



DUNDONALD PRIMARY AND EARLY YEARS CENTRE

TERM 1 NEWSLETTER: OCTOBER 2024

.....
SESSION 2024-2025

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:

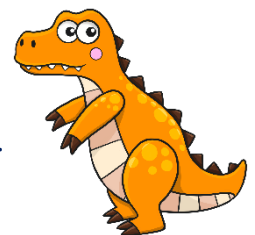
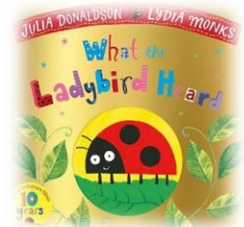
- news from each of our classes (from Early Years to Primary 7)
- Early Years Parents in Early Education Partnership sessions (PEEP)
- a School Improvement update
- a Parent Council update
- news of forthcoming events.

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>The children are really enjoying the range of activities that are on offer in the EYC.</p> <p>Their highlights this term have included;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• A visit from the Fire Engine and the opportunity to sound the siren and skooosh the hose.• Reading the book 'Supertato' and dressing up as their favourite superheroes.• Harvesting the vegetables we planted in the EYC last spring and playing outdoors.
Primary 1	<p>Our P1 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 been:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• learning about Autumn and going on a nature hunt around the school grounds where they found hazelnuts, acorns and brambles.• learning sounds and listening to stories. Their favourite book was 'What the ladybird heard' by Julia Donaldson.• Counting to 10 and beyond• Painting pictures of ladybirds and using their fingers to paint the dots on their shell.
Primary 2	<p>Primary 2 have been very busy this term and there have been lots of highlights. We would like to tell you that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• In Numeracy, our P2 pupils have been counting forwards and backward using bigger numbers; they have also been finding out about 2D shapes.• P2 has also enjoyed writing super stories including one about rainbows. They have drawn fantastic illustrations to go with them in their writing jotters.• P2 have enjoyed learning about Dinosaurs. They have painted some super dinosaur pictures and they have also labelled the parts of a Tyrannosaurus Rex using words like, claws, tail and teeth.



Primary 3

P3 have a lovely big classroom in the middle of the main open area with lots of space to show off their fabulous artwork.

We have enjoyed:

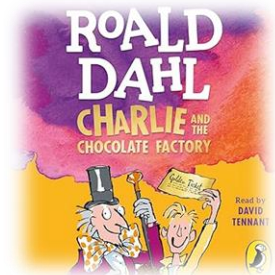
- Exploring and learning about 2D shapes and 3D objects.
- Reading 'The Lighthouse Keeper's Lunch' and transforming our classroom into a seaside wonderland complete with seagulls and a lighthouse. They also enjoyed writing instructions for 'How to Make Good Sandwiches'.
- Completing calculations involving addition, subtraction and times tables facts.



Primary 4

Primary four have been busy in their classroom. Some of their highlights from term one have been...

- studying 'Charlie and the Chocolate Factory' by Roald Dahl and have loved finding out about the characters.
- Designing our own chocolate bars and the packaging for them. We are proud of our class display.
- Playing Warm-up games and improving our football skills in P.E.
- Using the laptops during ICT time to research information, play games to consolidate our number facts and to improve our typing skills.






Primary 5

Primary 5 are working very hard. They love to be active and have had plenty of opportunities to keep fit this term. They have particularly enjoyed:

- Swimming lessons on Tuesday mornings at Troon pool.
- Participating in the South Ayrshire School Cross Country Competition (and bringing home the Small Schools Trophy, as the overall winners).
- Reading their novel 'Cool'.
- Mastering division in numeracy.



Primary 6/7	<p>Primary 6/7 have really enjoyed their classwork this term. Their highlights have included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Their science topic all about Flight. • This was brought to life when one of our parents came in to tell the children all about his job in the aviation industry. • Basketball during P.E. times. • Their novel, which is called 'Wonder'. It has given us lots to think about and discuss. • Cross Country running at Rozelle Park. 
Primary 7	<p>Our P7 pupils have taken their new roles and responsibilities in their stride.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. • In literacy, P7 have been preparing for the Marr P7 debating competition and this has been going well. They are also enjoying their Novels, 'A kind of spark' and Coraline. • They were involved in 'Dig-in-Dundonald' The archaeological dig at Dundonald Castle • Congratulations to P7 for helping Dundonald to win the overall shield for small schools at South Ayrshire's Cross Country Running competition – one of our P7 pupils won the overall boys race which was fantastic!  

