

People Directorate

Head Teacher: Fiona Donnelly

Coylton Primary School

Main Road, Coylton, KA6 6JP

Tel: 01292 612491

Email: Coylton.Mail@south-ayrshire.gov.uk

Our Ref: Your Ref:

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Dear Parents and Carers, and our wonderful pupils

Here we are at Friday again, and another week in lockdown. The news has been very confusing this week with the public working out what they can and can't do, even more so depending on which UK country you stay in. Clear to us all is that in Scotland, we keep things the way they are for the time being in order to keep our families safe. The Scottish Government is in the process of planning what school might be like when we do eventually get back, and they will be feeding this to Local Authorities as soon as they can. I can assure you, that we will share information with you when we have it.

This Sunday (17th May), the new home learning grids will be uploaded onto the website. They will take children through learning tasks for the next 2 weeks. 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.



With home learning in mind, I wondered about preparing a box of stationery items such as jotters, pencils etc that our pupils might want to continue their home learning – I would hate to think that not having these items would be a barrier to them not managing anything. To that end, I have approached the local Spar in Coylton to see if we could have the box there. Families could access this box if they were passing, and take only what they need, in order that everyone who needs something can get it. No charge, just take what you need. I will keep you posted, once I hear back from Spar.



Class teachers are in the process of preparing the final report of the year for pupils. Normally, they would be reporting on the levels that pupils have achieved in terms of the progress in their learning. Given that we haven't seen our pupils since March 20th, the schools across the Ayr Cluster have agreed to provide families with a short report which will touch on a child's achievements until that date, and not on the levels. Plans are in place to have these ready for posting to you on Friday 12th June. We will send them via groupcall and will also have a paper copy delivered to you.



TEAM WORK 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. Staff are delighted with the numbers of children joining teams, and would encourage all to do the same. Feedback from parents so far has been positive. All p4-7 pupils had an email sent giving directions to join, but just shout if you need some more guidance with this!



ReadingWise Programme: P1-3 pupils

Pupils in P1-3 have now been set up with a [ReadingWise Zip](#) account. This online literacy programme will help P1-3 pupils develop their phonics, decoding and reading skills. The programme understands when a child has mastered a letter-sound correspondence and is personalised, allowing children to learn at their own pace and repeat areas which are not secure. All families with children in P1-3 will receive an email from the class teacher over the next few days providing guidance on how to access the resource, as well as an individual login and password.

It is recommended that pupils do this activity 3 times per week for 20 minutes while in school, however your circumstances at home are **VERY** different so only do what you can!!! As always, if you are finding issues trying to access this online programme, please email the class teacher or school mail account and we will do our best to fix things promptly.

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 are contactable via email! 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 loving hearing from P7 and reading the super work they have been sending her. She has found a new love for white chocolate magnums and has been helping her daughter in the kitchen make a tortilla pizza. She will happily share

the recipe on P7 teams if you want?

