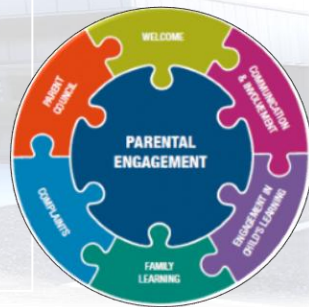


# Struthers Primary School and EYC

## September 2025 Newsletter






Dear parents and families

We hope you all enjoyed a restful summer and had the chance to spend quality time with family and friends. A warm welcome to our new families and a welcome back to those returning—it's wonderful to have you with us. The children have made an excellent start to the term, settling confidently into their new classes, building relationships with their teachers, and reconnecting with friends. We are excited for the term ahead and look forward to working in partnership with parents, families, and our wider community to support every child's growth and success.

### COMMUNICATION

A school newsletter will be issued throughout the session, providing updates of what has been happening in school and informing you of any upcoming events. The newsletters will also be made available on the school website - [Struthers Primary School \(glowscotland.org.uk\)](https://www.glowscotland.org.uk/schools/struthers).

For important reminders, parents will receive an email directly from the school office. To stay connected with the day-to-day happenings at school, we invite you to follow our X (formerly Twitter) account @StruthersSchool. It's a wonderful way to see the learning in action and get a glimpse of the magic unfolding across our school every day.

 <b>Groupcall</b>	 <b>parentsportal.scot</b> <b>PARENTS PORTAL</b>	 <b>ParentPay</b> <b>PARENT PAY</b>	<b>SCHOOL MAILBOX</b> <a href="mailto:Struthers.mail@south-ayrshire.gov.uk">Struthers.mail@south-ayrshire.gov.uk</a>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• General school communications e.g. school information and after school sports clubs etc.</li><li>• Permission for any non-payment trips.</li><li>• Parents can message the school directly.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Annual Data Checks and updating children's personal information throughout the year.</li><li>• Parents can access their child's attendance on a <u>daily basis</u> and report on any absences.</li><li>• Parents can update personal information at any time.</li><li>• Parents can access all apps listed through Parents Portal.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Ordering school lunches.</li><li>• Paying for school trips and any miscellaneous items.</li><li>• School uses this system to manage school meal payments and debts.</li><li>• Permission slips and parental helper requests for payable trips.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• For general school enquiries</li></ul>

We are mindful of finding the right balance in how much information we share. Our aim is to keep families well-informed without overwhelming you, ensuring updates are clear, relevant, and easy to access. We will focus on highlighting key events, celebrations of learning, and important reminders, while also signposting where you can find further details if needed. By doing so, we hope to give you a helpful overview of school life, while avoiding both information overload and gaps in communication.

## STAFFING NEWS

As we begin the new school session, we are pleased to welcome several new and returning members of staff to our team:

- Mrs Donaldson has joined our School Assistant team, bringing with her a wealth of experience from other schools. We are thrilled to have her as part of our community. We are also pleased to welcome back Mrs Gordon, who returns in a new role as a School Assistant, working across the school.
- Miss McCormack returns this year and will be working across the school with a particular focus on raising attainment.
- Mrs Devlin has resumed her post following maternity leave and will be working alongside Mr Haniford and Mr Kerr in her role as Principal Teacher.
- We are also pleased to welcome Mr Smith, who will be teaching Primary 3/2, and Mr Cairns, who will be supporting teaching and learning across P2/3, P5/6, and P6/7.

We look forward to the valuable contributions each of these colleagues will make to the life and work of our school.

## CHILD PROTECTION

The safety and wellbeing of children and young people is a responsibility we all share. If any parent or family member has concerns about the wellbeing of a child, please report these immediately to Mrs Clark, Head Teacher and the school's Child Protection Co-ordinator. In Mrs Clark's absence, Mrs McElnea will act as Deputy Child Protection Co-ordinator and take responsibility for co-ordinating appropriate support.

