

Dalmilling Primary School

Family Update

August 2026



Our Vision:

Inspire, Engage and Succeed Together

Our Core Value:
We Care



A Note from Mrs Thomson

Dear Parents and Carers,



Welcome back to all our pupils, staff and families. We hope you had a wonderful summer and it's fantastic to see everyone looking so smart and ready to learn. A special welcome goes to our new Primary 1 pupils, who have already made a great start and are settling in well. Our free Breakfast Club continues to run daily from 8.30am, providing children with a positive start to the day. The club offers a healthy breakfast in a welcoming environment and is a great opportunity for pupils to socialise with friends before learning begins. All pupils are welcome to attend.

Thank you to parents and carers for supporting health eating and our healthy snack guidance and helping us keep all children safe, particularly those with severe allergies. As a reminder, please do not send any products containing nuts or egg, including items that may contain traces of these ingredients.

I am also extremely grateful for the high standard of school uniform. We look forward to continuing to promote and celebrate these high expectations throughout the year. Finally, we ask that children are only collected early from school when absolutely necessary, as this minimises disruption to learning.

We look forward to a happy, successful and productive year ahead.

Kind regards,

Mrs. Thomson





HEALTHY SNACKS



FOR HAPPY, HEALTHY LEARNERS!



Good snacks help us learn, play and grow.
Please choose healthy options for school.



GREAT CHOICES INCLUDE:



Fresh fruit



Vegetables



Yogurt



Wholegrain
crackers or
rice cakes



Water
(no fizzy or
energy drinks)



ALLERGY AWARENESS NO NUTS

We have children in school with severe nut allergies.
Please do **NOT** send any nut-based products
or items that contain **nuts**.



This includes products that may contain nuts.



Please do not send any products containing **egg**,
including items that may contain traces of egg.



Thank you for helping
us keep all our children
safe and healthy.
Every choice makes a difference!



Together, we can
support healthy habits
and happy, successful
learners.



Meet the Teacher

We are having a Meet the Teacher event at 2.30pm on Wednesday 9th September.

This is an opportunity for you to meet your child's teacher, see their new class and to find out what your child will be learning about this term.



P7 Dolphin House Residential

We would like to remind families about the exciting opportunity for our Primary 7 pupils to take part in the Dolphin House Residential.

This residential experience provides children with the chance to develop independence, confidence and resilience while taking part in a range of fun and memorable activities alongside their classmates. It is always a highlight of the P7 year and creates lasting memories as pupils prepare for the transition to secondary school.

We still have places available and would encourage families to consider this fantastic opportunity. If your child has not yet signed up and would like to attend, please contact the school office for further information. Don't miss out on what promises to be a memorable and rewarding experience for our P7 pupils! 🐬 🏕️ ✨



Coffee and Chat

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

Everyone is welcome—just drop in, enjoy a cuppa, and have your say.

Our next meeting is Friday 2nd October at 9am.



SEESAW

Seesaw is an important way for us to share your child's learning and celebrate their achievements throughout the school year. It provides families with a window into classroom learning, helping you stay informed about the experiences, progress and successes your child is having at school.

Through Seesaw, classes will share regular updates on learning, key information and homework tasks. While Seesaw is an effective tool for sharing learning and supporting communication, it is not intended to replace existing channels of communication. Parents and carers are encouraged to continue using the school office for reporting absences, making changes to collection arrangements, or for urgent enquiries that require a prompt response.

To ensure Seesaw remains a positive and effective communication tool, we ask all users to engage respectfully and use the platform for school-related communication only. We also remind families that staff will respond to messages during school hours and within the timescales outlined in this guidance.

If you are not currently signed up to SEESAW, please let us know. Thank you for your continued support in helping us use Seesaw positively to strengthen communication.



SEESAW INFORMATION

for Parents and Carers

Seesaw is an important way for us to share your child's learning and celebrate their achievements throughout the school year.