PARENT COUNCIL ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Our Parent Council Annual General Meeting took place in school on Friday 27th 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:



Across our school and early years centre, we are continuing to raise attainment in reading through implementation of the research based approaches recommended by South Ayrshire reads. This includes a focus on: phonics, phonological awareness, reading fluency, vocabulary, comprehension and reading for enjoyment.

Last session, we worked hard to achieve a 'Scottish Book Trust Reading Schools' award. Our aim is to progress this further by striving for 'Scottish Book Trust Reading School Silver Level' accreditation for our school and early years centre.

Improving Numeracy:

This session, our focus is on improving numeracy through helping the children to develop their understanding of number and fluency with numbers. Children in P4-7 will have opportunities to practise their multiplication tables through a variety of approaches, including a new website called 'Times Tables Rock Stars'.

Improving Attendance – Every Learner Every Day



In Dundonald, we know that going to school is a great way to prepare children and young people for the future. We are promoting South Ayrshire's '**Every Learner, Every Day**' campaign to highlight the benefits of going to school and the importance of good attendance.

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 2024-25](#)

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.

PARENTS' APPOINTMENTS – WEDNESDAY 9TH OCTOBER 2024

Our Parent Appointments took place on Wednesday 9th October 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 – THURSDAY 31ST OCTOBER



This year, Thursday 31st 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. Our 'Novel Narrators' Reading Leadership Group have organised 'Room on the Broom' and Halloween poetry activities for classes. Our pupils have requested that we host a "Dundonald's Got Halloween Talent Show" in the afternoon and we are looking forward to this already!

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)

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. days:

P1: Monday, Wednesday, Friday	P2: Wednesday, Thursday, Friday	P3: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday
P4: Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday	P5: Monday, Tuesday (swimming), Thursday	P6/7: Tuesday, Thursday, Friday
P7: Tuesday, Thursday, Friday		

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 this term?

My heartfelt thanks go also to our staff team in Dundonald who are dedicated to doing their very best for the children every day.

I wish you all a relaxing October holiday.

With very best wishes,

Fiona Paterson, Head Teacher

DUNDONALD PRIMARY AND EYC: CALENDAR FOR FAMILIES - SESSION 2024-25

EYC drop-off between 8.45am-9.00am; pick-up between 2.45-3.00pm. Primary School starts at 9am and finishes at 3pm (soft start for P1 and P2 from 8.55am).

OCTOBER 2024

Date	Who?	Activity
Fri 11 Oct	Children	Harvest Assembly in school for children and staff
Fri 11 Oct	Everyone	School and EYC closes for holiday at usual time (3pm)
Mon 21 Oct	Everyone	In-Service Day for Staff – School and EYC closed to pupils
Tues 22 Oct	Everyone	School and EYC reopens to pupils
Tues 22 Oct until 1 Nov	Primary School	P7 House/Vice Captain Election Fortnight for Term 2
Thurs 24 Nov	P1-P7 children	Flu Immunisations for P1-P7: Consent Forms have been sent out on behalf of the NHS – please return these to the main office and we will pass them on
Thurs 31 Oct	Children – EYC and Primary School	Halloween Themed Day – Dundonald's Got Halloween Talent Show in the afternoon (presented by P1-P7 children – auditions will be held earlier in the week)

