

People Directorate

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Our Ref: Your Ref:

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Dear Parents and Carers, and our wonderful pupils

I hope that you are all remaining safe and healthy! This has been a funny week as it started and ends with a local holiday and the weather has been very kind to us again.



Today, we are on holiday to mark 75 years since the end of WWII in Europe – VE Day. Due to this milestone, the whole country had been planning traditional street party celebrations at home and in schools with lots of bunting, flags and cakes. Due to the current lockdown, we are unable to have these celebrations all together, but do what you can to mark the occasion. I know that some families are choosing to decorate their homes with flags and bunting, and in the Hub schools across South Ayrshire, the children will have afternoon tea parties, following social distancing guidance of course! 🇬🇧

The new home learning grids have been uploaded on the website since the start of this week. They will take children through learning tasks next week too, with the next new grids expected on Monday 18th May. Remember, do what you can to engage in tasks, whether on line or practical. Every little helps, and as we have said before, do not stress over these tasks....little and often is the best way!

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.

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.



Pupils in P4-7 have now been set up on Glow to be part of Teams with their class and their teacher. This allows them all to be involved in live chats about their learning and also gives them a safe place to chat to one another. All families with children in p4-7 will have received an email about this, with guidance on how to get involved. You will see from some of the updates from staff below just how much the staff are valuing these discussions with their pupils. As always, if you are finding issues trying to get involved in this, please email or text into school and we will get onto fixing it with you!

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 have been working within our Hub School in Ayr this week! 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 been having fun in the garden playing with a toy rocket. The aim is to get it over the roof of the house. She has been cleaning the cars and ended up having a water fight. Every day she goes a country walk and she even found a rainbow stone trail!
- Mrs Wilcox has been enjoying the sunshine and reading a book while sunbathing. Her new barbecue arrived and she is looking forward to using it over the holiday weekend.
- Mrs Campbell has been cleaning out kitchen cupboards. She found lots of out of date food and medicine.....and lots of cups and lunch boxes from Laurin's childhood and she's now nearly 3!!!! Definitely a job that she thinks should have been done before now!
- Mrs Moseley has been busy with some DIY in the house and has successfully built a bookcase! She also had a zoom birthday party for her brother in law which was lovely.
- This week, Mrs Burns has been busy baking lots of yummy treats like flapjacks and traybakes. She has been using Zoom and House Party to keep in touch with friends and family and has also timed her daily walk perfectly so she can enjoy the beautiful west coast sunsets.
- Miss Dickie has been getting stuck into Teams and loving being able to speak to her class. It's really put a big smile on her face. She has decided to learn a new skill so she has started learning the ukulele and has learned 3 chords so far. She is checking in with her sister via FaceTime to see how she is doing. She hopes to become so good that she can teach her class.
- Mrs Symington's Zoom Quiz for all the family went well on Saturday night, so much so, they have another one planned for this weekend as a rematch ... some people were bad losers!! She has also baked some delicious ginger cookies!

- Miss Marr has been enjoying the sunshine, running along Prestwick beach and catching up with friends via Zoom. She has also been busy trying to do some school work with Blaine and Emma, though they have been enjoying the sunshine too!
- Mrs Duncan has been out walking in the sunshine with her family, enjoying the lovely weather. She has also been loving the fabulous fresh fruit & veg box from Grants that she had delivered. Her 10 sunflowers are really growing now, and she has been reflecting back on days spent at Dolphin House as she should have been there the last 2 weeks with her lovely pupils!
- Mrs Wallace has sanded down and varnished her kitchen table and she thinks it looks so much better now. She has also been out walking every day and loves seeing all the beautiful flowers that are out now.
- Miss McFarlane has been nurturing a baby cabbage this week!! She has been doing a lot of reading in the sunshine and she has beaten her lockdown record, completing a 5 and a half mile walk in the sunshine.
- Mrs Caira has been kept busy with a bit of DIY - building a new climbing frame for the girls to keep them busy. It was hard work and she has a few blisters on her hands but it was worth it as the girls love it and have had lots of fun!
- Mrs Davidson and her husband looked out all his childhood lego from the attic. They have spent hours building cars, fire stations and hospitals!
- Miss Cowie has been getting to grips with Teams and she is now feeling more confident using it. She has also been getting back into reading outside and is in between reading Wonder with her class and also reading Jojo Moyes Still Me.
- Mrs Baird has painted her garden shed a beautiful green colour. She has been shopping for and looking after her mum and dad who are both in the vulnerable category.
- Miss Thomson's highlight of the week has been hearing from her class on Teams! She has loved talking to all the pupils and looks forward to hearing from more of them. She has also played the Nintendo Switch for the first time.
- Mrs Stewart has been enjoying seeing some of the things she has planted in her garden start to grow! She has also decided to start running again, but the jury is out on whether she will keep it up or not!

