



Troon Primary School & EYC September 2024 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 took place on Wednesday 28 August, this was our first opportunity of many to welcome you to school this session, it was lovely to welcome you back into school. We hope you enjoyed the opportunity to meet informally with your child's teacher and visit their classroom. During our formal parent appointments in October and February you will have an allocated appointment time where you can discuss your child's progress and achievements in school.



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 continue to 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. We are all aware that sometimes life can get busy and homework can be missed or be difficult to fit in - please don't worry if this is the case, do what you can and what feels right for your child.

PARENT APPOINTMENTS

Our first parents' meetings for the session are scheduled for **Thursday 10 October from 3.30pm – 5.30pm and 6.00pm – 8.30pm.**

Further details will follow later this term. Please note, it is not possible to accommodate individually requested times, these will be allocated and issued by our clerical team in advance. It will be possible to select the first or second half of the appointments.

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. Please note, children should not attend the appointments, however, if you require to bring your children with you they can go to the GP room where staff will supervise until your appointment slot is complete.

ANNUAL DATA UPDATES & COMMUNICATION

It is vital emergency contacts are kept up to date. If your details change during the school year please update using Parentsportal. If you have not already registered please contact the school office. Annual data packs have been issued to all families through the new Parentsportal – if you have any issues accessing this please let the office staff know. Please also return any paper forms to school 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, 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.

Our school website is also full of helpful information that you can access throughout the session: <https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/sa/troonps/>. A wide variety of parent information leaflets can be accessed here, these will also be issued to you directly throughout the session. Our School Improvement Plan, Standards and Quality Report and Handbook can be accessed here too along with information on our Parent Council meetings. The first Parent Council meeting will take place on Thursday 12 September at 6.30pm in the school ICT suite, all parents are welcome to attend.

PARENT WORKSHOPS AND EVENTS – TERM 1

During Term 1 we have several parent workshops running. Our first will be held on Friday 13 September at 9.15am. This is a maths focused workshop organised by Scott Morrow, SAC Numeracy Coordinator. Scott will begin with a short presentation for adults followed by an interactive session working with your child. Please use the following link to sign up if you feel this would be of benefit for you: <https://forms.office.com/e/z3w3aF2Z3J>. If this date does not suit you, please note, there will also be a second maths workshop in Term 2 led by Chris McKenna from Count on Us, this will be open to the full Marr Cluster and will also be followed by a staff training session, details will follow in our Parent Calendar shortly.

Our Primary 1 workshops start on Friday 27 September and are led by Mrs Law, one of our own teachers. This workshop is focused on reading and ways to support learning to read at home. A further three workshops will take place across the session.

For all P1 - 3 families we are introducing a new 'Read with me at 3' activity this session to link in with our school improvement focus on 'South Ayrshire Reads'. We would love to see you on Friday 27 September at 3pm. All classes are reading for pleasure and we would love to link with families to do this too. Children will come and join you in the library to let you read and enjoy a story together at the end of the day. This is the first we have introduced 'Read with me at 3' and will gather your feedback as we go. It is our aim to include a session every term. If you are free and can pop in at the end of the day we would love to see you on the 27th!

TEMPEST PHOTOGRAPHY



Please save the date – Wednesday 9 October - for individual and family group photos! Tempest will be in school to take photographs of all children from EYC through to P7. Family groups can be accommodated but this is only for EYC/school age children and does not include younger siblings.

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 **Thursday 14 November 2024**; 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>



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 and that of their child.** 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.

As always, we encourage our children from Primary 4 upwards to develop their independence and walk to meet their families at the front gates. Staff are always on hand in the playground and children know to let any one of us know if someone is not there for them; if you are running late, please call ahead and let the office staff know, we can then arrange for your child to wait at the main office for you.

INFORMATION AND ANNUAL CALENDAR

We are currently finalising our Parental Engagement and Involvement calendar for Session 2024-2025 and hope to share this with you shortly to allow you to plan ahead and save those dates on the calendar.



Our School Improvement Plan outlines our priorities for the year. This session our biggest areas of development are in literacy and a focus on reading. We will focus on embedding high quality writing opportunities across all stages, developing reading for pleasure and a focus on phonics and fluency 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 focus on increasing speed and accuracy in mental maths and fluency.

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

HOUSE CAPTAINS

Our Primary 7 House Captains are newly elected and excited to begin work! Children in Primary 7 worked extremely hard preparing and delivering their House Captain election speeches before children voted for their elected Captain. Many congratulations to our new Captains!



House Captains 2024-2025

Bentinck – Hollie and Rory
Welbeck – Gregor and Dan
Titchfield – Alex and Sophie
Portland – Eilidh and Keegan



All our children belong to one of our houses and can earn points throughout the year which go towards winning the House Cup in June.

PUPIL VOICE

Pupil voice is extremely important to us at Troon. Last session, our children from P1 to P7 planned their own interdisciplinary learning topic focused on countries around the world and the Olympics. We plan to extend this in 2024-2025 with children planning learning across the year, being further involved in consultation and policy. Our first consultation this term will focus on the refresh of our Vision, Values and Aims. This will be led by the children and staff together to ensure every voice is heard.



Children were elected to various roles last session and worked together in school and with community partners as our 'Global Impactors'. The children decided these roles should remain in place until December to allow for maximum impact in Term 1. All children will have the opportunity to put themselves forward for a role on one of these committees later in Term 2 which will allow for a streamlined handover to new pupils at Christmas.

STAGED INTERVENTION

Staff are currently working to update Staged Intervention paperwork for identified pupils. Evaluations were completed in June and new targets are currently being set. Many interventions have already started but we feel it is important to allow children time to settle into their class and for staff to get to know your child. Staged Intervention paperwork and further information about the process will be shared with families prior to the September weekend.

TERM 1 HOLIDAYS

Please make a note of the school holidays coming up this term for our Early Years Centre and school classes.

September weekend:

- All children from EYC to Primary 7 are off school on Friday 20 and Monday 23 September

October holiday week:

- School stops Friday 11 October at 3.15pm; EYC closes at 5.45pm
- EYC children are off school on Monday 14 October and Monday 21 October (staff in-service day)
- P1-P7 children are off school from Monday 14 October – Friday 18 October and Monday 21 (staff in-service day)
- School reopens on Tuesday 22 October at 9am; EYC at 8am

Aileen Roan
HEAD TEACHER