NOVEMBER 2024

Date	Who?	Activity
Tues 5 Nov	P5	Swim lessons at Troon Pool (lesson 10 of 10 – final week)
Fri 8 Nov	Primary School Children	P1-7 Assembly Focus on Remembrance
Fri 8 Nov	P7 – Debate Finalists	Finalists from Dundonald PS Debate Competition to represent Dundonald Primary at Marr Cluster Debate Challenge in Marr College 9.30-11.30am
Mon 11 Nov until Fri 15 Nov	EYC and Primary School Children	National Anti-Bullying Week – Whole School and EYC Focus
Fri 15 Nov	EYC and Primary School Children	Rights Respecting School Focus on World Children's Day and Children in Need
Mon 18 until 22 Nov	EYC and Primary School Children	Book Week Scotland – Whole School and EYC Focus – Gifting of Bookbug Book Bags for EYC and P1 and Read, Write Count Bags for P2 & P3
Mon 18 until 27 Nov	EYC and Primary School Children	National Road Safety Week – Whole School and EYC Focus
Tues 19 Nov	P7 Parents and Carers	Marr College Welcome Evening for P7 Parents
Fri 22 Nov 9.15-9.45am	Parents and Children – Early Years Centre	Early Years PEEP (Parents in Early Education Partnership) Session 1 - Bookbug Focus. <i>A very warm welcome is extended to families to join us – additional information will be shared in a separate letter.</i>
Wed 27 Nov	Parents and Children – Early Years Centre	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>
Fri 29 Nov 9.15-9.45am	Parents and Children – Early Years Centre	Early Years PEEP (Parents in Early Education Partnership) Session 2 - Bookbug Focus. <i>A very warm welcome is extended to families to join us – additional information will be shared in a separate letter.</i>

DECEMBER 2024

Date	Who?	Activity
Mon 2 Dec – Thurs 5 Dec	P7 – Dolphin House Group 1	P7 Residential Visit to Dolphin House
Tues 3 Dec	P7 Families	P7 Welcome Evening at Marr College (provisional date – to be confirmed)
Wed 4 Dec	Parents and Children – Early Years Centre	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>
Mon 9 Dec – Thurs 12 Dec	P7 – Dolphin House Group 2	P7 Residential Visit to Dolphin House
Sat 7 Dec	Everyone – children, families and local community	Dundonald Christmas Fayre (12.30pm – 2.00pm in Dundonald Games Hall)
Mon 9 Dec – Fri 13 Dec	Parents – Early Years Centre	Early Years Centre - Parent Meetings - Personal Learning and Care Plans
Thurs 12 Dec	EYC and Primary School Children	School and EYC Christmas Lunch and Christmas Jumper Day
Thurs 12 Dec 9.30-10.00am	EYC children and families	Early Years Centre Family Christmas Sing-a-long. <i>A very warm welcome is extended to families to join us – additional information will be shared in a separate letter.</i>
Fri 13 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 13 Dec	P4 & P5	P4 and P5 Joint Christmas Party (afternoon)

Mon 16 Dec	P7	P7 Transition Visit to Marr College – ‘Walkabout’ Tour of Marr College
Mon 16 Dec	P3	P3 Christmas Party (afternoon)
Tues 17 Dec	P1 & P2	P1 and P2 Joint Christmas Party (afternoon)
Wed 18 Dec	EYC; P6 and P7	EYC Christmas Party (morning); P6 & P7 joint party (afternoon)
Thurs 19 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 19 Dec 1.30pm-2.45pm	P1-P7 children	Pantomime – Cinderella - presented by M and M Productions
Fri 20 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 20 Dec	Everyone – EYC and Primary School - children and families	Schools across South Ayrshire close for holiday at 2.30pm <i>A very warm welcome is extended to all families to join us – additional information will be shared in a separate letter.</i>

JANUARY 2025

Date	Who?	Activity
Mon 6 Jan	Everyone	School reopens and pupils return
Mon 6 Jan until Fri 31 Jan	Children – EYC and Primary School	Scottish Culture Month – Whole School and EYC Focus on Scotland and Scottish Culture
Mon 13 until Fri 17 Jan	Primary School Children	P7 House/Vice Captain Elections for Term 3
Fri 31 Jan	Children – EYC and Primary School (early lunch for P5-7 12.40-1.25pm)	1.30pm Celebration of Learning – Scottish Culture & Scots Verse – In School with EYC and P1-7 children

