



DUNDONALD PRIMARY AND EARLY YEARS CENTRE

TERM 3 – MARCH NEWSLETTER

SESSION 2022-23



UNCRC Article 13 - I have the right to find out and share information.

TERM 3 NEWSLETTER – MARCH 2023

We are delighted to share our Term 3 Newsflash, which includes: news from each of our classes (from Early Years to Primary 7); a spotlight on our improvement work; our plans to support Early Years to P1 and P1 to P7 transitions; and dates for your diary.

We hope that you enjoy reading our Newsflash together with your family.

NEWS FROM OUR CLASSES – OUR TERM 3 HIGHLIGHTS

All of our classes have been very busy learning this term. Earlier this week, our P7 House and Vice Captains visited classes to ask the children what they had enjoyed learning the most. Here is what the children said.

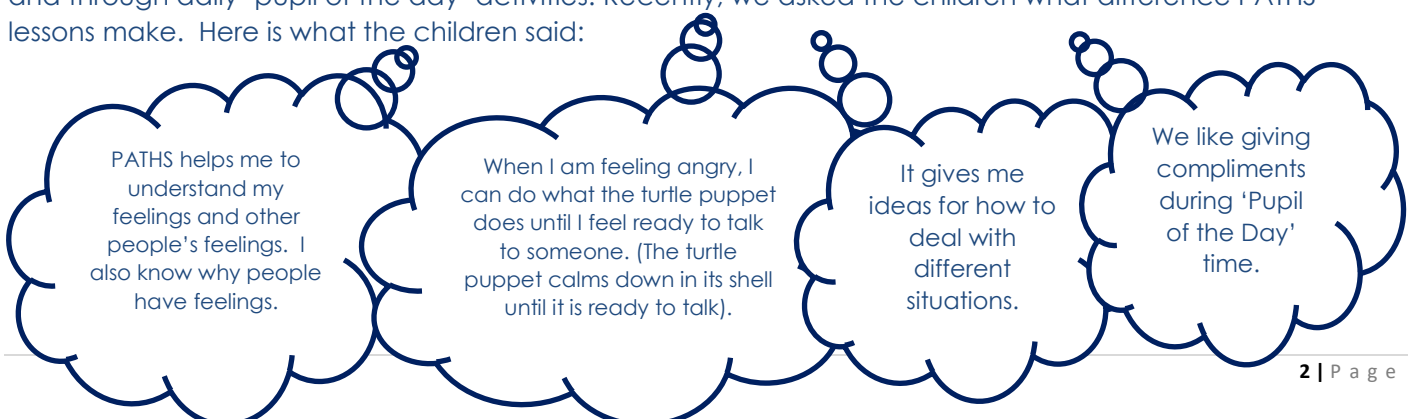
Class	Our Learning Highlights...
Early Years Class	<p>We have enjoyed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">✚ Planting sunflower seeds and broad beans;✚ Playing with all of the toys in the role play corner – we like to dress up and to pretend to be different people.✚ We loved the visit from the Fire Service. We got to speak with the Fire Fighters and we also learned about the Fire Truck. We learned about how the Fire Service helps people.✚ We also love Bookbug and singing – stories with Bookbug is one of our favourites.
Primary 1	<p>We have enjoyed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">✚ Learning about symmetry – drawing the missing half of a picture was good fun!✚ Working with children from P1/2 and P2/3 to learn about Knights, Dragons and Castles;✚ Writing imaginative stories about dragons;✚ Learning about spring.
Primary 1/2	<p>We have enjoyed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">✚ Learning about all the different parts of a book: the contents page, the index page, the front cover and author;✚ Learning about Knights, Castles and Dragons – we particularly liked using foil to create Knights of our own.✚ Learning to speak in Gaelic and in French.✚ Exploring 2D shapes – we learned that 2D shapes are flat shapes.
Primary 2/3	<p>We have enjoyed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">✚ Adding and subtracting money – we learned how to add different amounts and we also learned how to work out change.✚ Fitness circuits in PE – we have a great time in PE lessons.✚ Practising our mental maths skills through our weekly 'Big Maths Beat That!' challenges.✚ Learning to speak in Gaelic with Mrs Davidson.
Primary 4	<p>We have enjoyed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">✚ Learning about the Amazon Rainforest. This has been a brilliant topic because we have learned about Rainforest animals and where they live.✚ Learning to multiply and to divide in maths. We have also learned how to draw graphs to show information.✚ Gaelic through Art: we worked with local artists to recreate one of the Murals from Dundonald Castle and we learned how to say each of the colours in Gaelic.✚ Reading – we have learned how to answer comprehension questions and are really good at this.