Over in the EYC,

- Miss Cairnie has been busy moving sunflowers from plant pots and planting them in the garden. She has bought new solar lights to make the garden look pretty. She also bought Blair a live butterfly garden so she is excited to watch the caterpillars turn into beautiful butterflies.
- Mrs Brown has been enjoying lovely walks along the river close to her home. She has lived there a long time and didn't realise the walkway was there! She has also made a volcano in her garden!
- Mrs Kotze has been supporting Carter and Corey with their school work and

splitting up arguments on a regular basis! She has been doing lots of reading to help her find inspiration to write a 3,000 word essay, and had a lovely zoom call with friends that most definitely cheered her up.

- Mrs MacDonald has been planting carrots and peas in the garden. She has been looking at water with her daughter and they have completed some experiments. She has enjoyed a yummy BBQ too!
- Mrs Ingram has been enjoying the lovely weather in the garden, using her new fire pit to toast marshmallows and have more barbecues. She has also been building robots with her grandson and supporting him with his letter recognition and mark making.
- Miss Nisbet has been continuing her new venture with yoga and very much enjoying it! She would recommend it to anyone and everyone! She also became a "quiz master" making quizzes to do online with family and friends on zoom.
- Miss Glendinning celebrated her nieces 9th birthday last weekend and made her a nice big banner to surprise her with. She has spent lots of time outdoors, painting fences, playing in the sand and going for nice walks. She even managed her 1st TikTok video this week
- Mrs Imrie tackled power washing the path, garden and runway and ended up with another pile of washing as it was such a dirty job! She also painted the fence between her house and her neighbour. She is running out of inspiration for mealtimes (suggestions welcome!)
- Miss McMurdo has had her first attempt at making chocolate crepes for breakfast. She successfully made it up to the top of Corsin Cone, a hill in New Cumnock, - the view was amazing but her legs were paying for it the morning after!
- Mrs Keller has built her own greenhouse and has planted some seeds. She has taken up skipping to keep fit and is trying to do 100 skips but has not managed it yet!
- Mrs Murray has been helping the girls with some of their school work we and has also been spending some time in the garden. She is planning to change the garden a bit so has been trying to come up with some ideas of how she might like it to look. She has used tape to see what areas might look like and has been measuring them out and looking for inspiration online.
- Mrs Pollock has been busy with her 3 girls, trying to keep school work going, but the sunshine and the paddling pool in the garden always seems to win!!

Miss Shimmons has also loved chatting to P4-7 pupils in their Glow Teams. At home, she decided to try out a very simple dalgona coffee recipe...it was a refreshing treat which she enjoyed in the sunshine! She is also wondering if there's a world record for how many times a person can tidy away toys in a day...she thinks she might have broken that record!!!!

My week has been another busy one too. I have also taken full advantage of the amazing weather to go out walking in the evenings, and wow, some of the sunsets have been spectacular! I love puzzles, so Tess and I bought a new game for the Switch called Layton's Mysterious Journey and we have been completing parts of that every day too! And I bought a new coffee machine and so have been trying lots of new ways to make coffee, like a proper barista!!! I could maybe get a new job in Costa when it re opens!!

I was delighted to hear from some of the School Captaincy team this week, and also from some of the House Captaincy team. They have offered some fantastic ideas to help with communication during this time away from school, and so you might be able to see our Captains Vlog reappear on Twitter, full of information around news of the week, just like they did at assemblies! Plans are also starting to take shape around a Virtual Sports Day with families being able to complete challenges, but more information will follow on this.



SHRUG We are still waiting to hear what school is going to look like moving forward, and when that might be. For those about to start S1 or P1, we know that you may be feeling concerned and anxious as we would be right in the middle of transition work, preparing you for your new school. We are working in conjunction with secondary staff to plan transition activities for our current P7 pupils and will be in touch with families soon. We are also planning to create a virtual tour of our school, and give information to our new start P1 families around the start of June.

I have been in touch with Blu Design who supply Cowlton Primary uniform items. Leanne would normally come and do a Pop- Up shop in school but instead, please follow the link below to view and order any items!

<https://business.facebook.com/Cowlton-Primary-School-Uniform-by-Blu-Design-1381000331943513/shop/?nt=19>

Please note, we **ALWAYS** provide our Pre School children with a school tie for whichever Primary School they are moving on to, and this will **STILL** be the case this year!! It will be a Tie Ceremony done a little differently!!

For any queries or generic comments, please continue to use the Groupcall service and the Cowlton 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