



# DUNDONALD PRIMARY AND EARLY YEARS CENTRE

TERM 1 NEWSLETTER: OCTOBER 2023

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SESSION 2023-2024



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)
- Early Years Parents in Early Education Partnership sessions (PEEP)
- A School Improvement update
- a Parent Council update
- news of forthcoming events.

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

## NEWS FROM OUR CLASSES – TERM ONE HIGHLIGHTS

Earlier this week, Mrs Kerr spent time speaking with each of our classes to find out what they have enjoyed learning this term. Here is what the children said.

Class	Our Learning Highlights...
Early Years Class	<p>This term, we have enjoyed learning all about different feelings and emotions through 'The Colour Monster' story.</p> <p>We have also enjoyed lots of outdoor play, building and creating their own obstacle courses and being creative with the large wooden blocks.</p>  <p>BookBug</p> <p>We had a great time playing with our families during 'Stay and Play' sessions. We love 'BookBug' story-times with Mrs Linton.</p>
Primary 1	<p>Our P1 one pupils have settled in to their class really well and have had a very busy first term. The children told Mrs Kerr that they have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✚ enjoyed writing and drawing pictures in their jotters.</li><li>✚ been learning about 'People who help us.' They especially liked learning about the jobs the Police and the Doctors do.</li><li>✚ loved learning all about numbers to 10. They like counting and writing the numbers.</li><li>✚ Learned about Autumn and took part in an Autumn Hunt round the playground – they have collected leaves to make Hedgehog pictures.</li></ul> 
Primary 2	<p>In Numeracy, our P2 pupils have been counting forwards and backward using bigger numbers; they have also been finding out about 2D shapes.</p> <p>P2 has also enjoyed writing super stories including one about rainbows. They have drawn fantastic illustrations to go with them in their writing jotters.</p> <p>P2 have enjoyed learning about the Romans. They discovered what life was like in Ancient Rome and drew pictures and made Roman style shields.</p> 

Primary 3

We have enjoyed:

- ✚ Taking our learning outdoors - we have been drawing numbers using chalk and inventing counting games to play in the playground.
- ✚ exploring numbers and starting to learn about multiplication
- ✚ learning about 'Plants' during our Science Lessons with Mrs Mitchell. We have carried out experiments to see what happened to plants if they are kept in the dark.
- ✚ Athletics at P.E. has been one of our favourites and helps us to be healthy.
- ✚ Lots of our P3 pupils have also enjoyed taking part in the Multi-sports After-school club led by Mairi, our South Ayrshire Active Schools Sports Coach.

Primary 4

We have been developing our skills in writing imaginative stories - we are working on making our stories come to life by adding descriptions which include adjectives.

In maths, we have been weighing objects using a variety of scales and balances. They enjoyed estimating how heavy an object was and then weighing it on the scales. We can recognise and use the terms kilogram and gram and they know the  $\frac{1}{2}$  kg = 500g.

We have been studying 'Charlie and the Chocolate Factory' by Roald Dahl and have loved finding out about the characters.

We designed our own chocolate bars and the packaging for them. We are proud of our class display – here it is!



Primary 5/6

Our P5/6 class has settled well into their learning and Mr Nutt says we are enthusiastic learners. We have enjoyed:

- ✚ Studying 'The Iron Man' and 'Horrid Henry' during our reading lessons. We have explored the characters and created visualisers to show our understanding of what we have read.
- ✚ Using a variety of approaches, including songs, to help us to memorise all of our multiplication facts. We also enjoy developing our mental maths skills through maths games.
- ✚ P5 swim lessons at Troon swimming pool.
- ✚ P6 Bikeability lessons with Mrs Kerr and Mr Mason.
- ✚ Challenging ourselves to be the best that we can be.



## Primary 6

Primary Six have really enjoyed their classwork this term. Their highlights have included:

