

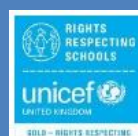


DUNDONALD PRIMARY AND EARLY YEARS CENTRE

TERM 3 NEWSLETTER: APRIL 2025

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SESSION 2024-2025

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



We are delighted to share news of our third 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)
- Improvement Plan update
- Dates of forthcoming events, including class outings, EYC Graduation, Sports Day and P7 Moving on Ceremony

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

NEWS FROM OUR CLASSES – TERM 3 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.

Early Years Class

This term, the boys and girls have had a fantastic time playing and learning in our Early Years Centre. We kicked off the term with our Tuesday Toddles, where we visited Dundonald Castle as part of our Scottish Culture month.

We also took part in Play on Pedals, where we practiced riding bikes and scooters safely.

For World Book Day, we wrote and created our own stories, which we then shared with our friends.

Most recently, we've been embracing Spring by planting vegetables and flowers in our garden. We can't wait to see them grow!

Primary 1



This term, Primary 1 have been making great progress in their learning! In Literacy, they have been developing their reading skills, building fluency and confidence, and writing more detailed stories while focusing on using capital letters and full stops.

In Maths, they have been learning about subtraction, telling the time to o'clock and half past, and exploring shapes and symmetry.

We have been out and about in the village and visited Dundonald Castle to look for Lions!

As part of their topic on Africa, they took part in exciting drumming sessions, learned about different habitats and animals, and created some amazing artwork of zebras and elephants. Well done, P1.

Primary 2



In maths, Primary 2 have developed a range of strategies for addition and subtraction, including finding friendly numbers and adding and subtracting in 10's. They have also explored the concept of money, whereby they set up a classroom shop, made price lists, searched for coins in the sand tray and did some coin rubbing!

In Literacy, they have been working on developing their reading and comprehension skills through various class texts linked to their topic: Africa! They have also been learning lots of new sounds and have developed their encoding skills through weekly spelling sessions – they love peer-assessing these and giving feedback to each other.





P1-3 have been engaging in collaborative learning sessions on a Tuesday linked to the Africa topic. There has been lots of learning around African drumming, African landmarks and The Big 5 (African animals).

In class, Primary 2 also explored a famous African environmentalist, Wangari Maathai, they have built African schools, and they drew some fabulous giraffes.

Primary 3

Primary 3 have been working so hard this term!

We have loved our topic with P1 and P2, learning all about Africa. The boys and girls enjoyed learning about the Big 5 animals that live in Africa and discovering some of the African traditions. Primary 3's favourite part of the topic was getting to play the African drums with Mrs. Riddle. We were also very lucky to receive a visit from Zoolab, where we had the chance to meet and touch some of the animals that you might find in Africa.

We have also been working very hard in Literacy and have written our very own imaginative stories with our own characters. We had so much fun doing this that the boys and girls have asked if we can turn these into books after the holidays.

This term in Maths, we have been learning all about time and have enjoyed learning how to read analogue and digital clocks.

We are looking forward to a well-deserved holiday and are ready for more exciting learning in Term 4.

Primary 4



In Primary 4 we have had a great time learning about the Titanic and especially liked making cabins, floating icebergs, and learning lots of interesting facts.

We visited the Maritime Museum in Irvine and learning about life on board a ship, maritime safety and how to send messages using morse code.



In P.E we have enjoyed working with partners and creating sequences in Gymnastics .We also had a great time on our trip to Dundonald Castle.

Primary 5

Primary 5 has had an action-packed and enriching term filled with exciting learning opportunities. In Mathematics, we delved into the fascinating world of compass points and angles, sharpening our skills in navigation and geometry.



A memorable highlight was our visit to the Castle, where we spent a morning immersed in Viking-themed activities, gaining hands-on experience of life in the past.

Additionally, we were fortunate enough to have Catherine from History Alive visit, bringing with her a collection of Viking costumes, weapons, and artefacts. We had the unique chance to try on the costumes and hold the weapons, truly stepping into the shoes of Viking warriors.

Throughout the term, we've also had the pleasure of collaborating with members of Dundonald Bowling Club, who have been teaching us the finer points of bowling, and we've had a great time developing new skills.

As we look ahead, we're excited for the final term of Primary 5, filled with even more learning adventures!

Primary 6/7

Primary 6/7



Primary 6/7 have had a very busy term. As part of our Literacy Programme, we have been reading *Carrie's War* and learning how to make inferences based on the text. We have also enjoyed creating our own Graphic Novels and had the opportunity to read these to each other.

In Numeracy and Maths, we have been learning about fractions and different units of measurement. We enjoyed using the trundle wheel to help us measure around the open area.

As part of our WW2 topic, we took part in a History Alive WW2 Workshop. We learned about the causes of WW2 and the impact it had on people's lives. We also got to dress up in different uniforms and handle weaponry that would have been used during the war.

Finally, we have also been working hard to investigate how we can make our school more sustainable. We have been conducting surveys to gather pupils' views and encourage them to walk to school.

