

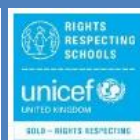


DUNDONALD PRIMARY AND EARLY YEARS CENTRE

TERM 1 – OCTOBER NEWSLETTER

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SESSION 2022-23



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

OCTOBER NEWSLETTER

We are delighted to share news of our first term in Dundonald Primary and Early Years Centre. This edition of our Newsletter includes:

- news from each of our classes (from Early Years to Primary 7)
- Diggin' Dundonald
- Early Years Parents in Early Education Partnership sessions (PEEP)
- a Parent Council update
- information about our Harvest Assembly
- an update from the Micah Project
- news of forthcoming events.

We hope that you enjoy reading our Newsletter with your children.

EARLY YEARS CENTRE

This term, our Early Years children have been learning about and exploring Autumn – we have used our senses and have: **looked** for colourful leaves; **felt** and **heard** the colder wind and rain. We hope that the children enjoy looking out for signs of Autumn during the October holiday too.

We have also enjoyed taking part in a range of construction and building activities both indoors and out. We have created some amazing dens and towers. Playing outdoors and making obstacle courses is one of our favourites!

PRIMARY 1

Our Primary 1 class has settled in beautifully and are enjoying learning and playing in school. We have worked hard to begin to learn the initial sounds and are working hard blending these to read words. In Numeracy, we have learned all about numbers to 10, patterns and 2D shapes. We have enjoyed learning about People Who Help Us and look forward to a visit from PC Harrower.

PRIMARY 1/2

Primary 1/2 have had a fantastic start to our new school year. We have settled in wonderfully well and are working very hard. In Literacy, we have worked on writing our names and on learning new sounds. We have also enjoyed stories and songs. In Numeracy, some children have investigated number bonds to 15 and number families, while others have learned about numbers to 20. P1 children have learned all about numbers to 10. We've had lots of fun in gym with ball games and have also learned all about Diwali. We now know lots of dinosaur facts too and can explain what we can do in school to be a good friend.

PRIMARY 2/3

In P2/3, we have been investigating how whole numbers are formed and the importance of the place value of each number during numeracy lessons. We had fun exploring this using concrete materials, pictures and symbols. Meanwhile, in literacy, we have focused on following and writing instructions – we particularly enjoyed learning a dance that we then wrote instructions for. We have also been learning about how we can develop sustainable homes and communities through our Houses and Homes topic. Why not ask us about the story of Eco-Wolf and the Three Pigs? It really got us thinking!

PRIMARY 3/4

Our Primary 3/4 class has worked extremely hard this term. We have enjoyed learning about whole numbers and fractions in numeracy and maths. Our class topic has been "Ancient Greece" – we learned about Greek Gods and discovered the similarities between Ancient Greece and Ancient Egypt. In Literacy, we particularly liked writing a story from the point of view of a time-traveller – this was very exciting.

PRIMARY 5

We have had an extremely busy term in P5 and have had the opportunities to take part in both swimming lessons at Troon Pool and Scottish Country Dance, with visiting specialist, Mrs Brown. In maths, we have been learning about Place Value and 3 Dimensional objects. Our novel, Bill's New Frock, has given us lots of opportunities to develop our reading skills and we are becoming more confident in being able to predict accurately based on what we have read. We have also had fun learning about the Vikings and have experimented using the Viking alphabet (runes) to crack codes and solve problems.

PRIMARY 5/6

P5/6 have enjoyed reading Coraline as our novel study and have worked very hard on improving our Grammar and Comprehension Skills. In Maths we have been focusing on adding, subtracting, multiplying and dividing. We have developed a range of mental strategies and can also complete increasingly advanced written calculations in our jotters.

In P.E we have been developing our Basketball skills and have learned how to make a variety of passes and shots with accuracy.

We have enjoyed learning all about The Scottish Wars of Independence and all about the life of William Wallace. We have found some fascinating facts. We have had a very hardworking and successful first term.

PRIMARY 7S

This term Primary 7 have loved their WW2 topic. They have enjoyed learning about the events of WW2, the key figures, imagining themselves as evacuees, carrying identity cards, completing Air Raid drills and exploring Propaganda. They are looking forward to continuing this after the holidays. Primary 7 have also enjoyed their new P7 responsibilities and buddying the new Primary 1's. They had an amazing time when they were able to visit the Castle for "Diggin' in Dundonald" where they loved participating in digging for and learning about artefacts. A fantastic term for P7 with lots of hard work and they are looking forward to an even more exciting Term 2!

"DIGGIN' DUNDONALD @ DUNDONALD CASTLE - P5/6 AND P7



Children in our P5/6 and P7 classes had the opportunity to develop their skills as junior archaeologists by participating in "Diggin' Dundonald" at Dundonald Castle. "Diggin' Dundonald" was led by Dundonald Castle staff and visiting specialists from Historic Environment Scotland. The children engaged in a wide range of 'hands-on' archaeological activities, such as digging, sifting, drawing, note-taking and close observation.



