

People Directorate

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Our Ref: Your Ref:

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Dear Parents and Carers, and our wonderful pupils

I cannot believe that we are into May...and at the end of our 4th week out of school (6, if we include the holidays!)

We are so delighted with the high number of families who are engaging with home learning via online platforms such as Sumdog and Education City, or by emailing the staff (staff are delighted to receive emails and will always reply!) Miss Shimmons and I also started phoning families this week, just to check in and offer any support we can, and we will continue to get in touch as the weeks go on. Most families we have heard from are able to access the Home Learning grids on the website and are managing to do a little each day which is spot on! Just as a reminder:

- The Home Learning Tab on the website has been split into 5 different tabs where you can find out more information about Home Learning Grids, Additional Home Learning Grids, Accelerated Reading, Weekly HT updates and a Celebration of Success.
- Some teachers will include task sheets or additional information sheets relating to work on their Learning Grids. These will be displayed on the sub-tab 'Additional Learning Grids' and will be clearly labelled with class stage and task name for the pupils to access online.



One of the things that we have been asked about was reading materials for children. I did consider a way of having a book exchange system in place, but we aren't being advised to share resources right now due to the possibility of spreading infection. Therefore, I have attached a guide at the end of this round up to show ways of accessing online reading materials for free, so hope that helps a little.

Again, please prioritise the health and wellbeing of your family above everything else... anything you do in terms of learning is fantastic, but we fully understand that it is not equitable across our school, and our staff will be ready to work with pupils wherever they may be in their learning once we can get back together in school!



Our EYC team have been delighted to receive some emails from families following last week's round up! Keep the emails coming! They have prepared a message to make all the EYC families smile during these strange times and the link to this message is below.

Thanks to Parent Council for uploading it to Facebook via Croydon Primary Parent Council facebook page.

<https://vimeo.com/413539608>

Another reminder to follow both school and EYC on Twitter as so many pieces of rich information can be found there, as well as it being another form of communication.



Yesterday, Captain Tom Moore celebrated his 100th birthday, and we saw on social media that The Sunrise Club had made a special video message so well done to the staff and the children involved! He is an amazing role model for the younger generation and hopefully his inspiration and attitude will rub off. We also know that many families are clapping like crazy on Thursday evenings at 8pm for our NHS workers!!! Bravo!!

It would be expected that some children are feeling a bit anxious or unsettled during these strange times. We are here to help with all aspects of mental health as well as learning activities. We have lots of information and advice that we can offer so please don't be afraid to ask!

As promised, here is a brief run down of some of the things our staff have been up to this week, as well as working on school related tasks. All our staff remain hard working at home, and we also have a number of staff who will be working within our Hub School in Ayr over the next week or so! Miss Shimmons and Miss Thomson work each week to prepare a Celebration of Learning video on Twitter so look out for yourself if you have sent us any photos of your week!

- Mrs Green has had fun looking through old photographs and showing them to her family. She is continuing to do a daily country walk and has been pottering in the garden. The volleyball games are continuing to be as competitive as ever.
- Mrs Wilcox has been continuing to watch the tadpoles develop in a local pond as she has her daily walk. She also prepared a fruit basket for a family member's birthday.
- Mrs Campbell has found this week a bit tricky but all the emails and photos from P3A have really cheered her up! Her biggest achievement this week has been tidying up her email inbox, creating folders and groups and adding her signature to the end of emails. She had to learn how to do these things first!
- Mrs Cobbley has had the best news ever this week, as her baby granddaughter Ezmie got home from hospital after being there for almost 10 weeks! The whole staff were delighted with this news too!
- Mrs Moseley has been enjoying the last of the sun with her dogs and still trying to cook up a storm. She made a batch of white chocolate blondies that went down very well and has perfected the perfect poached egg.
- This week, Mrs Burns has been busy cycling on her indoor trainer and managed her longest distance - 50Km!!!! WOW!!! She has also been reading some of her favourite Grimm fairy tales including Rumpelstiltskin and Snow White. Finally, she beat Mr

Burns at a planking challenge yesterday...so he has to do ALL of the chores today!
He wants a rematch...!

- Miss Dickie has enjoyed taking Mack out for long walks and she has been winning more at Monopoly! P5 won't be surprised to hear that she is missing pizza so she has managed to get some flour and is going to follow a Jamie Oliver recipe to make her own. Can't wait to hear how they turn out!
- Mrs Symington has made the most of the good weather at the start of the week and got the fence painted and all the hanging baskets planted so she is feeling very accomplished. She has been walking every day and has found a lovely country walk from her house through St Quivox to Auchincruive. She has found a YouTube channel of a Greek chef so is now getting organised to make all her favourite dinners from when she used to live in Greece.
- Miss Marr has been enjoying the sunshine playing tennis in the garden. She had a special birthday in the family this week, which was hard not being able to see them, so she made a banner and sneaked it into their garden for a nice surprise! She has also been baking cookies and making smoothies and even had some time for some DIY.
- Mrs Duncan ordered a huge amount of paint (but forgot the brushes!!) to get busy over the coming weeks & summer holidays to do some DIY! She has been going for sunset walks along the beach & chilling out with some mindful colouring
- Mrs Wallace's week has flown past. She has been trying to get up at the same time every day and stay in a new routine. She misses her old routine! The emails from parents and pupils cheer her up everyday! The most exciting thing she reports is getting a new hoover! She now hoovers everyday! She has hosted her first zoom quiz and even managed to share her screen for some picture questions.
- Miss McFarlane replaced some lights in her wardrobe and tried to replace a plug on a lamp- she doesn't have wire strippers so it's on hold!! She used her Starbucks Mango lemonade iced tea recipe to enjoy a refreshing drink, and has also engaged in the nation's new favourite pastime-fence painting!!
- Mrs Caira has been having some fun playing hopscotch in the garden and also went on a Bear Hunt round the garden too! On rainy days she has been doing some colouring in.
- Mrs Davidson has decided to become even more creative this week in the kitchen, exploring Thai cooking! She is now considering making some Thai Tomato bread – can't wait to hear how that turns out!
- Miss Cowie has been walking at least 5 miles every day and which has been lovely with the gorgeous weather. She felt yesterday was a bit cold though. She has also had a go at playing Monopoly on the Playstation. Let's say she prefers the board game version.
- Mrs Baird has spotted a robin's nest with eggs in it in her garden and has been visited by pheasants and hedgehogs. She has decorated her window again and has

spent time baking, cooking and knitting.

