

Symington Primary School – Autumn Newsletter 2023

Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome back following a very busy first term for all. I hope you have had a restful half term and are raring to go once again. It seems this year is busier than ever with our youngsters taking a strong lead in defining the future of the school. Our new House Captains and Vice Captains have been full of ideas and have gathered the views of their team mates too – they are certainly going to keep us busy.

We have been busy gathering your views to on what is good and what we want more of or less of. Your ideas and views form part of our on going improvement and are displayed alongside the children's and staff on our self- evaluation wall.

All of these views help form our school Improvement plan alongside many other factors. You can find a copy of our plan in our new Blog/Website at <https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/sa/symingtonps> which we are populating as we go forward and will be live on Friday.

You can also follow us on X (Twitter) @SPSEyc where we post reminders, most current things, helpful links and lots of pictures of what we are all up to at Symington Primary and Early Years Centre.

Dyslexia Awareness Week

Blue ribbons will be given out on **Monday the 30th October** and can be worn each day that week. Parents could ask their children to explain all about Dyslexia to them or check out some of the videos on Dyslexia Scotland or the British Dyslexia Association.

Hallowe'en

Pumpkin Trail – Our Parent Council have once again organised their amazing Pumpkin Trail taking place on Saturday 28th October between 2pm and 4pm starting at the Co-op. You are also likely to see many of the scarecrows entered into their competition along the route. This has been a lovely event in previous years and a great way to get to know the village with your child. Hope to see you there.



In line with local tradition we will be having some fun and games with Hallowe'en themed activities on Tuesday 31st October. Children are encouraged to dress up if they wish. Please be mindful of our young children in choosing costumes and please- no pretend weapons should be brought to school.

Transition P7

Already work is underway to make our P7 transition to secondary school as smooth as possible. Before too long you will be asked complete paperwork on line regarding your wishes for Secondary school – keep an eye on your e-mail. We also work very closely as a cluster and with Prestwick Academy to help our youngsters and parents on understanding the curriculum. With this in mind the

Cluster of schools have released and extremely helpful **transition booklet on numeracy** expectations and how to help your child. You can follow the link to it here:
<https://prestwick.sayr.sch.uk/numeracy/> videos and demonstrations are embedded within it. Although this tool was developed with P7 in mind parents of P5 and P6 pupils may find it useful too in understanding the teaching of new concepts.

Transition P1

Our current P1 pupils will help with some of the first transition events with our newbies who will be P1 in August 2024. November 22nd is the date for this first joint venture of the year.

Poppy Appeal



Poppies will be available in school from Wednesday 1st November for a donation to Poppy Scotland. Children will be encouraged to remember and respect during this time, using materials from Poppy Scotland.

School Fayre

We are delighted to be holding our Winter Fayre once again on **Thursday 30th November 6.30pm – 8.30pm**. This is the main fundraiser for the school and for Parent Council as we share the proceeds raised to help support our children in as many ways as possible. This year children will have made some crafts which will be available for sale as well as the usual stalls of bottle , home baking, tombola, raffle, toys and games, chocolate- More information to follow.



Primary 1 and 2 Nativity Performances

The children in Primaries 1 and 2 will perform on Wednesday 13th December 2 pm and Thursday 14th 9.30am. Further information will follow.

Christmas lunch in school will be Thursday 7th December

Christmas parties will take place in the last week of term – dates included in calendar.

Christmas Service will take place in Symington Parish Church on Friday 22nd December at 9.30am

Attendance and Lateness



The local authorities across Scotland are monitoring very closely the attendance rates across schools as this is having a significant impact on learning for children. Post COVID the number of family holidays during term time has risen dramatically, coupled with children being genuinely unwell this can cause gaps in your child's learning. When totalled sometimes missing several weeks of schooling. As part of tracking the affect on individuals we will write to you at the end of each month if your child's attendance is below 90%. We hope this makes you more aware of just how many days are lost. Similarly, we will write if your child is persistently late. Late arrival means that often initial teaching or instructions are missed and many additional supports which take place first thing in the morning are also missed.

Holidays –

Friday 22 December	close 2.30pm
Monday 8 th January	reopen to staff and pupils
Thursday 8 th February	close 3pm
Friday 9 th February	local holiday
Monday 12 th Feb	Local Holiday
Tuesday 13 th Feb	In – service day (staff only)
Wednesday 14 th Feb	reopen to staff and pupils
Thursday 28 th March	Close 2.30pm
Monday 15 th April	reopen to staff and pupils
Monday 2 nd May	May day holiday
Monday 27 th May	Local Holiday
Friday 28 th June	Close 1pm

You will find with this letter a copy of calendar for the next two months to help you plan for your family arrangements. As always, things may be subject to change.