



Daily Early Years Newsletter

April / May 2026



The summer is fast approaching. It is hard to believe that we are in the final term already. This is the fun term with sports practices, graduations and summer outings. In addition to that we have lots of new beginnings to look forward to with P1 Inductions, P7 transitions to Girvan Academy and preparations for all of the children to move onto their classes and meet their new teachers in June.

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 forthcoming 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 with all of the information 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 for Term 3 and updated information from each class.

Please visit our BLOG using this link :

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

Learning Journals

These have been updated this term so please login and see your child's achievements and leave a nice comment. Most parents are now linked with their child's profile but if you are not, please contact the school and we can assist.

Please use the Learning Journal app only for sharing achievements and **not for communicating about illness and absence.** Parents/Carers must still contact the school office as staff do not check the app throughout the day or out with school hours.

Attendance – Every Learner Every Day !



Our current overall attendance for the school and EYC is **93% which is the same as last term.** Our attendance is still not as good as it should be due to parents booking holidays during term time. It is extremely disruptive to children's learning and results in them requiring a lot of additional support in order to catch-up on lost learning experiences. Children themselves often feel anxious on their return as they are aware that they have missed a considerable amount of learning. **The staff are not expected to provide additional work for children who have been on holiday and all parental holidays during term time will be unauthorised.**



Values Consultation

Our new values are : - **Kind Honest, Supportive, Fair.**

We have designed and ordered our new banners for the Early Years and School Foyer foyers. These will display our revised aims and new values.

We have also purchased new stickers which have been using at assembly to recognise the children who have shown that they are demonstrating the *Value of the week.*

Rights Respecting Schools

We have been learning about our right to play (article 31) the right to be safe (article 24) and the right to privacy (article 16) in the Early Years Centre. These are from the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC). We have been learning to be safe with our elephant, SIMOA. Taking him outdoors with us and to different places within our local environment.



We will be celebrating International Day of Play on the 11th of June to enjoy our right to play, rest and relax.

We have also been learning about different rights through our stories in the library and we have learned that all children have rights. Pupils from the Rights Respecting School Committee visited the EYC to read some of our stories about rights.



We are looking for family photos to be sent in to us to share on our family wall to show our right to a safe home. Our Early Years Practitioners are developing their understanding of children's rights and will be visiting other Early Years Centres to learn more about this.

The RRS committee organised a Dailly Rights Mascot competition where pupils were challenged to design a rights mascot for our displays. The committee picked their favourites and then allowed the classes to vote for their favourite mascot, allowing pupils to exercise their right to give their opinions. Donald The Dailly Duck was voted as the winner – well done to Jessica(p4) for her design! Look out for Donald the Dailly Duck on our displays around the school.



Fundraising and Family events

Comic Relief

Thanks to everyone's generosity through donations and purchases our school raised an amazing **£402.69** for Comic Relief!



Race night

We held our first race night in quite a few years and it was a great success with lots of local businesses sponsoring races and donating raffle prizes. There was not a great uptake on ticket sales leading up to the Race Night but we were very grateful to the parents and members of the local community who came out on the night to support us.

Alan Eaglesham and Iain Loudoun made the night extra special by coming along to sing and play live music after the race night. Thanks also to Optex bar services who donated from their sales and looked after our entertainers. We raised a grand total of £800.20 which is going towards the cost of subsidising the summer outings including transport.



Morrisons

As part of Morrisons charity status they support the school throughout the year with donations for PEEP, Burns' supper and Sports' Day as well as supporting our fundraising events such as Christmas Fayre and Race night this year. In addition to this they have just donated £500 to the school from their Charity fundraising which is greatly appreciated and will contribute to subsidising the cost of the summer outings further.

Families Join the Fun at PEEP!

Children and families enjoyed a four-week *Make and Taste* PEEP block, learning how to prepare and try new foods together. The children practised taking turns, listening, and working as a team, while parents joined in to support and share the experience. It was a lovely mix of learning, tasting, and family fun.



Intergenerational Learning

This term the children have enjoyed taking part in a series of creative sessions with older adults from our community. Together, they explored weaving by creating their own colourful tartan patterns and later challenged themselves to build 3-D insects using pre-cut templates. Throughout these activities, the children showed curiosity, confidence and kindness, engaging in conversations, sharing ideas and developing new skills alongside our older friends. These sessions continue to support creativity, fine motor skills and social development while strengthening valuable community connections.

Our Busy Learning Journey in the Early Years

Our Early Years children have had a wonderfully active start to the term. On a recent walk, they used clipboards to spot and sketch different signs in the environment, discussing what each one might mean. While waiting for their turn, others explored nature, collecting flowers and creating their own patterns with natural materials. Outdoor learning has also taken us up to the castle, where the children have enjoyed imaginative play, climbing trees, trying out the tree swing and hammock, and even carrying out a science experiment in the fresh air. These experiences have encouraged curiosity, confidence and creativity, helping the children develop new skills while exploring the world around them.

