



DUNDONALD PRIMARY AND EARLY YEARS CENTRE

TERM 1 NEWSLETTER – OCTOBER 2025

SESSION 2025-26



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:

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

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

PARENT APPOINTMENTS – THANK YOU

Our Parent Appointments took place on Thursday 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.

PARENT COUNCIL ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Our Parent Council Annual General Meeting took place in school on Thursday 24th 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: Jennifer Boyle

Secretary: Joanne Ingram

Treasurer: To be appointed at next Parent Council Meeting



At our meeting, we also discussed projects for the year ahead, the first of which will be our Hallowe'en Disco. This will take place on: Thursday 30th October, from 6.00pm to 7.30pm at Dundonald Activity Centre. A separate letter has been issued giving details of how to purchase tickets and the games/activities on offer at the Disco. If you require a second copy of the Hallowe'en Disco letter, please contact our school office.

Our next Parent Council Meeting will take place on: **Thursday 23rd October, 6pm-7pm, in Dundonald Primary School.** The purpose of this meeting will be to finalise arrangements for the Hallowe'en Disco and to begin planning our Christmas Fayre.

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

Our School and Early Years Improvement Plan has been published on our website. It can be found by clicking on the following link: <https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/sa/dundonaldpsandeyc/our-school/school-improvement-and-handbook/>

Improving Literacy:



Across our school and early years centre, our focus for improvement is on raising attainment in reading through implementation of the research based approaches recommended by South Ayrshire reads. This includes a focus on: interdisciplinary reading; vocabulary; reading fluency; phonological awareness and reading for enjoyment. We plan to refresh all of our class libraries in partnership with the children.

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

Improving Numeracy:

This session, our focus is on improving numeracy through staff professional learning on the use of manipulatives and 'Think Boards'. We also aim to improve the children's learning by reducing unnecessary cognitive load.

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.

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 numeracy games. 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.

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.

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? We are very grateful for all that you do.

My sincere and heartfelt thanks 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 2025-26

We hope that you find the following list of dates to be helpful in planning your family calendar.

Drop-off and Pick-Up Times Reminder: 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 2025

Date	Who?	Activity
Fri 10 Oct	Children	Harvest Assembly in school for children and staff
Fri 10 Oct	Everyone	School and EYC closes for holiday at usual time (3pm)
Mon 20 Oct	Everyone	In-Service Day for Staff – School and EYC closed to pupils
Tues 21 Oct	Everyone	School and EYC reopens to pupils
Tues 21 Oct until 31 Oct	Primary School	P7 House/Vice Captain Election Fortnight for Term 2
Thurs 23 Oct	Parents and Carers	6pm-7pm: Parent Council Meeting – A very warm welcome is extended to all families to join us for our Parent Council Meeting.
Fri 24 Oct	P7	P7 Transition Visit to Marr College – 'Walkabout' Tour of Marr College
Thurs 30 Oct	P1-P7 Children	6.00pm – 7.30pm: P1-P7 Hallowe'en Disco led by Dundonald Parent Council and school staff (Tickets on sale from our main office from Tuesday 21 st October. Please complete the 'Consent Form' on the Hallowe'en Disco Letter)
Fri 31 Oct	Children – EYC and Primary School	Dundonald's Got Talent Show in the afternoon (presented by P1-P7 children – auditions will be held earlier in the week) <i>This year, our pupils requested that we host a Hallowe'en Disco in the evening where they will dress-up/wear party clothes (instead of dressing up during the school day on Friday 31st October). Children should wear school uniform as usual on Friday 31st October. Many thanks.</i>

NOVEMBER 2025

Date	Who?	Activity
Tues 4 Nov	P5	Swim lessons at Troon Pool (lesson 10 of 10 – final week)
Fri 7 Nov	Primary School Children	P1-7 Assembly Focus on Remembrance
Fri 7 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 10 Nov until Fri 14 Nov	EYC and Primary School Children	National Anti-Bullying Week – Whole School and EYC Focus
Fri 14 Nov	EYC and Primary School Children	Rights Respecting School Focus on World Children's Day and Children in Need
Mon 17 until 23 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 17 until 23 Nov	EYC and Primary School Children	National Road Safety Week – Whole School and EYC Focus
Tues 18 Nov	P7 children and families	Marr College Welcome Evening (Timing TBC – likely 6pm)
Fri 21 Nov 9.15-10.15am	Early Years Centre Children and Parents/Carers	9.15-10.15am: Parents in Early Education Partnership (PEEP) – Session 1 A very warm welcome is extended to families to join us – additional information will be shared in a separate letter.

