

JANUARY

Welcome Back.....



P1 Registration

P1 registration is now complete. If you live within our catchment area, your child will automatically be allocated a place. Families awaiting the outcome of a placing request will receive confirmation directly from South Ayrshire Council in April; this information will not be available from the school office.

If you have not yet registered your child for an August start, please contact the school for advice, as we will shortly be beginning our transition programme, which we hope will be just as successful as — if not more successful than — last year.

P7-S1 Registration

Registration for secondary school should now be complete. All families who have registered for Queen Margaret Academy, which is our catchment school, automatically have a place, if you live in South Ayrshire. Results of all placing requests are in April/May. This information will come directly from South Ayrshire.

Pupil Support Parents' Evening

We will be having our additional Parents' Evening for pupils who are currently on Staged Intervention targets. This year, the appointments will be on Wednesday 4th February. This is only for children who are on Staged Intervention.

At times, children require additional support in school for a variety of reasons. If your child requires support, they will have paperwork called Staged Intervention. This paperwork was discussed with families at the Parents' Evening in October. We are now inviting families to a further meeting with the class teacher to discuss your child's targets and agree together their next steps. Appointment times will be allocated for you and have been sent out. If you haven't confirmed your appointment yet, please do so as soon as possible. If you have had a Team with the Family meeting this year or are due to have one, then your child will not require an appointment.

Learning Journals

This term, in P1-P5, we will continue to share meaningful and personal observations of your child's key learning experiences, providing insight into their day at school. We encourage you to view and comment on these updates to stay connected with your child's profile and help strengthen the partnership between home and school. The children love checking in to see the likes and comments they receive, so we truly appreciate your ongoing support and engagement.

Shared Learning for P1-6

This term, we will be continuing with our annual Stay and Play/Learn sessions on Wednesday 25th February. In place of stage assemblies and Access Hour this term, we are inviting you to come along and spend time in the classroom while your child shares some of their learning with you.

Children will demonstrate a range of activities across the curriculum to help you gain a better understanding of the importance of both play-based and active learning environments. There will also be a short presentation from South Ayrshire Reads in the assembly hall between 2.00pm and 2.30pm where a member of the team will take you through how best to support literacy development at home. Please come along to this invaluable input if you can as it will highlight new methods and strategies being utilised in Reading and across Literacy in general.

Please note that parents of pupils in P1-P6 should arrive at 2.30pm if they are not attending the presentation. Parents of pupils in P7 will have access to the school from 3pm-4pm.

Shared Learning P7 Burns' Supper

Our talented Primary 7 performed their memorable Burns' Supper as part of their Term 3 Stage Assembly. Parents and staff were treated to a wonderful afternoon of Scottish culture, complete with poetry, music, and traditional dancing, along with some delicious Scottish snacks. Pupils impressed the audience with their creativity skills by writing their own 'Address to the Laddies' and 'Address to the Lassies.' A special thank you also goes to Caelyn Wood who set the tone beautifully by piping in the haggis to begin the celebrations. Huge well done to all involved!

This was the final Stage Assembly for our Primary 7s, as next term, we will come together as a whole school for their Valedictory Mass.

P7/S1 Transition

This month, Primary 7 enjoyed a visit from Queen Margaret Academy's Art department as part of their transition sessions. Our creative P7 pupils showcased their artistic skills by learning how to use oil pastels to trace portraits of our current staff members at St John's! They are looking forward to welcoming visitors from other QMA departments in the coming months.



Youth Music Initiative SingFest

Both Primary 4 and Primary 5 have been very lucky this term, because they have been chosen to take part in a Youth Music Initiative. They have been working with freelance musician and professional singer David Douglas, learning a range of upbeat songs with a health and wellbeing theme. The programme will culminate in a combined SingFest event at Ayr Town Hall on Thursday 12th February where we will join together to sing with other schools and also have an opportunity to enjoy performances by professional musicians. Due to limited capacity, parents/carers cannot attend the performance at the Town Hall but a video is being made of the children performing as part of the whole initiative and will be shared with parents/carers towards the Summer.



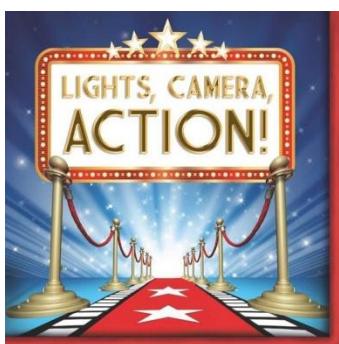
P4-7 School Show

It's SHOW TIME! Our P4-7 children have already started rehearsals for our upper school show, "*Lights, Camera, Action!*"



Please encourage your children to learn the songs, their lines, and any stage direction as we want it to be the best show it can be!