In addition to our mandatory Child Protection Training, every teacher in school has undertaken Prevent training. This is a form of training aimed at safeguarding children from threats of terrorism. It is a legal requirement for various public sector organisations in England and Wales, and Scotland. This training equips professionals to identify and support vulnerable individuals, helping to prevent attacks and address the threat of radicalisation.



## MOBILE PHONES AND SMART WATCHES



The rapid advancement of technology has brought many advantages, but it also introduces certain risks, particularly in a school setting. Recently, we have noticed an increase in the number of children using smartwatches and mobile phones during the school day. These devices pose a significant risk, as they can be used to take photos, record videos, and capture audio clips. With some pupils under strict child protection measures, where they must not be photographed, it is vital that we work together as a community to minimise any potential risks.

We understand that some children may need their phones to communicate with parents outside school hours. However, we ask that all smartwatches or mobile phones be securely stored in bags or handed to the class teacher for safekeeping during the school day. Your support in helping us maintain a safe and secure environment for all children is greatly appreciated. This ban includes any school-run events, such as sports day and school discos.

## ACHIEVEMENTS

Each month, we host a Whole School Achievement Assembly. This has quickly become one of the most cherished events on our calendar. Celebrating the amazing achievements of our children outside of school is a true delight. Whether it's learning to tie their shoelaces or scaling Mount Everest, we're excited to hear and share it all!



If your child has an accomplishment you'd like to celebrate, please send a photo and a brief description to [achievements.struthers@south-ayrshire.gov.uk](mailto:achievements.struthers@south-ayrshire.gov.uk). We look forward to showcasing their successes with the entire school community.

## ABSENCE / LATE COMINGS

The safety and well-being of our pupils is our top priority. To help us ensure this, we kindly ask that parents or carers inform the school office as soon as possible if a pupil will be absent, and provide updates on each day of the absence. If we do not receive this notification, our administrative team will send a reminder via text, requesting that you contact the school. Additionally, pupils arriving late must check in at the main office before proceeding to their class.

Please be aware that in line with the authority's 'Maximising Attendance' procedures, a letter will automatically be issued to parents/carers, when a child's unauthorised **absence falls below 90%**. Although you may think this figure is high, **an attendance of 90% over a whole school year equates to missing 4 weeks of education**. You will find more information on council policy and procedures at: <https://www.south-ayrshire.gov.uk/schools/absence.aspx>

## MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING

Primary 7 are hard at work planning our Macmillan Coffee Morning for the **26th of September**. This is one of our favourite annual events, and we're so excited to have this in our school calendar this year. More details will be shared soon.



## ALLERGIES

Within the school, we have a pupil with a severe egg allergy and also several pupils with a nut allergy. All staff have received training on Anaphylaxis. As a school we have to take steps to prevent any allergic reactions and as such, would remind parents that pupils **should not bring products containing egg in its whole form (such as egg sandwiches) OR nut-based products to school**, including peanut butter and nut-based chocolate spread.

With South Ayrshire, we can cater for pupils who have specific dietary requirements including:

- Additional support needs e.g., those with chewing and swallowing difficulties
- Religious, cultural or ethical reasons e.g. individuals from different ethnic origins
- Medically prescribed e.g. due to coeliac disease, food allergy, food intolerance, etc

To make an application or amendment please use the online form [here](https://www.south-ayrshire.gov.uk/article/24679/Special-diets-and-allergens-information). <https://www.south-ayrshire.gov.uk/article/24679/Special-diets-and-allergens-information>