We are looking forward to going to Marr College after the Easter holidays to present our findings.

Primary 7



Primary 7 have had a busy and eventful term 3! At the beginning of the term, Primary 7 organised a Burns Supper where we wrote toasts, created presentations, and enjoyed a song and dance in honour of Robert Burns. We also met with Mr Mulholland and Mr Easton from the Dundonald Burns Society who shared information about Robert Burns' life.



We have enjoyed learning all about WW2 throughout this term. We have studied the timeline of events, followed invasions in our own dough wars, carried identity cards, practised Air raid drills and created our own war themed artwork. We had a wonderful workshop from History is Alive where we got to explore memorabilia from the time.



We have been preparing for our P7 Marr Sustainability Project where we have investigated how to make our school more sustainable. As part of this we have created, videos, websites, raps, adverts, posters and persuasive letters to try to influence change. We are now practising for our final presentation in May.

Mrs Roberston

This term I have enjoyed working with Primary 5 to create Viking longship landscape paintings. The children used a wash of watercolours to create a seascape background and created their own longship to be added onto the watercolour was, which turned out to be very effective.

I have also enjoyed working with Primary 3 to continue to develop their number sense and mental maths skills and helping to further their knowledge of time, using show me clocks to show o'clock, half past, quarter to and quarter past.

SPOTLIGHT ON SCHOOL AND EARLY YEARS IMPROVEMENT

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

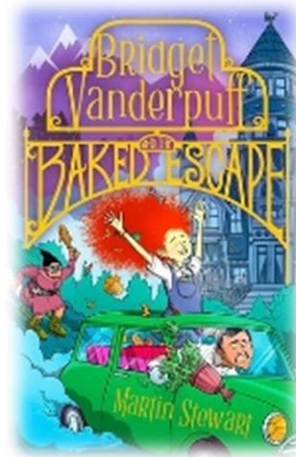
- ✓ Raising attainment in literacy
- ✓ Raising attainment in numeracy
- ✓ Improving children's health and wellbeing

Spotlight on Raising Attainment in Literacy:

As part of our focus on Raising Attainment in Literacy, our classes have had a variety of exciting opportunities to read, write, listen and talk about texts.

These have included:

- All classes working with acclaimed Scottish Book Trust authors.
- John Chalmers and Sandra Marrs from 'Metaphrog' worked with P5-7 children in school to describe the process that they use to create well known Graphic Novel (Comics) such as Freya and The Red Shoes Metaphrog | Award-winning graphic novel and comics creators
- P5-P7 created their own Graphic Novel.
- Scottish Book Trust author, Martin Stewart (author of *Bridget Vanderpuff* series) returned to Dundonald Primary this year and led creative writing workshops for P4-P7 in March, teaching character creation and descriptions.
- P1-P3, enjoyed listening Martin conducting reading for enjoyment sessions sparking excitement among children, especially P1 who were thrilled to meet a "real-life author."



Spotlight on Children's Health and Wellbeing:

Health and wellbeing is at the centre of all that we do in Dundonald Primary and Early Years centre and the children have enjoyed participating in a wide range of activities which promote good health, including:

- Dance Clubs for P1-3 and P4-7 at lunchtimes on Fridays.
- Multi-sports after school clubs
- Tennis lessons for P1 and P2 led by coach Brian from Troon Tennis club
- Dance for P4 and P5 led by the Conservatoire
- Volleyball for P6 and P7 led by coach Vince
- Gymnastics lessons for all classes

As part of our P6 and P7 sustainability project, the children have encouraged us all to adopt an 'Active travel' approach when getting to and from school. We have also all learned about the importance of bringing a reusable water bottle to school and the health benefits of drinking water.

UNICEF Rights Respecting School Gold Award

Dundonald Primary and Early Years Centre achieved our third RRS Gold Award following an accreditation visit from UNICEF.

The award recognises a school's achievement in putting the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child into practice within the school and beyond.

We are very grateful to our Rights Respecting Pupil Council for the hard work they put in to prepare for the accreditation visit. We are also proud of the commitment that everyone in our school and Early Years Centre makes to ensure that children's rights are embedded in our school.



A full version of the **Improvement Plan 2024-25** is available on the school website under 'Our School': <https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/sa/dundonaldpsandeyc/our-school/school-improvement-and-handbook/>

EASTER HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES

South Ayrshire Active Communities Easter Camps and Pop-up Sessions

Marr College P1-P7 Campy & Active Minis for Children Aged 3-5: Monday 14th – Thursday 17th April

- ✚ P1-7: Active Communities invite all P1-P7 children to hop into action at Marr College for an exhilarating Easter Sports Camp!

For more information and to book your child a place, please click here:

[Clubspark / Active South Ayrshire / Coaching / Holiday camps / Detail](#)

- ✚ EYC: For Early Years, children, there are Active Minis activities available each day at Marr College from Monday 14th until Thursday 17th April.

