



# Troon Primary School & EYC

## August 2023 Newsletter

Dear Parents and Families,

I hope you all enjoyed the summer break and are now fully recharged and ready for the new school year. A very warm welcome to all our new, and returning, families. We hope you are all settling in well and getting back into the early morning routines! The children have been working well in their classes, getting to know their new teachers and spending time with their friends. We look forward to working in partnership with you again this session to ensure a positive year ahead for all our children.

### LEARNING AND TEACHING

Our annual Meet the Teacher afternoon takes place on **Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> August**. This is our first opportunity of many to welcome you to school this session. Please join us between **3.30pm and 4.15pm**. This will provide you with an informal opportunity to meet your child's teacher and visit their classroom. Children are welcome to join you and show you their classroom. Please note, at our formal parent appointments in both October and February you will have an allocated appointment time where you can discuss your child's progress.



Every term, each stage creates their own 'Curricular Maps'. These outline the core learning and teaching planned for each term in your child's class. We hope you find this a helpful tool to support learning at home - these will be issued electronically to all families throughout the year.

Class homework continues to be issued via Teams, with the exception of Primary 1 pupils for the moment. As we progress in a digital age, it is important we make effective use of our online learning platform, Microsoft Teams, to support home learning and develop our children's digital skills. Children will discuss homework each week with their own class teacher and have opportunities to share their learning in class too.

### PARENT APPOINTMENTS

Our first parents' meetings for the session are scheduled for:

- **Wednesday 11 October from 6.00pm**
- **Thursday 12 October from 3.30pm**

Further details will follow later this term to select your preferred date for your appointment. Appointments will take place in the main gym hall. Please note, it is not possible to accommodate individually requested times, these will be allocated and issued by our clerical team in advance.

Our parent appointment meetings in October and February take place in the main gym hall; feedback has shown this helps ensure families with more than one child can move between their appointments with ease and has also been extremely helpful in keeping appointments on schedule. During your appointment it is important that you please keep within your allocated time slot and allow the next appointment to start on time.

A selection of your child/children's literacy and numeracy work will also be in the hall for you to look through. Each class will have a designated table where you can look through your child's work.

## ANNUAL DATA UPDATES & COMMUNICATION

It is vital emergency contacts are kept up to date. Please contact the office if your details change during the school year. Annual data packs have been issued to all classes. Please return these as soon as possible to allow us to update our systems. Thank you.

Please remember, all communication should be sent through the Xpressions app, to the school mailbox, [Troon.Mail@south-ayrshire.gov.uk](mailto:Troon.Mail@south-ayrshire.gov.uk), or by telephone on 01292 690069. **Please do not send emails directly to any member of staff as these can often be missed.** Our clerical team will then respond as required and/or direct this to the appropriate member of staff.

Staff will aim to respond to any queries within 48 hours; an immediate response is not always possible due to timetabling and teaching commitments during the day. Thank you for your understanding.

## ALLERGIES AND 'NUT FREE' ZONE

At the beginning of term, it is extremely important to raise awareness of children with severe food allergies. People who suffer from food allergies can develop a severe, potentially life-threatening, allergic reaction. We have a number of pupils with severe food allergies linked to nuts and dairy products, who have medication in the form of adrenaline auto injectors known as EpiPens.



If someone has a severe allergy it is not just eating these products that can cause a severe reaction, but in extreme cases just being touched on the skin or smelling the breath of someone who has eaten nuts/dairy, or a product containing nuts/dairy, can trigger anaphylactic shock which can cause breathing and swallowing difficulties. All staff in the school are trained to use the EpiPens adrenaline injectors. This can be required immediately if a reaction takes place.

We would like to remind all families as we begin the session that we aim to be a **Nut-Free School!** We ask you to please support us by ensuring that **NO NUT PRODUCTS** are brought to school in lunch boxes or as a morning snack. For example:



- Packs of nuts
- Peanut butter or Nutella sandwiches
- Chocolate bars or sweets that contain nuts
- Fruit and cereal bars that contain nuts
- Biscuits/cookies that contain nuts
- Foods that include satay

We would also ask children not to share any snacks with their friends at break or lunch to ensure every child is only eating their own food in line with their dietary requirements linked to allergies, medical or ethical diets.

## FLU IMMUNISATIONS

The flu vaccine is offered to all primary school aged children in Scotland and is given to children at school by the local NHS team.

Our annual flu vaccinations are scheduled for **24 October 2023**; thank you for completing and returning the consent forms. Public Health Scotland have produced the following animation, 'What to expect during your flu vaccine' which you may wish to watch together at home before the vaccination date: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qSm2Uvdb4GM>



## STAFF NEWS

### EARLY YEARS CENTRE

Following successful interview last term, Ms Pringle moves from a temporary to permanent post this session. Miss Blackburn and Mrs Jardine both secured two-day temporary posts with us; alongside her existing permanent hours, this takes Mrs Jardine to a full-time post again. Mrs Jannetts, our EYC teacher, is currently on maternity leave and had a beautiful baby girl just before our return to school – congratulations! During this time, Miss Gemmell has moved to the EYC as class teacher. Our Senior Early Years Practitioner has been re-advertised and we hope to appoint this early in the session.

An enormous thank you to all the 52-week staff in the Early Years Centre who continued to provide high quality early learning and childcare provision every day over the summer session.

### SCHOOL

We welcome several new teaching staff to school this session. A warm welcome to Miss Fraser (P1), Miss Weatherston (P2), Mrs Hull (P3/4 & 5 cover) and Mrs Nelson (Cluster Pupil Support Teacher). We are also delighted to welcome Mr Robb as our new Principal Teacher whilst Mrs Alcroft officially begins her remit as Depute Head Teacher.



## PARKING/PLAYGROUND

We kindly ask for your continued support with parking during drop off and pick up times. All children and parents from the school and Early Years Centre should enter and exit through the Barassie Street gates at the front of the school. **No children or parents should cross the car park at any point to ensure their own safety.** Parking is for staff, visitors and disabled access only. Please also remember that no dogs should be brought into the school grounds. Thank you in advance for your support to help keep all our children safe.

## INFORMATION AND ANNUAL CALENDAR

We are currently finalising our Parental Engagement and Involvement calendar for Session 2023-2024 and hope to share this with you shortly to allow you to plan ahead and save those dates on the calendar. Each month we will also share information leaflets with you covering a variety of areas and would remind you to please follow us '@TroonPS' on X (previously known as Twitter) and use our website for information as well.



Our School Improvement Plan outlines our priorities for the year. This session our biggest areas of development are in literacy. We will focus on embedding high quality writing opportunities across all stages, developing reading for pleasure and a focus on phonics and phonological awareness as part of the 'South Ayrshire Reads' initiative. Further information can be found here; [South Ayrshire Reads Launch - YouTube](#).

In numeracy and maths, we will continue to embed mental maths strategies and a concrete, pictorial, abstract approach to help aid understanding and make clear connections for all children. A focus on play, digital skills, health and wellbeing will also be prioritised in all classes alongside high quality training and staff development opportunities to create rich learning experiences across all stages.

We are thoroughly looking forward working with our children and families over the course of the year ahead.

Best wishes,

Aileen Roan  
HEAD TEACHER