'DANIEL AND THE LION'S DEN' – OUTDOOR RME LESSONS WITH MRS BRENNAN

All of our classes enjoyed participating in outdoor Religious and Moral Education lessons led by Mrs Brennan, our School Chaplain. Through listening, drama and singing, the children learned about the story, "Daniel and the Lion's Den". Some of our classes were also inspired to create some wonderful art work based on the story – please come and have a look at our display in the Open Classroom Area.

EARLY YEARS CENTRE – PARENTS IN EARLY EDUCATION PARTNERSHIP (PEEP) WORKSHOPS



Thank you to all of the early years families who joined us for our PEEP workshops in September and early October – the children loved working together with staff and family members; the workshops were focused on fostering a love of stories and literacy. Our next PEEP sessions are scheduled for November (dates can be found on the calendar page at the end of this letter) – please join us if you can.

PARENT COUNCIL ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Our Parent Council Annual General Meeting took place in school on Monday 26th September; sincere thanks to everyone who was able to join us for this meeting.

We are pleased to share that the following office bearers were elected:

Parent Council Chairperson: Nicola Cushley

Treasurer: Vicky Clark

Secretary: Sam Anderson

At our meeting, we also discussed projects for the year ahead, the first of which will be a School and Early Years Tea-towel fundraising project. This fundraiser is always popular with children and families – children enjoy creating drawings of themselves and it is lovely for everyone to see the finished product.

All of the funds raised benefit each and every child in the school, as they are used to: provide a gift of a school tie for all new P1s and all P7s moving on to Secondary and to pay for school buses for class outings.

PARENTS' APPOINTMENTS – THURSDAY 13th OCTOBER 2022

Our Parent Appointments took place on Thursday 14th October 2021 and were very well attended - Parent Appointments are an invaluable opportunity for us to meet together to share information about your child's learning and progress – our sincere thanks to you for joining us.

SCHOOL ASSEMBLY - HARVEST SERVICE – MONDAY 11th OCTOBER



We held a very special Harvest Service in school on Monday 11th October. At our Service, we learned about the importance of giving thanks for the harvest and thanks to all of the people involved in producing food and bringing it to our shops. We also learned about the importance of sharing what we have with others.

Mrs Brennan talked to us about the Floyd's Café and the Foodbank. We learned that Floyd's Café is a place where people in our village can come together for a tea, coffee, home-baking and a blether – there is no charge for this. In Floyd's Café, people can also access the Foodbank, either to collect groceries to give a donation.

As a Rights Respecting School, learning about local and global issues, and promoting the rights of all children, is very important to us. Helping others is as important as ever. Floyd's Café is open every Monday. If you would like to visit for a tea or coffee, or if you would like to help by making a foodbank donation, you would be very welcome. Please see Dundonald Parish Church's Facebook page, or telephone Mrs Brennan at Dundonald Manse, for more details.

NEW 2U - DUNDONALD CLOTHING EXCHANGE

We have an excellent selection of uniforms, some Christmas jumpers and Hallowe'en costumes, 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>

FORTHCOMING EVENTS - HALLOWE'EN THEMED DAY – FRIDAY 28TH OCTOBER



This year, Friday 28th October will be a Hallowe'en Themed day in our Early Years Centre and Primary School. Children may come to school either dressed-up or dressed down in casual clothes. Children will have the opportunity to participate in Hallowe'en themed lessons, including a story-telling and drama workshop with Mildred Muddle, our friendly witch, and to create Hallowe'en themed imaginative writing, arts and crafts.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS – A SNAPSHOT

We are pleased to share that all classes will have the opportunity to visit Dundonald Castle over the course of the school year. Next term, P5 will visit the Castle to learn about The Vikings, P5/6 will visit to learn about the Wars of Independence and P3/4 will visit to learn about Myths and Legends.

Our P5 class is also looking forward to participating in Troon's famous "Day of Dance" in Troon Concert Hall on Friday 23rd November.

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**

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. Working in close partnership with parents is very important to us and we are grateful for everything you have done to help the children settle into school this term.

My sincere thanks to our staff team in Dundonald who work tirelessly to provide high quality learning and support for the children – I am grateful for all that you do.

I wish you all a relaxing October holiday.

With very best wishes,

Fiona Paterson, Head Teacher

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY AUGUST 2022 – JUNE 2023

We hope that the following list of dates is helpful in planning your family calendar.

DUNDONALD PRIMARY AND EYC: CALENDAR FOR FAMILIES SESSION 2022-23

OCTOBER 2022

P5 Swim Lessons every Thursday in October (P5 will have a break from swimming lessons during the holiday week)

Fri 14 Oct: School closes at the usual time today for the October Holiday

Mon 24 Oct: Inservice Day for staff (school closed to pupils)

Tues 25 Oct: School reopens to pupils

Tues 25 Oct until 5 Nov: P7 House/Vice Captain Election Fortnight for Term 2

Fri 28 Oct: Halloween Themed Day for children in EYC and Primary School – children may wish to come to school either dressed-up for Halloween or dressed down in casual clothes.

