

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

A very Happy New Year from everyone in school and EYC. We hope that this year will see some positivity and an end to this awful pandemic we are living through right now.

Although we had anticipated a different start to January, we had not expected it to be quite so different. You will be so aware by now that things are changing on a daily basis and so we will ensure that we will communicate with you as often as possible to keep you up to speed with all things related to school and EYC life.



I am delighted to welcome Mrs Jennifer Mulholland to Team Coylton. Jennifer is our acting Depute Head whilst Miss Shimmons is on maternity leave. Jennifer has hit the ground running and will no doubt be in touch with many of you over the next few weeks!



Staff have been working over the last 3 days to prepare for online learning from Monday. They have upskilled themselves, challenged themselves and adapted their practice in such creative ways to ensure that this time round, the focus for children will be the progression of learning. We have made such inroads in closing gaps since August and we want to ensure that we don't lose the momentum with that.

That said, we totally understand the challenges that face parents and carers who will either be supporting their children at home or accessing the school hub – we are here for you, and will be able to guide you through this.



Online Learning Platforms

We will be using Teams as our main platform for setting work in P1 to P7. EYC will be using Seesaw. In line with authority guidelines there are raised expectations and we are hoping that ALL pupils will be accessing their learning on a daily basis. TEAMS allows us the facility to track engagement so we will not be uploading tasks onto the website as we did last time. Guidance has been sent on how to log on in previous communications but if you have any difficulties, please contact the school office and a member of staff will help you out.



Learner Engagement

Daily attendance will be submitted on registers and recorded on SEEMIS in school. We understand the challenges for many parents, balancing working from home with supporting your child with remote learning. We have an expectation that all pupils will engage but

understand that you may need to find a flexible approach to achieve this.



Expectations

Each morning, we would ask children who are working from home to log into Teams for 9am. Class teachers will set out the learning activities which will focus on Literacy and Numeracy predominately, as well as HWB and other areas where appropriate. Teachers will upload videos they will have recorded to direct the learning and these videos can be replayed at any time throughout the day to allow children and parents the chance to revisit any aspect of learning. In addition to this, all classes will have at least one live meeting on Teams with their teacher and class every day. Times for these meetings will be outlined by your child's class teacher too. It is worth noting that your child's class teachers will be working from home most of the week in order to reduce footfall within the school building. All class teachers will use a Wednesday afternoon for planning and preparation time so will not be on TEAM's during this time.

EYC

This month, we are going to be using a ThingLink to share short lessons and activities with you. You will be sent the link to this via SeeSaw on Monday and there will be a short video on the ThingLink explaining how it works (click on the red exclamation mark to view this).

Our focus for learning during January will be Scotland and we will be holding a virtual Burns Supper on Friday 29th January (more details to be shared at a later date).

During our Scotland topic, we will be looking at Robert Burns and the poem "Up In The Morning Early". Through this topic we will also explore the four seasons and nocturnal animals.

In Literacy and Numeracy, we will initially have a focus on the Developmental Milestones. This week we will be exploring Rhyme and Subitising, and throughout the rest of January we will look at some other milestones.

The ThingLink will include short teaching videos as well as stories, songs and activities for your child to complete at home. There will also be links to relevant websites with games and online activities. We will also be communicating with you using SeeSaw and we would love if you could share any photos or videos with us there.

Daily contact with your child's Key worker will take place via Seesaw. Please note however, that all EYP's will be involved in Hub working for the time being and so may not be able to respond to messages straight away. The Family Learning Team will be offering weekly Zoom lessons throughout January.

Parents

- Where possible, set up a place where your child can work, ideally a comfortable desk or table with minimal distractions.
- Establish a routine, supporting your child to log on in good time according to their learning plan.
- Be positive and support your child to engage with lessons encouraging them to take breaks throughout the day.
- Ensure that your child has all the materials they will need throughout the day, such as pencils, paper and calculators as well as water and snacks.
- Please inform the school if your child is unwell and unable to take part in the learning.
- Look after yourself – you are doing an amazing job during very challenging times.