Tues 25 Nov	P1-P7 children	Flu Immunisations for P1-P7: Consent Forms have been sent out (August 2025) on behalf of the NHS – please return these to the main office as soon as possible and we will pass them on.
Fri 28 Nov 9.15-10.15am	Early Years Centre Children and Parents/Carers	9.15-10.15am: Parents in Early Education Partnership (PEEP) – Session 2 <i>A very warm welcome is extended to families to join us – additional information will be shared in a separate letter.</i>

DECEMBER 2025

Date	Who?	Activity
Fri 5 Dec	Early Years Centre Children and Parents/Carers	9.15-10.15am: Parents in Early Education Partnership (PEEP) – Session 3 <i>A very warm welcome is extended to families to join us – additional information will be shared in a separate letter.</i>
Fri 5 Dec	Everyone – children, families and local community	Dundonald Parent Council Christmas Fayre (3pm-4.30pm)
Mon 8 and Tues 9 Dec	Parents – Early Years Centre	Early Years Centre - Parent Meetings - Personal Learning and Care Plans
Thurs 11 Dec	EYC and Primary School Children	School and EYC Christmas Lunch and Christmas Jumper Day
Thurs 11 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 12 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>
Mon 15 Dec	P4 & P5	P4 and P5 joint Christmas Party (afternoon)
Tues 16 Dec	P1, P2 & P3	P1, P2 and P3 joint Christmas Party (afternoon)
Wed 17 Dec	EYC; P6 and P7	EYC Christmas Party (morning); P6 & P7 joint party (afternoon)
Thurs 18 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 18 Dec 1.30pm-2.45pm	P1-P7 children	Pantomime – Aladdin - presented by M and M Productions
Fri 19 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 <i>A very warm welcome is extended to all families to join us – additional information will be shared in a separate letter.</i>
Fri 19 Dec	Everyone – EYC and Primary School - children and families	Schools across South Ayrshire close for holiday at 2.30pm

JANUARY 2026

Date	Who?	Activity
Mon 5 Jan	Everyone	School reopens and pupils return
Mon 5 Jan until Fri 30 Jan	Children – EYC and Primary School	Scottish Culture Month – Whole School and EYC Focus on Scotland and Scottish Culture
Mon 12 until Fri 15 Jan	Primary School Children	P7 House/Vice Captain Elections for Term 3
Fri 16 Jan	Early Years Centre Children and Parents/Carers	9.15-10.15am: Parents in Early Education Partnership (PEEP) – Session 1 <i>A very warm welcome is extended to families to join us – additional information will be shared in a separate letter.</i>
Fri 16 Jan	Parents and Carers	Dundonald Parent Council Meeting in Dundonald Primary, 2-3pm <i>A very warm welcome is extended to all families to join us for our Parent Council Meeting. Our Parent Council Meetings are a great way to support our school and to find out about what has been happening in Dundonald Primary and Early Years Centre.</i>
Fri 23 Jan	Early Years Centre Children and Parents/Carers	9.15-10.15am: Parents in Early Education Partnership (PEEP) – Session 2 <i>A very warm welcome is extended to families to join us – additional information will be shared in a separate letter.</i>
Thurs 29 Jan	P1-P7 children	Burns Themed School Lunch
Fri 30 Jan	Early Years Centre Children and Parents/Carers	9.15-10.15am: Parents in Early Education Partnership (PEEP) – Session 3 <i>A very warm welcome is extended to families to join us – additional information will be shared in a separate letter.</i>
Fri 30 Jan	Children – EYC and Primary School (early lunch 12.30pm-1.15pm)	1.30pm Celebration of Learning – Scottish Culture & Scots Verse – In School with EYC and P1-7 children

