

People Directorate  
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Our Ref: Your Ref:  
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As we come to the end of November, our plans turn to all our Christmas activities. Today I hope to provide a bit more information on some of the activities we have planned in the lead up to the Christmas holiday. Staff have been very busy planning a calendar of events for December in school. Please have a look at our Christmas Calendar attachment for more information.



### Inspection of Coylton Primary and EYC

We fed back to the Parent Council on Wednesday evening regarding the high-level messages that we received from the inspection teams. Although the report will go into much more detail, we were delighted that:

#### Strengths

- Children are polite, well-mannered, and very welcoming and are proud of their school.
- Strong effective leadership of HT and other senior leaders of whole school community.
- Staff feel confident and empowered to lead change.
- Clear and well understood vision and a warm and welcoming ethos.
- Meeting the needs of learners – the school is making very good progress in this area.

#### Next Steps

- Continue to develop high quality learning, teaching and assessment including play.

A draft of the report will come to school and once agreed, a letter of findings will be shared with all parents and carers as well as a more detailed report which will be published on the Education Scotland website. This won't be till after Christmas and we will let you know once we have a publication date.

Just a reminder, because of notification of Inspection, we were not able to hold our planned Parent Appointments on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> November. The new date for this is WEDNESDAY 3<sup>RD</sup> DECEMBER. We will open the booking system for this on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> November. The booking system will remain open until 3<sup>rd</sup> December.

The Travelling Book Fair will be at Parent Appointments on Wednesday evening. All classes will have the opportunity to look through the books at the start of next week. PLEASE NOTE, CARD PAYMENTS ONLY!





### Parent Council

The Parent Council are running some fun activities again this year for children. Please see the information below:

## PARENT COUNCIL CHRISTMAS ACTIVITIES

Coylton Primary Parent Council have arranged for the following Christmas games and activities to be undertaken in school between Mon 8<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> December

	Guess the number of sweets in a jar (EYC, P1-3 and P4-7) 50p		Christmas Gift sale Candy canes 50p
Primary 1-7	Guess the Soft Toy's Birthday 50p	Early Years Centre	Guess the Soft Toy's Birthday 50p

Secret Room – We are sad to say that the Secret Room will not be running this Christmas. This is mainly down to the fact that don't have enough stock or adults to run it. We would like to thank everyone who has already donated items for this event. We plan to hold on to everything that has been donated and will be much more proactive in arranging things for next year.

Raffle - Parent Council will hold a raffle for Christmas Hampers at both the EYC Nativity on 9<sup>th</sup> December and the Christmas Showcases on 18<sup>th</sup> December.



### Christmas Showcase

It will be so lovely to invite parents and carers to our Christmas Showcase this year! This will take place on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> December. In order not to over fill our main hall however, we will run the Christmas Showcase in two sittings.

From 9:30 till 10:15, pupils in P1 -3 will take to the stage to perform Christmas songs. We will also be entertained by our P2 and 3 dance group. Parents and carers are welcome to come along. Doors will open from 9:00.

From 10:45 till 11:45, pupils from P4-7 will take to the stage to perform Christmas songs. We will also be entertained by our P4 and 5 dancers, and our P4 choir. Parents and carers are welcome to come along.

Mince pies and coffee/tea will be available between 10:15 and 10:45 for any parents and carers who wish to attend both performances. This will also be available if you come along a little earlier or wish to stay on a little after the first performance.



### Nativity

The children in the EYC will perform Wriggly Nativity on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> December at 2:00pm. Doors will open at 1:45pm. All morning and afternoon children will perform the nativity at this time and all families are welcome to join us.



### Santa's Lost List Adventure

Classes from P1-P7 will be involved in finding items for Santa's list through a scavenger hunt across the school and the local community. This will take place on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> December. In order for this to work, we will require some parent helpers to join us on our hunt. Look out for a timetable coming home soon, and once you have that, please let the school office know if you are available to help out.



