

People Directorate

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Our Ref: Your Ref:

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Dear Parents and Carers

Week one of online learning is almost over, and it has been a definite learning curve for all of us. Thank you for your patience on Monday as we, like the rest of the country struggled to access Microsoft Teams. I know that it brought about frustration with teachers who had lessons uploaded and ready, and for pupils and parents who were set to start and couldn't. I am delighted that as the week has progressed, so have the levels of learner's engagement across EYC to P7! We are looking ahead with a reinforced positivity that this will remain the case.



By far the best news to come from 2021 so far is the safe arrival of Luca Tom Docherty, a second wee boy for Miss Shimmons and her fiancé Paul! Luca arrived yesterday, 14th January weighing 6lbs 7oz and both he and his mummy are doing well. I am sure you will join me in wishing the family many happy times together.



Online Learning

Now we have Teams working well, the expectations for all classes from P1-7 will be that teachers will upload at least one literacy and one numeracy task each day, as well as some other activities that children can engage in. We are really keen to ensure that all children access literacy and numeracy each day, and although the school day is normally 9am-3pm, we understand that for working parents, those hours of engagement will not be possible. Therefore, teachers know that pieces of work may be uploaded at any time and they will respond to children as soon as they can. The amount of activities being set will not match that of a day in school, and we are carefully monitoring what is being asked of children in order not to overwhelm but as a baseline, all children should be engaged in literacy and numeracy tasks every day. Reading daily, either with your child or independently is actively encouraged and we know we will see a difference in attainment once back in school if daily reading takes place.



Uploading work completed is an important part of home learning. There are various ways to upload completed pieces of work and your child's class teacher is on hand to help you to do this. Last time schools were closed, we encouraged children to send in photos of the things they got up to. Could we ask that this time round, photos of completed work only are uploaded onto teams or emailed through please? Teachers are worried that channels become loaded with photos and they then miss a piece of work to give feedback to. Thanks in advance for your support here.



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. It is also really important that you still let school know if your child is unwell, as there is no expectation that children will engage in learning if they are not fit to do so. Their sickness would be recorded on school systems in the usual way, and teachers would be informed.



A Reminder of 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.



Hub Lunches

For the week of Monday 18th January, we will trial hot lunches for those children attending the Hubs in school. The menu is limited and can be found below. Mrs Falconer will track uptake, and will only continue to offer hot food if uptake requires it.

Week 1	Sandwich	Soup	Main	Dessert
Monday	Turkey Sandwich		Chicken Curry with Rice and Peas	Carrot Cake with or without Custard
Tuesday	Cheese Sandwich		Steak Pie with Potatoes and Turnip	Fresh Fruit Salad
Wednesday	Tuna Sandwich,		Quorn Chilli with Boiled Rice	Fruit Jelly
Thursday	Chicken Sandwich		Macaroni Cheese with Broccoli	Apple Crumble with or without Custard
Friday	Egg Mayo Sandwich		Fish Fingers with Beans and Potatoes	Frozen Yoghurt – Raspberry or Toffee



Burns Supper

Calling all P7 pupils. We are currently planning a virtual Burns Supper for the afternoon of Monday 1st February. Mrs Green and Mrs Duncan will be in touch via Teams on arrangements for this, and Burns Supper packs will be delivered to each of you during the week of Monday 25th January!!

Many Thanks!



My thanks once again go to Spar Coylton who have agreed to hold a box of stationery items for you to access should you need to. This is available now.

HANG IN



THERE! 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
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Lauren	Young	lauren.young2@south-ayrshire.gov.uk
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Thanks to



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