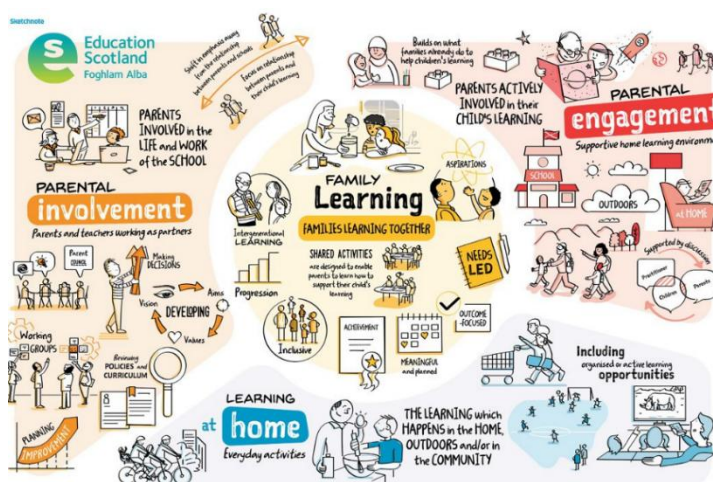
## LEARNING AND TEACHING

We are delighted that so many of you were able to come along to Our Meet the Teacher evening, on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> of August. We hope you enjoyed meeting with your child's teacher and joining Mr Kerr and Mr Morrow as they shared how we nurture mathematical agility and foster a lifelong love of learning.



At Struthers, we provide a nurturing and caring environment for your child to grow, learn and develop. We understand the importance of working together with our families to ensure that all children have a strong foundation on which to build in later years. Throughout the session, we will host many of opportunities where we encourage you to get involved, strengthening our partnerships between home and school. We will also issue a range of different information leaflets to help support learning at home and provide a variety of helpful information.

Family learning encourages positive attitudes to lifelong learning, helping all our children achieve the highest standards possible. It is our aim to ensure you are fully aware of the types of learning taking place within our school, and how best to support your child/children in their learning. Curricular Maps outlining the learning and teaching for each class will provide class specific information each term too.



## HELPING HANDS

The amazing support from our Helping Hands last session really enhanced the learning experiences we were able to offer throughout our school community. We'd love to extend the invitation again to all families—if you're able to offer some time to help out, we'd be so grateful! Whether it's a one-off or something more regular, any support is hugely appreciated.

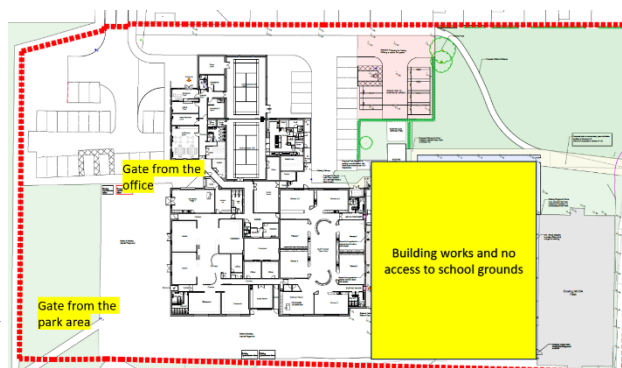


If you're interested in getting involved, please drop us a message at [Struthers.Mail@south-ayrshire.gov.uk](mailto:Struthers.Mail@south-ayrshire.gov.uk). We'd love to hear from you.

## BUILDING WORKS

Construction of the school extension has now commenced and will continue throughout the school session before work is completed in the summer of 2026. During this time the red hatched area on the Contractor's site plan below, will be inaccessible, including the rear gate of the upper school playground.