FEBRUARY 2026

Date	Who?	Activity
Wed 4 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)
Thurs 5 Feb	P7 children	P7 Celebration of Robert Burns – Burns Supper Afternoon
Thurs 5 Feb	Everyone	Close for Holiday (usual finish time)
Fri 6 Feb and Mon 9 Feb	Everyone	Closed for February Holiday
Tues 10 Feb	Everyone	School and EYC closed to children. In-Service day for staff.
Wed 11 Feb until Fri 13 Feb	Everyone	Children's Mental Health Week
Wed 18 Feb	EYC children and parents (3 groups – Red, Blue and Yellow Groups)	Early Years PEEP Stay and Play Session 1 9.10am-9.40am (3 groups) A very warm welcome is extended to families to join us – additional information will be shared in a separate letter.
Wed 25 Feb	EYC children and parents (3 groups – Purple, Orange and Green Groups)	Early Years PEEP Stay and Play Session 2 9.10am-9.40am (3 groups) A very warm welcome is extended to families to join us – additional information will be shared in a separate letter.

MARCH 2026

Date	Who?	Activity
Thurs 5 March	Children – EYC and Primary School	World Book Day – Whole School and EYC Focus
Fri 6 March	P7	Rotary Quiz for P7 (via Teams – Marr Cluster Schools)

APRIL 2026

Date	Who?	Activity
Thurs 2 April	EYC and Primary School children	Easter Service at 9.30am led by P7 House and Vice Captains in Dundonald Primary School
Thurs 2 April	Everyone	Close for Easter Holiday – Schools across South Ayrshire close at 2.30pm
Mon 20 April	Everyone	School and EYC reopens and children return
Mon 20 April until Fri 1 May	Primary school children	P7 House/Vice Captain Elections for Term 4
Thurs 23 April	Parents and Carers	Dundonald Parent Council Meeting, 6pm-7pm in Dundonald Primary A very warm welcome is extended to all families to join us for our Parent Council Meeting. Our Parent Council Meetings are a great way to support our school and to find out about what has been happening in Dundonald Primary and Early Years Centre.
Thurs 30 – Thurs 4 June	P1-P7 children	'Songs from the Movies' focus during Expressive Arts lessons in preparation for our P1-7 Musical Showcase on Fri 5 June

MAY 2026

Date	Who?	Activity
Fri 1 May	EYC children and families	Early Years PEEP Session 1 (9.15-9.10.15am) A very warm welcome is extended to families to join us – additional information will be shared in a separate letter.
Fri 1 May	P7 children	P7 Maths/Science Challenge at Marr College
Mon 5 May	Everyone	School and EYC closed for holiday
Thurs 7 May	Everyone	School and EYC closed to children (In-Service day for staff)
Fri 8 May	EYC children and families	Early Years PEEP Session 2 (9.15-9.10.15am) A very warm welcome is extended to families to join us – additional information will be shared in a separate letter.
Tues 12 May	P7 Families	Information Evening at Marr College (provisional date - to be confirmed)
Fri 15 May	EYC parents and children	Early Years PEEP (Parents in Early Education Partnership) Session 3 A very warm welcome is extended to families to join us – additional information will be shared in a separate letter
Tues 19 May	P6 children	Marr Cluster P6 Transition Event: DYW Careers and Modern Languages Event
Thurs 21 May	New P1 Parents	Welcome and Information Meeting for New P1 Families 4pm-4.45pm
Mon 25 May	Everyone	School and EYC Closed for Holiday
Tues 26 May	Everyone	School and EYC Re-opens
Fri 29 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 2026

Date	Who?	Activity
Tue 2 June	New P1 children (current pre-school children)	9.20am until 10.00am – New P1 pupils visiting P1 class
Thurs 4 June	EYC and Primary School parents	Parent Appointments for Families
Fri 5 June	P1-7 children and parents	P1-7 Musical Showcase 9.30-10.00am
Fri 5 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 9 June	New P1 children (current EYC pre-school children)	9.20-10.20am - New P1 pupils – Transition Visit to P1
Tues 9 June	P7	P7 Transition Day 1 at Marr College
Wed 10 June	EYC Pre-School Children and P1-6	School 'Bump-up' morning (children spend time learning in their 'new' class for Session 2026-27)
Wed 11 June	P7	P7 Transition Day 2 at Marr College
Fri 12 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>
Fri 19 June	P6	Soccer Aid at Marr College (provisional date – to be confirmed)
Fri 19 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 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>
Tues 30 June	Everyone	Schools across South Ayrshire close for Summer Holiday at 1pm