For more information and to book your child a place, please click here:

[Clubspark / Active South Ayrshire / Coaching / Holiday camps / Detail](#)

Dundonald Primary Playing Field – Pop-up Sport Athletics: Monday 7th April 3.30-4.45pm

There will also be a free 'Pop-Up Sports Athletics Session' at Dundonald Primary School playground on Monday 7th April, 3.30-4.15pm, led by Active Schools Coach Lewis. Booking is encouraged but not essential. For more information and to book your child a place, please click here:

[Clubspark / Active South Ayrshire / Coaching / Class](#)

RE-FILLABLE 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.

We follow the NHS 'Live Well Eat Well' guidance and encourage all children to drink water in Early Years and School. The NHS recommend that children drink only water (or milk) and avoid diluting juice due to the damage that it can do to teeth and physical health.

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

Please may I take this opportunity to thank you, our parents and carers, for supporting us throughout the term. Your help is invaluable and very much appreciated.

Also, please may I take this opportunity thank all of our staff most sincerely for their hard work in providing high quality learning experiences for all of the children. It has been a very busy and productive term with many, many highlights. This would not be possible without our fantastic staff team in Dundonald.

I wish all our children, families and staff a peaceful and enjoyable Easter Holiday.

Many thanks and 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).

APRIL 2025

Date	Who?	Activity
Wed 2 April	P5, P4 and P3	Creative Writing and Reading Workshops with Martin Stewart, Scottish Book Trust Author and creator of the Bridget Vanderpuff series
Thurs 3 April	P5-7 children	Indoor Bowling Lesson 5 of 5 – led by volunteers from Dundonald Bowling Club and Dundonald Primary staff
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
Tues 22 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
Thurs 24 April until Thurs 29 May	P1-7 children	'Greatest Songs from this Millenium 2000-2025' focus during Expressive Arts lessons in preparation for celebrating 25 years of our Dundonald Primary School building (on Fri 6 th June)

MAY 2025

Date	Who?	Activity
Mon 5 May	Everyone	School and EYC closed for holiday
Tues 6 May	EYC Children and Families	EYC Tuesday Toddle to Dundonald Woods (2 groups – Red and Blue Groups) A very warm welcome is extended to families to join us – additional information will be shared in a separate letter.
Thurs 8 May	P5, P6/7 and P7 classes	Outdoor Bowling at Dundonald Bowling Green Please see separate letter for details
Fri 9 May	P1 and P7 year groups	Tempest Photographer in school to capture P1 and P7 year group photographs
Fri 9 May	EYC parents and children	Early Years PEEP (Parents in Early Education Partnership) Session 1 A very warm welcome is extended to families to join us – additional information will be shared in a separate letter
Tues 13 May	P7 Families	Information Evening at Marr College for P7 families (6pm)
Tues 13 May	EYC Children and Families	EYC Tuesday Toddle to Dundonald Woods (2 groups – Yellow and Orange Groups) A very warm welcome is extended to families to join us – additional information will be shared in a separate letter.
Thurs 15 May	P5, P6/7 and P7 classes	Outdoor Bowling at Dundonald Bowling Green Please see separate letter for details
Fri 16 May	All Primary School Classes P1-P7	Summer Sponsored Walk and Scavenger Hunt to Dundonald Woods: We are hoping to fundraise £1400 to cover the cost of the buses for our summer term class outings
Fri 16 May	Parents and Children	Early Years PEEP (Parents in Early Education Partnership) Session 2 A very warm welcome is extended to families to join us – additional information will be shared in a separate letter
Tues 20 May	EYC Children and Families	EYC Tuesday Toddle to Dundonald Woods (2 groups – Purple and Green Groups) A very warm welcome is extended to families to join us – additional information will be shared in a separate letter.
Wed 21 May	P5 and P6 year groups	Educational outing to Millport Please see separate letter for details
Thurs 22 May	New P1 Parents	Welcome and Information Meeting for New P1 Families 4pm-4.45pm
Thurs 22 May	P5, P6/7 and P7 classes	Outdoor Bowling at Dundonald Bowling Green Please see separate letter for details
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
Thurs 29 May	P7 year group	Outdoor Bowling at Dundonald Bowling Green: Cluny Cup (Pupils v Staff) Please see separate letter for details
Fri 30 May	Primary School children and parents	School Sports 1.45-2.45pm (Weather Permitting – Plan A) A very warm welcome is extended to families to join us – additional information will be shared in a separate letter.

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	Optional 3 rd Parent Appointments for Families
Fri 6 June	P1-7 classes and parents	9.30-10.00am: Musical Showcase - 'Greatest Songs of this Millenium 2000-2025' - celebrating 25 years of our Dundonald Primary School building <i>A very warm welcome is extended to families to join us – additional information will be shared in a separate letter.</i>
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
Thurs 12 June	New EYC families	Welcome and Information Meeting for New EYC Families 4pm-4.45pm
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>
Thurs 19 June	P1, P2, P3 and P4	Educational outing to Heads of Ayr Farm Park <i>Please see separate letter for more details</i>
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 9.30am-12.30pm
Mon 23 June	P7 year group	Outing to Bouncestation <i>Please see separate letter for details</i>
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