### Christmas Parties

All P1-7 Christmas parties will be in the afternoons of the following days:

Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup> December	P1
Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup> December	P2
Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> December	P6
Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> December	P4
Tuesday 16 <sup>th</sup> December	P3
Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup> December	P5

Pupils may come to school dressed for their party on the day or bring clothes to change into. Given we only have 45 minutes at lunchtime, it is very tight to have children go home for lunch and be back in time and so staff will be on hand to help them change if they require support. Snack will be provided at the parties, and we are grateful to the Parent Council and Ross from Costcutters Coylton for supplying this.

P7 will have an evening disco on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> December from 7pm – 9pm. Permission slips will come home soon.

Our EYC party will take place in the morning of Friday 19<sup>th</sup> December for ALL children, regardless of their attendance pattern.

On Friday 5<sup>th</sup> December, all pupils from the EYC-P7 will take part in a festive walk around the school grounds.

We would like all pupils to come to school wearing a Santa hat or any other festive headwear for their stroll.



### Panto

This year, we are visiting the Gaiety Theatre, Ayr for their performance of Aladdie. This will be on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> December. Our thanks go once again to Parent Council for providing payment for the buses there and back. All pupils will receive a snack at the panto, and so there is no need for them to bring one with them.

PLEASE NOTE we will be offering a limited lunch service of soup and sandwiches due to the late return from The Gaiety. Yogurt and fruit will also be available.



### Christmas Lunch

P1-7 are having their Christmas Lunch on Thursday 1 December. Parents/carers can order Christmas Lunch on ParentPay. Please make your order as soon as possible to help the kitchen staff gather numbers. Please note, no other options will be available on this date, and pupils can bring a packed lunch as normal if they wish. There is an option on ParentPay to select Packed Lunch. The EYC will have their Christmas Lunch on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> December.



### P6/7 Musical Showcase

Pupils in P6 and P7 classes have been working hard with Mr Thomson during music lessons. They will be invited to join other p6 and p7 pupils from our cluster primary schools at Ayr Academy's Christmas Concert on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> December. Letters went home with pupils earlier this week.

In addition, we warmly invite families from P6 and 7 to come along to school on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> December at 2:15pm where all P6 and 7 pupils will perform. Doors will open at 2:00pm.



### Homework

The homework survey has now closed. We had a healthy 141 responses this time round. Yet again, the results show almost a halfway split of parents who want to have homework and those who don't. (55% for and 45% against). We appreciate the comments that were sent in and will take time to go through each of them. The likelihood will be that we will introduce some form of homework in the new term, taking account of your feedback and staff workload. We will let you know what this will look like very soon.



## Book Week Scotland

Just a reminder, we have now taken delivery of the P1 Book Bug Bags, and we would like to invite parents of P1 pupils to come into school this afternoon at 2:45 to collect their child's bag.



## Transition to Secondary School

Transition to secondary school online link is now open for parents of P7 pupils. We would urge all parents of children in P7 to complete the online forms by 7<sup>th</sup> December. The link has been copied again below.

<https://www.south-ayrshire.gov.uk/article/25940/P7-SI-transfer-arrangements>

Families are invited to an Open Evening in Ayr Academy on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> December from 5:00pm – 7:30pm. This is an excellent opportunity to see the school and meet the staff in an informal way. They will have many activities and stalls available on the night too so take some time and head along 😊. THIS EVENT IS OPEN TO FAMILIES OF CHILDREN IN P5, 6 AND 7. It's never too early to start thinking about the move from primary school.



## Here to help

Laura Ross from the Information and Advice Hub will be in school for a drop-in session here is school on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> December from 2pm till 3pm. Laura has a wealth of knowledge about financial support and entitlements which may be of interest to families, especially in the run up to Christmas.

