Dalmilling Primary School



Family Update December 2025

Our Vision:

Inspire, Engage and Succeed Together

Our Core Value:



We Care









Dear Parents and Carers,

A Note from Mrs Thomson

Welcome to this month's newsletter, where you will find the latest updates and information from across our school community. I'd like to share a few reminders that will help us keep the school day running smoothly and ensure the very best for our children.



Supporting Learning Time - To help us protect valuable learning time, we kindly encourage families to keep early pick-ups to a minimum wherever possible. This helps children stay fully engaged with their lessons and maintains a calm routine for the whole class.



Ready for the Day - Thank you for continuing to help children arrive to school on time. Please can you ensure water bottles are filled at home before arriving at school. It helps throughout the day if children don't need to fill up bottles at the water fountain.



Breakfast Club - We're delighted that so many children are enjoying Breakfast Club. If you would like to access our breakfast club, please try to arrive between 8:30am and 8:50am, this is when breakfast is served and staff are fully available to support during these times.



We are looking forward to welcoming you all to our Parent's Evening and Winter Fair next Thursday 4th December where we will be gathering some of parent and carer views on parental engagement events.

Kind regards, Mrs. Thomson





We would like to share some important staffing news as we approach the end of term.

First, we extend our warmest good wishes to Mrs Shields, who will shortly be moving on to her new job in January. We are incredibly grateful for all her hard work and dedication during her time with us, and we know our pupils and families will join us in wishing her every success in the next chapter of her career.

We are looking forward to welcoming Mrs Afrin, who will be stepping into Mrs Shields' role. Mrs Afrin brings a wealth of experience and enthusiasm, and we are confident she will make a wonderful addition to our staff team and school community. Mrs Afrin will be visiting the school over the coming weeks to meet our pupils and get to know our families and staff.

We are delighted to confirm that Mrs Riddicks will be returning in January. She will be teaching in Primary 7 for three days a week (Wednesday, Thursday and Friday), working alongside Mr Maley, who will continue to teach the class for the remaining two days.

We are very grateful for your continued support during this period of staffing changes.





Our Christmas Countdown!







Festive Fun

Magical Christmas Moments

Monday 8th

P4C and P6R Singing at Overmills 1.15pm

Tuesday 9th

Nativity Dress rehearsal for whole school at 11.10am

P4C and P6R Singing at Overmills 1.15pm

Wednesday 10th

Nativity afternoon performance 1.45pm



P4C and P6R Singing at Overmills 1.15pm

Thursday 11th

Christmas Lunch Today! Wear Christmas Jumpers from Today

P4C and P6R Singing at Overmills 1.15pm

Friday 12th

Nativity morning performance 9.45am



P4C and P6R Singing at Overmills 1.15pm

Celebrating!

Monday 15th

Whole School Pantomime Snow White



Ayr Academy Concert

Tuesday 16th

P7 Pantomime at Cutty
Sark 5pm

Christmas party PM – P4/5C (p5s), P5M, P5/6M, P6R

Wednesday 17th

Christmas party PM - P1M, P1/2R, P2G and P2/3D (P2's)

Thursday 18th

P6 and P7 Singing Showcase

Christmas party PM - P2/3D (P3's), P3C, P4C, P4/5C (P4's)

Friday 19th

Whole School Church Service 9.30am

P7 Christmas Party

Schools Close 2.30pm!

















WOW Walk to School

We are looking at encouraging active travel to school. This is to reduce our carbon footprint but also to make the perimeter around our school a safer place for our pupils. We are encouraging parents/carers to park and stride with their pupils which would mean parking the car away from the school and walking up. Children that are coming to school actively will be in with a chance to get a badge. The badge changes each month and are designed by pupils across the UK. Our own pupils will have the opportunity to design a badge in the coming months and hopefully their design will be chosen for one of the months next year.

So far in November the class leading is P2G

In October we were sitting 9th in South Ayrshire and 119th place nationally.

November – 7th in South Ayrshire and 67th place in Scotland.

