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Our Ref: Your Ref:  
Date: 4/10/24



Dear Parents and Carers

Good morning and welcome to the round up for this week. We have all enjoyed the dry weather as we start October, and it has been fantastic to see so many children coming to school dressed for outdoor learning experiences. It might be worth bearing in mind that although dry, it has been a bit more chilly and so outdoor jackets for break and lunchtime should now be worn. We want to keep attendance figures as high as we can and so if we can avoid colds and chills, that would be great!

We have a higher than usual number of jumpers and jackets that have no name and have not been claimed and to prevent this from building up, we will place a table just inside the foyer on Monday for parents to come and have a look for lost items. We can't stress enough how much easier it is if clothing has a name on it, especially when sweatshirts all look the same!



[South Ayrshire Foodbank](#)

P2/3 have been learning about the work of various charities, and as such they are looking for donations for the local South Ayrshire Foodbank. They would accept the following types of items:

Cereals, tinned main meals, tinned or packet custard, tinned vegetables or fruit, pasta sauce, pasta, rice, tinned fish, diluting juice, biscuits, teabags, coffee, UHT Milk.

All donations will be handed over to the South Ayrshire Foodbank before the October holiday so please ensure that donations are in school by Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> October. Thankyou in advance, and thanks also to Miss Thomson and P2/3 for their hard work organising this.



[Celebrating success](#)

We are always eager to hear about your child's wider achievements, both in and outside of school. This could be an achievement in sport, music, arts, community involvement or any other area where your child has excelled or shown dedication.

If your child has a wider achievement that you would like to share, please provide us with details and a photo. You can send this information to

[Coylton.mail@south-ayrshire.gov.uk](mailto:Coylton.mail@south-ayrshire.gov.uk).

These achievements will be discussed and celebrated with your child in class and during an upcoming assembly. We would love to create a display of achievements across school to celebrate success.



## Sense over Sectarianism

Pupils in Mrs Edmiston's P7 class are working closely with the team from sense over Sectarianism today, in line with their class novel, Divided City. This is such an important topic and we are sure that pupils will gain a greater understanding of the topic through practical activities and discussions. Be sure to ask them all about it once they come home.



## Transition to Secondary School

This week, we sent home a letter to parents of pupils in P7, ahead of the first Challenge Day at Ayr Academy on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> October. In the letter, we gave details about a bespoke transition to secondary school meeting which has been arranged for parents and pupils of Coylton Primary. This meeting will take place on Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> October at 6:30pm here in school. It is really important that parents and pupils attend this meeting in order to become fully informed about the transition process. Staff from South Ayrshire Council and Ayr Academy will be on hand to discuss the process, as well as former Coylton pupils and parents.

Although this letter went to P7 families, it is open to families in P5 and P6 as well, as it is never too early to start thinking about life after Coylton Primary School.

We will send home a link to a short survey in advance of the meeting which will allow you to ask any questions you may have.

## South Ayrshire Council's Information and Advice Hub

### Advice and Support for Families



Coylton Primary School now has the backing from South Ayrshire Council's Information and Advice Hub.



Laura and Nicola will provide a free, confidential, and impartial, information and advice service in welfare benefits, money/debt advice to families.

They will be able to support in areas such as:-

- Checking your entitlement and supporting you in making claims
- Advice regarding Free School Meals, School Clothing Grant, Scottish Child Payment and any other eligible grants

If you would like to speak with Laura or Nicola, they will be attending our Parent Council Meeting on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> November at 7pm to provide an overview of the service offered.

Alternatively, if you are unable to attend at this time you can contact the Hub directly using the following link [Digital referral form - South Ayrshire Council \(south -ayrshire.gov.uk\)](https://south-ayrshire.gov.uk) (when using this link please select **Yes** to 'Would you like access to any other services?' and type **FAO Community Team and Coylton Primary School**) or by calling 0300 123 0900.



