

People Directorate

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Our Ref: Your Ref:

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Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome to the last round up of 2021! This time last year, we were in the grip of the global pandemic, with high hopes for 2021. Although we looked forward, we are still very much in the middle of this pandemic and the changes we made to school and EYC last session are still in place today! The updated guidance which came from the Scottish Government at the end of last week doesn't really bring with it any changes to how we have been working in our school and EYC since August:

- The reintroduction of working in bubbles – we didn't ever move away from working in bubbles and so that doesn't affect us too much.
- We will continue with staggered breaks at interval and lunch times, with all classes with the exception of EYC and P1 having lunch in their classrooms.
- An increased focus on hand washing and sanitizing
- All adults ensuring that they social distance from each other within school
- All adults, including parents and carers to continue to wear face coverings within the school grounds, unless exempt from doing so.
- Ventilation in all areas of school and EYC to be considered with windows open at all times.

All adults and children linked to our school have continued to come up with new ways of learning and communicating with one another – creativity has been in abundance and I am in awe of the way our young people have taken on new skill development, and how TEAMS has been invaluable in ensuring homework continues the learning in classes. Once again, our school community has pulled together and supported one another – thank you!



At the end of last week, we drew the Parent Council Raffle. With many, many prizes up for grabs, we hope that those who were lucky to win are pleased with their prize. Parent Council have updated the Parent Council Facebook page with winners so check it out. Prizes are being distributed this week to all winners!! My thanks go to Parent Council, and

school staff who worked tirelessly to ensure that fund raising continued to happen for our school, and families were still involved in the life of the school. Parent Council will be in touch in the New Year with a final total for all fund-raising events.



We are very much looking forward to welcoming Miss Shimmons back after the holidays, as she returns from maternity leave! She has been in school for keeping in touch days over the last term, and I know she will hit the ground running when she returns.



My sincere thanks go to Mrs Campbell for stepping up to the acting DHT role since the start of November. Her rich knowledge of our children and our families really ensured that all were well supported, and so I thank her very much!



We have had a great couple of weeks in school preparing for Christmas and ensuring that all our children experience a sense of 'normality'! Christmas Jumpers for the whole of December has been fantastic. We have had:

- ❖ quizzes,
- ❖ scavenger hunts
- ❖ craft afternoons
- ❖ video messages for the community from our EYC
- ❖ video messages from Santa and Santa parcels
- ❖ pantomimes with popcorn and drinks
- ❖ movies with chocolate treats,

as well as many other individual class activities. The one thing that we as a staff agreed to do this year was have Christmas parties. We have so enjoyed seeing our classes dress up and have fun, dancing and playing games in the main hall around the beautiful Christmas tree. Each class has had their own individual party rather than joining together with other classes, but I know they all had a great time

P7 will also come home today with their Leavers Hoodies!!



S1 registration has already taken place, so thank you to all P7 parents who have gone online and completed the forms. P1 registration will take place after the holidays. Again, due to Covid, all

registration will be done on line this time. Further information will come out from South Ayrshire Council after the holidays and please get in touch with EYC staff if you have any questions or queries about this.



January will see our school and EYC celebrate all things Scottish! We have provisionally booked Enterkine House for our P7 Burns Supper on Tuesday 1st February, but we will monitor this carefully as Covid continues to disrupt social gatherings.



Today, Wednesday 22nd December at 2:30pm, is the last day of term for pupils in school. Some children who attend EYC 52 weeks will still be able to attend on Thursday 23rd December – speak to EYC if you are unsure about this. We may still be contacted by Public Health for the few days after we finish up, and I will use Groupcall to send Warn and Inform letters should I need to.

I will be the point of contact for the school and EYC during the holiday period, and I will monitor school email and groupcall should you need to get in touch.



My thanks go to all children in our school and EYC who turn up, get stuck in and who have worked so very hard since August. They have adapted along the way and we have enjoyed celebrating their successes with them. I also wish to extend my thanks to the staff team here in school and EYC - all of them – teachers – school assistants – EYC staff – cleaning staff – catering staff – janitors – clerical staff and the Leadership Team. There is no finer team than this one, and I am so delighted and proud to be part of the Coylton family!!

I wish all our families a very safe and happy festive period, and hope that we find ourselves in a better place across the world in 2022

EYC will reopen for some 52 week attendees on Wednesday 5th January, and all classes in school will return on Thursday 6th January 2022 so until then,

Merry Christmas!!!!!!

