

People Directorate  
Head Teacher: Fiona Donnelly  
Coylton Primary School  
Main Road, Coylton, KA6 6JP  
Tel: 01292 612491  
Email: [Coylton.Mail@south-ayrshire.gov.uk](mailto:Coylton.Mail@south-ayrshire.gov.uk)  
Our Ref: Your Ref:  
Date: 22.8.25



Dear Parents and Carers

What a great first week we have had! A massive well done goes to all pupils, although special wishes go to our P1 pupils who have taken to school like ducks to water! I would like to thank the staff teams for working hard to ensure that the school and EYC were welcoming for all pupils. Everyone is feeling a little bit tired today so hopefully the weekend will give the chance to relax and refresh!

Pupils across the EYC and school are making the transition to their new classes well. That said, change can be difficult for some and so we are on hand to support those children who are finding things a bit strange. In no time at all, their new classroom, classmates, and teachers will become the norm for them. Please get in touch via email [Coylton.mail@south-ayrshire.gov.uk](mailto:Coylton.mail@south-ayrshire.gov.uk) or by phoning into the main office on 01292 612491 and we will be there to support!

Just a reminder that until Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> September, P1 children should come to school from 8:55am, and be collected in the playground at 2:50pm. Thereafter, P1 pupils will finish at 3pm in line with the rest of the school.

### Staffing News



### Meet and Greet

We are so happy to be able to welcome families back into school for a Meet and Greet session again this year. The date for this event will be Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> September from 5:30pm till 6:30pm. Come along and meet the staff from EYC-P7 and take the chance to have a look around the school. Please come to the main entrance where pupils from P7 will welcome you and show you to classes. Children are welcome to come along if you wish. Please note, you can come along at any time during this hour, however staff will be finishing at 6:30 so please ensure you arrive in time to chat before they finish.

We will also have some display boards up outlining aspects of our improvement plan for this school session. Please ensure that you have a look and let us know which parts you would be most interested in finding out more about.



## Improvements to our School and EYC

The holidays tend to be a time that improvements are made to the building in our school campus. This summer, we have had the stairs to the upstairs classes as well as the upstairs open area painted, and it looks really fresh. We also had a completely new deck area fitted in our EYC outdoor space which looks fantastic!



## Gym Days and Outdoor Learning

Please find below information regarding gym days and outdoor learning days for all classes in Term 1.

<u>Class</u>	<u>Gym Day</u>	<u>Gym Day</u>	<u>Outdoor Learning Day</u>
<u>P1</u>	<u>Monday</u>	<u>Friday</u>	<u>Tuesday</u>
<u>P1/2</u>	<u>Monday</u>	<u>Friday</u>	<u>Thursday</u>
<u>P2/3</u>	<u>Thursday</u>	<u>Friday</u>	<u>Wednesday</u>
<u>P3</u>	<u>Wednesday</u>	<u>Friday</u>	<u>Tuesday</u>
<u>P4</u>	<u>Monday</u>	<u>Thursday</u>	<u>Tuesday</u>
<u>P4/5</u>	<u>Tuesday</u>	<u>Thursday</u>	<u>Friday</u>
<u>P5</u>	<u>Monday</u>	<u>Thursday</u>	<u>Wednesday</u>
<u>P6</u>	<u>Tuesday</u>	<u>Wednesday</u>	<u>Monday</u>
<u>P6/7</u>	<u>Tuesday</u>	<u>Wednesday</u>	<u>Thursday</u>
<u>P7</u>	<u>Monday</u>	<u>Tuesday</u>	<u>Thursday</u>

Pupils can come to school in sports wear on gym days. Sportswear can be:

- White or burgundy polo shirt
- Black or grey joggers/shorts/leggings
- Trainers

Pupils can still wear their school sweatshirt and remove it for PE.

PE uniform does not need to be school branded. Football colours should not be worn.

For outdoor learning, the most important thing is to have a good outdoor jacket and appropriate footwear such as wellie boots or old trainers. Many pupils wear waterproof trousers too. Outdoor learning clothes can therefore be worn on top of school uniform or leggings. We do still take our learning outdoors when the weather is colder and wetter. Pupils change footwear before heading outdoors, and class teachers will provide more information later.



### Attendance

We are delighted that our attendance figures were improved last year, sitting above 95% for almost the whole year which was also above the local authority. We are looking for your support in maintaining this attendance pattern over this new school session. We monitor attendance weekly and we will keep you updated in our round ups as to how we are doing.