FEBRUARY 2025

Date	Who?	Activity
Mon 3 Feb until Fri 9 Feb	Everyone	Children's Mental Health Week
Thurs 6 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 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>
Fri 7 Feb	P6 and P7 children	Celebration of Robert Burns (Burns Supper Afternoon)
Fri 7 Feb	Everyone	Close for Holiday (usual finish time)
Mon 10 Feb	Everyone	School and EYC Closed for February Holiday Weekend
Tues 11 Feb	Everyone	School and EYC closed to children. In-Service day for staff.
Wed 12 Feb	Everyone	School and EYC re-opens to children
Fri 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 19 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 26 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 2025

Date	Who?	Activity
Mon 3 March	EYC and Primary School Children	Launch of Creative Writing Project “Igniting the Writing” (Whole school and Early Years focus)
Thurs 6 March	Children – EYC and Primary School	World Book Day – Whole School and EYC Focus
Fri 7 March	P7	Rotary Quiz for P7 (via Teams – Marr Cluster Schools)
Tuesday 12 March 9.30am–12.00pm	P7 children	Marr Cluster STEM & Maths Challenge @ Marr College

APRIL 2025

Date	Who?	Activity
Fri 4 April	EYC and Primary School children	Easter Service at 9.30am led by P7 House and Vice Captains in Dundonald Primary School
Fri 4 April	Everyone	Close for Easter Holiday – Schools across South Ayrshire close at 2.30pm
Mon 21 April	Everyone	School and EYC reopens and children return
Mon 28 April until Fri 2 May	Primary school children	P7 House/Vice Captain Elections for Term 4
Tues 29 April until Tues 10 June	P5-7 children	'Songs from the Musicals' focus during Expressive Arts lessons in preparation for our P5-7 Musical Showcase on Tues 17 June

MAY 2025

Date	Who?	Activity
Mon 5 May	Everyone	School and EYC closed for holiday
Fri 9 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>
Tues 13 May	P7 Families	Information Evening at Marr College (provisional date - to be confirmed)
Fri 16 May	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>
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 22 May	New P1 Parents	Welcome and Information Meeting for New P1 Families 4pm-4.45pm
Friday 23 May	P6 children	Marr Cluster P6 Transition Event: DYW Careers and Modern Languages Event
Mon 26 May	Everyone	School and EYC Closed for Holiday
Tues 27 May	Everyone	School and EYC closed to children. In-Service day for staff.
Tues 28 May	Everyone	School and EYC Re-opens
Fri 30 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 2025

Date	Who?	Activity
Tue 3 June	New P1 children (current pre-school children)	9.20am until 10.00am – New P1 pupils visiting P1 class
Thurs 5 June	EYC and Primary School parents	Parent Appointments for Families
Fri 6 June	EYC children and parents	EYC Mini-Sports and Family Games Afternoon 1.45pm-2.30pm (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>
Tues 10 June:	New P1 children (current pre-school children)	9.20-10.20am - New P1 pupils – Transition Visit to P1
Tues 10 June	P7	P7 Transition Day at Marr College
Wed 11 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 11 June	P7	P7 Transition Day at Marr College
Fri 13 June	P6	Soccer Aid at Marr College (provisional date – to be confirmed)
Fri 13 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 17 June	P5-7 children and parents	P5-7 Musical Showcase 9.30-10.00am
Fri 20 June 9.30-10.00am	EYC children and parents	EYC Graduation and Summer Sing-a-Long (9.30-10.00am) followed by EYC Family Fun morning (11.20am-12.20pm)
Fri 20 June	P6	Marr Book Festival at Marr College (provisional date – to be confirmed)
Thurs 26 June	EYC and Primary School children and parents	Summer Service and P7 Moving on Ceremony at Dundonald Parish Church 9.45am – 10.25am <i>A very warm welcome is extended to families to join us for Primary 7's Moving on Ceremony and Summer Service – additional information will be shared in a separate letter.</i>
Fri 27 June	Everyone	Schools across South Ayrshire close for Summer Holiday at 1pm