World Book Day

Thank you to all the parents and carers who joined us on Wednesday 14th March to celebrate World Book Day. Everyone enjoyed listening to *Chaos at the Chocolate Factory* before taking part in a range of fun activities planned by Mrs Kirkwood. Children and adults then worked together in groups to design their own imaginative machines for Wonka's Factory. It was a fantastic morning enjoyed by all.

Science Week

During Science Week, the children explored different materials to find out which ones were waterproof. They made predictions, then used pipettes to drip water onto surfaces such as straw, paper, fabric, cellophane, tinfoil and plastic. After observing what happened, the children created a simple chart to sort the materials into *waterproof* and *not waterproof*.



Easter service

The Easter service led by Rev. Gill was very enjoyable and it was a lovely idea to have a Daffodil tea after the service. The children from Early Years to Primary 7 did exceptionally well, telling the Easter story and singing lovely spring songs.

Thank-you to Mrs Kirkwood and P4/3 for coordinating the service. Thank-you to Margaret-Anne once again for helping with the refreshments and to Olivia Lee for providing the beautiful daffodils.



Summer Term

Outdoor Learning for Parents

Throughout the year we hold parents open days and in the summer term we like to invite parents/carers to join us for one of our Outdoor Learning sessions. We encourage parents to fully participate in the activities alongside the children. Parents and Carers are invited to join the children at the following times :

Friday 8th May

Early Years Centre	10.00 to 12noon
P5-7	12.30 to 2.00pm

Friday 15th May

P2-4	11.00-1.00pm
------	--------------

Sports' Day

Sports' day is scheduled for **Wednesday 27th May at 10.00am**. We will all need to pray for good weather. Prior to Sports' Day the children will be participating in a range of activities as part of their championship and house competitions.

I hope the amazing weather that we had in April will return and allow the children to enjoy spending time over at the playing field. As always Sports' day is dependent on good weather. We have moved it a week earlier this year to give us plenty of time to reschedule if weather does not permit. Unfortunately we cannot give a lot of notice in these circumstances and we tend to go with the next dry day. I appreciate parents struggle to get time off work with such short notice. We welcome parents/carers coming along to spectate but primarily it is a children's sporting competition.

Summer Outings – Funding

At Dailly we try to ensure that school outings are accessible to all as we pride ourselves on being fully inclusive. We try to ensure that cost is not a barrier to participation. Each year the children benefit from many outings including class trips, swimming lessons, Christmas panto, residential visits, Science Centre visit and summer trips which are mostly funded through our fundraising efforts.

Due to our location the cost of hiring buses it is extremely expensive and we do try to access any available funding from grants in order to keep the costs as low as possible.

Through fundraising and the support from our parents/carers, we manage to subsidise the cost of all of the trips meaning that they are either free or parents only have to pay a small contribution.

We have booked the summer trips this year for each class and have also applied for a grant from the Hadyard Hill Community Fund to try to support the cost of transport over the next 3 years. The cost of the trips this year will be subsidised from the proceeds of the Race Night and the generous donation from Morrisons Local, so once again thank-you to everyone who supported it.

<i>Class</i>	<i>EYC</i>	<i>P14</i>	<i>P5-7</i>	<i>P7 (Special Trip)</i>
<i>Outing and transport</i>	<i>Kidzplay Prestwick Lunch and beach trip</i>	<i>Bounce Station Lunch and trip to Eglington Park</i>	<i>Flipout – 2 hour session</i>	<i>Crawfordland Explorer trail</i>
<i>Cost per pupil</i>	<i>£14.34</i>	<i>£26</i>	<i>£37.93</i>	<i>£24.58</i>
<i>Cost to parents</i>	<i>No cost</i>	<i>£6</i>	<i>£8</i>	<i>No cost</i>

Staffing and classes for session 2026-27

Our staffing allocation has been confirmed for next year and we have requested a Newly qualified Teacher. Miss Connell's year will end in June and she will hopefully be able to secure a permanent post to continue her teaching career.

Next year there will be some changes to our staffing. We are delighted that Mr Woods has decided not to retire fully but to reduce to 2 days a week. Mrs Kirkwood will continue working three days a week.

We have just bid farewell to Lynn McDowall, our cleaner and we will be welcoming two new cleaners into our team, Shona Kirkwood and Laura Farrell who will start in May once recruitment checks have been completed.

Mrs McCrindle will be retiring in June after working for over 38 years in early education. She started her career in Girvan but has spent over 30 years at Dailly working with hundreds of children and families over that time. She will be a great loss with her wealth of experience and knowledge of children and their families.

We will have two temporary vacancies in the EYC due to Kerri-anne Loudon being on maternity leave and Mrs McCrindle's vacancy. We have not had confirmation of staffing to cover these yet.

The Class structure for next year will be: P1-3, P5/4 and P7/6.

Class Teachers will be confirmed in June once we know if we are being allocated a Newly Qualified Teacher.