Well done everyone for making a difference







P7-S1 Transfer/P1 Registration

The on-line process for P7-S1 Transfer will be available to parents from Monday 24th November until Sunday 7th December, and P1 Registration will be available from Monday 12th January until Sunday 18th January.



The South Ayrshire Council website will be updated for each in due course



Scottish Book Week

We had a busy Scottish Book Week with family reading events for P1 to P3. We also welcomed Fletcher, who is a pupil from Holmston Primary School, along to tell us about a book he has written titled 'The Autistic Monkey.'

Fletcher was able to give the whole school a presentation about his book with great confidence and answered questions that our pupils had.

A huge thank you to the Parent Council for purchasing 10 copies of this book for the school. They are available to buy from Amazon with £1 from each book sold going to charity.













Scottish Book Week





For Book Week, we welcomed the two blue Great Danes, Harris and Lucy, through the Pets As Therapy charity for our pupils to read to.

Reading to dogs can help children to develop their reading skills and can also help children to build confidence, self-esteem and can encourage positive behaviour.

We hope to welcome them back in the near future to give our pupils more of these experiences.





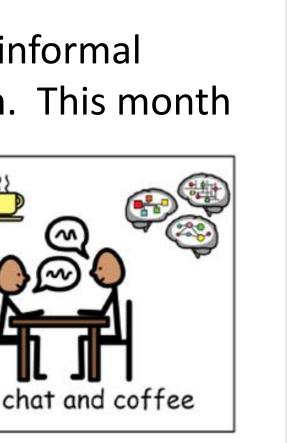


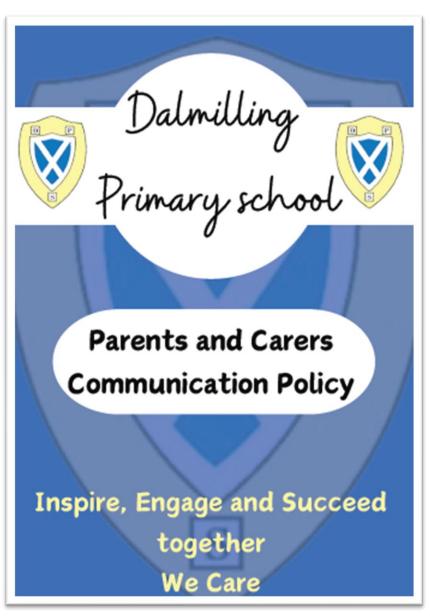
Coffee and Chat

We'd like to invite all parents and carers to join us for our informal Coffee and Chat sessions with the school Leadership Team. This month we discussed:

- ASN Supports
- Countdown to Christmas
- How SEESAW is working
- Children in Need Pudsey Playground

This is a great opportunity to meet other parents, share ideas, and discuss how we can continue to make our school the best it can be. Our next meeting is Thursday 15th January at 9am.







P1 and 2 Nativity

This year's P1 and P2 Nativity is, 'Hey Ewe'. The main roles will be for P2 pupils with P1s singing along as part of our Chorus.

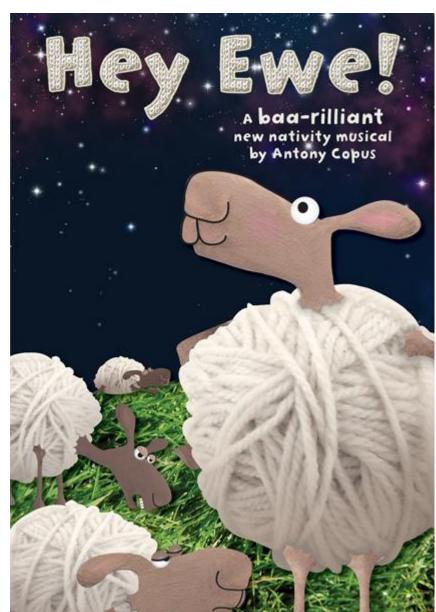
Those with a speaking role will have their lines to practise at home.

The performances will be on;

Wednesday 10th December at 1.45pm and Friday 12th December at 9.45am.

