

**People Directorate**

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**Our Ref: Your Ref:**

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Dear Parents and Carers



Welcome back to school and EYC! I hope that all families managed to get time to recharge the batteries during the October break. Term 2 has started well this week with pupils and staff working hard to plan the learning from now until Christmas. Covid mitigations in school remain unchanged at the start of this term. The only slight change that we will make is that we will allocate all classes with one indoor PE slot per week in addition to outdoor slots, as we know that the weather at this time of year can often be cold and wet. Class teachers will post on Teams to let you know arrangements for indoor PE, and we will send a text message to all classes too.



**Giant Welcome School Photographs**

I am pleased to say that we are able to have school photographers in this year to take individual pupil photographs. Dates have been confirmed as Monday 8<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> November. We have been advised that orders placed should be ready before Christmas. Due to continuing Covid mitigations in school, family groups will not be taken this year.



A letter will come home to parents next week, inviting them to book a telephone appointment with class teachers to discuss progress so far. The date for these appointments will be Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> November. You will be asked to call the school to book a time slot, so look out for the letter coming home!



### Moving on

Mrs Mulholland's last day with us will be Friday 29<sup>th</sup> October. We will very much miss having Jennifer in school, but we know that she will thrive in her new position at Forehill Primary. Between Monday 1<sup>st</sup> November and Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> December, Mrs Wendy Campbell will take additional responsibilities in the acting DHT role, although her first priority as always will be the nurturing support to pupils and families which has been so beneficial to so many. Mrs Campbell will be the first point of contact for families in P1-3.



### Miss Shimmons

Miss Shimmons will return to her post as DHT after Christmas. She was however, in school with us yesterday as one of 10 days between now and Christmas, and it was lovely to have her back with us!



### Bug Club Workshop

A big thank you to all families who joined us last night for the Bug Club literacy workshop, and thanks also to Mrs Mulholland for organising the presentation. This resource is the main one used across P1-3 to support the development of reading, and we are able to see significant improvement in progress when the online resources are used at home, and so it was a pity that we only had 13 families join us. Mrs Mulholland has ensured that the presentation is available via class Teams for all families to see and please get in touch if you have any questions. We would love to see the online engagement increase, and we know that this will impact positively on progress.



### P7 Transition

Ayr Academy are arranging a virtual presentation for P7 parents to outline the Support for Learning facilities within the school. This event should be of interest to ALL P7 families, not just those where children have Additional

Support Needs and I would encourage all families to join in! This is an excellent opportunity to hear from our associated secondary school ahead of Transition forms coming out later this term.

The date for this virtual event will be Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> November – time to be confirmed – and the Zoom link will be sent out to P7 parents nearer the time.



### Dolphin House

All pupils in P7 should have come home with a Dolphin House payment card. This allows families to spread the cost of the trip over a few months if they wish. Dolphin House weeks for P7 are 21<sup>st</sup> March 2022 and 28<sup>th</sup> March 2022. Lots more information will follow, but if any P7 parent has a question they want to ask now, please get in touch.



### Children in Need

This year, Children in Need is on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> November. The theme this year is. Together we can.....

PLb and Miss McFarlane have asked if they can be responsible for planning our Children in Need day and so I can give you more information once the children let me know 😊



### EYC Snack

The Scottish Government provided all EYC settings with funding for fruit and milk daily as part of snack routines. Over and above this, our Early Years guidelines state that EYC settings should provide varied, nutritionally balanced snacks on a daily basis. This is the reason why we ask parents and carers to provide a small amount of money on a weekly basis.

Lately, we have noticed that the donations from parents and carers has been less than before. We will be able to provide some snack, but not the variety that we would wish to.

Could we ask that all parents and carers donate £1 per week to the snack fund in order that we can provide the varied and nutritional snack to all?

Your support is very much appreciated 😊



Young Minds Mental Health Charity

I am delighted to report that our Wear it Yellow/ Dress down day raised £280.65 for the Young Minds Mental Health Charity. Thanks to all for your donations.



Friday 5<sup>th</sup> November

Dyslexia Awareness Week will be 1<sup>st</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> November. Mrs McClurg has been working hard with staff to plan and deliver a whole programme of activities to raise awareness of this way of learning. Each class in school has a Dyslexia Friendly Toolkits which, under non covid times is accessible to all. At the moment, children who need these resources absolutely have access to them – staff just ensure that resources are wiped clean between uses.

We would like to invite our children to come to school dressed down or wearing blue for Dyslexia on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> November. If they can bring a small donation, the money collected will go towards replenishing the toolkits in classes.



Advance Notice – Hallowe'en

We can now confirm plans for Hallowe'en in school. As previously mentioned, children across EYC and school are welcome to come to school in costume if they wish on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> October. Please ensure that costumes do not have many parts such as masks/hats/glasses/props as these items are likely to be

removed, with someone else potentially picking them up. Weather permitting, children from all classes will be able to follow an orienteering style pumpkin trail around the playground. All classes will base their learning activities around Hallowe'en and all children will receive a Trick or Treat bag from the school. We are delighted that Ross McPherson from Cowlton Day Today has once again supported the school to provide each child with their goody bag! We appreciate this community spirit!

EYC will have costume days on both Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> and Friday 29<sup>th</sup> in order to cater for the different attendance patterns of our children. Speak to EYC staff for more information on this!



Wet weather

Please can we ask that children come to school with an outdoor jacket from now on. We are also seeing a number of children who are getting overly wet at breaktimes, either through falls or through excessive puddle jumping ☺. We have a very limited supply of clothes to change into. If you have any shorts/trousers/leggings/tights that are still in good condition but no longer of use to your child, we will be happy to take them off your hands. We will quarantine any items for 72 hours before we put them to use!



Christmas

Please don't panic – I know it is only October, but already staff are putting plans in place for Christmas activities. We are going to be able to have class parties of a sort this year where children will be given a date where they can come into school in either party clothes or non uniform and have the main hall for a block of time for games and activities. We also anticipate having Christmas jumper month once again, where children will be able to wear Christmas jumpers as often as they wish from Monday 6<sup>th</sup> December until we finish on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> December. We will ensure that all plans and dates are sent home to you in plenty of time.

Mrs Donnelly  
Head Teacher