NOVEMBER 2022

P5 Swim Lessons each Thursday until 17th November

Mon 14 until 20 Nov: National Road Safety Week – Whole School and EYC Focus

Mon 14 until 20 Nov: National Anti-Bullying Week – Whole School and EYC Focus

Mon 14 until 20 Nov: Book Week Scotland – Whole School and EYC Focus

Wed 16 Nov: Early Years PEEP Session 1 (9.15-9.45am) *A very warm welcome is extended to families to join us – additional information will be shared in a separate letter.*

Thurs 17th Nov: Final Swim Lesson for P5

Wed 23 Nov: Early Years PEEP Session 2 (9.15-9.45am) *A very warm welcome is extended to families to join us – additional information will be shared in a separate letter.*

Wed 30 Nov: Early Years PEEP Session 3 (9.15-9.45am) *A very warm welcome is extended to families to join us – additional information will be shared in a separate letter.*

DECEMBER 2022

Fri 9 Dec: Drama and Storytelling Workshops for P1-7 classes

Fri 9 Dec: School Christmas Lunch and Christmas Jumper Day

Mon 12 – Thurs 14 Dec: P7 Residential Visit to Dolphin House (information will be shared in a separate letter)

Week beginning Mon 12 Dec: EYC Parent Appointments

Wed 14 Dec: P5/6 Christmas Party

Wed 14 Dec: P7 Christmas Party @ Dolphin House, Culzean (the party will be held in the evening with party games, dancing and party food)

Thurs 15 Dec: 9.30-10.00am Early Years Centre Family Christmas Sing-a-long. *A very warm welcome is extended to families to join us for this – additional information will be shared in a separate letter.*

Fri 16 Dec: 9.30am – 10.00am P1-4 Nativity Play: This will be led by our Primary 1 year group and accompanied by our P2-4 classes (the play will be presented by our P1 children; P2, P2/3 and P3/4 will be perform all of the songs). *A very warm welcome is extended to families to join us – additional information will be shared in a separate letter.*

Fri 16 Dec: P5 Christmas Party

Mon 19 Dec: P3/4 Christmas Party

Tues 20 Dec: P2/3 Christmas Party (morning) P1/2 Christmas Party (afternoon)

Wed 21 Dec: P1 Christmas Party (afternoon); EYC Christmas Party (morning)

Thurs 22 Dec: 9.15-10.00am Christmas Show for EYC in Games Hall; Christmas Service at Dundonald Parish Church led by P7 House and Vice Captains; 1.00-2.10pm P1-7 Pantomime - Beauty and the Beast - presented by M and M Productions (Dundonald Games Hall);

Close for Holiday at 2.30pm

JANUARY 2023

Mon 9 January: School reopens and pupils return

Mon 9 Jan until Fri 3 Feb: Scottish Culture Month – Whole School and EYC Focus on Scotland and Scottish Culture

Mon 16 until Fri 20 Jan: P7 House/Vice Captain Elections for Term 3

Fri 27 Jan: Assembly – Celebration of Scottish Poems and Scottish Stories for children in school and EYC; Burns Themed Lunch for EYC and P1-7;

FEBRUARY 2023

Mon 6 Feb until Fri 10 Feb: Children's Mental Health Week – focus on wellbeing across our EYC and Primary School classes

Tues 7 Feb: P1-7 Parent Appointments 4pm-6.30pm – a separate letter will be issued with details

Wed 8th Feb: Early Years PEEP Session 1 (9.15-9.45am) *A very warm welcome is extended to families to join us – additional information will be shared in a separate letter.*

Wed 8 Feb: Parent Appointments 4pm-6.30pm – a separate letter will be issued with details

Thurs 9 Feb: P7 Celebration of Robert Burns

Thurs 9 Feb: Close for Holiday (usual finish time)

Fri 10 and Mon 13 Feb: School Closed for February Holiday Weekend

Tues 14 Feb: Inservice Day

Wed 15 Feb: Pupils Return

Wed 15 Feb: Early Years PEEP Session 2 (9.15-9.45am) *A very warm welcome is extended to families to join us – additional information will be shared in a separate letter.*

Wed 22 Feb: Early Years PEEP Session 3 (9.15-9.45am) *A very warm welcome is extended to families to join us – additional information will be shared in a separate letter.*

MARCH 2023

Thurs 2 March: World Book Day

Week beginning Mon 21 March: EYC Parent Appointments

Fri 31 March – Easter Service Assembly at 9.30am led by P7 House and Vice Captains and Rev. Lynsey Brennan (with children from EYC to Primary 7 in Dundonald PS Games Hall);

Fri 31 March - Close for Easter Holiday at 2.30pm

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

MAY 2022

Mon 1 May: School closed for holiday

Wed 3 May: Early Years PEEP Session 1 (9.15-9.45am) *A very warm welcome is extended to families to join us – additional information will be shared in a separate letter.*

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 us – additional information will be shared in a separate letter.*

Wed 17 May: Early Years PEEP Session 3 (9.15-9.45am) *A very warm welcome is extended to families to join us – additional information will be shared in a separate letter.*

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

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)

Wed 14 June: Reserve EYC Sports 9.30-10.15am (Back-up Plan if wet previous week – families very welcome)

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

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