Please note there will be <u>two tickets per family</u> allocated due to hall restrictions.

This can be 2 tickets for one performance or 1 ticket for each performance. They will be priced at £1 and are available to purchase through Parentpay or at our office.





Children in Need

Thank you to all our families for your wonderful support during our Children in Need event. As part of our focus on children's rights, the event also helped highlight every child's right to be safe, supported, and given the opportunity to thrive.

We raised a fantastic:

£267.95

We are incredibly proud of our school community for coming together to make a positive difference. Thank you for helping us show the children the power of compassion and the impact of working together.

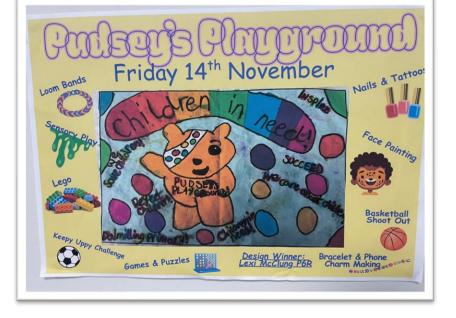














CHILDREN IN NEED

THANK YOU

Dalmilling Primary

for raising a fantastic

£267.95

TO HELP MAKE LIFE LIGHTER FOR CHILDREN
AND YOUNG PEOPLE FACING A VARIETY
OF CHALLENGES IN COMMUNITIES ACROSS THE UK.

SCAN THE QR CODE WITH YOUR PHONE FOR AN EXTRA SPECIAL THANK YOU FROM PUDSEY AS YOU'VE NEVER SEEN HIM BEFORE!







After holding a non uniform day last month, we presented a cheque of over £180 to Pauline Moriarty, founder of the charity Beautiful Inside and Out (SCIO). The charity funded us with Sound Bath sessions last month and we were delighted to give a little back. This money will be able to fund a number of counselling sessions for young people requiring a little support.



inside





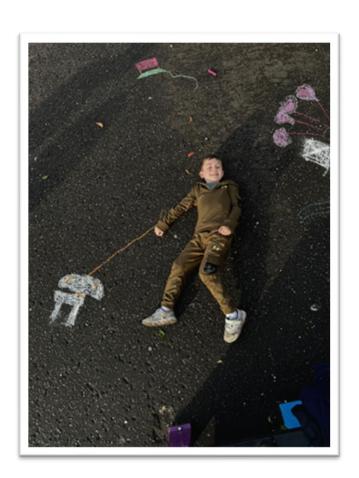


Outdoor Classroom Day

We held our autumn Outdoor Classroom Day alongside our key Eco Schools themes, Climate Action, Biodiversity and Water.

Activities included saving water by taking part in a water relay to try and get as much water soaked up in the sponge from one bucket to another, clearing up at the allotment for the winter, worm charming and looking at our carbon footprints.

And the rain stayed off - result!!!











South Ayrshire Health and Social Care Partnership are working with South Ayrshire's Carers Gateway to collect feedback from unpaid Carers who reside in South Ayrshire.

We appreciate the importance of unpaid Carers in our community and like to recognise and celebrate the hard work they do on a daily basis. In the past, we have held events which are structured, have a theme, agenda, information stalls and entertainment, however we appreciate this might not be how every unpaid Carer would like to be celebrated. We are keen for you to let us know how we can improve our events that best support your needs.



Please complete the short feedback form below - we appreciate and thank you for your time and effort with this. Please share with your networks.

<u>Unpaid Carers Event Feedback – Fill out form</u>

The deadline for feedback is Friday 5th December at 4pm.



News from our Parent Council

We would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to our Parent Council for their continued support throughout this term. Their hard work and dedication make a real difference to our school community. They have been busy helping us prepare for the upcoming Christmas Fair, including organising a wonderful Santa's Grotto that we know our children will love.



The Parent Council also continues to keep families updated through their Facebook communication, ensuring everyone stays connected and informed.

