



DUNDONALD PRIMARY AND EARLY YEARS CENTRE

TERM 2 NEWSLETTER: DECEMBER 2023

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SESSION 2023-2024



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

DECEMBER NEWSLETTER

We are delighted to share news of our second 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)
- School Improvement update
- Christmas Fayre news
- Registration for P1
- News of forthcoming events.

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

NEWS FROM OUR CLASSES – TERM 2 HIGHLIGHTS

Last week, our P7 House and Vice captains 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>Children in the Early Years Centre have loved learning about Science this term. They have taken part in Science experiments and have made bath bombs, snow and have mixed colours. They also worked very hard to learn some Christmas songs which they shared at their 'Early Years Family Sing-a-Long.' The children also had a great time sledging in the EYC when there was some snow at the beginning of December.</p> <p>Our Early Years children are hoping for more snow in the Christmas holiday!</p>
Primary 1	<p>P1 have had a busy and hard-working term. Some of the things P1 have enjoyed most were: dressing up in costumes and performing the 'Twinkly Nativity' for everyone; dancing at their Christmas party and playing with the cars and ramps.</p> <p>They are looking forward to spending time with their families during the holidays.</p>
Primary 2	<p>P2 are getting into the festive spirit and looking forward to their holiday too. They have packed a lot into this term. They have been learning new sounds, writing and illustrating incredible stories - please ask P2 to tell you about the stories they wrote about how they would help Santa get out of the chimney! P2 also enjoyed learning about The Earth and of course having fun with their friends.</p> <p>They are looking forward to playing with their toys in the holidays.</p>
Primary 3	<p>P3 loved playing in the snow and this has helped to make them feel Christmassy. They have enjoyed learning some new dances during their Expressive Arts lessons to try at their party. They would like you to ask them what they have been learning in French (they will be able to tell you about colours, numbers days of the week and months of the year).</p> <p>They are looking forward to a Christmas dinner and some sweets in the holidays!</p>

Primary 4	<p>P4 have made great progress with Literacy and Numeracy this term and have really enjoyed writing stories in their 'Taught Writing' lessons. They have been applying their knowledge of grammar to ensure their stories are the best that they can be. They have been learning about the 'Human Body' during Science lessons.</p> <p>They are hoping for a white Christmas this year.</p>
Primary 5/6	<p>P5/6 had an excellent morning at Dundonald Castle where they learned about the Scottish Wars of Independence. P5/6 have also enjoyed all of the activities that have been held in school in the run up to Christmas. They have joined in with the social dancing with great enthusiasm and really enjoyed the school Christmas lunch. They loved making crafts for the Fayre, enjoyed helping the Parent Council to set up the hall and then worked on the stalls to sell what they had made. Another highlight was the school Football Team winning some of their games and the Choir performances.</p> <p>P5/6 are looking forward to swapping gifts with their friends and families in the holidays.</p>
Primary 6	<p>P6 have also packed a huge amount into this term. They love to be busy and active. They have really enjoyed participating in Social Dancing and like it when they joined up with P5/6 and P7 to have a joint dance practice. They impressed everyone with how well they supported the younger children (P1 and P2) when the P7s were at Dolphin House – this is a taste of what is to come when they move into P7 next year. P6 have read different novels this term and - in addition to working on their own reading skills in their classroom - they have also joined together with P2 where they have shared stories with their reading buddies. P6 enjoyed learning about Space and the Solar System in Science.</p> <p>In the holidays, P6 would like to spend time with their friends.</p>
Primary 7	<p>P7 have made the most of every moment in school and at Dolphin House this term. They have achieved their John Muir Award (this award encourages awareness and responsibility for the natural environment). The P7 Team won the Marr Cluster debating competition which took place at Marr college and some of our P7s have also played for the school football team, showing good sportsmanship and enjoying some successful matches. In science they have explored a variety of reversible and irreversible reactions and have learned how to carry out experiments. They are really enjoying their class novel and have learned how to play a game called 'Capture the Flag', which features in the book. They are looking forward to leading the Christmas Service at Dundonald Parish Church.</p> <p>P7 want to make popcorn and waffles and watch some Christmas Movies in the holidays.</p>

CHRISTMAS FAYRE: SATURDAY 9TH DECEMBER 2023

Our Christmas Fayre was a resounding success and included: wonderful festive singing from our P5-7 Choir; teas, coffees and sweet treats; Christmas crafts handmade by all of our children; Christmas Hampers; Raffles and Tombolas!