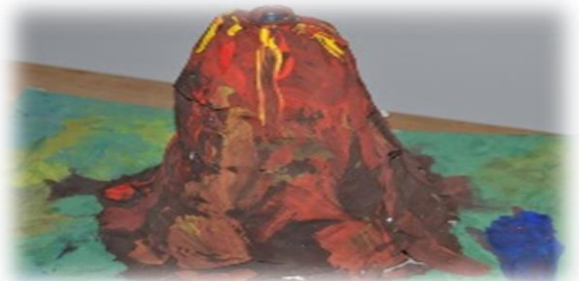
- ✚ Studying the novel, 'Friend or Foe' and learning about the different characters.
- ✚ Creating line-drawing during art lessons – we have produced some high-quality sketches inspired by Quentin Blake.
- ✚ P6 also designed some inspirational 'Leaves of Gratitude' which are on display outside Dundonald Parish Church.
- ✚ In Maths, we have explored the properties of 2D shapes and 3D objects. Our numeracy area of the classroom looks great as well and the children have created 'A working wall' full of challenges and fun activities to help with maths concepts.
- ✚ Our next steps in Numeracy for P6 will be to learn about 'Special numbers'; Prime numbers, factors and multiples.
- ✚ We are also looking forward to opportunities to participate in sports competitions as the year progresses.



## Primary 7

Our P7 pupils have taken their new roles and responsibilities in their stride.

- ✚ They have been fantastic buddies to the P1 pupils, helping them at playtime and lunchtime.
- ✚ House captain elections went well, the speeches were excellent and, as a result, we have a very deserving group of responsible pupils who are helping with a variety of jobs around the school.
- ✚ P7 also took part in Bikeability this term and have completed Level 1. They learned how to check that their bike is safe to ride and practised a variety of manoeuvres in the playground including checking all around for danger and starting 'Pedal ready'.
- ✚ In science, P7 have enjoyed learning about different types of rock and natural disasters. They have created their own volcanoes – These are due to erupt before the October break.



## 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 our Stay and Play Sessions in October – the children loved working together with staff and family members; the PEEP 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 Friday 15th 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:** David Hodge

**Secretary:** Sam Anderson

At our meeting, we also discussed projects for the year ahead, the first of which will be our Dundonald Christmas Fayre. This event is always popular with children and families – a 'Festive Bulletin' will be shared in November with more details.

All of the funds raised by our Parent Council 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; to fund the Christmas Pantomime and to pay for school buses for class outings.

## SPOTLIGHT ON SCHOOL AND EARLY YEARS IMPROVEMENT



**Improving Literacy:** We are working hard to achieve 'Scottish Book Trust Reading School' accreditation for our school and early years centre. Earlier this term, children were invited to put themselves forward to join our Reading Leadership Committee. The Committee has

now been formed and they have named themselves the 'Tall Tales Committee'. Our next step is to refresh all of our class libraries - each class, from Early Years to P7, will decide which books they would like to purchase and news books will be ordered. We will also organise storytelling events for each of our classes to participate in during Scottish Book Week, which is week beginning 13<sup>th</sup> November.

A full version and summary version of our School Improvement Plan for Dundonald Primary School and Early Years Centre can be found on our website or by clicking here: [Dundonald Primary and EYC Improvement Plan 2023-24](#)

## PARENTS' APPOINTMENTS – THURSDAY 12<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2023

Our Parent Appointments took place on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> October 2023 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.

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS - HALLOWE'EN THEMED DAY – FRIDAY 27<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER



This year, Friday 27<sup>th</sup> October will be a Halloween 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 Halloween themed literacy and art and craft lessons in the morning. In the afternoon, we look forward to hosting our "Dundonald's Got Halloween Talent Show".

## EMERGENCY CONTACTS, MEDICAL CONDITIONS AND EMAIL ADDRESSES



Please may I highlight the importance of school having up-to-date contact details and medical details for each child?

**If any of your contact details change please notify the office as soon as possible.**

## P.E. AND DAILY MILE (PRIMARY 1 – 7 CLASSES)

All classes in the school will have three P.E. lessons each week. Classes will go outdoors to walk (run or jog) for a mile, in our playground, on the days that they don't have a P.E. lesson.

### P.E. kit:

Please may we ask that children bring the following PE kit to school on their PE days? Alternatively, you may wish to provide your child with a PE kit to keep in school.

- ✓ Shorts, leggings or tracksuit bottoms
- ✓ school polo shirt (or t-shirt) – children can come dressed in this
- ✓ gym shoes/plimsoles/trainers



**P.E. Safety - Jewellery and Earrings:** Children should not come to school wearing jewellery as this can be lost when children take it off and on. Where pupils have pierced ears, earrings must be removed for P.E; if it is not possible for earrings to be removed, we ask that children come to school with their earrings covered with micro-pore tape.