More information will be sent out closer to the time, but the dates for your diary are Tuesday 24th March at 6pm, and Wednesday 25th March at 10:30am and again at 6pm in St. Margaret's Cathedral.



Advanced Diary Dates

February 2026		
W/c Monday 2 nd February	Reading Schools Week	In School
Monday 2 nd February	P4 Fluoride Varnishing	In School
Monday 2 nd February	P5 Swimming	The Citadel
Tuesday 3 rd February	P4-7 Basketball Afterschool Club	3-3.45pm
Wednesday 4 th February	STINT Parents' Evening	In School
Friday 6 th February	SCHOOL CLOSED	LOCAL HOLIDAY
Monday 9 th February	SCHOOL CLOSED	LOCAL HOLIDAY
Tuesday 10 th February	SCHOOL CLOSED	IN-SERVICE DAY
Wednesday 11 th February	PUPILS RETURN	School Open
Wednesday 11 th February	Rag Bag Collection	
Wednesday 11 th February	Equalities Conference	University of the West of Scotland
Thursday 12 th February	P4-5 Youth Music Initiative (Singfest)	Ayr Town Hall
Friday 13 th February	Parent Council Valentine's Disco	6.30pm in St Margaret's Church Hall
Monday 16 th February	P5 Swimming	The Citadel
Tuesday 17 th February	P4-7 Basketball Afterschool Club	3-3.45pm
Wednesday 18 th February	Ash Wednesday Service	In School
Saturday 21 st & Sunday 22 nd February	Rite of Enrolment (First Sunday of Lent)	All Masses in St Paul's Church and St Margaret's Cathedral.
Monday 23 rd February	P5 Swimming	The Citadel
March 2026		
Monday 2 nd March	P5 Swimming	The Citadel
Monday 9 th March	P5 Swimming	The Citadel

Thursday 12 th March	Stations of the Cross	In School
Monday 16 th March	P5 Swimming	The Citadel
Monday 23 rd March	P5 Swimming (Last session)	The Citadel
Monday 23 rd March	Lenten Penitential Service P3 Reconciliation	7pm in St Margaret's
Tuesday 24 th March	Euro Quiz	TBC
Tuesday 24 th March	School Show	6.30pm in St Margaret's
Wednesday 25 th March	School Show	10.30am & 6.30pm in St Margaret's
Tuesday 31 st March	Lent / End of Term Mass	10am in St Margaret's
April 2026		
Thursday 2 nd April	School closes for Easter Holidays	
Monday 20 th April	PUPILS RETURN	School Open
May 2026		
Monday 4th May	SCHOOL CLOSED	MAY DAY HOLIDAY
Tuesday 5th May	PUPILS RETURN	School Open
Thursday 7 th May	SCHOOL CLOSED	IN-SERVICE DAY
Friday 8 th May	PUPILS RETURN	School Open
Thursday 14th May	P7 Careers Fayre	Ayr Town Hall
Thursday 14th May	QMA Cluster Cup (Transition)	QMA
Monday 25 th May	SCHOOL CLOSED	LOCAL HOLIDAY
Tuesday 26 th May	PUPILS RETURN	School Open
Tuesday 26th May	Dolphin House Instructor / Parent Information Visit	3-4pm in School
Saturday 30th May	First Holy Communion	10am in St Margaret's

June 2026		
Wednesday 3 rd June	P2/3 School Show	10am in St Margaret's
Thursday 4th June	Sports Day	Riverside Arena
Thursday 4th June	P6/7 Sports Transition Festival	QMA
Friday 5th June	Summer Fayre	3-5pm in School
Monday 8th June	P7 Retreat at QMA	During School Day
Tues 9th & Wed 10th June	P7 Bump Up Days	QMA
Wednesday 10th June	P7 Transition Disco & Parent Carer Info Evening	7pm at QMA
Thurs 11th & Fri 12th June	P7 Dolphin House Residential Trip (Group 1)	Culzean Castle Estate
Thurs 18th & Fri 19th June	P7 Dolphin House Residential Trip (Group 2)	Culzean Castle Estate
Tuesday 23 rd June	Valedictory Mass	10am in St Margaret's
Tuesday 30 th June	School closes for Summer Holidays	
August 2026		
Tuesday 18 th August	SCHOOL CLOSED	IN-SERVICE DAY
Wednesday 19 th August	SCHOOL CLOSED	IN-SERVICE DAY
Thursday 20 th August	PUPILS RETURN	School Open