In addition, they support the weekly gymnastics club and promote a gymnast of the week award. They are currently also supporting preparation for the South Ayrshire Dance Competition, working with the P1-P3 dance group and assisting with arrangements and outfits

for all the children participating.







Welfare Officer Support

Our Welfare Officer recently took part in a community foodbank collection at an Ayr United match. This was a wonderful opportunity to support local families and strengthen our links within the wider community. We are grateful for the generosity shown by supporters on the day and proud of the positive role our school continues to play in helping others.

If any families find themselves in need of support, whether with food, uniform, or general wellbeing, please remember that our Welfare Officer is always available for a confidential chat. Do not hesitate to get in touch if we can help in any way.







Learning Highlights







Our school football team looked incredibly smart in their home kit this week. The pupils wore their colours with pride, showing great team spirit both on and off the pitch. They represented the school brilliantly and should feel very proud of themselves.



We were delighted to welcome Owl Magic to the school this month for an exciting and memorable learning experience. Pupils had the opportunity to meet a range of beautiful owls up close and learn fascinating facts about their habitats, behaviours, and adaptations. The children were truly captivated, and the visit sparked lots of curiosity and wonderful discussion back in the classroom. It was a fantastic opportunity that we know they will remember for a long time.



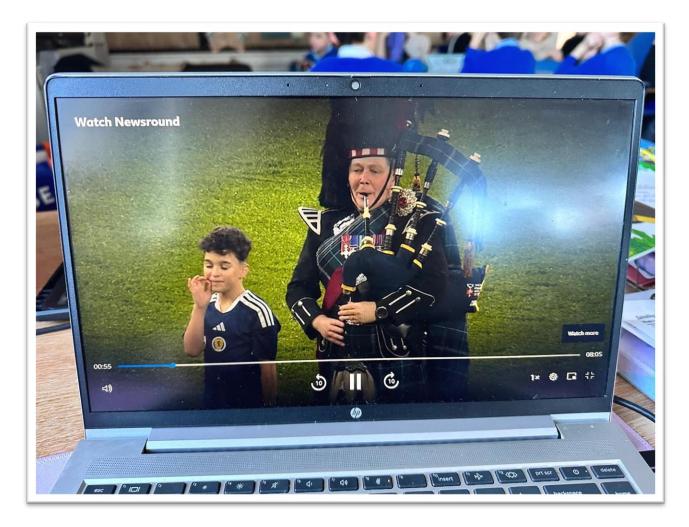
Our upper school pupils have been enjoying their weekly rugby sessions with coaches from Ayr Rugby Club. This week, the children took on the challenge of practising how to score a try using a crash mat, developing both their confidence and their technique. The sessions have been a fantastic opportunity for teamwork, skill-building, and plenty of fun.

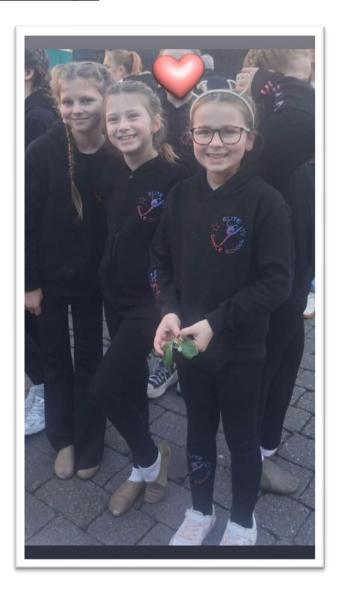




Celebrating Success at Dalmilling







It has been an exciting and inspiring month for our pupils, with so many wonderful achievements to celebrate. We are incredibly proud of Alyssa Sproule who for another year is taking the stage as part of the local pantomime, showcasing fantastic talent and confidence. Another highlight is seeing Scott Alexander perform the Scottish National Anthem at a recent match where Scotland secured their World Cup qualification – a truly unforgettable moment! Our talented group of girls, Paige Ellie-May and Robyn shone brightly at the Christmas Lights Switch-On, helping to bring festive cheer to the whole community. Well done to all our pupils involved—you continue to make us proud with your dedication, courage, and enthusiasm. What a brilliant way to end the year!