We are in this together. Please do not hesitate to contact us if we can help in any way.



My thanks once again go to Spar Croyton who have agreed to hold a box of stationery items for you to access should you need to. This will be available from Monday.

Hub Learning

We will have a number of children accessing the Hubs within our school each day. These will be children of Key workers who have applied through SAC, as well as some vulnerable learners. Whilst in the Hub, we will be able to provide some direct teaching in the mornings and will try as much as possible to link this learning with the activities outlined by class teachers. We will have children access Hubs in 3 areas:

- EYC and P1 will run from the EYC rooms – children access through the EYC doors
- P2,3 and 4 will run from the open area – children access through the main front doors
- P5,6 and 7 will run from the main hall – children access through the main front doors

Children accessing the hubs do not need to come in school uniform, however we anticipate children being outdoors daily so dress appropriately. They should bring a water bottle and snack every day. Children from EYC-P3 can have a packed lunch from the school kitchen, and children from P4-7 can purchase a packed lunch if they wish. Otherwise, please send your child with a packed lunch. Hubs run from 9am till 3pm and we ask that parents don't drop off ahead of 9am and pick up by 3pm as we are staffed for those times.



Contacting staff

Please find below a table of staff information that you can access should you wish to contact anyone. There will always be 2 members of the Senior Leadership Team in school and so the office telephone number can be used - 01292 612491. Groupcall will be up and running as normal too. If you want to ask a direct question about the Hubs or online learning, Alison Watkins will be the lead for the Early Level, Jennifer Mulholland for First level and myself for Second Level.

Charlotte	Burns	charlotte.burns@south-ayrshire.gov.uk
Nicola	Caira	Nicola.caira@south-ayrshire.gov.uk
Wendy	Campbell	Wendy.Campbell2@south-ayrshire.gov.uk
Susan	Cobbledick	Susan.Cobbledick@south-ayrshire.gov.uk
Coleen	Cowie	Coleen.Cowie2@south-ayrshire.gov.uk
Nickie	Davidson	Nickie.Davidson4@south-ayrshire.gov.uk
Jackie	Dickie	Jacqueline.Dickie@south-ayrshire.gov.uk
Fiona	Donnelly	Fiona.Donnelly@south-ayrshire.gov.uk
Victoria	Duncan	Victoria.Duncan@south-ayrshire.gov.uk
Caroline	Green	Caroline.Green5@south-ayrshire.gov.uk
Sam	Whitters	Samantha.marr@south-ayrshire.gov.uk
Claire	McClurg	Claire.McClurg@south-ayrshire.gov.uk
Lesley	McFarlane	lesley.mcfarlane2@south-ayrshire.gov.uk
Aisha	Morrison	aisha.morrison@south-ayrshire.gov.uk
Jennifer	Mulholland	<u>Jennifer.Mulholland@south-ayrshire.gov.uk</u>
Dawn	Stewart	dawn.stewart2@south-ayrshire.gov.uk
Annette	Symington	Annette.Symington@south-ayrshire.gov.uk

Heather	Thomson	heather.thomson@south-ayrshire.gov.uk
Lauren	Wallace	Lauren.McWhirter@south-ayrshire.gov.uk
Alison	Watkins	Alison.Watkins2@south-ayrshire.gov.uk
Julie	Wilcox	Julie.Wilcox@south-ayrshire.gov.uk
Lauren	Young	lauren.young2@south-ayrshire.gov.uk
Coylton Mail		Coylton.mail@south-ayrshire.gov.uk



We understand that this is a very different way of working for everyone. Things will evolve as we start the process of online learning and so we will ensure that you receive regular updates and a round up of information every Friday. It is vital that you contact us if you have any questions/queries.
We will do this together!

Mrs Donnelly