## Reading School's Award

We were delighted to have an assembly this week where pupils from the Senior Readership Team gave a presentation about the ways in which we are promoting reading in our school. They were well prepared and spoke with passion about the importance of reading for pleasure on our mental and emotional health. We look forward to seeing what they come up with soon, and thanks to Mrs Ritchie and Mrs Stewart for working with the group. In order to develop our reading culture within school and EYC, we would love to involve our parents and the community. One of the things we want to do is to set up a 'Borrow a Book' scheme for adults. Over the next few weeks, we will have a trolley of books set up before 9am and before 3pm every day under the canopy at the front entrance and the EYC entrance. This will be for adults in the community, parents, and staff to borrow a book. Thank you to those who have already sent in donations of books.....Keep them coming! Our trollies are ordered and so we expect this service to start after the October holiday.

Our hope is that if pupils see the adults in their lives enjoying reading, it will encourage them to do the same. We will let you know when the trollies will be ready and please hand any donations into the main office. This scheme will help us work towards our Reading School's award and so I hope that you find it enjoyable.



## Halloween Costume Swap

Once again, we are happy for children to come to school in costumes for Halloween on Thursday October 31<sup>st</sup>. We are aware that costumes can be pricey and may only be worn once or twice and so therefore we would be happy to accept any costumes that you no longer use in order that we have a costume swap where anyone can come along and take away a preloved costume to use at Halloween. Please hand in any preloved costumes to the school office from next week, and we will have them available to look through from Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> October. (Please note, we will also do this for Christmas jumpers later in the term)



## Parking

We are very aware that parking around the school is an issue, particularly at drop off and pick up times. Our car park remains closed to parents at these times. We have had a request from some of the local residents that families are mindful of where they park during drop off and pick up as some have had issues accessing their driveways. We appreciate your support with this.



## Outdoor Learning

Just a reminder about Outdoor learning days.

Please find below information around the days when classes have outdoor learning. Please note, class teachers may also have additional days when learning will take place outdoors, and they will let you know via Teams.

P1	Monday
P1/2	Thursday
P2/3	Friday
P3	Thursday
P4	Thursday
P4/5	Wednesday
P5	Tuesday
P6	Wednesday
P6/7	Friday
P7	Tuesday

On these days, it would be beneficial for children to come to school with waterproof jackets and footwear. We did try to have a waterproof/wellie donation drive a year ago and so we do have a small number of wellies that were donated so let us know if we can help. We are STILL happy to receive donations of preloved outdoor clothing and footwear 😊 At the very least if children could bring a change of clothing/footwear on outdoor learning days. Please let us know if we can help.

Miss McFarlane is leading outdoor learning this year. She has asked families to have a look and see if they can help with the following resources:

- Any obsolete binoculars would be of great use to support the children in identifying birds in the environment and participate in surveying birds for the RSPB.
- Any off-cuts of new or nearly new down-pipes from gutters to allow pupils to build a habitat (a hibernaculum) for frogs and toads to safely hibernate in over the winter.
- A few bricks to help construct the hibernaculum would be gratefully received.

Miss McFarlane is hoping to work with classes to apply for a wildlife award from the RSPB.



## News from the EYC (provided by Nicola, our brand new Senior EYP 😊)

The children in the 2-year-old room have thoroughly enjoyed exploring mark making this week in particular large scale mark making. They had the freedom to explore and investigate freely where they all showed happiness, and curiosity.



In the 3-5 room this week we have been looking at the world of dinosaurs. The children have been exploring where dinosaurs would have lived and what type of food they ate. We even found some fossils and used real hammers and became palaeontologists, hunting for dinosaur bones. We had a visit from a Primary 6 pupil and he brought his fossil collection and told us more dinosaur facts. We then created our own dinosaur skeleton pictures using pasta.



### Diary Dates

We will try and give as much advance notice of school events as we can to help fit in with your family plans. This list is subject to change and is not exhaustive.