All families with children in P5 -P7 are invited to Ayr Academy's Parent / Carer Open Evening.

Have a tour of the school, meet our staff, learn more about our curriculum

Tuesday 2nd December 4.00 - 6.00







Ayr Academy **Transition Newsletter**

November 2025

Issue 3



Welcome to issue three of Ayr Academy's Transition Newsletter. Our Health and Wellbeing Challenge Day took place on the 17th November. I wish to extend a huge 'thank you' to all of our staff, buddies and primary pupils for making the event such a great success. P7s took part in a 'Race Across the Universe' in PE, Home Economics and PSE, winning planets and stars as a team. In PE pupils worked together to transport 'oxygen tanks' for their journey. In Home Economics they made a tasty snack to sustain them on their voyage and in PSE pupils developed their teamwork skills. P7s rated the day as Ms Dunstall 8/10 and said they liked the Race Across the Universe competition, getting to work with pupils from other schools and working as a team. We are looking forward to our next Challenge Day in May. Look Transitions out for more information coming in the new year!

Attendance

Ayr Academy recognises the vital role that regular attendance plays in the academic

success and overall wellbeing of our young people. Attending and taking part in learning - wherever learning takes place - is

fundamental to making sure that our young people have opportunities

to be supported in their learning and can make progress. We will work hard to encourage every learner to attend and engage in learning every day. If you have any concerns about your child's attendance when they start at Ayr Academy please contact their Guidance Teacher. We will work with you to find ways to remove the barriers your child is facing in attending school.

Percentage	Number of days missed	Comment
100%	0	Gives a learner the best chance of success
> 95%	9 days	Scottish national averages between 90-95%
+ 10 %	19 days	Less chance of success due to poor attendance
+ 85%	27 daye	Serious implications on learning and progress
> 80%	More than 36 days	Serious implications on learning and progress Wellbeing implications

If you have any questions about transition please do not hesitate to get in touch:

All families with children in P5-7 are invited to our Parent/Carer Opening Evening.

Challenge Day 2 Health & Wellbeing





















Whilst breakfast is no more, or less, important than any other meal, kick starting your day the right way IS important.

Breakfast is the opportunity to top up the energy stores used by your body overnight, and to provide essential nutrients such as fibre, vitamins and minerals.

Plus scientific studies have shown that eating breakfast might improve our mental performance, our ability to concentrate, and our mood – three great reasons to eat a healthy breakfast every day!

Best breakfast drinks

Rehydrating first thing in the morning is vital, and water is always the best option. However milk, pure fruit juice, tea or coffee also supply fluid and, providing no additional sugar is added, provide a healthy option.

Just remember that even fresh fruit juice, and smoothies, contain natural sugars which will add energy to the diet and increase the risk of tooth decay so stick to one 150ml glass per day.

I don't have time for breakfast!

Plan, plan, plan ahead. Set the table the night before, or make items in advance that you can simply grab from the fridge.

Beware high sugar pre-packaged breakfast items such as breakfast bars or cereal "drinks" - instead make your own by sprinkling granola on a yogurt, or eating a piece of fruit with some dry cereal.



What if I don't want breakfast?

Some people just don't feel like eating as soon as they wake up; that's okay but, if you can, you should try and eat within a couple of hours of getting up.

Taking breakfast items on the go with you can help with this. Good choices could be a banana or a piece of malt loaf/fruit bread, or perhaps a yogurt with granola sprinkled on.



Further information:

- www.bda.uk.com/foodfacts/ healthy_breakfast
- www.phunkyfoods.co.uk/ parent/bag-a-breakfastparents-information/
- For more healthy breakfast ideas and recipes visit www. phunkyfoods.co.uk/recipes





Bag-a-breakfast Start EVERY day the right way!