### P.E. days:

P1: Wednesday, Thursday, Friday	P2: Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday	P3: Monday, Wednesday, Friday
P4: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday	P5/6: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday	P6: Tuesday, Thursday, Friday
P7S: Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday		

## WATER BOTTLES – IMPORTANCE OF HYDRATION

Children in Primary 1-7 are encouraged to bring a water bottle filled with water to school each day. Should children require to refill their water bottles, a water cooler is available in our central corridor. Please may we ask that bottles are labelled with a permanent marker, such as a sharpie pen, or that they have some type of distinguishing label?



We have individual cups for our children in the early years centre. Alternatively, children in early years are also welcome to bring a water bottle of their own.

## 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. 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

## DUNDONALD PRIMARY AND EYC: CALENDAR FOR FAMILIES - SESSION 2023-24

We hope that the following information is helpful when planning your family calendar.

### OCTOBER 2023

Date	Who?	Activity
Fri 13 Oct	Children	Harvest Assembly in school for children and staff 'One World Picnic' at morning break (children are invited to bring a 'One World' picnic snack, such as a fairtrade product, a Rainforest Alliance product or a snack in a re-usable container such as sliced fruit for morning break)
Fri 13 Oct	Everyone	School and EYC closes for holiday at usual time (3pm)
Mon 23 Oct	Everyone	In-Service Day for Staff – School and EYC closed to pupils
Tues 24 Oct	Everyone	School and EYC reopens to pupils
Tues 24 <sup>th</sup> and 31 <sup>st</sup> October	P5	Swim Lessons at Troon Pool
Tues 24 Oct until 3 Nov	Primary School	P7 House/Vice Captain Election Fortnight for Term 2
Fri 27 Oct	Children – EYC and Primary School	Halloween Themed Day: Children are welcome to dress-up for Halloween or to dress down (no masks or toy weapons, please – some children find masks to be frightening and accessories are often lost). Afternoon: Dundonald's Got Halloween Talent Show

### NOVEMBER 2023

Date	Who?	Activity
Wed 1 Nov	Parents and Children – Early Years Centre (3 Groups)	EYC Visit to Dundonald Woods (3 groups – Red Group, Blue Group, Green Group) A very warm welcome is extended to families to join us – additional information will be shared in a separate letter.
Fri 3 Nov	Parents	Parent Council Meeting 2-3pm in Dundonald Primary A very warm welcome is extended to all families to join us.
Tues 7 Nov	P5	Swim lessons at Troon Pool
Wed 8 Nov	Parents and Children – Early Years Centre (3 Groups)	EYC Visit to Dundonald Woods (3 groups – Yellow Group, Orange Group, Purple Group) A very warm welcome is extended to families to join us – additional information will be shared in a separate letter.
Fri 10 Nov	Primary School Children	P1-7 Assembly Focus on Remembrance
Mon 13 Nov - Thurs 16 Nov	Primary 7	P7 Residential Visit to Dolphin House
Mon 13 Nov until Fri 17 Nov	EYC and Primary School Children	National Anti-Bullying Week – Whole School and EYC Focus
Fri 17 Nov	EYC and Primary School Children	RRS Focus on World Children's Day and Children in Need
Fri 17 Nov	P1 – P6 children	Flu Immunisations in school for those who have parental consent
Mon 13 until 20 Nov	EYC and Primary School Children	Book Week Scotland – Whole School and EYC Focus
Wed 15 Nov 9.15-9.45am	Parents and Children – Early Years Centre	Early Years PEEP (Parents in Early Education Partnership) Session 1 - Bookbug Focus. A very warm welcome is extended to families to join us – additional information will be shared in a separate letter.
Mon 20 until 27 Nov	EYC and Primary School Children	National Road Safety Week – Whole School and EYC Focus
Wed 22 Nov 9.15-9.45am	Parents and Children – Early Years Centre	Early Years PEEP (Parents in Early Education Partnership) Session 2 - Bookbug Focus. A very warm welcome is extended to families to join us – additional information will be shared in a separate letter.
Fri 24 Nov	P7	P7 Cluster Debating Competition @ Marr College
Tues 28 Nov	P7	P7 Flu Immunisations
Wed 29 Nov	Parents and Children – Early Years Centre	Early Years PEEP Session 3 – Focus on arts and crafts A very warm welcome is extended to families to join us – additional information will be shared in a separate letter.

### DECEMBER 2023

Date	Who?	Activity
Fri 8 Dec	EYC and Primary School Children	School and EYC Christmas Lunch and Christmas Jumper Day
Sat 9 Dec	Everyone – children, families and local community	Dundonald Christmas Fayre – additional details will be shared in a separate letter
Mon 11 Dec – Fri 15 Dec	Parents – Early Years Centre	Early Years Centre - Parent Meetings (either in person or via telephone) - Personal Learning and Care Plans
Thurs 14 Dec 9.30-10.00am	EYC children and families	Early Years Centre Family Christmas Sing-a-long. A very warm welcome is extended to families to join us – additional information will be shared in a separate letter.



