

People Directorate

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Our Ref: Your Ref:

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Dear Parents and Carers

Hi everyone! Hopefully you all enjoyed the holiday weekend, with fantastic weather to make it even better. We are very much still in the middle of this pandemic as the First Minister outlined on Tuesday, with changes to restrictions coming into force in Scotland and across the UK. South Ayrshire Council continue to provide schools with briefings at least weekly on changes to guidance and we amend our risk assessment to fit the guidance when required. It is so important that as a school community, we continue to remain vigilant and work together!



Can we also urge parents and carers to always let the school know if your child is going to be absent from school. You can call on 01292 612491, email in to Coylton.mail@south-ayrshire.gov.uk or send a text using Groupcall. This is particularly important if children are self-isolating as a result of their own COVID test, or because of a family member being tested. We also ask that you share with us the results of any COVID testing as the Scottish Government are carefully monitoring this data.



This week, we saw the welcome return of an almost full lunch service in school, with pupils from EYC to P7 being offered hot food choices. Our sincere thanks go to Anna and the catering team for working so closely with us to make the whole lunch experience a positive one for all children. It has been very challenging to ensure that guidance is adhered to from all external services such as Facilities Management, Care Inspectorate and the Scottish Government, but we think we now have a system that works for our school! P1-3 are managing well in the dining hall with lunch being served to them, whilst P4-7 are enjoying the Take Away feel to lunches being delivered to their classrooms. The quality of lunches is as good as it has always been! We are constantly reviewing our systems though and will keep children up to date on arrangements. As always, please let me know if you have any questions around lunch provision.



Please ensure that you follow us on Twitter @CoyltonPS and @CoyltonEYC for updates and photos of learning across all classes.



We are almost ready to rollout the IT devices to those families who indicated they had an issue at home accessing online learning. This was part of the Scottish Government's return to school plan, and although it seems a long time ago since we asked you for information, we are just now waiting for a delivery date! Families will be contacted directly when we have this information., hopefully before the end of September.

GLOW accounts are all set up now and so almost all classes are ready to think about TEAMS working again. However, given that P1 classes were only assigned their GLOW passwords this week, we have taken the decision to delay homework through Teams until after the October holiday. This will give staff time to revisit Teams in the classroom first, and also families time to get online at home.



We are happy to welcome PC Bysouth into school today. PC Bysouth is the Campus Police Officer for Ayr Academy and she also works across all Ayr Academy feeder primary schools. PC Bysouth is working in P6 and P7 classes, discussing online safety and pointing out the issues related to the misuse of social media. She is also visiting the EYC and P1 classes. PC Bysouth will be with us for the whole day, as visitors are only able to be in one school per day due to COVID restrictions.



We had another successful Parent Council meeting last week via Zoom with the date of the next meeting being Wednesday 21st October. We are massively thankful to the Parent Council for the generous donation of £3500 to school funds. We are already thinking of upgrading our reading scheme in P1-3 as a result of this donation, as well as adding to the pot of money we are using to create a covered outdoor learning area. Holding PC meetings on Zoom seems to allow more parents to join which is wonderful. Look out for a message coming in advance of the 21st October to sign up to join the next meeting



As always, please let us know if you are needing any aspect of school life clarified....no question is too small or too silly!

In case you didn't know, even though the school number is 01292 612491, it is NOT that number that appears if we call you. It will look like an unknown mobile number as it comes through our computer system. We know a number of parents haven't answered as they didn't recognize our number, so best answer to be on the safe side!



Hope everyone has a safe and relaxing weekend!
Mrs Donnelly