Base your breakfast on... Starchy Carbohydrates to re-fuel your body

Choose one from:

- · Bread, bagels, muffins, crumpets or crackers (choose wholemeal or seeded)
- Wholegrain breakfast cereals
 Porridge



Add some... Fruit and Vegetables to keep you healthy



Choose one from:

- · Seasonal fresh fruit or tinned/frozen: Banana, satsuma, apricot, peach, grapefruit, melon
- 150ml of fresh fruit juice. homemade fresh fruit smoothie



- Dried fruit or pomegranate seeds on cereal
- Grilled tomatoes or mushrooms on toast

Include... Dairy & Alternatives for healthy teeth and bones



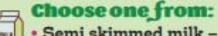
Choose one from:

- Dairy fruit smoothie with yogurt and/or milk (150ml)
- · Low fat and low sugar yoghurt or fromage frais
- Serve your breakfast cereal with ice cold milk

*Supercrunch-recipe on website

Don't forget drinks

to rehydrate your body



- Semi skimmed milk or skimmed milk for children over 5 years.
- 150ml of fresh unsweetened fruit juice
- A large glass of water



When you have a little extra time... Protein Foods for growth and repair



Choose one from:

- Poached/scrambled eggs on wholemeal toast
- Mushroom and cheese omelette
- Baked beans on wholemeal toast

If you're pushed for time try our...



Choose one from:

- · A scotch pancake, banana and water/milk
- · Breadsticks, low fat cheese, grapes/apple and water
- Mini blueberry muffin, satsuma and water/milk



Diary Dates

Date	Event
Tuesday 2 nd December	Parent Council Meeting 2pm
	Ayr Academy Open Night 4pm-6pm
Wednesday 3 rd to Friday 5 th December	Child Smile fluoride varnishing
Thursday 4th December	Parents evening / Winter Fair
Wednesday 10th December	P1 and 2 Nativity performance 1.45pm
Thursday 11 th December	Christmas Lunch
Friday 12th December	P1 and 2 Nativity performance 9.45am
Monday 15 th December	Panto in school
Tuesday 16 th December	P7 Pantomime at Cutty Sark Building 4.45pm for 5pm start
	Christmas party PM – P4/5C (p5s), P5M, P5/6M, P6R
Wednesday 17 th December	Christmas party PM – P1M, P1/2R, P2G and P2/3D (P2's)
Thursday 18 th December	P6 and P7 Singing Showcase – times tbc
	Christmas party PM – P2/3D (P3's), P3C, P4C, P4/5C (P4's)
Friday 19 th December	P7's Christmas party. Schools Close at 2.30pm
Monday 5 th January	Schools Return
Wednesday 7 th January	Parent Council Meeting 2pm
Monday 12 th January	P1 Registration Week
Thursday 15 th January	Coffee and Chat 9am
Thursday 15 th January	Spotty Zebras Coffee and Chat 11am
Tuesday 3 rd February	NEST Coffee and Chat 9.15am



Dalmilling Primary School Child Protection and Prevent



Children have the right to be safe (UNCRC Article 19). It is everyone's responsibility to ensure that we respect and uphold this right.

If you have a concern around the safety and/or wellbeing of any of our pupils, please report without delay to:



Mrs Thomson - HT
Child Protection
Co-ordinator/ Prevent officer



Mrs Shields- DHT
Child Protection
Co-ordinator/ Prevent officer



Mrs Priestnall - DHT
Child Protection
Co-ordinator/ Prevent officer

You can report your concerns by calling the school office on 01292 612736 or emailing Dalmilling.Mail@south-ayrshire.gov.uk

SCHOOL MEALS

Dalmilling Primary has recently been reviewing our Free School Meals (FSM) information, and we have noticed that some children who may be eligible are not currently registered. We would strongly encourage families to apply, as FSM not only provides financial support during school holidays—by helping cover the cost of your child's meals and provides a healthy daily meal for free.

It also may help families receive other grants – such as a clothing grant —but also brings additional funding into the school.

This funding allows us to offer more resources and support for all pupils.

To make the process easier, we will have an FSM Support Hub available at Parents' Night, where staff can help you complete the application on the spot.

If you would like any further information or support before then, please contact Cheryl.