Parent Partnership

The office bearers are :

Chairperson	Stuart Briggs (P5Parent)
Secretary	Karen Lauder (EYC/P1/P4/P7 parent)
Treasurer	Kelly Fyfe (EYC/P3 parent)

The current members are: Rosie Sheddon, Kelly Fyfe, Emma Kirk, Jan Vance, Fiona Matthews, Pamela Donnelly, Karen Lauder, Sara Barr, Shawny Wells, Zoe Clark

All parents/carers are welcome to attend the meetings or pass on any information to one of the office bearers which can then be shared with the Parents Partnership group.

We are always looking for new members so please come along or contact the school for more information. **The latest minutes are available on the school blog. The next meeting will be on Thursday 21st May at 9.15am – all parents are welcome!**

Parent Partnership funding

Feedback – we appreciate your comments or suggestions

Please e-mail any feedback to: daily.mail@south-ayrshire.gov.uk

We are also always looking for new ideas and ways to improve the learning experiences for your child so please e-mail any helpful comments.



DAILY EARLY YEARS CENTRE ANNUAL CALENDAR



The dates will be re-issued each term and any changes highlighted in red

Term		
4	Mon 20th April	EYC and school re-opens
	Thurs 23 rd April	EYC swimming lessons (4 week block) 1.30-2..30pm
	Fri 24 th April	EYC /P1 Outdoor Learning (10-2pm) / P5-7 Outdoor Learning 12.30-3.00pm
	Thurs 30 th April	EYC Swimming lessons Wk 2
	Mon 4 th May	HOLIDAY
	Tues 5 th May	P1 Induction Day and Parents/Carers information session 1.30-3.00pm
	Thurs 7 th May	Inservice Day
	Fri 8 th May	EYC /P1 Outdoor Learning (10-2pm) / P5-7 Outdoor Learning 12.30-3.00pm (Parents/Carers invited to join from : EYC 10..00-12.00) / P5-7 12.30-2.00)
	Thurs 14 th May	P1 Induction Day 2 10.45-12 noon
		EYC Swimming lessons Wk 3
	Thurs 21 st May	EYC Swimming lessons Wk 4 - last day
	Fri 22 nd May	EYC /P1 Outdoor Learning (10-2pm) / P5-7 Outdoor Learning 12.30-3.00pm
	Saturday 23 rd May	Daily Community Fun Day
	Mon 25 th May	HOLIDAY
	Wed 27 th May	Sports Day
	Thurs 28 th May	Final report issued
	Wk. beg 1 st June	EYC Care Plan meetings
		Staged Interventions meetings with parents/carers (Children who require additional support)
		Class pages on BLOG updated
	Wed 3 rd June	Parents appointments (Optional to discuss report)
Right Respecting Schools Silver Accreditation meeting		
Fri 5 th June	EYC /P1 Outdoor Learning (10-2pm) / P5+6 only Outdoor Learning 12.30-3.00pm	
Wed 10 th June	Bump-up Day EYC to P7	
Mon 15 th June	Early Years Graduation am	
Wed 17 th June	Prize Giving and Leavers' service	
Tues 23 rd June	EYC trip to Kidzplay and Prestwick beach	
Tues 30 th June	HOLIDAY - close at 1pm	
Thurs 20 th August	New term begins	

SOUTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL
Educational Services

Approved School Holiday Arrangements – 2025/2026

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

SOUTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL
Educational Services

School Holiday Arrangements – 2026/2027

Term	Break	Dates of Attendance	Cumulative Working Days
		Teachers (Inservice)	Tues 18 Aug 2026
		Teachers (Inservice)	Wed 19 Aug 2026
		Pupils return	Thurs 20 Aug 2026
First	Mid Term	<i>local holiday</i>	Fri 18 Sept 2026
		<i>local holiday</i>	Mon 21 Sept 2026
		Close	Fri 9 Oct 2026
		Teachers (Inservice)	Mon 19 Oct 2026
		Re-open (Pupils)	Tues 20 Oct 2026
		Close	Tues 22 Dec 2026
		84	
Second	Mid Term	Re-open	Tues 5 Jan 2027
		Close	Thurs 11 Feb 2027
		<i>local holiday</i>	Fri 12 Feb 2027
		<i>local holiday</i>	Mon 15 Feb 2027
		Teachers (Inservice)	Tues 16 Feb 2027
		Re-open (Pupils)	Wed 17 Feb 2027
		Close	Thurs 25 Mar 2027
140			
Third		Re-open	Mon 12 Apr 2027
		<i>May Day</i>	Mon 3 May 2027
		Close	Wed 5 May 2027
		Teachers (Inservice)	Thurs 6 May 2027
		Re-open (Pupils)	Fri 7 May 2027
		<i>local holiday</i>	Fri 28 May 2027
		<i>holiday</i>	Mon 31 May 2027
Close	Wed 30 June 2027		
195			
	Session 2027/28	<i>local holiday</i>	Wed 18 Aug 2027
		Teachers (Inservice)	Thurs 19 Aug 2027
		Teachers (Inservice)	Fri 20 Aug 2027

NB Good Friday: 26 March 2027

Pupil's attendance will be 190 days after deducting 5 in-service days.

