



# Daily Early Years Newsletter

## January 2025



**Dear Parents / Carers,**

Happy New Year to you all! We are all back and raring to go for Term 3 which is the longest term and we have certainly got a busy calendar planned with Scottish activities, Outdoor learning, World Book Day and Science Week. There will be lots of opportunities for you to come in and share the learning with your children as well as enjoying watching them performing.

### **Parental Communication**

We are continuing to use Facebook to share highlights of the learning going on throughout the school and to remind parents/carers about forth coming events.

We will continue to upload all letters and important correspondence to the BLOG in addition to sending them via e-mail. This hopefully makes it easier to check on dates as all of the information is in one place. There is also a section for each class and you will find current information relating to your child's class, with updates from last term. Recently added highlights include : The Celebration Assembly powerpoint with highlights from Term 1 and 2.

**Please visit our BLOG using the link below :**

**<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/sa/daillypsandeyc/>**

### **Learning Journals**

We are using Learning Journals to share your child's work and achievements. Most parents are now linked with their child's profile but if you are not please contact the EYC and we can assist. The staff are posting regular updates for each child but we have been disappointed in the engagement from parents/carers. Some parents/carers have not viewed or liked any of the posts. This provides parents with more regular information and the opportunity to share any learning that their child has been involved in at home.

**Please use the Learning Journal app only for sharing achievements and not for communicating about illness and absence.**

## Attendance – Every Learner Every Day !



In South Ayrshire we know that going to school is a great way to prepare children and young people for the future. The Campaign 'Every Learner, Every Day' (ELED) highlights the benefits of going to school, such as having fun with friends, learning about the world, and developing life skills.

ELED 2 kicks off next week and will focus on local publications, such as Going Out magazine, the Ayrshire Post, and the Ayr Advertiser. The bus stop adverts will continue to circulate in the authority until June.

You can view the new, 'Every Learner, every day' video by clicking below :

[Every Learner Every Day January 2025](#)

Our current overall attendance for the school is 93% and EYC 88.29%. I understand that children cannot be at school when they are unwell but we have a few children who have regular unexplained days off. **We also have a number of families choosing to take their children out of school and on holiday during term time. This is extremely disruptive to your child's learning and results in them requiring a lot of support in order to catch-up on lost learning experiences.**

### Scottish Culture and Heritage

It is that time of year once again when we celebrate all that is Scottish through poetry, songs, dancing and much more. All classes from Early Years to P7 will be immersed in learning the Scots' language this term through a range of activities with the aim of improving their knowledge and understanding of our country and its culture. As always this will culminate in a celebration of all of our work at our Scottish afternoon for Parents/Carers on **Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> February**. All children will should be encouraged to wear tartan or something Scottish on that day.



### Outdoor Learning

Our Forest schools and Outdoor Learning programme will commence again next week with the Early Years Centre and P1 out all day for Forest schools. We are so fortunate to be able to access the Great Outdoors with the vast wooded areas and wonderful countryside around the school. Outdoor Learning is a priority for us as taking learning outdoors can enhance education and improve mental health.

On Friday 14<sup>th</sup> March we are inviting Parents/Carers to join us on our Outdoor Learning sessions where we will be sharing our approaches to learning in Science, Maths and Literacy whilst outdoors.

There are so many benefits of outdoor learning for both children and staff. Below are five of the core ways we believe that learning outdoors improves educational outcomes for all.

### ***1. Children's mental health and wellbeing improves***

There is an enormous body of research available showing that time spent in nature can improve children's mental health and wellbeing. *Children's lives are now far more stressful than in the past, alongside higher academic expectations, there are pressures created by social media use. Getting outdoors is the cheapest and easiest way to reduce this pressure so children (and adults) feel less stressed.*



### ***2. Children's relationship with nature improves***

*"If children don't grow up knowing about nature and appreciating it, they will not understand it. And if they don't understand it, they won't protect it. And if they don't protect it, who will?"* Sir David Attenborough

Children need to spend time outdoors to truly understand it. The beauty of combining important lessons with memorable experiences outside the classroom means that these moments in nature can be strengthened, and so too can children's connection to and love of the natural world.