### Parent Council AGM

The AGM for Parent Council will take place on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> August in school at 7pm. We would love to see as many of you as possible come along and hear about the ways that you can get involved in supporting our school and EYC



### Rag Bag

Just a reminder that we have a Rag Bag bin in the school playground. This helps our fund-raising efforts for the year with Rag Bag paying the school for every kilo recycled. They will accept wearable clothing, paired shoes, handbags and belts. This won't be for other items such as towels and bedding!! So, if you are planning a clear out of clothes, please bring bags along. This will be available 24 hours so no need to use during school hours. PLEASE NOTE, IF BINS ARE COMPLETELY FULL, PLEASE DO NOT LEAVE BAGS SITTING BESIDE THE BINS.



### Swimming

The block of 10 swimming lessons for P5 pupils starts on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> August. Letters have already gone out to P5 parents, and so please ensure that all permission forms are complete and sent in as soon as possible. Pupils are permitted to wear sports clothes on swimming days as this allows for an easier change before returning to school. Thursday swimming will count as one PE session for the 10 weeks.



## Homework

Prior to the end of term, we had a Homework survey sent home to all families, on behalf of the Parent Council. This was an online survey and we received 26 returns out of 241. The results are as follows:

Would you like to see regular homework on top of reading expectations?

YES	15	58%
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NO	11	42%
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Is 20 minutes an appropriate length of time to complete tasks?

TOO MUCH	5	19%
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ABOUT RIGHT	21	81%
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How often should homework be set?

WEEKLY	10	38%
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FORTNIGHTLY	13	50%
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MONTHLY	3	12%
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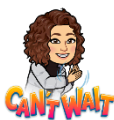
How would you like tasks to be completed?

PAPER/JOTTER	9	35%
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ONLINE	0	0%
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MIX	17	65%
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As a result of this survey, and in consultation with the Parent Council, our staff are going to consider how we move forward with homework this session. Staff spend quite some time planning and preparing homework tasks to compliment the classwork being completed, but we are finding that numbers of children completing tasks is getting lower every week. We have taken the decision to stop formal homework for a trial period and concentrate on reading tasks, however pupils in P1 and P2 classes may still be encouraged to work on phonics at home. We will let you know how this will look by Monday 1<sup>st</sup> September.



## School Photographs

I am pleased to say that we are able to have school photographers in to take individual and family photographs. Dates have been confirmed as Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> September and Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> September. All children from EYC to P7 will have photographs taken, and a sample will come home. There is no obligation to purchase any. Because family groups will be taken, we are unable to guarantee which of the 2 days your children will be photographed. We would ask that school uniform is worn. If your child normally has PE on these days, please don't send them in sportswear. Lessons will be planned to take this into account.





### Car Park

Just a reminder that the car park should not be used by parents for pick up or drop off of pupils from school or EYC, unless an arrangement has been made with the school.



### Reading School's Award

Our Borrow a Book scheme for adults is back again this year and there will be a trolley situated under the canopy at the main entrance and at the EYC entrance for adults to come along and help themselves to a preloved book.

The idea would be that you come along at drop off and pick up times and help yourself to a preloved book. Once you are finished with it, simply pop it back or pass it on to a friend. This will be for adults in the community, parents, and staff to use. We are also happy to accept donations of books.

Our hope is that if pupils see the adults in their lives enjoying reading, it will encourage them to do the same. This scheme will help us work towards our Reading School's award and so I hope that you find it enjoyable.



### News from the EYC (provided by Nicola 😊)

It has been lovely to see our term time children and new children in the EYC this week. During the holidays staff and the 52 week children have been busy revamping the outdoor area. We now have a lovely music wall and a revamped mud kitchen. Staff have also created a mark making area indoors which is packed with different resources to encourage creativity. These new additions have proved to be very popular with the children and we look forward to embracing their curiosity and creativity throughout the new term.





## 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. Events will be added throughout the year and we will aim to give as much notice as possible.