Primary 4/5	<p>We have enjoyed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ Maths. We have been learning about weight and measure. Today, we used our skills in measure to make dough. ✚ Learning about micro-organisms in Science. We were fascinated by our 'mouldy bread experiment' which helped us to understand that micro-organisms are living things. ✚ Investigating floating and sinking in Science; we made our very own boats using tinfoil. ✚ Learning to swim at Troon Pool (P5).
Primary 5	<p>We have enjoyed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ Designing our own products and pitching these to the Dragons during our 'Dragon's Den' project. The Dragons were Mrs Dunsmuir, Mrs Crawford, Mr Whiteside and Mrs Kerr! ✚ Learning how to grow potatoes by planting some in pots and soil with Mrs Kerr. The shoots are now visible which is very exciting. ✚ Learning about Scots Language and Scottish Poetry. ✚ Indoor Bowling with the volunteers from Dundonald Bowling Club.
Primary 5/6	<p>We have enjoyed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ Learning about what life was like during the Victorian era – we researched Victorian schools and compared the life of a Victorian child to our lives today. We also learned about workhouses and the life of Queen Victoria. ✚ Reading and studying the novel, 'Wonder' – this is an excellent story and we can't wait to find out what happens next. ✚ Improving our fitness during PE lessons – we have all worked hard and moved up to the next level in the bleep test. ✚ Presenting solo talks on different subjects, such as: countries, animals and sports.
Primary 7	<p>We have enjoyed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ Learning debating skills through participating in the Marr College P7 Debating Challenge. We also enjoyed developing our general knowledge in preparation for the Marr College P7 Quiz led by Troon Rotary Club. ✚ Participating in the Cross Country Competition at Rozelle in Ayr. ✚ Learning how to identify acids and alkalis through setting up Science Investigations using cabbage water. ✚ Learning how to bowl through participating in indoor bowling lessons with Dundonald Bowling Club.

SPOTLIGHT ON SCHOOL AND EARLY YEARS IMPROVEMENT PRIORITIES

Improving Health and Wellbeing

Across our school and early years centre, we have been focusing on improving children's emotional health and wellbeing through PATHS lessons and activities. PATHS stands for: Positive, Alternative, Thinking Strategies. During PATHS time in class, children learn about the different feelings and emotions that we all experience and strategies for managing these feelings. PATHS lessons also promote children's self-esteem and through daily 'pupil of the day' activities. Recently, we asked the children what difference PATHS lessons make. Here is what the children said:



Opportunities for Personal Achievements – Term 3

This term, children across all stages in the school have engaged in activities which provide a wide range of opportunities for personal achievements. Here are some of our highlights:

- ✚ Multi-Sports after school clubs for P1, P2, P3 and P4
- ✚ Football after school club for P5 and P6
- ✚ Science after school club for P7
- ✚ Science and Technologies after school club for P1 and P2
- ✚ Chess Lunchtime Club for P5-7 every Thursday
- ✚ P6-7 Competitive Sports Bronze Level Basketball Competition (two teams represented Dundonald Primary at this event)
- ✚ P5-7 Cross Country Running Competition at Rozelle Park (44 children from P5-7 competed)
- ✚ Gaelic lessons for all children, from Early Years to Primary 7
- ✚ Indoor bowling lessons with volunteers from Dundonald Bowling Club for P5-7



EARLY YEARS TO PRIMARY 1 TRANSITION – LOOKING FORWARD TO AUGUST 2023



Registration for Primary 1 took place earlier this term and we look forward to getting to know our new Primary 1 pupils and families in Term 4.