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:



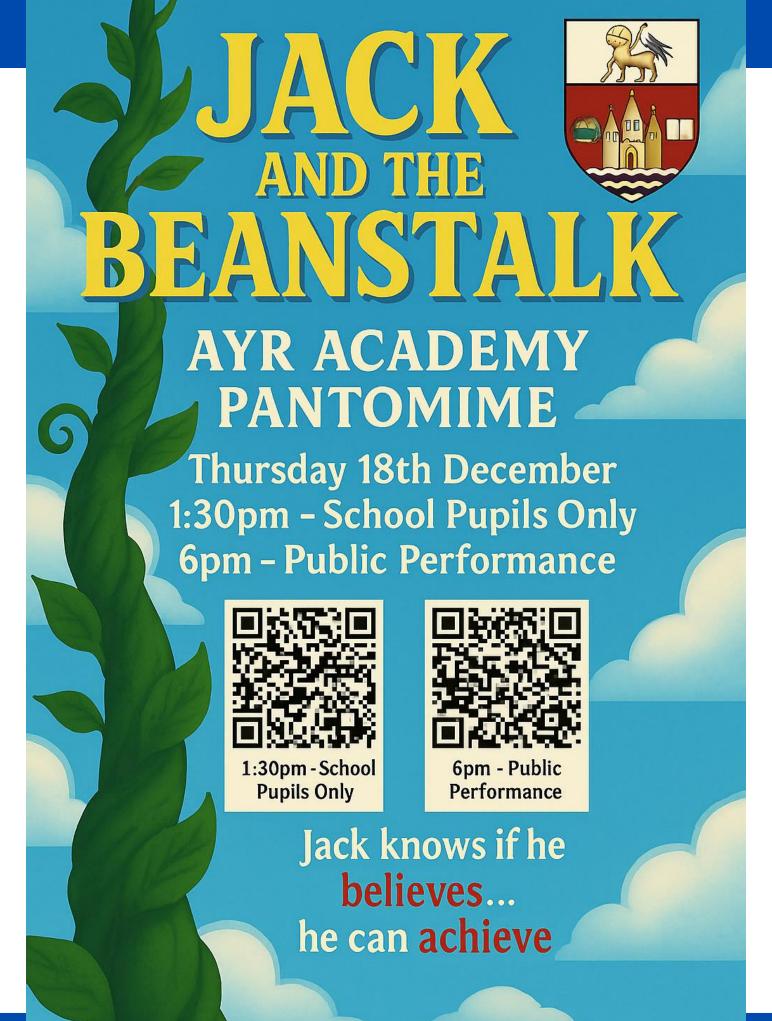
- Checking your entitlement and supporting you in making claims
- Providing advice regarding Free School Meals, School Clothing Grant, Scottish Child Payment and any other eligible grants
- Supporting you if your benefits have been stopped, reduced or refused
- Advising you on budgeting and managing 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 Thursday 4th December at Parents Evening and Wednesday 17th 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 the 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.











We are looking for participants to join our PAVE cohorts in 2026!

The PAVE Programme offers adults the opportunity to complete an 8 week supported work placement within a local primary or secondary school:

- School Assistant* and/or School Clerical Experience
- Employability Qualification @ SCQF Level 4
- Emergency First Aid at Work
- Employability Support
- CV, Application and interview support
- Up to date reference following completion of the Programme

*for school assistant roles participants must be qualified in Nat 5 English, or equivalent

For further information on the programme please contact madeleine.ferrara@south-ayrshire.gov.uk









Stay safe this winter

Hints and tips from NHS Ayrshire & Arran's Health Protection Team for staying safe this winter

With the festive season approaching, we want to remind you of how you can stay safe this winter. Here are some hints and tips on good cough, sneeze and hand hygiene; staying at home if you have had fever, diarrhoea, or vomiting; winter vaccinations; as well as information on accessing the right care, right place.

Good cough, sneeze and hand hygiene

Keep your family well this winter and reduce the spread of infection.

Respiratory viruses, such as colds, flu and COVID-19, can easily spread between people through coughs and sneezes. Stopping viruses from spreading is the best prevention.