- Mrs Wilcox's family quiz night ended up with her wearing a blue clown wig!! She is not quite sure how that happened but she got extra points and ended up winning! She made a bird house in which some baby birds have decided to set up home and chase away the larger birds which is really entertaining to watch. She also made a Kazoo and has enjoyed annoying the rest of the family with it.
- Mrs Campbell has been doing lots of gardening. She got loppers and now nothing in the garden is safe! The bushes have been scalped! She is enjoying pottering about at home, getting jobs done that she never usually has time for. She says her house and the garden have never been tidier!
- Mrs Moseley has been busy trying her hand at calligraphy! She is pleased with her first attempt. She attended a Zoom baby shower for her friend who is due her baby next month. She has also been on lots of walks in the countryside with her two dogs.
- Sadly, Miss Dickie's pizza didn't work when she tried making them a couple of weeks ago, but she was delighted on Tuesday as she found out Dominos is now delivering to Troon, so of course she needed to get one! She has been enjoying her sunset walks with Mack and has been taking part in challenges on Times Tables Rockstars against her pupils. She has also been playing against Miss Cowie but Miss Cowie keeps winning!
- Mrs Symington followed a Greek chef on YouTube and made homemade Chicken Gyros, Greek Pita Bread and real Tzatziki. They turned out really well and the family felt like they were back in Greece! She started power washing the path at the side of the house and now intends to get the front and the drive done, nothing is safe from the power washer now!
- Miss Marr has spent some time at the park this week, feeding the adorable ducklings. She thinks she counted 13, but they wouldn't stay still for long!! She spent some time Zooming with Mrs Wallace and Mrs Wilcox, and enjoyed catching up with them. Matilda kindly sent her some recipes to try and she made some meringues with Emma. They turned out a little flat, so they will need to try again, but they tasted delicious! Thanks Matilda!
- Mrs Duncan has been decorating Struan's bedroom and is delighted to say he did most of it! It was quite easy for him to paint the ceiling as he is 6'6"!! She also made a batch of whisky marmalade and has been doing 6K walks most days- loving the sunny weather!
- Mrs Wallace has been gardening and weeding the back border, looking at ways to make it more maintenance free/friendly- suggestions welcome! She has also been trying new recipes this week and made a spiced cauliflower roast. Like Mrs Campbell, jobs in her house are getting done that she never thought would get finished! She is aiming to paint upstairs next week if she can get a hold of paint!
- Miss McFarlane has beaten her walking record and walked 6 and a half miles. She

has also been working on a photo gift box for a friend's 30th. She's had fun looking back at old photos.

- Mrs Cairn has had lots of fun playing with the box from the climbing frame in the garden! It is gigantic - big enough for the whole family to get in at once! She has also been enjoying lovely fruit snacks from a fruit and vegetable delivery!
- Mrs Davidson challenged herself with the Home Shopping malarkey and two loads of shopping arrived within a day of each other!!! She thought she had cancelled Tesco's!!!! She is now following Little Art School on you tube and is currently working on a Dr Seuss theme. Can't wait to see what she produces!
- Last year, Miss Cowie was gifted a bike by a very kind man from her bowling club. This week, she got the bike out again and has been a wee cycle. Safe to say, her knees were sore. She has also been competing in teacher challenges on Times Table Rockstars with Miss Dickie. They are both very competitive! She has also been playing about on Barefoot Computing trying to improve her digital skills.
- During Mrs Baird's walks this week, she has been noticing lots of wildlife. The hedgehog has appeared back in her garden and when walking through the bluebell woods, she has seen lots of squirrels. She has also been keeping in touch, via social media, with her grandchildren and finding out all about how they're spending their time – she really misses them!!
- Miss Thomson has been getting lost in a great book and struggling to put it down! She is hoping the sunshine will stay as she has been enjoying walks and runs along the beach every night.
- Mrs Stewart has been for lots of lovely walks and "runs". She has been trying to teach Logan how to ride his scooter but he seems more intent on using sticks to build "Stick Man" after having watched the movie!
- Mrs Kilmurray has been enjoying the sunshine and working hard in the garden. She found loads of bugs so sent pictures to her grandsons to see if they could find the same ones in their garden.

Over in the EYC,

- Miss Cairnie made some yummy mars bar crispie cakes which didn't last very long as they were delicious. She went a lovely walk to the River Ayr and had fun going over the stepping stones. She has her 1st family quiz night on zoom planned! Hope she wins!!
- Mrs Brown has had a quiet week. She has been enjoying reading and playing with lego.
- Mrs Kotze is thankful that the hairdressing qualification she gained years ago has come in handy, although her boys may question that!!
- Mrs MacDonald has made a pirate ship with her 2 daughters which has kept them entertained. She made pizzas which were yummy and her eldest daughter was

learning about halves and quarters with the pizzas. She even had a go at making a dream catcher too!

