

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:

Date: 19.6.20



Dear Parents and Carers, and our wonderful pupils



Following on from the information that I sent out last week, I can let you know that plans submitted to South Ayrshire Council to operate a 2rotation model within Coylton Primary have been approved just yesterday.

This will mean that one group of pupils attends on a Monday and Tuesday with another group attending on a Thursday and Friday every week. 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 will be in a position at the start of next week to email out to parents the information regarding the groups, class teacher, and start times for every child.



Some children in each group will start school at 9:00 and finish at 3:00 as normal, others will start at 9:15 and finish at 3:15. We will still be working on the groupings for the EYC and should be able to send this out before schools break for the summer next Friday. Guidance for EYC was only confirmed yesterday. Be assured, we will be working to ensure that EYC children attend on the same days as siblings in school.

In order for our plan to work, I have had to create 2 more classes. These were outlined last week. I am still waiting for confirmation on the additional staff required to work with these classes, hence the delay in letting you know today about groupings. We will also have another plan working in the background for when schools do return to normal and our classes return back to our original structure of 11 classes.

Guidance around the start date for pupils has changed...again.

Group A will come to school on **Wednesday 12th August** for the first week only. **Group B** will be in school on **Thursday 13th August** for the first week only. **Monday 17th August** will be the first week of the normal 2 group rotation – **group A Monday and Tuesday, and Group B Thursday and Friday.**



Transport

Thank you to those parents who completed the SAC survey around school transport. Already, contractors are telling us that they won't be in a position to be able to cater for all children who are entitled to school transport and so this poses a real challenge to

schools. If you are in a position to drop off and pick up your child, please consider this, and let the school know.



Lunches

Our school kitchen will be operating a 'pack a snack' style lunch for those pupils in P1-3, those eligible for free school lunches and for any other pupil to buy. If you do intend to send your child with a packed lunch, please do so in a disposable bag and not in the usual reusable lunch bags/boxes. All pupils will eat lunch within their class area and will also have time outside. Lunch and break times will be staggered to ensure that numbers within the playground are smaller at any one time. Pupils should still bring a water bottle and a snack with them if they wish.



Handwashing/Toilets

All children will wash/sanitise their hands on entry to school. They will then wash/sanitise again before and after interval and before and after lunch and once during the afternoon, or at other times throughout the school day as required. Please remind children to wash their hands as soon as they get home.



First Aid

When staff administer first aid they will use gloves and aprons/face masks when appropriate.

The school has forehead thermometers that can be used to check temperatures when necessary. Miss Shimmons' office will be a designated First Aid area, and my own office will be used as an isolation area if a child or adult show signs of COVID 19.

Staff will work with all children on a system in each area to ensure that social distancing can also take place within the toilet areas of school.



Drop off and Pick Up

We plan to create 'pods' in the playground where children can be dropped off and picked up from. These will be very clearly marked and social distance markers will be in place. One parent may accompany their child/children into the playground and leave as soon as staff are able to allow children access to school. Please do not come to school before your allocated drop off time of 9:00 or 9:15. Similarly at the end of the school day, a member of staff will bring children out to their pod at 3:00 and 3:15. These areas are not outlined already as I would prefer to wait and see if changes come to social distance measures over the holidays. It is also worth noting that the car park WILL NOT be available for drop off and pick up of pupils unless an arrangement has been made in school. This is always the case, but more so now. We appreciate all families supporting us on this matter!



Uniform and other items

I know many of you are considering uniform for the new session. I will just be delighted to see your children, regardless of what they wear, but it would be great to see them wearing some form of uniform. I would suggest that they wear items which are easy to wash through and that they don't wear accessories such as fancy hair clips etc as these have a tendency to come off and then don't get matched back up with their owner. Pupils will NOT require to bring a PE kit, as PE will not be part of their school days. It will be built into the home learning part of school as we won't have access to our hall, nor will we be asking children to change clothing. Given that outdoor learning will be a daily focus, I would suggest that children do wear outdoor shoes and bring a jacket. Jackets and school bags will be stored inside the classrooms at pupil's desks. Pupils will not be required to bring from home any stationery or pencil case as all they will need will be provided in an individual tray for them. We would also actively discourage children from bringing toys or items from home into school, with them. If pupils need to bring a mobile phone with them, we will ask that they switch it off and keep it in school bags at all times.