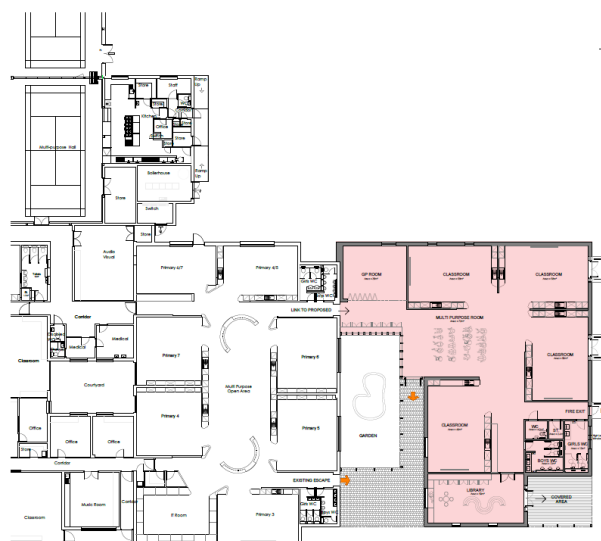
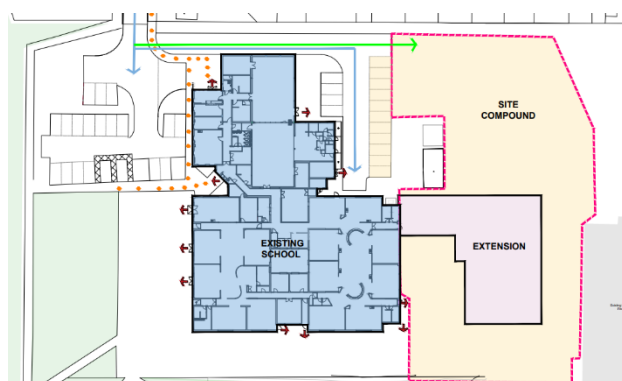
Access arrangements for pupils at drop off and pick-up times are noted here.



The existing school car park remains for the use of school staff and transport operators only, and vehicles must not enter the car park for the purposes of dropping young people off in the morning or picking them up in the afternoon.

We are very much looking forward to seeing the extension works progress and are extremely grateful for your ongoing support and patience throughout the project.

To help keep you informed, we have arranged an informal coffee and chat with the construction and design team on Friday, 5th September at 10:45am. Representatives from South Ayrshire Council will also be present to answer any questions you may have.





## LOST PROPERTY



We know how easy it is for jumpers, bottles, and other belongings to go missing during a busy school day. To help us reunite items with their owners, please make sure everything is clearly named. If your child has misplaced something, pop into the Main Office and we'll be happy to help you check our lost property. They can do this on a daily basis from 2.45-3pm.

## REFILL, REFRESH AND REUSE – WATER BOTTLES

We are encouraging all children to bring their own reusable water bottle to school each day. Not only does this help keep them hydrated and ready to learn, but it's also a simple way to care for our planet by reducing single-use plastics. Bottles can be refilled throughout the day at our filtered water station, ensuring fresh water is always on hand.



## KEY UPDATES ON SCOTTISH EDUCATION REFORM

You may be aware Scotland's education system is being reformed, this includes the creation of a new qualifications body, Qualifications Scotland, and a new education inspectorate, with further changes to national education public bodies occurring throughout the upcoming school year. Improvements to the curriculum and approach to qualifications, and assessment are also planned in the coming years. This work will enhance outcomes for children and young people educated in Scotland with the aim of ensuring excellence and equity by raising standards and giving every child and young person the same opportunity to succeed. Further information can be found on the Scottish Government's website. Full details on these [can be found here](#).



## PARENT COUNCIL

We would like to warmly invite all parents and carers to join us for the next Parent Council meeting on THE 1<sup>ST</sup> of October at 6pm here at Struthers Primary.

The Parent Council is a fantastic way to:

- Hear more about what's happening across the school;
- Share your ideas, views, and feedback;
- Work together with staff and other parents to support our children's learning experiences.

You don't need to be a member to attend—everyone is welcome, and your voice is valued. Whether you'd like to listen in, ask questions, or get more actively involved, we would love to see you there.

## THE YEAR AHEAD

Attached within this email, you will find a copy of our annual calendar. This highlights the many ways we have developed and extended parental involvement and engagement at Struthers. Please note, all dates are subject to change; additional dates and opportunities may be added as the year progresses.

## AND FINALLY...

I look forward to a busy and successful school year with our staff, children and families. As always, should you have any queries about anything within our newsletter, or in connection with your child's learning, please do not hesitate to contact the school.

I look forward to your support as we work together to provide the very best for our children.

Best wishes

Mrs Laura Clark

## CHILDREN'S RIGHTS – UNCRC



In South Ayrshire we **RESPECT** *all* children's rights in terms of the **United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child**.

UNCRC is now officially an ACT in Scotland.

