



**FISHERTON
PRIMARY & EYC**

**NEWSLETTER
Term 3**



Welcome

Dear Parents and Carers

It has been so lovely to welcome the whole school back and I must commend all our pupils for transitioning back so well. It has been a pleasure to see all their familiar smiling faces along with some new starts too. Please remember to contact the school office by telephone in the first instance to inform us of any absences etc.

I am pleased to say that overall, we have been very fortunate and have managed to help protect pupils and staff when the school is open to all, so please support us and follow our guidance and national guidance carefully, *by keeping the 2m social distance rule and keep avoid congregating at the school gates* to minimise crowding please. Can I also take this opportunity to remind you that dogs are not permitted within the school grounds.

Breakfast Club

It has come to our attention that several children are arriving at school without having had breakfast in the morning and we understand that it's possibly just a little too early for them to eat before they leave for school. In order to support this we are going to trial a breakfast club for Term 4 this session with the use of some of the Pupil Equity money. The children will be able to access the school from **8.45am** to have breakfast. They will have the choice of Weetabix, Shreddies or Cornflakes. This can be accompanied by a piece of fruit.

We are following the Scottish Government guidance *Better Eating, Better Learning*. and these cereals meet the criteria. The children will be supervised by Mrs Stevenson.


Improving Communication with Parents – Groupcall Xpressions App

Our school has been successfully using Groupcall Messenger for a few years and as we continue to improve our communications with parents/carers, we would encourage you to download the **Groupcall Xpressions app**, if you have not done so. This app is free of charge and can be installed on your mobile phone or tablet and it will allow you to have a record of all information sent by the school in the same place.

Information on how to install the app can be found at <http://parents.groupcall.com>

You will require to register using the e-mail address and mobile number that you have previously provided to the school. Please refer to the Groupcall Help Pages if you experience any issues. If you require any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact the school office.

School meals

South Ayrshire Council have altered their lunch menus in order to support the latest Scottish Government guidance  [Better Eating, Better Learning \[1.91MB\]](#) which provides a new context for school food which is aimed at encouraging the connections between what children eat and the impact on improving health, learning, the environment and the local economy. The new EYC and Primary School menus will be in effect following the Easter break and can be found at <https://beta.south-ayrshire.gov.uk/school-meals> Please note that it is the pre-order menu that is applicable for our school.

All children in the Early Years to P3 are entitled to a free school meal so please continue to encourage your child to take advantage of the meals being provided.

Parents are reminded that there is not a tuck-shop in school, so children should bring a healthy snack with them. (You may wish to send two snacks for P1-3 pupils as they now have an afternoon break) If your child is bringing a packed lunch to school, we would encourage you to provide them with healthy options.

Maybole Community Campus- view new campus plans

The new Maybole Community Campus will be built on the site of the existing Carrick Academy and will incorporate Carrick Academy, St Cuthbert's Primary, a new non-denominational primary school that will be formed by amalgamating Cairn Primary and Gardenrose Primary and early years provision that will operate 52 weeks of the year. It will also include a replacement for Maybole swimming pool, which will be timetabled for school and public use during the school day and will form part of a local sports hub, along with the school's sports facilities, out-with school hours. The all-through campus will benefit people of all ages in and around Maybole, with state-of-the-art learning and teaching facilities and the inclusion of the pool and community access to sports facilities making the campus a vibrant community focus. It is hoped that the community campus, along with the new by-pass and planned regeneration of the high street, will bring about real and long-lasting changes for the town.

Some early preparatory work has already started on the site, with the main construction work starting in 2021. The new campus is targeted to open early 2023. You can view the plans for the new campus through the following link or through the Carrick Academy Website. <https://carrickacademysayr.weebly.com/new-campus.html>



Easter Packs

We are very grateful to the Carrick Centre for providing our pupils with wonderful Easter Activity packs which are filled with a host of things to keep them entertained during the break along with a delicious Easter Egg! The Carrick Centre are always very generous to our pupils and we thank them for their continued support.



Childsmile -improving the oral health of children in Scotland

Our Early Years and P1-3 pupils will resume with the in-school toothbrushing programme following the Easter Break. Good oral health in childhood means healthy teeth and gums throughout life. Childsmile is working to ensure all children, regardless of income or background, have the best possible start. Information on caring for your children's teeth and getting the best oral healthcare can be found at: <http://www.childsmile.org.uk/parents-and-carers/index.aspx>

Staff Training

During this Term, staff undertook some Bereavement Training. The pandemic may have resulted in more people being affected by grief and loss and we hope to be able to support our pupils and parents in the best way possible, if and when required. Through the training we were signposted to some useful websites which can be accessed to support bereavement.