**Advice and Support for Families**

**Welfare Rights & Money Advice Advisor**  
— Here to Help You



My name is Laura Ross and I can offer you a free, confidential and impartial information and advice service. I can help you with:



- ✓ Checking your entitlement and supporting you in making claims
- ✓ Providing advice regarding Free School Meals, School Clothing Grant, Scottish Child Payment and any other eligible grants
- ✓ Supporting you if your benefits have been stopped, reduced or refused
- ✓ Advising you on budgeting and managing your money
- ✓ Providing guidance with debt and repayment issues
- ✓ Accessing local services and community support

**No question is too small – we're here to make things easier for you and your family.**

If you would like to speak with me, I will be **available at a drop-in session on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> December between 2pm and 3pm.**

Alternatively, if you are unable to attend during these times you can contact the Team directly by clicking [here](#), and completing our online digital referral form (at the end of the form there is a box you are able to type into please enter the name of the school(s) your child(ren) attends to enable your referral to be allocated to the schools advisor) or you can call 0300 123 0900.





### Share the Learning

We are always keen to provide opportunities for parents to share the learning in classes. Over the course of the session, we hope that all classes will get involved. Here are some of the ideas we have so far, although this will be added to, and more information will follow in due course:

Polytunnel building in the outdoor classroom with senior pupils. - TBC

Outdoor DIY Day with pupils from P4-7 - TBC

Science Showcase in P4/5 - TBC

Christmas Musical Showcase for P6 and P7 – WEDNESDAY 17<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER

Summer School show for P6 and P7 – TUESDAY 23<sup>RD</sup> AND WEDNESDAY 24<sup>TH</sup> JUNE

Daffodil tea with P1 and the EYC – MONDAY 30<sup>TH</sup> MARCH

.....and more to follow 😊

Come and Play sessions in P1 and P1/2 were a great success throughout the month of November, so thank you to everyone who came along to play 😊



### X (Twitter)

Over the past couple of weeks, we have been able to celebrate successes in classes via our school and EYC X (Twitter) accounts. Be sure to follow us and keep up to date with what's happening across classes.

@Coylton Primary

@Coylton EYC



### 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 also during an upcoming assembly. Photos will be added to our Wall of Fame which is displayed in the gym hall.



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

In the 2-3 room this week we have been planting onions and garlic in our vegetable patch. The children dug a hole and placed the vegetables in the hole and then covered them up with fresh soil. They then used their watering cans and watered them.





In the 3-5 room this week we have been exploring length. The children used the pom poms to measure the lines in the tuff tray and have been exploring the language of measure. We have also been assessing risk where the children used their own risk assessment to see if the outdoor area was safe or not.

Our PEEP family learning sessions return again on Wednesday 3rd December at 9.15 where we will be exploring the story 'Shark in the Park'. We also have the return of our Baby and Toddler Sensory sessions at 10.45am.

Our nativity performance will take place on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> December at 2pm where we will be performing the 'Wriggly Nativity'. We look forward to seeing everyone there.



### 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.

PLEASE NOTE, THERE ARE A FEW DATES HIGHLIGHTED TO INDICATE A CHANGE OF DATES/TIMES OR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION.

Friday 28 <sup>th</sup> December	PI Parents Book Bug Bags at 2:45pm
Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> December	Christmas Jumpers can be worn from today
Tuesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> December	Ayr Academy Open Night for P5-7 parents
Wednesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> December	RECHEDULED PARENTS APPOINTMENTS
Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup> December	PI – 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 P2 Christmas Party
Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> December	P6 Christmas Party
Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> December	P4 Christmas Party Ayr Academy Christmas Concert - evening
Tuesday 16 <sup>th</sup> December	P3 Christmas Party
Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup> December	P6 and 7 Musical Showcase – afternoon
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	P1-7 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 10 <sup>th</sup> February Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup> – Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> February	In Service – School and EYC closed P7 DOLPHIN HOUSE RESIDENTIAL WEEK 2
Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> February	EYC REGISTRATION WEEK
Tuesday 24 <sup>th</sup> February	P7 Ayr 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 P1 Transition 1
Tuesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> June	EYC Sports
Wednesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> June	EYC to P1 Transition 2
Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> June	EYC Parent Appointments
Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup> June	P7 to S1 Transition 1
Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup> June	P7 to S1 Transition 2 EYC to P1 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



Mrs Donnelly  
Head Teacher