### ***3. Education is more inclusive***

All children are unique – they learn in different ways and for some, these can actually be stifled by the classroom. Especially for children with special educational needs, the classroom can bring with it added stress and ingrained feelings of academic or social ‘difference’.

One of the many brilliant things about outdoor learning is that it gives more scope for inclusive activities and overall mindset. There are more possibilities and opportunities for *all* pupils to be together, experiencing the same range of activities. Plus, the sensory immersion opportunities are far higher and children feel less tied to one specific mode of learning.



### ***4. Curriculum learning is enhanced***

We know that many pupils thrive learning outside and that this shift in environment (and a practical approach) can actually help certain concepts come alive and be easier to understand. Learning outside is not an unnecessary add-on: it's a way to deepen children's learning experience by getting them to experience lessons in a new and exciting way.

It provides practical, real-life experiences: the type that children truly take on board. These engaging experiences can teach brand new skills and also enhance problem solving, teamwork and thinking skills while feeding seamlessly into the curriculum. We see it as making lessons *stick* by fostering a genuine interest in the subject far beyond what a child can pick up in a textbook.



### ***5. Child development is enhanced***

By moving away from regimented seating plans and standard classroom based learning, children can embrace a greater sense of freedom and independence: essential contributors to their development.

[Research](#) has even suggested that outdoor learning boosts confidence, social skills, communication, motivation, physical skills, knowledge and understanding. It has also been found to boost children's self-esteem, self-confidence, ability to work cooperatively and positive attitude to learning.



### **Intergenerational learning**

We have been taking small groups of children along to the 'Monday Club' in the Community Centre to encourage intergenerational activities. The Senior citizens have been reading stories, drawing pictures and making some crafts with the children. These sessions have been going really well. It helps to promote a greater understanding across generations.



### **Children's rights**

The children have been learning about their rights and how these affect everyday experiences. We have introduced a new friend to the Early Years Centre called Simoa and he helps us to learn about how to keep themselves safe. His name came from the mnemonic Safety, Inspect, Monitor, Observe, Act (SIMOA).



The children have been taking Simoa home and discussing ways that they can keep him safe in their own environment to make the children more aware of specific rights and in particular the right to be safe.

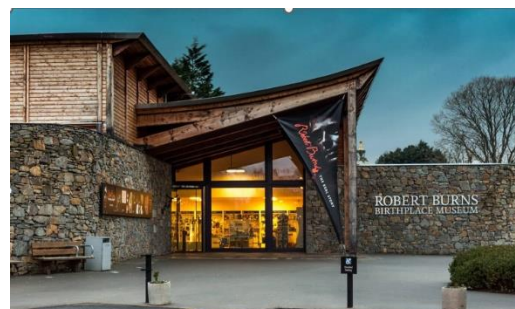


### **Lending library**

Please remember that there is a lending library in the foyer for parents/carers to help themselves to a range of books. We have updated the basket with some new books so please have a look.

### **Tim'rous Beasties**

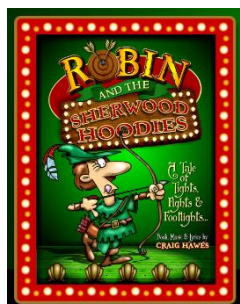
The Early Years Centre will be going on an outing to the Burns' Centre in Alloway on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> February. The children will have the chance to participate in a workshop and explore the museum through storytelling, drama and use of Scots' language. This is an ideal way for the children to build movement and language skills through imagination and performance. They will also have the chance to get dressed up as Burns' wee tim'rous beasties and to learn more about his much-loved poem, 'To a Mouse'.