- Mrs Ingram received a surprise delivery of sweets that her sister had sent and she has been sending gifts to friends and family to say how much she is missing them. She also received little pocket hugs which she is sending to family and friends.
- Miss Nisbet has made some watercolour cards with pocket hugs to send to family and friends. She has also become the household beautician/hairdresser, doing facials, nails and even cutting hair!
- Miss Glendinning had a lovely afternoon tea last Friday with the girls to celebrate VE Day (they are thinking of making this a weekly thing as it tasted so good!) She has been going out for daily walks, and her dog Boss doesn't want to come in when she gets back home! She has played a lot of dominoes this week - Eve is the champion at the moment, and she tried her hand at playing darts as well but will definitely need more practice!
- Mrs Imrie has been enjoying time round her newly acquired log burner with Courtney and William in the garden, playing games such as 'Shout it Out' which William always seems to win. This weekend, she is having a quiz night through house party which should be fun. Courtney made banoffee pies which were delicious.
- Miss McMurdo's week has consisted of more baking. She made a lemon cheesecake and mini Ferrero Rocher cheesecakes. She walked around the Dam at New Cumnock with her dog Berty - they both crashed out as soon as they got home!
- Mrs Keller has been busy this week making pom poms with her two daughters. They have had lots of fun using different colours of wool. She has also been keeping up with skipping and is well on the way to doing 100 skips at once.
- Mrs Murray celebrated her birthday this week with a delicious cake and lots of lovely gifts and messages. She is now moving on to paint her bedroom, but can't decide on a colour yet – she has narrowed it down to 4!
- Mrs Pollock went a lovely walk down Failford Gorge, and she was amazed that part of the river was so peaceful. The fish were jumping and she was so lucky to see a Kingfisher fly along the river like a streak of electric blue...it was amazing.

Miss Shimmons started the week by making an extra special effort to help the NHS. She attended a local church to give blood. Only 6.3% of Scotland's population have her blood type so she knows this was an essential task this week. She has also finally picked up the scissors and given Harris and his daddy a much-needed haircut. Reports are, it's the best haircut they've had in a long time!! Finally, she is enjoying making the weekly videos and school captain vlog each week, but also wonders if she should create a video for Harris' daddy showing him how to load the washing machine, she thinks he needs a reminder!

My week has been full of catch ups and quizzes on Zoom. A quick chat with a couple of friends lasted 3 hours!!! I have also found some lovely bird feeders from the RSPB which are in half coconut shells and the birds in my garden have emptied 6 so far!! But, the highlight of my week is that I found a function on our new TV that lets you sing Karaoke!!! I have been in my element with the Hits of the 80's....funnily enough, I find myself on my own as the rest of the household have taken to other rooms with earphones on!!



Impressive

A fantastic Vlog by our School Captains appeared on Twitter yesterday. I am so impressed by the leadership they have shown. Please check it out if you can!

I know that Miss Dickie is working on Teams with our House Captains. 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. The creativity from our pupils never ceases to amaze me!



Claire Rogerson, our Active Schools Coordinator, has been out and about in Cowlton, looking at ways to try to build some fun things to do into daily walks in the community. She reckons she could draw some games on pavements around the circuit of the village, and is also planning an orienteering course near the school that families could try if they are around the school, during daily walks. Look out for these, and I will provide more information as Claire sends it!



So, how about a little bit of fun to keep morale high across our school community. The staff have provided me with photographs of 'Then and Now'!! We plan to set a competition for everyone to join in with, should they wish to. Next week, we will send via groupcall a sheet with photos on of staff, back in the day! Each photo will have a number against it. An answer sheet will also be provided. Families can have a look at the photos, write their answers on the sheet, and then email the sheet to the school mail address which is Cowlton.mail@south-ayrshire.gov.uk

Although this is a bit of fun, we will randomly select 3 answer sheets, and a small prize will be delivered to the 3 winners!! Be aware, this is NOT as easy as you would think!!!!



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 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