From 22nd June, applications for Clothing Grants and Free School Meals for School Session 2020/21 should be completed on line. The link below takes you to the guidance notes and on-line application form. If you don't have access to a P.C, Laptop, Tablet or Phone, please call 0300 123 0900 and a member of South Ayrshire Council's Customer Services Team will provide assistance.

<https://www.south-ayrshire.gov.uk/schools/clothing-grant.aspx>



Just a reminder that there is a virtual Parent Council meeting on Monday 22nd June. Many thanks to the Parent Council for being the voice of many of you during this time away from school, and for ensuring that any communication from school is also available via their Facebook page.



We let you know last week of some appointments in staffing for the EYC. This week, I an also report that Mrs Charlotte Burns will join the teaching staff team on a temporary basis next session. Charlotte has been with us in school all this year and so we are sure she will continue to be a valued member of the team!



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.

TEAM



W-O-R-K

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! Thank you to those parents who took time to complete the IT survey recently. The results of this survey have been submitted to SAC. Moving forward to August, staff will ensure that work on Teams is staggered across stages in order that families with more than one child but only one device can all have access times.



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's highlight was a P7 TEAM Call. She loved the photographs they shared after the virtual novelty race. She has been in at school again, and at home has managed to master the making of pancakes! She is looking forward to meeting P7 next week. See you all soon.
- Miss McFarlane finished reading her 19th book since the second week of the Easter holidays and is well on the way with another couple of books. She has also enjoyed watching the thunder and lightning! She went for a walk with a friend along the beach whilst socially distancing, which was a real treat!
- Mrs Wilcox has been busy cleaning and setting up the class for the children returning to school. She has also been updating her skills on the computer and iPad and she looks forward to sharing her new skills with the class. As a reward for her hard work, she ordered a new cook book to replace her overused one. She can't wait to try out the new recipes for cakes!
- Mrs Campbell has been in school this week tidying up. What a lot of 'stuff' she has! She has also been at a few Place2Be webinars and loved seeing P3A taking part in the Sport Challenges. Well done, you aced it! She hopes that everyone in our school community is safe and well and that they have a restful and restorative staycation. She can't wait to see everyone in August.
- Miss Dickie has been working in school and at home. She has been cleaning her classroom (very therapeutic) and getting it organised for returning in August. She has enjoyed catching up with the other members of staff. She also enjoyed another class meeting on Teams on Thursday in which Hannah won the quiz. Well done

Hannah. She also had to be photographer for her niece who was looking for the perfect Instagram pose!!

- Mrs Wallace has gone to the beach with her niece for a bug hunt! It was lots of fun! She has had many walks in the rain and tried new routes recommended by Mrs Symington! They were beautiful. She has loved doing live lessons on Teams and it's been great hearing pupils' voices again! She has also been in school getting everything organised for coming back.
- Miss Cowie has been in school cleaning and sorting, getting ready for August. She really enjoyed seeing a few pupils as they walked through the playground. She has also managed to go lots of walks, and even recreated a dance scene from a well known 80's movie on a log in the forest!!!!
- Miss Thomson has been busy in school getting her classroom ready for August, it is definitely making her miss her class more! She has enjoyed doing some of the health week challenges too! She has been catching up with friends in their garden too which has been lovely!
- Mrs Duncan has been busy back in school getting things sorted! She thinks it was strange being in without all the pupils! She has had fun trying to get her two teenagers to join in with the Sport Challenges set by our Sports Captains, and she celebrated a 21st in the family with social distancing!
- Mrs Burns has been busy in school getting the P4 classroom ready for the next teacher. She also took part in her first Teams video call with Mrs Moseley and P4 which was great fun! At home, she has been busy painting her dining room ready to start hosting dinner parties (hopefully in the near future).

