



Dear Parents and Carers,



HMIE Inspection Report Publication Date

We are pleased to let you know that the inspection reports for Cowlton Primary School and Early Years Centre have now been published via this link - [Cowlton Primary School | Inspection Report | His Majesty's Inspectorate of Education in Scotland](#)

We are delighted and very proud of the children and staff in our school and EYC. This has been a whole team effort! Please accept our sincerest thanks for your support and contributions to this fantastic outcome!



Homework Review and Next Steps

Last session, teachers were spending a considerable amount of time planning and preparing homework tasks to complement classroom learning. However, we noticed that the number of pupils completing homework was declining, with some classes only having 15% of learners completing tasks. This led us to reflect on workload and the overall purpose of homework.

Because of the limited responses to last session's homework survey, we paused homework in August. This break allowed everyone time to reflect on its value, and our follow-up survey in November gathered a broad range of thoughtful feedback from families and staff.

We received 141 responses in the November survey and the stats are detailed below:-

<p>Do you think that the children should be given homework, on top of the expectation that the children will regularly read at home?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="radio"/> Yes 77 <input type="radio"/> No 64
<p>Homework should not take longer than 20 minutes to complete. Do you think this is:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="radio"/> too much? 25 <input type="radio"/> about right? 116
<p>How would you like homework to be completed?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="radio"/> Paper/jotters 52 <input type="radio"/> Online 9 <input type="radio"/> A mixture of both 80

In the comments section, some parents shared that removing homework reduced stress for both children and adults at home. They recognised that balancing schoolwork with after-school activities, family time and free play is important for children's wellbeing. Others told us they missed the way homework helps reinforce learning from class, supporting children to practise key skills and develop confidence in different areas of the curriculum.

After listening carefully to comments from parents, carers and staff, and working with the Parent Council, we have agreed to re-introduce homework on a **MONTHLY** basis.

We have agreed the following:-

- Every class will be set up on Microsoft Teams, and pupils will be issued with login details.
- At the beginning of each month, teachers will post a short overview of prior learning and upcoming learning in Literacy, Numeracy and Interdisciplinary Learning (IDL).
- PE days and Outdoor Learning days will also be shared in these monthly overviews.
- Homework will be set on the first Monday of each month, starting Mon 2nd February.
- Tasks will include a variety of written, digital and practical activities linked to learning from the previous month, helping to reinforce key skills and deepen understanding.
- Homework may also link to Meta Skills and our Rights Respecting Schools work.
- Pupils will be provided with a jotter to record homework such as phonics, sentences or research tasks. Teachers may also issue worksheets.
- Teachers will not provide written feedback on homework activities.
- Families may choose to complete all, some or none of the suggested tasks; staff will not be monitoring completion.

Class teachers will share the first homework grid and monthly learning overview on Monday 2nd February via Microsoft Teams. Please ensure you have logged in to Teams using your child's username and password before this date. A homework jotter, along with all necessary usernames and passwords for online resources, will be sent home with pupils.

Thank you for your ongoing support and for working in partnership with us to ensure our approach to homework continues to promote both learning and wellbeing.



Royal Botanic Gardens Edinburgh Workshop

Pupils in P4/5, P5 and P6/7 are participating in a workshop run by the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh today. We will provide an update on the learning from this workshop next week.



Scottish Culture

Traditionally, January is the month in school where we celebrate all things Scottish. This year, all classes in school and EYC will do so through lessons, songs, dancing and fun! In addition, P1-7 classes will learn some Scots verse. There are 4 categories for Scots verse:

	P1	The Wee Rid Motor by Sandy Thomas Ross
Junior Category	P2 & P3	The Sair Finger by Walter Wingate
Intermediate Category	P4 & P5	Igor by Susi Briggs
Senior Category	P6 & P7	The Ballad of Janitor Mackay by Margaret Green

Children from every class can put themselves forward and 3 finalists will be selected for each category. Pupils have been issued with their poems and we encourage them to read them aloud as much as possible at home, as well as in school. Pupils do not need to put themselves forward if they don't want to.

The date for Scots Verse is Friday 30th January, starting at 9:30. We will inform parents of the finalists today. Parents/carers (of finalists) are invited to come along to the event if they wish.

EYC and P1 pupils had a lovely joint Burns event on Wednesday morning. They performed Scottish songs and listened to traditional Scottish music. The highlight was sharing snack and drinks with each other. A great time was had by all, and our thanks go to all staff who were involved in organising the event.

Our P7 pupils will have their Burns Supper in school on Thursday 29th January.

Rights Respecting School

During recent RRS lessons, P5 pupils have shown great curiosity and maturity as they explored how the law applies to young people. They requested a visit from PC MacPheat, our Campus Officer, who will come into class on Thursday 29th January to talk about Children's Rights (Article 40) and how these link to the youth criminal justice system.

Our RRS Pupil Group are also busy preparing to deliver an informative presentation to all classes on Friday 30th January. As part of our learning about 'Rights Around the World', the pupil group will teach pupils about Malawi and how UNICEF is supporting children to claim their right to clean water and sanitation.



