

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



Let me start this week with some wonderful news! Miss Shimmons has appeared in school this week wearing a VERY sparkly diamond ring on her left hand...yip, Paul has proposed and she said YES!! We are absolutely delighted for Miss Shimmons and her family, and look forward to hearing all the plans they have for the future!

This week has seen a return to the school building for some staff, with almost all staff returning from Monday. Although some staff are in school preparing for what school might be like come August, I am very clear that if aspects of the job can still be done from home, then that is the safest thing to do. During the lockdown period, ALL staff have been working from home on school related activities, but in particular, I would like to say a massive thank you to the teaching staff who have been working non-stop preparing home learning grids, emailing and phoning families, and holding meetings on Teams. I saw some tabloid headline talking about teachers' going back to work'...they never left!!!!😊



Following on from the information that I sent out last week, I can let you know that I have now submitted plans to South Ayrshire Council to operate a 2rotation model within Coylton Primary. This would mean that one group of pupils attends on a Monday and Tuesday with the other half attending on a Thursday and Friday every week. I must stress however, that these plans have not yet been approved and so are not set in stone. Staff in school have been working on the groupings and we are following guidance which takes into account sibling groups attending on the same rotation, and a balance of those children who rely on transport to get them to school.



I am aware that you have been asked to complete a few surveys lately related to the return to school. Today, we have been asked to send another out to those families who are entitled to school transport and so look out for that coming later today.

My thanks go to each and every one of you who have taken time to complete the surveys sent out already...your views are valued in terms of our recovery planning. The survey regarding IT closes today so please ensure you have your say!



Next session, if our plans are agreed, the school structure will be as follows:

P1a Mrs Wallace	P1b Miss McFarlane
P2/3 Mrs Stewart/Mrs Campbell	P3 Miss Morrison
P4/5a Miss Thomson	P4/5b TBC
P6 Miss Cowie	P6/7a Mrs Duncan
P7 Mrs Green	

P2 Miss Marr
P4 Mrs Wilcox
P5 Miss Dickie
P6/7b TBC

Next Friday, 19th June, if plans have been agreed, I will issue each child information around their class and their grouping for August. Information will also come around start times, and restrictions to the normal school arrangements such as drop off and pick up arrangements! I understand that you want to have all the information as soon as possible, but please bear with us as guidance comes - and changes - almost daily at the moment!

Although I stated last week that school will start on August 11th, it has changed to August 12th. Told you, guidance changes all the time 😊

Given that date is a Wednesday, I would say that the first day for pupils in Group B will be Thursday 13th August, with Monday 17th August being the first day for Group A, with the likelihood of a staggered start for all. The holidays that are being missed as a result of the earlier start have now been agreed and will be uploaded on our website today, as well as appearing on SAC website too.

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.



This week, we heard the news that Mrs Pollock has been successful in securing an EYP post in Alloway Primary and EYC. Also, Mrs MacDonald has secured an EYP post in Annbank Primary and EYC. We are over the moon for both and wish them every happiness in their new posts, although we want them to know how much we will miss them!



We can also report that we have some new staff coming to join us in the EYC in August. Due to the expansion of the EYC, we now have a Depute Manager in post from August, and Mrs Alison Watkins was the successful candidate! Alison is very experienced in Early Years and will bring enthusiasm, quality leadership and fun to our team! She has been in to meet most of the team already, and can't wait to meet all our families! We also appointed Carly Beard and Holly Raisbeck as EYP's from August, and we are confident that they will also enhance our child centred staff!!



This Sunday, new grids will be uploaded onto our website that will take us up to the end of Term! The focus of the next home learning grids will be Health and Wellbeing, with fabulous plans in place for Virtual Sports week. 3 grids will be uploaded, all intended for the WHOLE SCHOOL, rather than individual classes: Physical Wellbeing, Food and Health, and Emotional and Social Wellbeing. Families should take a look at all the grids, and pick and choose the activities that suit best!! 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!!!

Miss McFarlane and the EYC team will also upload information for the EYC sports events...check out the staff demonstrating the activities on the school website and on our Twitter accounts.



Don't FORGET! Don't forget, Spar in Croyton 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.



TEAM WORK. Great news!!! We have had even more success on Teams this week!! It 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. We had Team meetings with up to 20 children, and feedback from pupils and teachers has been excellent!! 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. We really want ALL children to be able to access learning this way!



Today, final reports are being posted out to families. I had originally said that we would email them via group call as well as posting them. We have decided that posting them will be the only method of receiving them and so they should be with you over the next few days. Please get in touch with your class teachers via email if you wish to discuss the report.



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 Shrimmons 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 another quick week. She was in school to organise her classroom and loved seeing some of the staff again. She even had the privilege of

having a conversation with a pupil from the window! At home, she is continuing to support home learning and managed to watch a live virtual Sea Lion show from Flamingo Land.