Each class will share regular updates linked to learning in school. This will usually include a weekly overview of learning in **Literacy**, **Numeracy** and **another curricular area**.



Homework will be posted **monthly** on Seesaw.



We will only share photographs or videos of children where the appropriate parental consent has been provided. Personal information and identifying details will not be included.



Our focus is on sharing **meaningful** examples of learning and progress, rather than frequent posts.



You can use Seesaw to contact class teachers. Messages will typically be responded to within **2-3 school days** during school opening hours.



Staff are **not** expected to monitor or respond to Seesaw messages outside school hours, at weekends or during school holidays.



Any concerns regarding the use of Seesaw should be reported to the **school leadership team**.



Thank you for your continued support in helping us use Seesaw positively to strengthen communication between home and school.



Building Works Updates

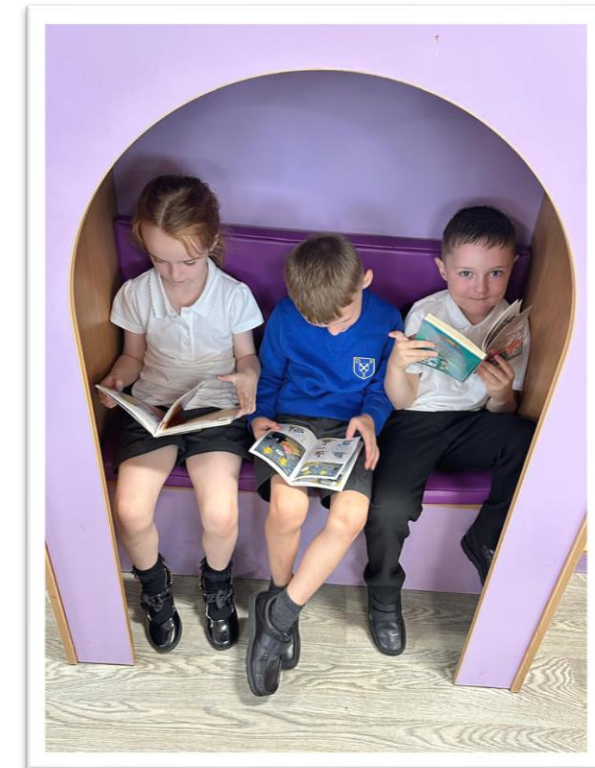
We are delighted with the progress being made through our school improvement works. Recent developments include a resurfaced car park, a new main entrance, additional office accommodation, a modern kitchen and significant progress on our new gym hall, which includes a new sound and lighting system.

These improvements are already having a positive impact on our school environment, and we are excited to see the project continue to take shape. We look forward to the next phase of developments, including the completion of the new gym hall and access corridor, which will provide additional space and enhanced facilities for our pupils, staff and wider school community.

It is exciting to see these investments helping to create an even better learning environment for our children, both now and in the future. 🏠 ✨



Learning Highlights



Children have been enjoying spending time in our new library area, which has recently moved upstairs into one of our classrooms. The children loved exploring the range of books on offer and are already making great use of this exciting new learning space. We look forward to seeing their love of reading continue to grow throughout the year. 📖 ✨



Learning Highlights



P2C enjoyed a visit to our allotment, where they explored a variety of plants, flowers, fruits and vegetables. They sampled freshly grown chives, discovered bean pods which sparked discussions about Jack and the Beanstalk, and enjoyed smelling the lavender. The children were also excited to find a leek, which they brought back to class to investigate further. The visit inspired lots of interest in fairy tales, which we will continue to explore during our literacy lessons.



P6/7 enjoyed their first gymnastics session this week. The pupils worked on a range of skills, including balance, coordination and control, while developing their confidence using different equipment. Everyone showed great enthusiasm, listened carefully to instructions and demonstrated excellent effort throughout the session. We are looking forward to building on these skills in the weeks ahead. 🤸 🤸



News from our Parent Council

Our Parent Council AGM is on Wednesday
2nd September at 2pm.

