



October 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

What a wonderful start to this academic year! So many memories have been made and achievements celebrated. Next term promises to be a busy one and we are looking forward to it.

Rights Respecting Schools

This month we are looking at Articles 2 and 30.

2 All children have all these rights, no matter who they are, where they live, what language they speak, what their religion is, what they think, what they look like, if they are a boy or girl, if they have a disability, if they are rich or poor, and no matter who their parents or families are or what their parents or families believe or do. No child should be treated unfairly for any reason.

30 Children have the right to use their own language, culture and religion - even if these are not shared by most people in the country where they live.

We are working towards our GOLD RRS Award which we hope to achieve later in this academic year. You can help at home by talking about the articles in the UNCRD.

Prestwick Pool – Swimming Lessons

As Prestwick Swimming Pool will be closed for refurbishment, we will postpone swimming lessons until its completion. We considered using The Citadel, but the cost of buses would be prohibitive.

EYC Update

We have welcomed our preschool children back and it has been a pleasure to welcome our ante preschool new starts. It has been a busy first term with our children zooming to the moon, deep diving under the sea and exploring different types of transport.

Play on pedals has started for our Preschoolers who are embracing exploring our playground. Through a series of fun and imaginative activities, children are developing their balance and control skills, through balance bikes progressing to pedal bikes.

The children have been learning our Right's Respecting School Song 'We are loved'. They have been exploring different ways of being safe, loved and supported.



All children have been developing their independence during snack and lunch times. We have purchased new crockery and cutlery and the children are showing outstanding skills taking turns in setting their tables.

Next Term

The children will be exploring a range of Autumnal experiences and have been issued with a bag to collect 'Autumn Treasures'. On return after the October break children will use these across the playroom. They will be looking at Rhyming through The Gruffalo and Room on the Broom.

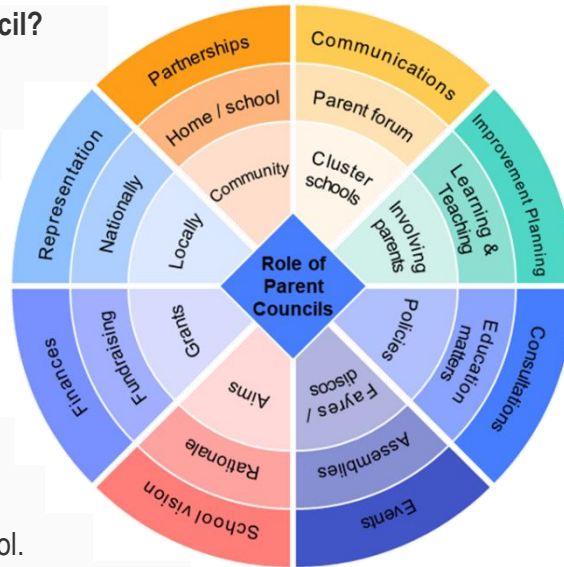


The children will be building on our strong community links with Heathfield House with a variety of walks and events.

Parent Council

What is the role of the Parent Council?

The Parent Council helps to create an environment where all parents know that their views matter, and where they feel confident and comfortable putting them forward. They work on behalf of all parents to discuss educational matters that are of importance to all. They do not get involved in individual circumstances relating to children or staff in the school.



Parent Council business may include:

- facilitating partnerships between home, school, and the community
- communication with other parents and local schools
- improvement planning for learning, teaching and parental involvement.
- consultations on education and policy
- events such as assemblies, school fairs, and discos
- contributing to the school vision rationale and aims
- growing school and community finances through fundraising and grant applications
- representing the school parent forum locally and nationally

Membership of a parent forum consists of parents who have a child at a local authority school. Parents are automatically members of the parent forum for their child's school, and it is important they are informed and know about this.

The Parent Council will be holding a family friendly Pumpkin Drive on Thursday 25th October. This always proves to be a popular community event. All welcome to have some family fun.

Dates of Parent Council Meetings:

Wednesday 6th November 2024 6pm
 Wednesday 19th February 2025 6pm
 Wednesday 7th May 2025 6pm

We will also have Parent Voice meetings where the Parent Council will ask for your views, and we have addition meetings to discuss.

The Parent Council have donated to school funds as follows:

- Panto Christmas 2025 Contribution - £1,250
- Leavers ties June 2025 - £450
- Disco and fun workshops - 2024 – 2025 - £900
- P1 and new starts gym bags - £100
- Sports t-shirts - £800
- EYC Buggy/trolley - £500
- Contribution towards buses for school visits - £800
- Contribution to breakfast club - £200



Halloween

Halloween dress up day will be on Friday 1st November, the day after Halloween. This will allow the other days of the week to maximise learning time and then have fun at the end of the week. All children can dress up for Halloween at school. Please remember there should be no weapons or masks brought with outfits.

Staffing

- Our Depute Headteacher, Natalie Spence has returned from her maternity leave. Natalie will be working Monday – Thursday so Laura Boyd will be Acting DHT on a Friday.
- Lindsey Rowan is a Senior EYP in the EYC and will be leaving to be part of a local authority team. Good luck to Lindsey and thanks for all her hard work.
- We appointed Lucy Guthrie as our new Senior EYP on a Thursday and Friday.
- Lauren Dodds and Jacqui Cassidy will join our teaching team until June.
- Clare Donnelly who has been part of the ELF team will be leaving to take up a new post in Family First.
- Amanda Orr will take on our 10 hours School Assistant Post.