Wednesday 27 <sup>th</sup> August	Parent Council AGM at 7pm – All welcome
Thursday 28 <sup>th</sup> August	P6 Bike Checks (info to follow)
Thursday 28 <sup>th</sup> August	P5 swimming week 1
Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup> September	P5 Swimming Week 2
Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> September	EYC Care Plan Meetings
Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup> September	School Photographer in school and EYC
Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup> September	School Photographer in school and EYC School and EYC Meet and Greet 5:30 – 6:30
Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup> September	P5 swimming week 3
Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup> September	Parent Nurture Workshops 9:15-10:15 & 6pm – 7pm
Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup> September	P5 swimming week 4
Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> September	HOLIDAY
Monday 22 <sup>nd</sup> September	HOLIDAY
Thursday 25 <sup>th</sup> September	P5 swimming week 5
Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> October	P5 swimming week 6
Thursday 9 <sup>th</sup> October	P5 swimming week 7
Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> October	STOP AT 3PM FOR HOLIDAY WEEK
Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> October	In Service – school and EYC closed
Tuesday 21 <sup>st</sup> October	School and EYC re open
Thursday 23 <sup>rd</sup> October	P5 swimming week 8
Thursday 30 <sup>th</sup> October	P5 swimming week 9
Friday 31 <sup>st</sup> October	Halloween Fun – costumes can be worn
Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup> November	P5 swimming week 10 – FINAL WEEK
Monday 17 <sup>th</sup> November	EYC Care Plan Meetings
Wednesday 19 <sup>th</sup> November	PARENT APPOINTMENTS
Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> November	Flu Immunisations
Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup> December	P1 – 7 ALADDIE PANTO at THE GAIETY
Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup> December	EYC Christmas Concert
Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup> December	EYC Christmas Lunch P1 Christmas Party
Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup> December	School Christmas Lunch
Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> December	P6 Christmas Party
Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> December	P6 and 7 Musical Showcase – am P4 Christmas Party
Tuesday 16 <sup>th</sup> December	P3 Christmas Party
Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup> December	P2 Christmas Party Ayr Academy Christmas Concert - evening
Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup> December	Whole School Christmas Celebration P1-3 9:15-10:15 and P4-7 10:45-11:45 P5 Christmas Party P7 Christmas Disco - evening
Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> December	EYC Party School closes at 2:30pm
Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> January	School reopens Start of Scottish Culture focus

Monday 12 <sup>th</sup> January	PRIMARY 1 REGISTRATION WEEK Dolphin House Parents Meeting 3pm
Wednesday 21 <sup>st</sup> January	Early level Burns Supper
Tuesday 27 <sup>th</sup> January	P7 Burns Supper
Thursday 29 <sup>th</sup> January	Burns themed Lunch
Friday 30 <sup>th</sup> January	PI-7 Scots Verse Competition 9:30-10:30
Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> February – Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup> February	P7 DOLPHIN HOUSE RESIDENTIAL WEEK 1 EYC CARE PLAN MEETINGS
Friday 6 <sup>th</sup> February	HOLIDAY
Monday 9 <sup>th</sup> February	HOLIDAY
Tuesday 11 <sup>th</sup> February	In Service – School and EYC closed
Tuesday 11 <sup>th</sup> – Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> February	P7 DOLPHIN HOUSE RESIDENTIAL WEEK 2
Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> February	EYC REGISTRATION WEEK
Tuesday 24 <sup>th</sup> February	P7 Agr Burns Club Burns Supper
Monday 30 <sup>th</sup> March	Early level Daffodil Tea
Tuesday 31 <sup>st</sup> March	PARENT APPOINTMENTS
Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> April	School closes at 2:30 for holidays
Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> April	School Reopens
Monday 27 <sup>th</sup> April	EYC CARE PLAN MEETINGS
Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> May	Holiday
Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup> May	INSERVICE DAY – SCHOOL AND EYC CLOSED
Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup> May	School Sports Morning
Monday 25 <sup>th</sup> May	Holiday
Wednesday 27 <sup>th</sup> May	EYC to PI Transition 1
Tuesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> June	EYC Sports
Wednesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> June	EYC to PI Transition 2
Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> June	EYC Parent Appointments
Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup> June	P7 to SI Transition 1
Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup> June	P7 to SI Transition 2 EYC to PI Transition 3 Whole School Bump Up
Thursday 25 <sup>th</sup> June	P7 Leavers Disco
Friday 26 <sup>th</sup> June	P7 Leavers Service EYC Tie Ceremony
Monday 29 <sup>th</sup> June	P7 Treat
Tuesday 30 <sup>th</sup> June	School closes at 1pm

Have a great weekend and see you all on Monday!

Mrs Donnelly  
Head Teacher