You are welcome to attend and join the work
of the Parent Council.



Important Reminders



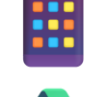
Please remember:

- **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.



Lost Property Update

What we currently do:

-  Parents or children can report missing items directly to the school office
-  Staff are notified when items are reported missing
-  Termly collections from classrooms and lunch areas
-  Labelled items returned to pupils where possible
-  Daily reminders for children to check belongings
-  Unclaimed items shared on the Parent Council page
-  Items stored for a period, then recycled if not collected
-  Lost property stalls held at school events

What we're improving:

-  Re-establishing a clearly identified lost property area (old reception)
-  Ensuring all staff and pupils know its location
-  Clearer communication with parents through our newsletter



Diary Dates

Date	Event
Wednesday 2 nd September	Parent Council Meeting 2pm
Wednesday 9 th September	Meet the Teacher 2.30pm
Friday 18 th September	Schools Closed
Monday 21 st September	Schools Closed
Friday 2 nd October	Coffee and Chat with Leadership Team
Tuesday 6 th and Wednesday 7 th	School Photos
Wednesday 7 th October	Parent Council Meeting 2pm
Friday 9 th October	School Closes for October Break

Free School Meal Entitlement

Who can apply?

You can apply if your child attends a South Ayrshire Primary or Secondary School and you are in receipt of at least one of the qualifying benefits detailed below. Please check that you are in receipt of at least one of the qualifying benefits below prior to submitting an application.

Eligibility criteria for Free School Meals for school session 2026/27

- Scottish Child Payment for pupils in P6 & P7
- Income Support
- Income-based Job Seekers Allowance
- Income-based Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- Universal Credit where earned income is not more than £995
- Pension Credit

[REGISTER BY CLICKING HERE](#) or visiting the South Ayrshire Website



Going to school has lots of benefits!



"To learn"

"Helping P1 children"



"Playing with my friends"



"New opportunities"



"To make new friends"



"See all my friends. I like school and being in P7. My work is fun"



Inspire, Engage and Succeed together

We Care



Every Learner Every Day!



At Dalmilling Primary, we want to see every learner every day.

We have now started a Walking Bus to school. If you would like your child to be included in the bus route, please let us know.

#EveryLearnerEveryDay #SouthAyrshireCouncil



Supporting Your Child at Home - Reading

Here are a few tips to help you with your child's learning at home:

- **Create a Homework Routine:** Set aside a quiet, distraction-free time and space for your child to complete their homework. Consistency helps build good habits.
- **Encourage Reading Every Day:** Whether it's a book, a magazine, or even a comic strip, daily reading improves literacy skills and comprehension. Take turns reading aloud or ask your child to summarise what they've read.
- **Talk About Their Day:** Show interest in your child's school day by asking specific questions like, "What was your favourite part of today?"



South Ayrshire Reads

Supporting Phonics at Home

Key Terms

Phoneme: Smallest unit of **sound** in a word
Grapheme: **Letters** that represent phonemes
Decoding: Blending sounds together to **read** words
Encoding: Segmenting sounds to **spell** words

Same Approach

Orally brainstorm words → Use phoneme fingers to break words into phonemes → Write down each sound to build the word → Blend and read the written words

Diacritical Marking

Key:
- Single Phoneme
- Split Digraph
- Digraphs & blends written together representing one sound
- A digraph is three letters together that spell one sound

Ask your child to diacritically mark words. Blend and read.

pay rain bake

Word Sorts

ai	ay	oddball
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pay chain race crayon
trainers play neighbour

Ask your child to sort the words. Blend and read.

Read, Read, Read

Read with your child....any book, any time! The more you read, the better!

When reading aloud with your child, if you come across phonemes you know your child knows, encourage them to blend and read the word.