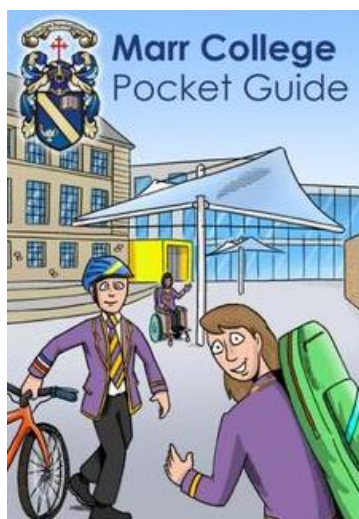
Mrs Muir, who will teach P1 in August 2023, will spend time working in the Early Years Centre, with the pre-school children, in May.

In June, our new P1 pupils will be invited to spend time learning in their P1 class, with their classmates, on: Thursday 1st June; Thursday 8th June and Wednesday 14th June.

In addition to this, there will be a meeting for the families of all new P1 children with Mrs Paterson, Mrs Kerr, Miss Macpherson and Mrs Muir in school on

Wednesday 24th May from 6pm until 6.40pm. Additional details will follow next term; a separate letter will be issued to all new P1 families.

PRIMARY 7 TO SECONDARY 1 TRANSITION



Primary 7 to Secondary transition is also well underway. Our P7 children thoroughly enjoyed participating in the Marr P7 Debating Challenge and they also visited Marr College for a 'walkabout' interactive tour in December. Parents, carers and pupils also met with Marr College staff at a 'P7 Welcome Evening' in March.

Transition activities for our P7 pupils will continue after the Easter Holiday. These will include two full days at Marr College on Tuesday 13th and Wednesday 14th June 2023. Marr College has also created a web-page dedicated to Primary 7 transition, which includes a variety of very helpful resources, such as a link to a virtual tour, a Pocket Guide to Marr and a copy of the P7 Information Evening presentation. To access the web-page, please click here: [P7 to S1 Transition Information](#)

DUNDONALD PARISH CHURCH – EASTER SUNDAY SUNRISE SERVICE & FAMILY SERVICE 9th APRIL



A very warm welcome is extended to all families to join the Dundonald Parish Church Easter Sunday Sunrise Service at Dundonald Castle on Sunday 9th April at 7am.

A warm welcome is also extended to families to join the Easter Sunday Community Breakfast in the Church Hall at 10am and the Easter Sunday Family Service in the Parish Church at 11am.

EMERGENCY CONTACTS, MEDICAL CONDITIONS AND EMAIL ADDRESSES



Please may I highlight the importance of school having up-to-date contact details for each child? **If any of your contact details change please notify the office as soon as possible.** Important information is often sent out via text message and it is also vital that we are able to contact you (or your designated emergency contact) should your child become unwell.

It is vital we have the following contact details for each family:

- **Parent/carer telephone number**
- **Parent/carer email address**
- **Emergency contact telephone number and address**
- **Up-to-date medical information**

NEW 2U - DUNDONALD CLOTHING EXCHANGE

We have an excellent selection of uniforms on our New 2U Clothing rail in the school foyer. Families are very welcome to come in and choose from this anytime, either at drop-off, pick-up or during the school day.

Our aim is to help keep costs down for families and to promote textile recycling. If you would like to hand clothes in, it would be great if they could be on a hanger so that they can go straight onto a clothing rail.

THE MICAH PROJECT – COMMUNITY CLOSET - BASED IN TROON



Do you love saving money? Do you love getting new clothes for your children? How about not having the hassle of what to do with your kids old and still good clothes? Then the Micah Project Community Closet New 2 U is what you need a place to drop clothes and find new ones. To find out more, or to book an appointment, please search online for 'Micah Project Troon' or click on the following link:

<https://www.micahproject.co.uk/clothes-exchange>

HOME-SCHOOL PARTNERSHIP – THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

On behalf of everyone at Dundonald, please may I take this opportunity to thank families for their support over the past term? We are very grateful for all that you do to encourage and support the children with their learning.

Please may I also extend my very sincere and heartfelt thanks to everyone in our staff team for their unswerving support for the children – I am indebted to you for your tireless hard work.

On behalf of everyone here, I wish you all a very happy and relaxing Easter Holiday.

Kindest regards,

Fiona Paterson
Head Teacher

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY APRIL 2023 – JUNE 2023

We hope that the following list of dates is helpful in planning your family calendar. Term 4 is a busy time and includes a variety of different events, such as: EYC Sports; EYC Peep Sessions; EYC Stay and Play; Primary School Sports; P7 Year Group Photo; P5-7 Musical Showcase; P7 Moving on Ceremony to name but a few.