Tuesday 8 <sup>th</sup> October	P6 Bikeability 7 P7 Ayr Academy Challenge Day 1
Thursday 10 <sup>th</sup> October	P6 Bikeability 8 P5-7 After School Panto Club 2 3:00-4:00
Friday 11 <sup>th</sup> October	P5 swimming week 6 STOP AT 3PM FOR HOLIDAY WEEK
Monday 21 <sup>st</sup> October	In Service – school and EYC closed
Tuesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> October	School and EYC re open
Thursday 24 <sup>th</sup> October	Photographer in school and EYC P5-7 After School Panto Club 3 3:00-4:00
Friday 25 <sup>th</sup> October	P5 swimming week 7 Photographer in school and EYC
Wednesday 30 <sup>th</sup> October	Parent Appointments
Thursday 31 <sup>st</sup> October	Halloween Fun – costumes can be worn P5-7 After School Panto Club 4 3:00-4:00
Friday 1 <sup>st</sup> November	P5 swimming week 8
Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup> November	P5-7 After School Panto Club 5 3:00-4:00
Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> November	P5 swimming week 9
Monday 11 <sup>th</sup> November	Anti-Bullying Week
Wednesday 13 <sup>th</sup> November	SAC Collaborative Visit
Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup> November	SAC Collaborative Visit P5-7 After School Panto Club 6 3:00-4:00
Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> November	P5 swimming week 10 – FINAL SESSION Flu Immunisations P1-P7 Children In Need Day
Monday 18 <sup>th</sup> November	Book Week Scotland
Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup> November	P5-7 After School Panto Club 7 3:00-4:00
Thursday 28 <sup>th</sup> November	P5-7 After School Panto Club 8 3:00-4:00
Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup> December	P1 – 7 MOTHER GOOSE PANTO AT AYR GAIETY P5-7 After School Panto Club 9 3:00-4:00
Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup> December	EYC Nativity 2pm

Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup> December	EYC Christmas Lunch P2 Christmas Party
Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup> December	School Christmas Lunch P5-7 After School Panto Club performance of Jack and the Beanstalk. Time TBC
Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> December	P1 Christmas Party
Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> December	P3 Christmas Party
Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup> December	EYC TRIP TO THE CUTTY SARK, AYR 10am P6 Christmas Party
Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> December	P4 Christmas Party
Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Service P1-3 9:15-10:15 and P4-7 10:45-11:45 P5 Christmas Party P7 Christmas Disco - evening
Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> December	EYC Party School closes at 2:30pm
Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> January	School reopens. Start of Scottish Culture focus
Thursday 23 <sup>rd</sup> January	Scottish Lunch menu
Thursday 30 <sup>th</sup> January	P7 Burns Supper
Friday 31 <sup>st</sup> January	P1-7 Scots Verse Competition 9:30-10:30
Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> February – Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup> February	P7 DOLPHIN HOUSE RESIDENTIAL WEEK 1 EYC CARE PLAN MEETINGS
Monday 10 <sup>th</sup> February	HOLIDAY
Tuesday 11 <sup>th</sup> February	In Service – School and EYC closed
Monday 17 <sup>th</sup> February – Thursday 20 <sup>th</sup> February	P7 DOLPHIN HOUSE RESIDENTIAL WEEK 2
Tuesday 25 <sup>th</sup> February	P7 Ayr Burns Club Burns Supper
Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup> March	World Book Day
Monday 10 <sup>th</sup> March	British Science Week
Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> March	Annual Reports home to Parents
Thursday 20 <sup>th</sup> March	Parent Appointments
Wednesday 27 <sup>th</sup> March	
Friday 4 <sup>th</sup> April	School closes at 2:30 for holidays
Tuesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> April	School Reopens
Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> May	Holiday
Monday 26 <sup>th</sup> May	Holiday
Tuesday 27 <sup>th</sup> May	In Service – School and EYC closed
Wednesday 28 <sup>th</sup> May	EYC to P1 Transition 1
Friday 30 <sup>th</sup> May	School Sports Morning
Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> June	P4-7 Championship events
Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> June	EYC Sports morning
Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup> June	EYC to P1 Transition 2
Friday 6 <sup>th</sup> June	P5 and 6 Triathlon Event
Monday 9 <sup>th</sup> June	EYC Parent Appointments
Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup> June	P7 to S1 Transition 1 Parent Drop In 3:15-5:15
Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup> June	P7 to S1 Transition 2 EYC to P1 Transition 3 Whole School Bump Up
Wednesday 25 <sup>th</sup> June	P7 Leavers service EYC Tie Ceremony P7 Leavers Disco - evening
Thursday 26 <sup>th</sup> June	P7 Treat Day
Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> June	Close for holidays at 1pm

Have a great weekend and see you all on Monday!

Mrs Donnelly  
Head Teacher