We are exceedingly grateful to everyone who supported the Fayre by donating Hamper items, Raffle prizes, Pre-loved Toys, Books, Chocolates and by coming along to visit our Fayre on the day.

We would also like to say a very special thank you to our Parent Council, to our staff and to our P6 and P7 pupils for their tremendous help in organising, setting up and running the Fayre. It was without doubt a wonderful community event and only made possible by the genuine team effort.

A total of **£1126** was raised on the day, which was incredible. All money raised benefits each and every child in the school and will fund the Christmas Pantomime for P1-7 and the Early Years Centre Christmas Show.

SPOTLIGHT ON SCHOOL AND EARLY YEARS IMPROVEMENT

Our improvement plan for this school year focuses on three key priorities:

- ✓ Raising attainment in literacy
- ✓ Raising attainment in numeracy
- ✓ Improving children's health and wellbeing

Our improvement plan has been published on our school website and is available under the heading of 'Our School' (here is the electronic link: [Dundonald Primary and EYC Improvement Plan 2023-24](#))

Our staff team participated in a wide range of professional learning on the in-service day at the beginning of this term which was focused on raising attainment in literacy and numeracy:

- Early Years staff and our primary teachers engaged in a 'South Ayrshire Learns' conference
- Our support staff were trained in the South Ayrshire Reads approach and engaged in nurture training
- Teaching staff also explored the key features of high-quality feedback to learners.

KEEPING IN TOUCH

We value parents and our families as vital partners in our children's learning, teaching and education ~ good communication and regular sharing of information is key to this partnership.

Communication from School: Groupcall Xpressions



We use an online App - called Groupcall - to share important updates and school letters with you. Groupcall is also used by Marr College, our associated Secondary School. If you have any questions about Xpressions, please do not hesitate to get in touch. We have created a 'step-by-step' guide to installing Groupcall Xpressions which is on our website – it can also be found by clicking here: [Step-by-Step Guide to Installing Groupcall Xpressions](#)



Email: If you haven't downloaded our Groupcall Xpressions app, messages and letters will be sent to you via email. Please may we ask that you check your email box regularly for school and early years updates? Many thanks.

Friends of Dundonald Primary and EYC Facebook Page:



Our Parent Council also runs a popular Facebook page called 'Friends of Dundonald Primary'. They make use of the page to remind families of school diary dates – parents and carers have shared that they find this particularly useful.

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.

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>

PRIMARY 1 REGISTRATION FOR SESSION 2024-25

P1 Registration (for children whose 5th birthday is between 1st March '24 and 28th Feb '25) will take place online between Monday 15th and Friday 19th Jan 2023. We will send you the link to the online Registration form once it is available. You will need your Council Tax Notice **and** a Utility Bill to complete the form. You can request a Council Tax statement from South Ayrshire by phoning 0300 123 0900 (this usually takes a few weeks to arrive). Utility companies will also provide an electronic/paper statement on request. If you have any questions, please contact the school.

HOLIDAYS

On Friday 22nd December, schools across South Ayrshire close for the holiday at 2.30pm. Parents and carers with children in Early Years are welcome to collect children at 2.30pm, as we understand that many of the children have siblings/family members in EYC. Early Years Centres remain open until 3pm.

As always, I am grateful to you - our families – for supporting us throughout the term. Your help is invaluable and very much appreciated.

Also, please may I take this opportunity to say a most sincere and heartfelt thanks to all of our staff who are unswerving in their dedication to providing high quality learning experiences for all of the children. I am forever in your debt.

I wish all of our children, families and staff a peaceful and enjoyable festive season.

Many thanks and 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.

DECEMBER 2023

Thurs 21 Dec 9.30-10.00am	EYC children and families	Christmas Show for EYC in Gym Hall (Moxie Kids Entertainment) 9.30-10am <i>A very warm welcome is extended to EYC families to join us if you can – 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 th 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 th May	P7 parents	Marr Cluster Family Learning Evening 5:30pm – 7:30pm @ Marr College
Wed 15 th 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 9.30-10.00am	P5-7 children and parents	P5-7 Musical Showcase
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