Over in the EYC,

- Miss Cairnie has given her kitchen cupboards a make-over and painted them grey. She has been in the EYC getting organised and ready for children returning in August, and she has been to beach with Blair for a paddle.
- Mrs Keller celebrated her husband's 40th birthday and her son's 21st birthday which was lovely.
- Miss Glendinning has had a lovely week being back in school getting our wee room ready for next year. She says it has been nice seeing all the staff again. She had a huge water fight in the garden on Sunday night, trying out new water soakers and finished the night off toasting marshmallows at the fire. She was so proud of Eve this year receiving the prize for progress in Literacy at her school although she definitely thinks all the boys and girls this year have been stars
- Mrs MacDonald has been at Auchincruive walking with the family. She found a sunny spot by the river and watched the minnows swimming. She enjoyed a picnic at Barassie beach where she found a lobster pot on the beach filled with shells. Lastly, she has been helping get the EYC ready for all the boys and girls to return in August.
- Mrs Simpson visited the beach at the weekend for her daily walk, then she ended up eating ice cream in the rain getting very very wet! She has been very very busy this week helping everyone at Coylton Early Years Centre and Barassie Primary School get ready to welcome everyone back in August! She has really enjoyed

seeing a lot of people she hasn't seen for a long time even though she has been socially distancing all the time!

- Mrs Pollock would just like to say that she is going to miss the children in Coyton Primary and EYC very much, she has had so much fun working with them. She has had 2 fantastic years working with the wonderful staff!!

Miss Shimmons has been in school every day this week working with me to setup our new socially distanced office in our meeting room. She had to have a word with me about keeping the new office tidy and is hoping I'll manage this! How rude!!! 😊 She has thoroughly enjoyed coming home to home-cooked meals every night, a tidy house and the washing all done (saying 'yes' 2 weeks ago was worth it!) She has enjoyed catching up with her mum in the evenings for socially distanced walks and with yesterday's announcement, both her and Paul are looking forward to a child-free night when Harris gets to stayover at his grans!!!

It has been a pleasure catching up with staff again this week in school – they are just like family!! I have been working with Miss Shimmons on the set up for next year, and some passers-by must have had to look twice as they saw us in the playground measuring with a trundle wheel! We celebrated Mr D's birthday this week with family in the garden...and we dodged the thunder and lightning which was handy! My new sofas arrived yesterday too! They were supposed to have been here at the start of March and I was a bit worried as I had forgotten what they looked like!! They look lovely...but no one is allowed to sit on them!



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! They are currently working on preparing the Review of the Year as they would've done at their leavers service. This will go out on Twitter next Thursday and will be their final duty as Captains.



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 looking forward to welcoming their new P1 pupils in school, on Tuesday 23rd June for a short visit!

Many Thanks!



A message from Mrs Cobbledick.....

"I just want to thank all of you who very kindly contributed to the fabulous video for my special birthday! It was an amazing surprise and created lots of smiles and tears from me, it is something that I can look back at many times. You have made a lock down birthday into an extra special birthday."



It is always a sad moment at this time of year when we have to wave goodbye to our P7 leavers. This mighty fine bunch have brought great success to their school and to themselves over their time at Coylton Primary. We know that they leave us as well rounded, mature and genuinely kind young people and we wish them all the very best as they move to their chosen secondary school. We will see them all on Thursday 25th June for a short time as they come into school to collect their Leavers 'stuff'. Could we ask that they bring with them any books that they have had at home during lockdown please? We also have to say goodbye to some of our staff team too. Mrs Moseley has successfully completed her year with us at Coylton and we are sure that she will be an asset to any school she moves on to. Mrs Pollock is heading to Alloway Primary and Mrs MacDonald to Annbank Primary and so we wish them well in their new roles.

This will be the last weekly round-up before the summer holidays. The last 12 weeks presented an unprecedented challenge and I fully understand that at times, you must have felt overwhelmed and frustrated...we did too!

I want to thank every member of staff in Coylton Primary for the way that they very quickly stepped up in terms of supporting our families, and each other! They have been creative and nurturing and I am proud of each and every one of them.

One silver lining of this situation for me is the strengthened relationships with you, our parent body, as you quickly had to become educators to your own children whilst dealing with all the other worries that COVID 19 threw at you. Some families may have had to deal with loss or illness during lockdown, and we are preparing to place a real emphasis on mental health of all when we return in August!

You have helped to keep our school community strong and I am proud to be a part of the Coylton family

Take Care



Mrs D x