

# Symington Primary School – Autumn Newsletter 2024

Dear Parents/Carers

Thank you to everyone who made the effort to come along on parents' evening where we have been busy gathering your views on what the ideal Symington Primary would look, sound, and feel like. Your ideas and views form part of our on-going improvement journey and are displayed alongside those of the children and staff on our self-evaluation wall. Near the end of the month, we will issue questionnaires gathering specific views. We will do these electronically to make life a little easier.

This first term has been incredibly busy as always and we thank you for your patience with some teething problems we have been experiencing with Parentsportal. Your feedback on glitches and what could be improved have been fed back to the working group as these are not specific to Symington. Our uptake has been fabulous, and we hope that as time progresses it will become a one stop shop for lots of things with glitches ironed out, cutting down on the number of forms you have to fill in (not quite what happened this year).

You can 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.

So, what next?

## Farewells

Unfortunately, we have to say farewell to **Mrs Kennaway** who has been covering Mrs McCluskey's maternity leave. Mrs Kennaway has been an absolute star in her flexibility and getting to know everyone so quickly in her time with us and we send her on her way with our very best wishes. Mrs McCluskey will return and be part of the P4 Team after the holiday.

**Miss Devlin** from our office will also be off from the October holiday as she begins her maternity leave with her baby to be born very soon. We wish her congratulations and can't wait to meet another member of our Pride family.

This also means that we will have no office staff in the afternoons for the foreseeable future so please bear with us in covering this gap. It is therefore really helpful if you can let us know of any changes eg. Bus travel or pick-up person in the morning.

## Scarecrow Competition

Remember our fabulous scarecrow competition taking place all around the village with closing date of **Friday 25<sup>th</sup> October**. Entries cost £1 and should be submitted to the Parent Council Facebook page.

## Family Fun - Bingo Night

**Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> October** sees the first Bingo Night at Symington Primary for a long time. It will take place in the school hall from 5 – 7pm. Tickets are now available at a cost of £6. Tickets available by messaging the face book page: **Symington Primary Parent Council & PTA**

## Hallowe'en

**Pumpkin Trail** – Our Parent Council have once again organised their amazing Pumpkin Trail taking place on **Saturday, 26<sup>th</sup> October** between 1.00pm and 3.00pm starting at the Co-op. You are also likely to see many of the scarecrows which were 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 **Thursday, 31<sup>st</sup> 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.

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## Children in Need Day – Friday 15<sup>th</sup> November

There is a national Gladiator theme this year so sports gear at the ready – more details to follow from our pupil Rotakids leadership group who are organising this fundraiser.

## Pupil Voice Groups and After School Clubs

Here at Symington our children are very involved in evaluating the work of the school and contribute through our 10 Pupil Leadership Groups which have led to several awards achieved. Alongside this we currently have several activity clubs running for afterschool – knitting, netball and football. The last dates for these clubs will be: dance on 27<sup>th</sup> November, knitting on 10<sup>th</sup>, netball on the 12<sup>th</sup> and football on 13<sup>th</sup> December. Choir club will be starting back up on Monday 28<sup>th</sup> October with the last one on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> December.

## No Dogs in the Playground

In this first term we have seen an increased number of dogs being brought to school at pick-up time. While our children are always happy to see their pets, this can be quite distressing for some youngsters and indeed pets, as youngsters cannot help but want to touch. This is especially when folks are being considerate and tie the dogs to railings on the grass verge whilst they collect a child. Owners, children and pets would be devastated if a pet lost patience and snipped at a child. For this reason, we politely ask that no dogs are brought to school at pick-up or drop-off and are **not allowed into the playground**.

## Bringing Bikes and Scooters to School

Please remind your youngster to refrain from riding their bikes/scooters when entering the playground in the morning and when leaving at the end of the day and to walk them in instead. This will ensure the safety of all our children and families at these busy times.

## Transition: Primary 7 – Secondary School

Already work is underway to make our P7 transition to secondary school as smooth as possible. Before too long you will be asked to complete paperwork online regarding your wishes for Secondary school – keep an eye on your email. We also work very closely as a cluster and with Prestwick Academy to help our youngsters and parents on understanding the curriculum. Transition events for this year will kick off with a numeracy event “Christmaths” on 4<sup>th</sup> December and a Cluster P7 Disco on the 11<sup>th</sup> at 6.00-7.30pm at Prestwick Academy.

## Poppy Appeal



Poppies will be available in school from Friday, 1<sup>st</sup> 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 **Tuesday, 26<sup>th</sup> November, doors open 6.30pm**. This is the main fundraiser for the school 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 Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> December (afternoon) and Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> December at 9.30am. Further information will follow.

**Christmas lunch and jumper day**

**Christmas parties**

**Christmas Service**

**Christmas Outing**

in school will be Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> December

will take place in the last week of term

will take place on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> December at 9.30am

Whole school Cinema visit to see Mufasa Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December

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## 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.



## Medicines in School

Should medicine required to be administered at school then parents must complete the required documentation which is available from the school office. Any medication should be handed in to the office staff first thing in the morning and then collected at the end of the day. Children who require inhalers should be able to use these themselves, under the supervision of a member of staff.

## Water bottles

We have a water cooler available for use by pupils in the school and classroom taps provide potable drinking water. However, we would ask that pupils bring their own water bottles to have in class (with the non-spill lid) for hygiene and cost. If you send your child to school with a filled water bottle, please ensure that it is only water in it. **No juice, please.**

Our Eco-committee are also working hard to reduce the amount of single use plastic.

## P.E. Kit

Please ensure that your child/children have their P.E. kit either in their school bag or bring it in a bag which will remain in school and be sent home termly. A P.E. kit should be a pair of shorts, t-shirt and white soled shoes. Children are not permitted to take P.E. in their school shoes.

## Holidays

School closes	Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> December @ 2.30pm
School opens	Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> January
Monday Holiday	Monday 10 <sup>th</sup> February
Inservice day	Tuesday 11 <sup>th</sup> February
School closes	Friday 4 <sup>th</sup> April @ 2.30pm
School reopens	Tuesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> April