Fri 15 Dec: 9.30-10.00am	Children and families	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, P3 and P4 will perform all of the songs). <i>A very warm welcome is extended to families to join us – additional information will be shared in a separate letter.</i>
Fri 15 Dec	P7	P7 Transition Visit to Marr College – 'Walkabout' Tour of Marr College
Fri 15 Dec	P5/6 & P6	P5/6 and P6 joint Christmas Party (afternoon)
Mon 18 Dec	P7	P7 Christmas Party (afternoon)
Tues 19 Dec	P1, P2, P3 and P4	P3 & P4 Joint Christmas Party (morning); P1 and P2 Joint Christmas Party (afternoon)
Wed 20 Dec	EYC	EYC Christmas Party (morning)
Thurs 21 Dec 9.30-10.00am	EYC children and families	Christmas Show for EYC in Gym Hall (Moxie Kids Entertainment) <i>A very warm welcome is extended to EYC families to join us – additional information will be shared in a separate letter.</i>
Thurs 21 Dec: 1.15-2.35pm	P1-7 children	Pantomime – Snow White - presented by M and M Productions
Fri 22 Dec 9.45-10.15am	Everyone – EYC and Primary School - children and families	Christmas Service at Dundonald Parish Church led by P7 House and Vice Captains
Fri 22 Dec	Everyone – EYC and Primary School - children and families	Close for Holiday

### JANUARY 2024

Date	Who?	Activity
Mon 8 Jan	Everyone	School reopens and pupils return
Mon 8 Jan until Fri 2 Feb	Children – EYC and Primary School	Scottish Culture Month – Whole School and EYC Focus on Scotland and Scottish Culture
Mon 15 until Fri 19 Jan	Primary School Children	P7 House/Vice Captain Elections for Term 3
Fri 19 Jan	Parents	Parent Council Meeting 2-3pm in Dundonald Primary <i>A very warm welcome is extended to all families to join us.</i>

### FEBRUARY 2024

Date	Who?	Activity
Fri 2 Feb	Children – EYC and Primary School	1.45pm Celebration of Learning – Scottish Culture & Scots Verse – In School with EYC and P1-7 children
Mon 5 Feb until Fri 9 Feb	Everyone	Children's Mental Health Week
Wed 7 Feb 9.15-9.45am	EYC Parents and Children	PEEP Session 1 (Bookbug – Stories and Rhymes) <i>A very warm welcome is extended to families to join us – additional information will be shared in a separate letter.</i>
Thurs 8 Feb	Parents – EYC and Primary School	Parent Appointments for EYC and Primary School – includes EYC Personal Learning and Care Plans (3.30-6pm; 6.30-9.00pm)
Fri 9 Feb	P7 children	P7 Celebration of Robert Burns (Burns Supper Afternoon)
Fri 9 Feb	Everyone	Close for Holiday (usual finish time)
Mon 12 Feb	Everyone	School and EYC Closed for February Holiday Weekend
Tues 13 Feb	Everyone	School and EYC closed to children. In-Service day for staff.
Wed 14 Feb	Everyone	School and EYC re-opens to children
Wed 14 Feb	EYC and Primary School Children	Launch of Creative Writing Project "Igniting the Writing" (Whole school and Early Years focus)
Wed 14 Feb 9.15-9.45am	EYC Parents and Children	Early Years PEEP Session 2 - Numeracy Games and Activities <i>A very warm welcome is extended to families to join us – additional information will be shared in a separate letter.</i>
Wed 21 Feb	EYC Parents and Children	Early Years Stay and Play Session 1 (Red Group, Blue Group, Green Group) <i>A very warm welcome is extended to families to join us – additional information will be shared in a separate letter.</i>
Wed 28 Feb	EYC Parents and Children	Early Years Stay and Play Session 2 (Yellow Group, Purple Group, Orange Group) <i>A very warm welcome is extended to families to join us – additional information will be shared in a separate letter.</i>