Welcome to all our new staff and good luck to Lindsay and Clare.

National Standardised Assessments for Scotland

The Scottish Government introduced the Scottish National Standardised Assessments (SNSA) in Primary 1, 4 and 7. Primary 4 and 7 pupils will be sitting these later this month and into November and Primary 1 pupils will complete the assessments in May 2024.

Alongside a wide range of other assessment activity, the assessments help to provide teachers with objective and nationally consistent information on learner's progress in aspects of numeracy and literacy. Teachers can then discuss a learner's progress with them and their parents/carers, planning next steps accordingly, and ensuring parents/carers understand how best to support their child's learning at home. If you require any further information, please see the web address below.

<https://standardisedassessment.gov.scot/parents-and-carers/#informationforparentsandcarers>

Feedback on Positive Relationship Policy

We only had 22 responses from our Positive feedback policy, but the content of the feedback was rich and has given us clear direction on where we need to improve.

There was lots of positive feedback about the aims, values, reward system and tracking system overall. The feedback showed parents value inclusion and a fair and consistent system. Lots of feedback was centred around ensuring all children had opportunities for success and rewarding effort rather than outcomes.

Some comments included:

"Inclusive and supportive policy, with a strong focus on children's rights, well-being, and responsibilities."

"Would be good if all parents could be kept informed of this policy and how it's going, and more incentives introduced that could be shared with families."

"The approaches seem fair for each stage. I do feel children need more knowledge about bullying in terms of verbal comments made by other children and how this could be hurtful towards other. Children need to understand that bullying isn't always physical, it can be verbal. I would like to suggest class workshops appropriate for age and stage within the school."

Each reward system suits the age and stage of the children. I like that children receive personal points as this gives them confidence and sense of achievement

Suggestions for next steps:

- Using Education Scotland 'Circle' Framework to audit classroom practice.
- Ensuring a consistent approach in all classes within all areas of the policy.
- Clarity over how points are rewarded.
- Overuse of points so impact being diluted.
- Ensuring that names are discretely put on the tracking sheet.
- More information on how we use the Pupil Equity Fund.
- Concerns over bullying, distressed behaviour, and violent incidents.
- Ensuring children know that incidents are dealt with, and pupil voices heard.
- Awareness raising around bullying.

We have a parent focus group who will meet and discuss these points in more detail.

Sports Update

Sixty of our pupils completed the cross-country course at the first Active Schools Competition of the session! This was a fantastic achievement for all involved. Congratulations to our Handball Teams who competed in the South Ayrshire Tournament. We are delighted to share that our Girls Team placed 2nd, qualifying for the Scottish Championships! Football season has kicked off with our P6/7 pupils training after school on a Friday. Please remember this is open for anyone to develop their skills further, it is not one set team. A huge thank you to our P7 Junior Coaches who have been delivering lunchtime clubs for our pupils. It has been lovely to see so many smiling facing in our gym hall again!



Polite Reminders

- Children should only bring water to drink – no juice.
- As we have pupils with nut allergies there should be no nuts of food containing nuts in school. This includes Nutella.
- We have noticed a few children are bringing 2 items for snack at break and then not eating lunch.
- Please do not bring dogs on to the playground.
- Please do not park in the bays marked SCHOOL TRANSPORT as these are for taxis dropping and collecting children.

Thank you to everyone in this kind and caring community. We all greatly value the support of our parent community and wish you all a happy and safe holiday.

Best wishes,

Gaenor Hardy
Headteacher

Dates for your diary

October

Tuesday 22nd - Ayr Advertiser coming to photograph Primary 1
Wed 23rd - 1st PEEP Session 9:15 - 10:00
Wed 23rd - Silly Gilly Autumn Celebration Party
Thursday 25th - Pumpkin Drive 6.30 - 8.30
Wednesday 30th - Flu Immunisation

November

Primary 3 - 7 STAR Reader Assessments and P4 and P7 NSAS
Friday 1st - Halloween Dress up day and activities.
Friday 1st - Parent Voice meeting
Wednesday 6th - 6pm Parent Council Meeting
Thursday 7th - Outdoor Classroom Day
Monday 11th - Anti Bullying Week
Monday 11th - Primary 7 to Prestwick Cross for Remembrance
Friday 15th Children in Need - Dress Down Day
Monday 18th - Book Week Scotland
Monday 18th Road Safety Week
Monday 18th - P7D to Dolphin House
Monday 25th - P7G to Dolphin House

December

Monday 2nd - Christmas Post Boxes out
Wednesday 4th - P7 Christmaths
Friday 6th - Dress Down day and bring a Bottle for the Christmas Fayre
Wednesday 11th - P3 - 7 to Panto
Thursday 12th - EYC to P7 Christmas lunch
Friday 13th - Christmas fayre
Tuesday 17th - P1 - 3 Nativity
Tuesday 17th - P5 and 6 Party
Wednesday 18th - P1 - 3 Nativity
Wednesday 18th - pm P3 and 4 Christmas Party
Thursday 19th - P1 and 2 Cinema Trip
Thursday 19th EYC Show am and EYC party pm.
Friday 20th - Winter assembly
Friday 20th - Close at 2.30pm