- Miss Thomson was delighted this week when she won her first quiz!! She has been working on a 550 piece jigsaw, the first one she has done since she was at school! Not ready to brave the 1,000 piece jigsaw yet!!
- Mrs Stewart's week has included more walks to the beach and the nearby pond. Three ducklings have been born and they are so cute and fluffy! The swan couple are still there and the female one remains on her nest...she is looking forward to seeing the cygnets when they are born!
- Mrs Kilmurray has had a busy week, planting some flower and have creating a new path (which leads nowhere but looks nice!!) She has researched garden birds and identified a few varieties that are using the feeder. She put out oranges to attract the butterflies but sadly it attracted loads of wasps instead.

Over in the EYC,

- Miss Cairnie has had fun playing dominoes, card games and board games with Blair and we completed an experiment called walking water. Sounds interesting!
- Mrs Brown has been in the kitchen baking lots of yummy treats with the kids. She also have found the family's old wii in a box and has had fun trying out all the games they used to play on it.
- Mrs Kotze has out delivering food from Unity Grill in Ayr to families in need! And, how exciting, a new arrival in the family – a new foal named Gigha! Gorgeous!!!
- Mrs MacDonald has been out on the bikes with the family and found some geo caches along the way. She also made delicious mango and raspberry ice lollies!
- Mrs Ingram has been working in the Hub school this week and I know that means long days for her! She has been making assault courses in her garden for her grandchildren, and been looking at rainbow making as science experiments too!
- Miss Nisbet has TRIED to do yoga every morning in the back garden (something new)! She has also started a little DIY project, decorating the inside of her summer house. She is also going to try to fix and decorate one a table to go in it, so that should keep her busy!
- Miss Glendinning has spent a lot of time out in the garden when it was nice (bring back the sunshine!) Her girls enjoyed chalk art and she also helped Eve make a Squishy for her school art project. Wonder what that looked like??? She has been on lots of walks with Boss (her dog) and her favourite part of the week was getting a delivery from the sweetie shop!
- Mrs Imrie has been working in the Hub school a couple of times this week. She has also tackled an enormous ironing pile.....I don't envy her there! She has managed to relax a bit, reading in the sunshine though!
- Miss McMurdo has been enjoying going long walks with her dog Berty. She has also been attempting some home workouts which her PT sends me every week as she is really missing the gym.
- Mrs Keller has been exploring the world of astronomy with her telescope & binoculars. She managed to see the moon in great detail & she says it is actually quite amazing!

- Mrs Murray dusted down the treadmill and is getting some exercise each morning before starting school work for the day. She has been making some delicious smoothies as part of one of Errin's tasks and is planning on making a commercial for them too.
- Mrs Pollock's daughter Anna has taught her how to play over the rainbow on the piano....she is very proud of herself.

Miss Shimmons' week has been a busy one too, although she has made sure that she has been outside walking or cycling every day. She has a number of birthdays coming up so online shopping it has been for her! I know she will have been enjoying that, and hopefully she managed to shop for something nice for herself too! 😊

And as for me, I have been really busy working with other Head Teachers, organising The Hub school for key workers children and my brain is frazzled at the end of the day, so I have been trying to enjoy some mindfulness colouring and reading a beautiful book that Mrs Campbell gave me for my birthday with Buddy, my neighbour's cat joining in! He is quite therapeutic!

On Sunday evening, we will upload the next Home Learning grids which takes in the next 2 weeks. However, please remember that Monday 4th May and Friday 8th May would have been holidays in school, so take that into account when considering any home learning activities over the next 2 weeks! I have asked staff to consider these days as being downtime too (although some will be working in the Hub school!)

For any queries or generic comments, please continue to use the Groupcall service and the Coylton mail box for emails. Miss Shimmons and I are checking these regularly each day. Continue to check out the website and Twitter for ideas and updates, and thanks go to the Parent Council for updating their Facebook page for us too.

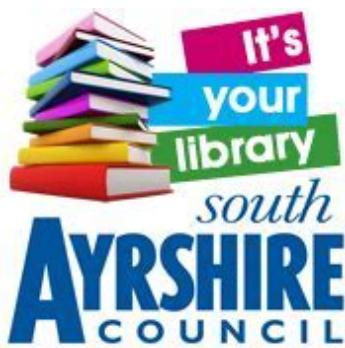


Mrs D x

Fiona Donnelly
Head Teacher

(The guide to digital reading materials is tagged onto the end of this round up so keep on reading!)

South Ayrshire Libraries



South Ayrshire Libraries are now giving the option for families to join online. New online registrations will now have a 3-month temporary membership to avoid the requirement of providing ID to join. Please visit this link to join up

<https://library.south-ayrshire.gov.uk/selfreg.html> 

Once you have joined, you can download the free app, Libby, by Overdrive. You can then borrow eBooks and audiobook instantly, for free, using just the device in your hand. This is a fabulous resource and an excellent way of accessing books for free. 

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