### **Parental Questionnaire**

We would like some feedback on a few things in the Early Years Centre including Learning Journals, the learning library and parental engagement opportunities. This will be e-mailed out for parents to respond electronically.

### **School Show**



P4-7 will be performing a school show called, 'Robin and the Sherwood Hoodies' where we will take you on a journey into the depths of Sherwood Forest and discover the hilarious truth behind the legend of Robin Hood. There will be two performances one on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> and then Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> March.

### **Parent Partnership funding**

The Parent Partnership received a grant to cover the cost of the transport to the Gaiety. The current funding covered the cost of Santa's Grotto and the visit from the reindeer which was a huge success. The bonus ball continues to be a good earner with the school receiving £29 and the lucky winner receives £30.

### **Asda Cashpot**

Between 2<sup>nd</sup> September and 30<sup>th</sup> November parents/carers who shopped with Asda using their reward app helped to raise money for the school. Approximately £500 was raised. ASDA will confirm this in the next few weeks.

### **Parking**

Just a reminder that parents/carers need to be considerate when dropping children off and picking them up from school. **There are clear white and yellow lines marked in front of the school and parents should not under any circumstances be parking on these lines.** They are for access for emergency services and for the safety of the children entering and leaving the building. I would appreciate your cooperation on this matter.

### **Feedback – we appreciate your comments or suggestions**

Please e-mail any feedback to: [dailly.mail@south-ayrshire.gov.uk](mailto:dailly.mail@south-ayrshire.gov.uk)



# DAILY PRIMARY - DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



Updated each term – **new or changed dates in red**

Term	Dates	Events
3	Wk beg. 6 <sup>th</sup> January	Scottish Curricular focus begins 4 weeks
	Thurs 9 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Parent Partnership meeting 9.00am
	Fri 17 <sup>th</sup> Jan	EYC + P1 Forest Schools All Day / P5-7 Outdoor Learning 12.00-2.30pm
	Fri 24 <sup>th</sup> Jan	P2-4 Outdoor Learning 11.00-2.00pm
	Wk beg 27 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Poetry and Scots' work judging
	Tues 28 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Burns' themed lunch
	Fri 31 <sup>st</sup> Jan	Scottish Assembly and Presentation of certificates
	Wed 5 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Scottish afternoon for parents
	<b>Thurs 6<sup>th</sup> Feb</b>	<b>P5-7 Sponsored Hike - Parents welcome to come along</b>
	Fri 7 <sup>th</sup> Feb	EYC + P1 Forest Schools All Day <b>P5-7 Outdoor Learning 12.00-2.30pm Thursday instead</b>
	Mon 10 <sup>th</sup> Feb	HOLIDAY
	Tuesday 11 <sup>th</sup> Feb	INSERVICE Day 4
	Wk beg 12 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Class pages on BLOG updated
	Wed 12 <sup>th</sup> Feb	PEEP Block 2 Session 1 (EYC)
	Fri 14 <sup>th</sup> Feb	P2-4 Outdoor Learning 11.00-2.00pm
	<b>Mon 24<sup>th</sup> Feb</b>	<b>EYC outing to Burns; Museum</b>
	Wk beg. 17 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Newsletter issued
		EYC Care Plan meetings
	Wed 26 <sup>th</sup> Feb	PEEP Block 2 Session 2 (EYC)
	Wed 19 <sup>th</sup> to Fri 21 <sup>st</sup> Feb	P5-7 Residential
	Fri 21 <sup>st</sup> Feb	EYC + P1 Forest Schools All Day
	Wed 26 <sup>th</sup> February	Parents' appointments P1-7 (3.30-8.30pm) (including sharing Staged Intervention Plans Feb to May) Pupils' work available at Parents' night (All pupils)
	Fri 26 <sup>th</sup> Feb	PEEP Block 2 Session 3 (EYC)
	Fri 28 <sup>th</sup> Feb	P2-4 Outdoor Learning 11.00-2.00pm
	Wed 5 <sup>th</sup> March	PEEP Block 2 Session 4 (EYC)
	Thurs 6 <sup>th</sup> March	Parent Partnership meeting 9.00am
	Fri 7 <sup>th</sup> March	World Book Day
	Wed 12 <sup>th</sup> March	Science Centre trip P1-7
	Thursday 13 <sup>th</sup> March	Interim Tracking Report 2 issued to Parents/Carers
	Fri 14 <sup>th</sup> March	Parents Open Day - Science, Maths and Literacy (Outdoors)
	Wed 26 <sup>th</sup> and Thurs 27 <sup>th</sup> March	P4-7 School Show
	Wed 2 <sup>nd</sup> April	Easter service Daily Parish Church
	Fri 4 <sup>th</sup> April	School Closes 2.30pm
	Holidays	Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> to Monday 21 <sup>st</sup> April