- Mrs Wilcox has decided to take up Knitting again. It is trickier than she remembers! It may be scarves for everyone this year for Christmas if she manages to master it. She really enjoyed a meeting through teams with the class. She read them a story and made a thinglink and quiz related to the story.
- Mrs Campbell has been trying to get to grips with digital technologies... she was awarded the Microsoft in Education certificate! She has been working with Mrs Stewart and Mrs Davidson on Teams... she is loving being able to chat to P3A! She can also recommend The Chestnuts Hotel for takeaway!!
- Miss Dickie has been doing lots of online shopping, so that's been fun although she is not sure her bank balance would agree. The highlight of her week has been speaking to 20 of her boys and girls via Teams video meeting. They even did a quiz all about school with a prize for the winner. It was great fun! She is looking forward to doing it next week again.
- Miss Marr has been busy doing some online learning. She has baked some cookies and is enjoying walking to the park to feed the ducklings who are getting big! She also got the chance to meet her new nephew, from a distance, and is looking forward to getting some cuddles in the hopefully not too distant future!
- Mrs Moseley has been clearing out and organising the kitchen! She says it has been a big job. As well as cleaning, she has been on lots of walks and has visited family in their gardens. She is also continuing to practice her calligraphy skills which are slowly improving.
- Mrs Wallace has been improving her ICT skills, creating ThingLinks and Bitmoji classrooms. She has been busy in the kitchen trying out new recipes!
- Miss Cowie has had a jolly good time in her summerhouse doing some Zumba. She is managing to remember routines from a few years ago so that helps. She is not so sure her neighbours like it all that much as she always has the music up really loud.
- Miss Thomson has been seeing some friends from a distance, but really enjoyed meeting a special new born baby! She is so excited for some cuddles soon hopefully! She has been busy in school and has enjoyed seeing some pupils who pass by and say hello!
- Mrs Stewart has been to Rozelle Park and walked around the swan pond – there were cygnets there too - and the WWI remembrance area with the wooden sculptures of soldiers and poppies was really quite moving!
- Mrs Duncan has been busy decorating bathrooms and has been out walking daily! She has also been in school this week, getting things sorted and organised!

- Mrs Symington has walked part of the River Ayr walk and clocked up 9 and three quarter miles, which took just over 3 hours! She saw some new parts of the countryside and lots of horses! She has also made some banana bread muffins and scones this week which the Symington household have all enjoyed.
- Mrs Burns has been busy helping Mr Burns to tile the bathroom. She also cut the hedge in her garden for the first time this year. She has been reading Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone in French and has managed to read two chapters this week. It's pretty tricky but she is enjoying it! It definitely helps that she has read it in English many times before!

Over in the EYC,

- Miss Cairnie has let the butterflies go which was lovely to watch. She had her 1st McDonald's since lockdown and it was definitely worth the 25minute queue in the car. The lillies in the garden have opened up and are beautiful. The weekly family quiz is great fun and so nice seeing everyone through zoom.
- Mrs MacDonald has made a stage in the garden for all her daughter's performances!! She has made her own rock pool, and has been watching the vegetables she planted get bigger and bigger!
- Miss Glendinning has had a busy week again supporting the girls in their home learning and as a treat for their hard work, they managed a trip to McDonalds and had a delivery from the Choc Stop!! She went a lovely walk on Sunday to the Afton Dam at New Cumnock. The scenery was lovely and it was really calm and peaceful up there!
- Mrs Simpson has been baking meringues which were yummy, and helped her to focus on her online learning!
- Mrs Pollock has been so busy trying to keep her girls busy with school work. She had a lovely video chat on Teams with Mrs Wilcox, Mrs Davidson and Mrs Stewart....she is learning lots of new skills in IT!!
- Mrs Brown has been a walk down the river and found lots of baby fish. She named them after the fish in 'Tiddler' as she had been reading it the night before. She also helped Angus and Mr Brown build a den in the back garden with lots of old wood which is still a work in progress but is lots of fun.
- Mrs Ingram has been enjoying some nice walks. She went a walk to Auchincruive and came across a little Forest School, which she managed to have a play in. She met up with a friend for a coffee in the garden. She did some sports activities in the garden with her grandson who was practicing for his sports day for his nursery.

I survived my trip to Edinburgh and gave Jack and his flatmate a 7 out of 10 for the way they had left the flat! Phew!!! I have been in school quite a bit this week, and we had a full staff zoom meeting too with 35 of us all on together which was fabulous!!



Impressive Another 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! 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. Ayr Academy Teams event was very well received with positive feedback from our pupils and Ayr staff!!! Packs arrived in school from Kyle Academy so parents of children moving to S1 at Kyle Academy should pop up to Cowlton Primary today between 10 and 2 to collect their pack.



We are looking forward to seeing photos of the Teddy Bears Picnic on the afternoon of June 22nd, where new start P1 and current P1 pupils can read their 'We are Going on a Bear Hunt' book and have a picnic! Mrs Wallace and Miss McFarlane will also read the story for pupils – check out Twitter to see these stories being read! Mrs Wallace and Miss McFarlane are working with EYC staff right now to plan short visits for new start P1 pupils for the last week of term. Someone from school will be in touch with you all very soon with details of this!

I understand that some parents are asking about wearing uniform in August. South Ayrshire Council are planning on providing some updates on this and so check out their website for more information. I have kept the details for Blu Design here for anyone who wants to contact Leanne.

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



A big thank you to all families who took the time to send in videos to celebrate Mrs Cobbley's special birthday this week! We gave her a viewing of it yesterday, and for once, she was speechless!!!! Check out the video on Twitter if you haven't already seen it...it's fab!!!

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.

Take Care



Mrs D x