

People Directorate

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Our Ref: Your Ref:

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Dear Parents and Carers, and our wonderful pupils

I wonder if you, like me, are finding it difficult to remember which day it is?? That's hard enough, but to then realise that we are in a brand new month seems almost unbelievable!! The news has been full lately of the Scottish Government's framework for reopening schools, and our local authority have produced their own draft guidelines to fit in with the Scottish Government's. All schools across South Ayrshire are in the planning phase of implementing these guidelines, keeping to the strict Public Health safety guidelines. What will work in one school, may not work in others.



I will try to provide the information we have at present but please be advised that all information is draft at the moment. I met with Parent Council earlier this week to outline the draft plans so far, and I will do my best to share this information with you now. Minutes of this meeting are on Twitter and also on our school website for any parent to access.

Blended Learning is a term used to describe a mix of face-to-face learning and home learning. The local authority have measured classes in all schools and have provided information on the amount of children each class can hold with a 2 metre distance between them. This will determine whether a school will operate a 2 way rotation or a 3 way rotation. Currently, our school looks like it would be a 3 way rotation, based on pupil numbers, class structure and staffing. However, with the use of additional spaces in school and additional staffing, we may get to a 2 rotation model.

What does this mean?

A 2 rotation model would see us bring our pupils into school in 2 groups – group A on Monday and Tuesday and Group B on Thursday and Friday each week.

A 3 rotation model would see us bring our pupils into school in 3 groups. There are a few different ways of working out the attendance pattern with a 3 rotation model. These are explained in the minutes if the Parent Council meeting.

Things to consider in the make up of the groups will be family members attending at the same time and transport needs. Each group will be mixed ability and teachers will adapt tasks according to level of ability where necessary.

Children will be taught in a smaller group for the time they are in school, therefore, the learning will be focused and the pace will be increased due to the lower teacher/pupil ratio, and there will be fewer distractions.

School will start on August 11th, with the likelihood of a staggered start for all. The holidays that are being missed as a result of the earlier start will come at some point later in the

school session, this has yet to be confirmed.

The one thing I can confirm now is that I am sure that whatever model we have to go with, it will not naturally suit the needs of all families. Further guidance in terms of childcare out of school has still to be released. Many parents asked questions which were raised at Parent Council. All were valid, and my responses are in the minutes so please take time to have a look. We plan to have another meeting the week before the end of term, so please ensure if you have any questions that you wish to be raised, that you contact a member of Parent Council in advance of the meeting – Monday 22nd June. Hopefully by that time, I will be in a position to give more information about the model for Coylton Primary. Information regarding what EYC will look like is coming out soon too!

I also know that children and families will be keen to hear about teachers and classes for next session. I will share information about this once the rotation model for our school is clearer, and hopefully in the round up next week.



Hopefully, all families will have accessed the Home Learning Grids for this 2week block. New grids will be uploaded on Sunday 14th June. However, the focus of the next home learning grids will be Health and Wellbeing, with fabulous plans in place for Virtual Sports week. Miss Dickie has been working closely with our Sports Captains and a letter will come out today via email outlining these events. My thanks go to Miss Dickie and the Sports Captains for their enthusiasm and attention to detail, and we can't wait to see your photos and videos coming in!!! Just 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.



Don't forget, Spar in Coylton have a fully stocked stationery box that families can access to help with any home learning, and they will alert me if stocks run low! It's so heartening to see community spirit in action.



Great news!!! Teams is really taking off now across all classes! Teachers are getting in touch with families to support and guide them on Teams, and we are seeing new things happening every day! This week, some classes even had virtual chats with their teachers, where the children could see the teacher and hear one another. The video function for pupils is turned off within South Ayrshire in order to safeguard our children. I can see Teams being a big part of Blending Learning moving next term, so please let us know if you are struggling to access it.



Thank you to all families who took part in our Then and Now competition. Although it was a bit of fun, we will be taking a look at all entries and prizes will be awarded to those with the highest scores!! It was MUCH more difficult than it looked. The answers will be sent out later today!!!



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 had a lovely week in the sun. She enjoyed seeing family again, having BBQs, and of course sunbathing! She is having fun experimenting with TEAMS and Thinglink. Keep sharing your work and pictures P7, it makes Mrs Green's day!
- Mrs Wilcox's week has been all about burgers, BBQ, bathing (in the sun), boules, bottles, bubbles, birthday, blast offs (SpaceX), bikes and family. She said it was lovely hearing the class on the weekly Teams meeting and even better when she saw some of the primary 1 children as she delivered Teddy Bear picnic packs.
- Mrs Campbell was reunited with Laurin this week, for the first time since lockdown. Luckily the weather has allowed them to spend time in the garden together and they visited the cygnets and moor hen chicks at the pond near her house. They also celebrated her birthday this week and tried Percy Pig ice cream... Yum!
- Miss Dickie has been cycling, catching up with family as the lockdown slightly eased and enjoying the sunshine. She also treated herself to some custom made press on nails since she can't get her nails done. She would also like to say thank you to all P5 parents and pupils for the lovely video she received. It was a lovely surprise.
- Miss Marr has been camping out the back garden with Blaine and Emma. This has confirmed that she is not a camper!!! P2 were busy planning a teddy bears picnic as part of their topic for Thursday 4th June. They had a great afternoon and shared pictures on Teams of the fun they had had. She was also busy in the kitchen making scones, which turned out ok, and running along the beach in the lovely weather.
- Mrs Wallace's home improvements have continued. She has now painted the garden wall white, which resulted in her getting two blisters on her hand! She has met up with friends and family in gardens, always observing the social distancing rules. She says it has been great seeing people in the flesh, as great as Zoom and FaceTime are, nothing beats seeing people face to face.
- Miss McFarlane has been living her best conference life, attending four online conferences over the holiday weekend. She also attended a Zoom baby shower. Miss McFarlane also reached the 'summit' of Kilimanjaro finishing off her fundraising endeavour. Her thighs are thankful it's all over! We are so proud of

her, raising £400 and counting for the Tearfund! Well done!!!