# DAILY PRIMARY - DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



(Updated each term)

Term	Dates	Events
4	Mon 21 <sup>st</sup> April	HOLIDAY
	Thurs 24 <sup>th</sup> April	Parent Partnership meeting 9.00am
	Fri 25 <sup>th</sup> April	EYC + P1 Forest Schools All Day / P5-7 Outdoor Learning 12.00-2.30pm
	Wk beg. 28 <sup>th</sup> April	Class pages on BLOG updated
	Fri 2 <sup>nd</sup> May	P2-4 Outdoor Learning 11.00-2.00pm
	Mon 5 <sup>th</sup> May	HOLIDAY
	Week beg 6 <sup>th</sup> May	Newsletter issued
	Thurs 8 <sup>th</sup> May	Selection of work sent home to parents P1 Induction Day for Parents Carers Day 1
	Fri 9 <sup>th</sup> May	EYC + P1 Forest Schools All Day / P5-7 Outdoor Learning 12.00-2.30pm
	Wk beg. 12 <sup>th</sup> May	Interhouse events and P6+7 Championships to begin.
	Thurs 15 <sup>th</sup> May	P1 Induction Day 2 and parents' lunch
	Fri 16 <sup>th</sup> May	P2-4 Outdoor Learning 11.00-2.00pm
	Fri 23 <sup>rd</sup> May	EYC + P1 Forest Schools All Day / P5-7 Outdoor Learning 12.00-2.30pm
	Mon 26 <sup>th</sup> May	HOLIDAY
	Tues 27 <sup>th</sup> May	INSERVICE Day 5
	Wed 28 <sup>th</sup> May	Sports Day - am or pm (If inclement weather it will take place on next available dry day.
	Thurs 29 <sup>th</sup> May	Final Report issued (including sharing Staged Intervention Plans June to Sep)
	Fri 30 <sup>th</sup> May	P2-4 Outdoor Learning 11.00-2.00pm
	Wk beg. 2 <sup>nd</sup> June	EYC Care Plan meetings
	Wed 4 <sup>th</sup> June	Parent' meeting 3.00-6.00pm (Optional) to discuss report CTs/PST to share Staged Intervention plans June to Sept with Parents/Carer
	Tues 10 <sup>th</sup> / Wed 11 <sup>th</sup>	P7/S1 Transition Days
	Wed 11 <sup>h</sup> June	Bump up Day (Pre-school to P6)
	Thurs 12 <sup>th</sup> June	Parent Partnership meeting 9.00am
	Tues 17 <sup>th</sup> June	EYC Graduation
	Fri 20 <sup>th</sup> June	End of term service and P7 Leavers' presentation
	Mon 23 <sup>rd</sup> June	School Trips or Fun day EYC to P7
	Fri 27 <sup>th</sup> June	School closes 1.00pm

# SOUTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

## Educational Services

### Approved School Holiday Arrangements: 2024/2025

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Term	Break	Dates of Attendance			Cumulative Working Days
First	Mid Term	Teachers ( <b>Inservice</b> )	Fri	16 Aug 2024	
		Teachers ( <b>Inservice</b> )	Mon	19 Aug 2024	
		Pupils return	Tues	20 Aug 2024	
		<i>local holiday</i>			
		<i>local holiday</i>	Fri	20 Sept 2024	
			Mon	23 Sept 2024	
		Close	Fri	11 Oct 2024	
		Teachers ( <b>Inservice</b> )	Mon	21 Oct 2024	
		Re-open (Pupils)	Tues	22 Oct 2024	
		Close	Fri	20 Dec 2024	
					84
Second	Mid Term	Re-open	Mon	6 Jan 2025	
		<i>Close</i>			
		<i>local holiday</i>	Fri	7 Feb 2025	
			Mon	10 Feb 2025	
		Teachers ( <b>Inservice</b> )	Tues	11 Feb 2025	
		Re-open (Pupils)	Wed	12 Feb 2025	
		Close	Fri	4 Apr 2025	
					148
Third		Re-open	Tues	22 Apr 2025	
		<i>May Day</i>			
			Mon	5 May 2025	
		<i>Close</i>			
			Fri	23 May 2025	
		<i>local holiday</i>	Mon	26 May 2025	
		Teachers ( <b>Inservice</b> )	Tues	27 May 2025	
		Re-open (Pupils)	Wed	28 May 2025	
Close	Fri	27 June 2025	195		
NB	Session 2025/26  Good Friday: 18 April 2025	Teachers ( <b>Inservice</b> )	Mon	18 Aug 2025	
		Teachers ( <b>Inservice</b> )	Tues	19 Aug 2025	
		Pupils return	Wed	20 Aug 2025	
<i>Pupil's attendance will be 190 days after deducting 5 in-service days.</i>					

**SOUTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL**  
**Educational Services**

**Approved School Holiday Arrangements – 2025/2026**

Term	Break	Dates of Attendance			Cumulative Working Days
First	Mid Term	Teachers ( <b>Inservice</b> )	Mon	18 Aug 2025	
		Teachers ( <b>Inservice</b> )	Tues	19 Aug 2025	
		Pupils return	Wed	20 Aug 2025	
		<i>local holiday</i>	Fri	19 Sept 2025	
		<i>local holiday</i>	Mon	22 Sept 2025	
		Close	Fri	10 Oct 2025	
		Teachers ( <b>Inservice</b> )	Mon	20 Oct 2025	
		Re-open (Pupils)	Tues	21 Oct 2025	
		Close	Fri	19 Dec 2025	
83					
Second	Mid Term	Re-open	Mon	5 Jan 2026	
		<i>Close</i>	Thurs	5 Feb 2026	
		<i>local holiday</i>	Fri	6 Feb 2026	
		<i>local holiday</i>	Mon	9 Feb 2026	
		Teachers ( <b>Inservice</b> )	Tues	10 Feb 2026	
		Re-open (Pupils)	Wed	11 Feb 2026	
		Close	Thurs	2 Apr 2026	
145					
Third		Re-open	Mon	20 Apr 2026	
		<i>May Day</i>	Mon	4 May 2026	
		Close	Wed	6 May 2026	
		Teachers ( <b>Inservice</b> )	Thurs	7 May 2026	
		Re-open (Pupils)	Fri	8 May 2026	
		<i>Close</i>	Fri	22 May 2026	
		<i>local holiday</i>	Mon	25 May 2026	
		Re-open (Pupils)	Tues	26 May 2026	
		Close	Tues	30 June 2026	
195					
NB	Session 2026/27  Good Friday: 3 April 2026	Teachers ( <b>Inservice</b> )	Tues	18 Aug 2026	
		Teachers ( <b>Inservice</b> )	Wed	19 Aug 2026	
		Pupils return	Thurs	20 Aug 2026	
		<i>Pupil's attendance will be 190 days after deducting 5 in-service days.</i>			