P6 and P7 School Show

Building on the success of the P6 and P7 Christmas Showcase and previous school productions, we are thrilled to announce that Mamma Mia! will be our next show in June 2026!

This promises to be an exciting, action-packed performance for all P6 and P7 pupils, so please save the dates:

- Tuesday 23rd June – evening performance
- Wednesday 24th June – afternoon performance
(Exact times to be confirmed.)

Pupils from all P6 and P7 classes have already started to rehearse some songs with their teachers and Mr Thomson, and we are confident it will be a fantastic event!



Bikeability in Croyton – We need YOU!

Before Easter, we will begin planning our upcoming Bikeability sessions for our P5 learners. Our P6 pupils have already completed their Level 2 Bikeability training in October.

We are looking for parent/carer volunteers who would be interested in supporting children during the training sessions, as well as anyone who may wish to attend Bikeability Instructor training.

Instructor training is provided free of charge through Cycling Scotland for parents and carers. You do not need to be an expert cyclist — just confident on a bike and willing to learn.

If you are interested in attending the training and helping with future Bikeability sessions, please inform the school office. Once we have a list of interested parents/carers, we will work with our local Bikeability Coordinator to arrange training dates and further support.



Meta Skills Focus

This month, our whole-school Meta Skill focus is LEADING. Meta Skills are essential life skills that help children develop confidence, resilience, and responsibility, supporting them in all areas of learning and life.

Our Primary 6 pupils delivered a short lesson to each class, helping their peers understand what it means to be a leader. They also demonstrated how leadership can be expressed through everyday actions and choices within the school.

How can YOU support LEADING at home:

- Give your child opportunities to take responsibility, such as helping organise family tasks or leading a game or activity.
- Encourage decision-making and talk about the outcomes of choices.
- Discuss examples of good leadership you notice at home, in the community, or in sport.
- Praise positive leadership behaviours such as helping others, including everyone, and showing empathy.

By working together, we can help our children develop strong leadership skills that will benefit them now and in the future.



YMI - SingFest Event, 12th February

The Youth Music Initiative (YMI) is an integral part of our music service provision for young people in schools across South Ayrshire. This term, our P4 and P5 pupils are taking part in an exciting SingFest project, which focuses on developing skills in singing and performance. Pupils will participate in a combined SingFest event at Ayr Town Hall on Thursday 12th February. Sessions are already underway, and we look forward to seeing pupils grow in confidence, teamwork and musical ability as they work towards their special performance.



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, 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
- Summer School show for P6 and P7 – Tuesday 23rd and Wednesday 24th June
- EYC & PI Daffodil Tea – Monday 30th March
-and more to follow 😊



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.

These achievements will be discussed and celebrated with your child in class and during House Assemblies. Photos will be added to our Wall of Fame which is displayed in the gym hall.



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. Please note, any changes to diary dates are highlighted in yellow.

Thursday 29 th January	P7 Burns Supper Burns themed Lunch
Friday 30 th January	P1-7 Scots Verse Competition 9:30-10:30
Monday 2 nd February – Thursday 5 th February	P7 DOLPHIN HOUSE RESIDENTIAL WEEK 1 EYC CARE PLAN MEETINGS
Friday 6 th February	HOLIDAY
Monday 9 th February	HOLIDAY
Tuesday 10 th February	In Service – School and EYC closed
Tuesday 10 th – Friday 13 th February	P7 DOLPHIN HOUSE RESIDENTIAL WEEK 2
Thursday 12 th February	P4 and P5 SingFest Event at Ayr Town Hall – more details to follow
Monday 16 th February	EYC REGISTRATION WEEK
Tuesday 24 th February	P7 Ayr Burns Club Burns Supper
Monday 23 rd March	P6 year group to Riverside Church, Ayr for Easter Workshop
Friday 27 th March	P5 & P6 classes visiting Culzean Castle
Monday 30 th March	Early level Daffodil Tea
Tuesday 31 st March	PARENT APPOINTMENTS
Thursday 2 nd April	School closes at 2:30 for holidays
Monday 20 th April	School Reopens
Monday 27 th April	EYC CARE PLAN MEETINGS
Monday 4 th May	Holiday
Thursday 7 th May	INSERVICE DAY – SCHOOL AND EYC CLOSED
Thursday 21 st May	School Sports Morning
Monday 25 th May	Holiday
Wednesday 27 th May	EYC to P1 Transition 1
Tuesday 2 nd June	EYC Sports
Wednesday 3 rd June	EYC to P1 Transition 2
Monday 8 th June	EYC Parent Appointments
Tuesday 9 th June	P7 to S1 Transition 1
Wednesday 10 th June	P7 to S1 Transition 2 EYC to P1 Transition 3 Whole School Bump Up
Thursday 25 th June	P7 Leavers Disco
Friday 26 th June	P7 Leavers Service EYC Tie Ceremony
Monday 29 th June	P7 Treat
Tuesday 30 th June	School closes at 1pm

Mrs Docherty
Depute Head Teacher