Always sneeze and cough into a tissue covering your nose and mouth. Bin the tissue straight away and then wash your hands.

Wash your hands with soap and water frequently. This helps to get rid of the disease-causing germs from your hands. Hand sanitiser does not kill all germs, especially those that cause stomach upsets.

If someone in your family is sick, avoid sharing dishes, toys or towels with them. Keep items clean and wash your hands after touching.

At home, make sure you clean surfaces that are touched frequently every day - for example, light switches, door handles, taps, toilet seats and toilet flush handles, and countertops.

Do not prepare food for others when you are sick.

Wash any clothing or bedding that has poo or vomit on a it separately from other laundry, and on a hot

A video on handwashing can be found here: How to wash your hands - NHS (www.nhs.uk)

To learn more about treating the common cold, flu or COVID-19, visit www.nhsinform.scot/winter-illness/

Stay at home

Stay off school or college if you have a fever, diarrhoea or vomiting.

Children and young people with mild respiratory symptoms, but who are otherwise well, can continue to attend school or college. Mild respiratory symptoms include a runny nose, sore throat, or slight cough.











Children and young people who are unwell and have a high temperature should stay at home and avoid contact with other people if possible. They can go back to school, college or childcare, and resume normal activities when they no longer have a high temperature and they are well enough to attend.

Most people no longer need to test for COVID-19, unless they have a health condition which means they are eligible for coronvirus treatments.

Children and young people who have diarrhoea or vomiting should stay at home and avoid contact with other people if possible. They can go back to school, college or childcare, and resume normal activities when they have had no diarrhoea or vomiting for at least 48 hours.

For more information, click the links below:

- Vomiting in children and babies
- Diarrhoea
- COVID-19

Winter vaccinations

If you are eligible, make sure you get your vaccine.

To find out if you are eligible for the flu or COVID-19 vaccine, visit:

- Flu vaccine | NHS inform
- The coronavirus (COVID-19) vaccine | NHS inform

If you child is in primary school and has missed their flu vaccine appointment or school clinic, or has been given an appointment that is not suitable, they can attend a Childhood Vaccination Team drop-in session. For details of sessions, visit https://www.nhsaaa.net/services/services-a-z/ flu-vaccine/school-age-children-primary-and-secondary-flu-vaccineinformation/

Where to get medical help Getting the right care, in the right place

To protect yourself, as well as the NHS, it's important you know how to get the right care, in the right place. If we all use NHS services wisely, we can keep well and get the care we need quickly, safely and as close to home as

For more information on the most appropriate service for your condition, visit Right care right place - NHS Ayrshire & Arran (nhsaaa.net)



Wishing you a wonderful and infection-free festive season from the NHS Ayrshire & Arran Health Protection Team.

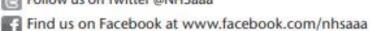








All our publications are available in other formats







WHY BUY IT IF THEY CAN'T USE IT?

E-scooters are illegal to use in any public place in Scotland

AyrshireRoadsAlliance







A partnership between East Ayrshire Council and South Ayrshire Council

Did you know that it's illegal to ride an e-scooter on the road or in public spaces including parks, street pavements and shopping centres? You can only legally use them on private land if you have the landowner's permission. So please think twice if your child has asked for one this Christmas – why buy it if they can't use it?



<u>Important Reminders</u>

Please remember:

- Our car park is for use of staff members only, unless otherwise authorised.
- Dogs are not allowed in the playground during the school day and at drop off and pick up times.
- Parents should only enter the school through the reception door.
- School uniform should be labelled with your child's name.
- We endeavour to be a NUT FREE school. No products containing nuts are permitted for snack or packed lunches.
- We love seeing special moments captured at school, but please remember that when sharing photos or videos of your own child, other children may also appear in them. To keep everyone safe and respect privacy, we kindly ask that any images or videos containing other children are not shared on social media or elsewhere. Thank you for your understanding and support.



School Uniform Requests

We have plenty of school uniform items available.

If you would like to request items, please contact the office and we will send them home with your child.

