

People Directorate

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Our Ref: Your Ref:

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Dear Parents and Carers

There is a bit of an air of excitement in school today as we come to the end of November, and December is just round the corner. Miss Shimmons and I have been working with staff to try and plan as many activities as possible to fill December with learning experiences that are festive and fun. We will attach our Coylton Christmas Countdown to this round up!



The Coylton Christmas Countdown features a few more things than we first outlined to you. From Tuesday next week, children can opt to take part in events led by our Parent Council. These are:



Guess the number of sweets in a jar - 50p a shot- 1 jar per class



Guess the Polar Bear's Birthday - 50p a shot to win a cuddly polar bear (sponsored by Visuplan)



Design a Christmas jumper - £1 a shot, winning entry is printed onto your very own Christmas Jumper! (sponsored by IM Prints)

Closing date for all these activities will be 11th December and winners will be announced then. Our thanks go to the Parent Council, Visuplan and IM Designs for supporting our school.

You will see today that Parent Council are sending home a book of 10 raffle tickets to all families. Tickets are £1 each. Please return any money, the raffle stubs and any unused tickets in the same envelope where we will quarantine them for a period of time. The raffle will be drawn on 18th December, with over 40 great prizes up for grabs.



You will see from the Countdown that we are asking for donations to support the South Ayrshire Foodbank, especially at this time of year and given the year we have had! There will be a box at each of the entrances including the EYC on Friday 18th December prior to 9am for children to pop any donation in. I am hopeful that we can have our donations uplifted that day, to help families in our local community.



As you know, Miss Shimmons is looking forward to welcoming baby number 2 towards the end of January. This means that the end of term will be Miss Shimmons' last day for a while. We will keep in close contact with her after the holidays and will let everyone know as soon as baby arrives. Miss Shimmons will be sorely missed in school by all children and staff, and I am sure that parents too will miss being able to pick up the phone or catch her at the door!



Yesterday, we held interviews for the post of acting DHT to take over in Miss Shimmons' absence and I am delighted to let you know that Mrs Jennifer Mulholland was the recommended candidate. Jennifer is a well known face within our school as she is currently PT at Annbank Primary. She has worked collaboratively with some of our staff on cluster projects and we are confident that she will fit well within the team here at Cowlton. Jennifer takes up post at the start of term 3, and I am sure you will join me in warmly welcoming her to Cowlton Primary.



You will have now received an email via Groupcall regarding Christmas lunch. Can we ask that you check the email, and respond via Groupcall as soon as possible in order that the kitchen can order enough Christmas lunch for everyone who wishes it. Anna and the catering team always provide an amazing lunch so we are all looking forward to it!



I would like to take the opportunity to remind families that it is very important that children do not attend school if any member of the household is symptomatic or having to be tested as a result of track and trace communication. If test results are negative, children may return to school. A positive result within the household will mean a period of self-isolation for the entire household as directed by Public Health. Staying home at the symptomatic point or when someone is being tested will help spread the risk of infection greatly. Full guidance can be found here:

www.nhsinform.scot/campaigns/test-and-protect



Just a reminder, that due to Covid restrictions, we are not going to have children bring in Christmas cards to exchange with friends.



With the weather turning colder, and potentially wetter, we would advise that all pupils come to school wearing suitable footwear and waterproof jackets. You will have seen that Tier 4 restrictions mean we are not able to have PE indoors as planned. If you wish, your child would be able to bring a pair of waterproof trousers to wear over their sports trousers. These trousers can be put on and taken off at the doors as classes are heading out for PE.



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.



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

Remember to check out Coylton's Christmas Countdown Calendar – attached separately in your email!



Mrs Donnelly