- Miss Cowie has had lots of fun this week building up her digital literacy skills using Microsoft Teams. She has had a few live video calls with pupils and she said it was so good to hear and speak to them. She managed to have nine pupils on chatting on Wednesday and she is hoping for more the next time there is a planned chat.
- As well as enjoying seeing family members in the glorious weather, Miss Thomson has been enjoying going further on her bike, although her legs don't thank her the next day! She has been trying to learn how to do a double under when skipping but no success... yet! She thinks her class would probably manage no bother!
- Mrs Stewart has been spending lots of time outside in the lovely weather. The baby cygnets are here now! They are super cute and fluffy! Sadly, one egg didn't hatch. Mr Stewart had an important birthday on the 23rd (last of his 30s) and due to his "old age", needed help blowing out his candles!
- Mrs Baird has learned about some of the beautiful wild flowers she can see on her walks around the village. She also enjoyed a wonderful quiz with her granddaughter on Zoom and put her knitting needles to good use.
- Mrs Kilmurray was delighted to find baby birds in one of her nesting boxes. For her birthday, she made a pond in a pot, bought plants from the garden centre to put in it and to her astonishment, found a frog in it on Tuesday. She named it Fred, however Fred seems to have moved on - hopefully he will return.
- Mrs Symington has had some lovely time in the garden at the weekend with a few friends and family now that we are able to meet up in small groups. She is still continuing Saturday Night Quiz's on Zoom which she says is great fun! She is now having home made pesto with everything to make good use of the quickly growing basil plants!!

Over in the EYC,

- Miss Cairnie has had fun playing games in the garden, and finally saw her mum and dad on Saturday after 10 weeks. They came and sat in the garden, social distancing. She has had fun taking part in Blair's virtual sports, and she now has 4 butterflies which are going to be released tomorrow!
- This week, Mrs MacDonald has been visiting the rock pools and found a starfish and baby prawns. She went to Troon Harbour and got fresh prawns straight from the boat, which were delicious!
- Miss Glendinning has enjoyed being able to sit in the sun and catch up with family and friends over the weekend. She has been on some lovely walks and even managed to catch a few wee tadpoles in the river! She has had to buy a new cooker and a new kettle last week and she is really hoping there won't be a third thing! She said that it was nice to catch up with families new and old when out delivering the transition packs.
- Mrs Imrie has had a trip to A&E with her son as he had cut his head and needed to have it glued and some paper stitches applied...boys!!! She has been cooking and baking lots this week with local produce from the milkman who also delivers fresh

cream, Ayrshire tatties, strawberries and eggs. She was also lucky to receive a beautiful bunch of flowers from a lovely lady.

- Mrs Kotze welcomed another addition to the family - a Clydesdale foal named Harris. She has also enjoyed a spot of fishing but is yet to catch anything.
- Miss Nisbet has been enjoying the sun and doing some work in the garden. She has started a little veg garden, growing carrots, broccoli, sweet peas, lettuce, peppers and radishes!
- Mrs Murray has been really enjoying all the lovely sunshine and has moved her work space outdoors to catch some rays while working on home learning tasks. She has been brushing up on angles, measuring perimeter and area while helping Kirsten with her homework. She has had great fun making lots of videos for some of our coming events and challenges!

Miss Shimmons has thoroughly enjoyed the sunshine in the garden over the past week and also bought a new paddling pool for Harris. She had a few BBQ's in the garden at the weekend and had some family round for social distance gatherings. Harris was reunited with his gran and he loved seeing her at a 2m distance! She has also been a LONG cycle to Auchincruive, sang along to a special Take That concert (which maybe didn't please her neighbours) and treated herself to a MAC makeup delivery.

I am preparing myself for this weekend as I am heading to clear out my son's student flat! He has been home since lockdown started and I am a little bit scared about what I will find lurking in the fridge! I will definitely need some PPE I think to tackle it! Wish me luck!



Another fantastic Vlog by our School Captains appeared on Twitter yesterday. Poor Rory wasn't feeling too good so here's hoping he is on the mend soon! I am so impressed by the leadership they have shown. Please check it out if you can! The creativity from our pupils never ceases to amaze me! I am so proud of every single one of you!!!



Information has gone out from Secondary staff related to transition activities for our current P7 pupils. Teams will be created to allow staff from Ayr and Kyle Academy's to chat to pupils. P7 teachers have shared this information with all pupils. Get in touch if you are unsure of the arrangements. P7 pupils, we are in discussions about trying to ensure you are able to get back into Coylton Primary one last time before the end of term. More information to follow!

Staff from our EYC were out delivering transition packs to our new start P1 pupils this week. Mrs Wallace and Mrs Wilcox also visited our current P1 pupils to deliver resources required for our Teddy Bear's Picnic on June 22nd. We are now hoping that we may actually be able to have our new start P1 pupils and one adult in to visit school and meet their teacher during the last week of term. School staff will be in touch with families next week to arrange a date and time.

Next Friday (12th June) all pupils from EYC to P7 will have their final report sent home. This will be emailed out, and a paper copy will also be posted. A reminder, this is not a tracking report, but more a round up of the year. Any parent who wishes to discuss any aspect of the report will be able to do so via email or phone call.

I have been in touch with Blu Design who supply Coylton 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/Coylton-Primary-School-Uniform-by-Blu-Design-1381000331943513/shop/?rt=19>

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