Winston's Wish: <https://www.winstonswish.org/>

Child Bereavement UK: <https://www.childbereavementuk.org/>

Grief Encounter: <https://www.griefencounter.org.uk/>

Cruse Bereavement: <https://www.cruse.org.uk/>

In Term four staff will be undertaking Talk for Writing training. This means that all classes will be beginning to introduce, 'Talk for Writing approaches' to improve children's literacy skills in talking, listening, reading and writing. This approach is fun and extremely effective.

"Talk for Writing is an engaging teaching framework developed by Pie Corbett, supported by Julia Strong. It is powerful because it is based on the principles of how children learn. It enables children to imitate the language they need for a particular topic orally, before reading and analysing it, and then writing their own version."
www.talk4writing.com

Sumdog

During the remote learning period, some of the teachers were trialling the use of Sumdog with their pupils and found that the pupils enjoyed it and were benefitting from using it. We therefore decided to buy the subscription for Sumdog maths, spelling and grammar. This adaptive software automatically adapts questions, tailoring them to each child's level. Pupils work at their own pace, giving them the confidence to make progress and improve. With a subscription, teachers can set *target* specific skills by setting personalised practice for groups & individuals.

School Developments

The building work in the school is almost all complete now. We are only waiting on the new gate to be fitted opposite the main entrance. The gate should be ready in 2-3 weeks and will be fitted at a suitable time afterwards. Pupils are now progressing with our outdoor developments and they will be busy planting and making the areas look wonderful! We plan to purchase a Polytunnel in term 4 in order to develop this area of learning further with our pupils. The Parent Council have kindly offered to donate some funds to buy plants etc which is very generous of them. The Parent Council have also supplied an Easter Egg for the pupils which they will receive on the last day of term. We are always very grateful for their support and know that they work tirelessly to support our school.

Staffing

At present I am unable to confirm who will be replacing Miss Gemmell whilst she is on maternity leave, as previously stated there is quite a shortage of Early Years Practitioners in supply at the moment. I will confirm the arrangements after the Easter break, however we are very fortunate to have Miss Fiona Murray who currently works in our Early Years Centre on a part time basis who may be able to replace Miss Gemmell should we require her to, therefore we are in a better position than some other centres which is good news.

P4-7 After School football

On Friday the 26th March Derek McCrindle took his first football training session this year and it was a resounding success *with approximately 20 pupils participating*. Due to this, Derek has decided to continue the training during the school holiday. Pupils should meet Derek directly at the Maidens Football Pitch at 3pm and they should be collected at 4.30pm. The training will be on the following dates:

Friday 26th March

Friday 2nd April (MEET AT PITCH 3PM)

Friday 9th April (MEET AT PITCH 3PM)

Friday 16th April (MEET AT PITCH 3PM)

Friday 23rd April

Friday 30th April



Derek will run these sessions for six weeks *and* these are offered to all P4-7 pupils. Following this, Derek will select enough pupils to form a team and it will be the team who will continue the training sessions on a Friday at 3pm within May and June. Once again, we thank Derek and his sons for giving up their time to support our pupils.

Parents Evening/Report Cards

There will be an opportunity to discuss your child's progress on **Monday 24th May**. This will be a telephone or video call appointment with the class teacher. In June you will receive a written report of approx. 100 words. This should correlate to what has been discussed with the class teacher.

Sports Day

We hope to have some form of sports day on **Monday 7th June**. This may be in the style of potted sports activities this year in order to maintain class bubbles etc. however we will review this nearer the time. Should the weather not be suitable on the 7th, we will have the sports day on the next available dry day during that week.



Bump up days

In school we will have a bump up **morning on the 22nd June** and a bump up **afternoon on the 23rd June**. The pupils will have the morning/afternoon with their new teacher on these dates in order to get to know them before the new session begins.

Awards Ceremony

We plan to hold some form of ceremony on **Friday the 18th June**. At the present time parents will not be invited to attend the school for this due to restrictions, but we will record it and post it on our website for you to watch if this is still the case in June.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Thursday 1st April – School closes 2.30pm

Monday 19th April – Pupils return to school

Monday 3rd May – Holiday

Thursday 6th May – In-service day

Friday 7th May - Pupils return to school

Monday 24th May – Parents Evening Calls

Monday 31st May – Holiday

Monday 7th June – Sports Day

Monday 14th June – Reports issued by end of the week

Friday 18th June – Awards/P7 Leavers assembly

Tues 22nd June – Start of Bump up in school

School will close on Thursday April 1st for Easter at **2.30 pm** and reopen on Mon **19th** for the new term ahead which we hope is happy, healthy and successful. I wish you all an enjoyable Easter break. Thank you once again for your continued support.

Yours Sincerely

Leeanne Campbell

Head Teacher