**MARCH 2024**

Date	Who?	Activity
Tues 5 March	P7 Parents	P7 Welcome Evening at Marr College
Thurs 7 March	Children – EYC and Primary School	World Book Day – Whole School and EYC Focus
Tuesday 12 March 9.30am–12.00pm	P7 children	Marr Cluster STEM & Maths Challenge @ Marr College
Thurs 28 March	EYC and Primary School children	Easter Service at 9.30am led by P7 House and Vice Captains and Rev. Lynsey Brennan (Dundonald PS);
Thurs 28 March	Everyone	Close for Easter Holiday

**APRIL 2024**

Date	Who?	Activity
Mon 15 April	Everyone	School and EYC reopens and children return
Mon 22 April until Fri 26 April	Primary school children	P7 House/Vice Captain Elections for Term 4
Fri 26 April	Parents	Parent Council Meeting 2-3pm in Dundonald Primary <i>A very warm welcome is extended to all families to join us.</i>

**MAY 2024**

Date	Who?	Activity
Wed 1 May	EYC parents and children	Early Years PEEP (Parents in Early Education Partnership) Session 1 <i>A very warm welcome is extended to families to join us – additional information will be shared in a separate letter</i>
Thurs 2 May	Everyone	School and EYC closed to children. In-Service day for staff.
Fri 3 May until Fri 14 June	P5-7 children	'Songs from the Musicals' focus during Expressive Arts lessons in preparation for our P5-7 Musical Showcase on Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> June
Mon 6 May	Everyone	School and EYC closed for holiday
Wed 8 May 9.15-9.45am	EYC parents and children	Early Years PEEP (Parents in Early Education Partnership) Session 2 <i>A very warm welcome is extended to families to join us – additional information will be shared in a separate letter</i>
Tuesday 14 <sup>th</sup> May	P7 parents	Marr Cluster Family Learning Evening 5:30pm – 7:30pm @ Marr College
Wed 15 <sup>th</sup> May	Parents and Children – Early Years Centre (3 Groups)	EYC Visit to Dundonald Woods (3 groups – Red Group, Blue Group, Green Group) <i>A very warm welcome is extended to families to join us – additional information will be shared in a separate letter.</i>
Friday 17 May	P6 children	Marr Cluster P6 Transition Event: DYW Careers and Modern Languages Event
Wed 22 May	Parents and Children – Early Years Centre (3 Groups)	EYC Visit to Dundonald Woods (3 groups – Yellow Group, Orange Group, Purple Group) <i>A very warm welcome is extended to families to join us – additional information will be shared in a separate letter.</i>
Thurs 23 May	New P1 Parents	Welcome and Information Meeting for New P1 Families 9.15am-10.00am
Fri 24 May	Everyone	School and EYC Closed for Holiday
Mon 27 May	Everyone	School and EYC Closed for Holiday
Tues 28 May	Everyone	School and EYC Re-opens
Fri 31 May	Primary School children and parents	School Sports 1.45-2.45pm (Weather Permitting – Plan A) <i>A very warm welcome is extended to families to join us – additional information will be shared in a separate letter.</i>

**JUNE 2024**

Date	Who?	Activity
Tue 4 June	New P1 children (current pre-school children)	9.20am until 10.00am – New P1 pupils visiting P1 class
Thurs 6 June	EYC and Primary School parents	Parent Appointments for Families
Fri 7 June	EYC children and parents	EYC Sports 9.30-10.15am (Weather Permitting – Plan A) <i>A very warm welcome is extended to families to join us – additional information will be shared in a separate letter.</i>
Fri 7 June	Primary School children and parents	Reserve School Sports 1.45-2.45pm (Back-up Plan if wet previous week) <i>A very warm welcome is extended to families to join us – additional information will be shared in a separate letter.</i>
Tues 11 June: 9.20-10.20am	New P1 children (current pre-school children)	New P1 pupils – Transition Visit to P1
Tues 11 June	P7	P7 Transition Day at Marr College
Wed 12 June	EYC Pre-School Children and P1-6	School 'Bump-up' morning (children spend time learning in their 'new' class for Session 2024-25)
Wed 12 June	P7	P7 Transition Day at Marr College
Fri 14 June	P5-7 children and parents	P5-7 Musical Showcase

9.30-10.00am		
Fri 21 June 9.30-10.00am	EYC children and parents	EYC Graduation (9.30-10.00am) followed by EYC Family Fun morning (11.20am-12.20pm)
Thurs 27 June	EYC and Primary School children and parents	Summer Service and P7 Moving on Ceremony at Dundonald Parish Church 9.45am
Fri 28 June	Everyone	School Closes for Holiday this afternoon