learners and promote success in whatever context the future brings."



Ethos and Life of the School

Recent Participatory Budget Bid

Well done to our Parent Council who recently applied for £2100 from South Carrick PB Fund and were successful. This means that we won't need to charge families at all this next session for providing snack each day. This bid also includes £600 towards the costs of a coach to take our children on an educational trip during the summer term. We are incredibly fortunate, as a school, that we don't have to charge parents for extracurricular opportunities and a huge thank you to everyone who helps us with school funding.

ACTIVE SCHOOLS/SPORTS HUB

Kayley Ross, from Girvan Community Sports Hub, continues every Friday (until June 2024) with after school sports.

Caitlyn Flanagan, Active Schools Coordinator – Girvan Cluster, is currently in school for Junior Coach Academy with our P6-7 pupils and will also run a P2-P7 afterschool football club on a Wednesday, starting on 6th November for 4 weeks.

FURTHER AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS

Following the October holidays, Mrs Templeton will run an after-school Science Club for children in P4-7.

If your child is interested in taking part an Xpressions with consent link will be issued soon.

PEEP

Shevon has begun a block of PEEP sessions with our Early Years children and parents. These Family Fun sessions will run for four weeks starting on Wednesday 25th September until 23rd October (excluding 16th October) from 9.15am – 10.15 am in the EY centre. Come along and enjoy singing, rhyming and story time with your wee ones.

SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING

We welcome back Mrs Freda Hirst to support our P4-7 children with Scottish country Dancing. This will culminate in a Day of Dance in Maybole Town Hall on the 22nd November, allowing our children the opportunity to meet and dance with children from other schools in the Girvan and Maybole area.

HARVEST THANKSGIVING ASSEMBLY

Our school Harvest Thanksgiving Assembly will be held in Colmonell Primary School on Thursday 10th October at 9.30am. All parents are warmly invited to attend, tea and coffee will be available afterwards. Our assembly focuses on how Harvest is celebrated globally.

LANTERN WORKSHOPS

Our Primary 4-7 children have the opportunity to take part in CRAG lantern workshops on Thursday 10th and Friday 11th of October from 1pm-3pm. If you would like to join us to give a helping hand, we would be delighted to see you.

ADVENTURE CENTRE FOR EDUCATION

We have our sessions booked for ACE this year and are fortunate enough to include P5s due to there being fewer children in the upper school. Last year's activities involved Ballantrae children working alongside their peer group from Colmonell, and this was very well received by all children. This year we will work the same way and all groups will have four sessions each. Our first ACE session of Bushcraft and team games, on Friday, 25th October, will be for Primary 5 children (6 pupils from Ballantrae and 3 from Colmonell). Primary 5s will be out again with ACE the following Friday (1st November).

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

October

Thursday 10 th	Harvest Assembly at 9.30am Lantern workshop 1-3pm
Friday 11 th	Lantern workshop 1-3pm School closes at 3pm for October Holidays Children return on Tuesday 22 nd October AS Friday Club – Thriving Communities
Friday 25 th	P5 ACE Day – Bushcraft / Team Games
Thursday 31 st	Halloween Activities in school pm Colmonell Community Halloween Part 4.30pm 6pm in hall

November

Friday 1 st	P5 ACE Day – Indoor Archery / Climbing Wall
Week beginning 4 th	Parents' meetings including support meetings. (Look out for the questionnaire and your child's class teacher will be in touch.)
Wednesday 6 th	After schools football for 4 weeks P2-7 3pm-4pm
Friday 8 th	Remembrance Activities – whole school assembly then visit to Colmonell Memorial to lay a school made wreath
Friday 22 nd	P4-7 attending Day of Dance (morning) in Maybole Town Hall
Friday 29 th	P6 ACE Day – Cycling
Saturday 30 th	Colmonell Christmas Lights switch on and Craft Fayre

December

Wednesday 11 th	School Christmas Lunch Community Concert – Village Hall 6.30pm. Children performing some show songs.
Thursday 12 th	Community Christmas Party
Monday 16 th	Colmonell Community Pantomime 1.30pm
Tuesday 17 th	Colmonell School Show Evening 6.30pm
Wednesday 18 th	EY & P1-3 Christmas Party : 1pm to 3pm in school
Thursday 19 th	P4-7 Christmas Party : 1pm to 3pm in school
Friday 20 th	Carol Service PM Please note school closes at the earlier time of 2.30pm Re-open on Monday 6 th January 2025

COMMUNICATION

More detailed information will be issued via Xpressions/Email. We have a few parents who still use email, please look out for information on Xpressions. It's free to use and keeps all the school communications in one place rather than searching your email inbox for school letters etc..

Dates can also be found on our Blog at: [Colmonell Primary School and EYC \(glowscotland.org.uk\)](http://Colmonell Primary School and EYC (glowscotland.org.uk))

And our private Facebook page; if you are not a member, please search for Colmonell Primary School or Colmonell Early Years Centre and request to join.