APRIL 2022

Mon 17 April: School reopens and pupils return

Mon 24 April until Fri 28 April: P7 House/Vice Captain Elections for Term 4

Tues 25 April: Early Years Woodland Walk and Spring Treasure Hunt – *A very warm welcome is extended to Early Years Parents and Carers to join us for a woodland walk to Dundonald Woods from 9.15am until 11.15am (a separate letter will be issued with more details)*

MAY 2022

Mon 1 May: School closed for holiday

Mon 8 May: School closed for Additional Public Holiday – Coronation

Wed 3 May: Early Years PEEP Session 1 (9.15-9.45am) *A very warm welcome is extended to families to join their early years child and our early years staff for a variety of stories, games and activities (please speak to staff at drop-off/pick-up if you would like to join us)*

Fri 5 May until Fri 16 June: 'Songs from the Musicals' focus for P5-7 classes during music lessons – the children will work towards presenting a Musical Showcase on Fri 16 June

Wed 10 May: Early Years PEEP Session 2 (9.15-9.45am) *A very warm welcome is extended to families to join their early years child and our early years staff for a variety of stories, games and activities (please speak to staff at drop-off/pick-up if you would like to join us)*

Thurs 11th May: Tempest Photography in school to take P7 year group photograph

Wed 17 May: Early Years PEEP Session 3 (9.15-9.45am) *A very warm welcome is extended to families to join their early years child and our early years staff for a variety of stories, games and activities (please speak to staff at drop-off/pick-up if you would like to join us)*

Wed 24 May: Early Years 'Stay and Play' Session for Children in the Red, Blue and Green Groups (9.15-9.45am) *A very warm welcome is extended to families to join their early years child for a 'stay and play' time in our Early Years Centre (a separate letter will be issued with details of how to sign up)*

Wed 24 May: Welcome Evening for New P1 Families with Mrs Paterson, Mrs Kerr, Miss Macpherson and Mrs Muir in school from 6pm until 6.40pm

Fri 26 May: School closes at usual time for holiday weekend

Mon 29 May: School closed for holiday

Tues 30 May: School closed to pupils; In-Service Day for school staff

Wed 31 May: School re-opens and pupils return

Wed 31 May: Early Years 'Stay and Play' Session for Children in the Orange, Yellow and Purple Groups (9.15-9.45am) *A very warm welcome is extended to families to join their early years child for a 'stay and play' time in our Early Years Centre (a separate letter will be issued with details of how to sign up)*

JUNE 2022

Fri 2 June until Fri 23rd June: Igniting the Writing – Whole School and EYC Focus on Creative Writing

(Story writing project)

Fri 2 June: School Sports 1.45-2.45pm (Weather Permitting – Plan A) *A very warm welcome is extended to families to join us for our School Sports Afternoon – this will be held on our school field.*

Wed 7 June: EYC Sports 9.30-10.15am (Weather Permitting – Plan A) *A very warm welcome is extended to families to join us for our EYC Sports – this will be held on our school field.*

Thurs 8 June: Optional 3rd Parent Appointment for Families

Fri 9 June: Reserve School Sports 1.45-2.45pm (Back-up Plan if wet previous week – families very welcome)

Tues 13 and Wed 14 June: P7 to S1 Transition Days at Marr College

Wed 14 June: Bump-up Day in School (children will spend time learning in their new class)

Thurs 15 June: Reserve EYC Sports 9.30-10.15am (Back-up Plan if wet previous week – families very welcome)

Thurs 15 June: Early Years Welcome Evening for New and Returning Families (a warm welcome is extended to families to drop-in anytime between 4-5pm)

Fri 16 June: 9.30-10.00 P5-7 Musical Showcase (*A very warm welcome is extended to families to join us for this*)

Fri 23 June: 9.30-10.00am EYC Pre-School Graduation Ceremony (*A very warm welcome is extended to families to join us for this*)

Mon 26 until Fri 30 June: Dundonald PS and EYC Fringe and Film Festival; Dundonald Primary and EYC Mini-Highland Games

Thurs 29 June: Summer Service and P7 Moving on Ceremony at Dundonald Parish Church 9.45am (a very warm welcome is extended to families to join us for this)

Fri 30 June: School Closes for Holiday at 1pm