



# Troon Primary School

## September 2026 Newsletter

Dear Parents and Families,

Our children in P1A, P1B and the SLC have settled well and are already learning lots of new things. Across our older classes, the children are also busy learning and having fun. I hope you find our September newsletter helpful.

### PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT AND ENGAGEMENT

Last year we ran two successful parent focus groups looking at updating our homework approaches and relationships policy. This year, we are looking to create a focus group to help review and update our Attendance Policy. Staff, partners and pupils will also be involved in this process to ensure all voices are heard and listened to. Please complete the following link if you would be interested in joining our group:

[Parent Focus Group 2026-2027 – Fill out form](#)

Thank you to all those who made it along to our Meet the teacher day at the end of August. As always, this was extremely well supported with almost all families joining us. Our curriculum maps and termly homework has been issued to help support learning at home and we hope the chance to chat with your child's teacher and find out about the planned learning was useful for you.

Our first Parent Council meeting took place earlier this month. During the meeting we shared our School Improvement Plan priorities for the year and reported on our attainment and achievements within our Standards and Quality Report. These are both available on our website alongside a pupil friendly School Improvement Plan - thank you to our House Captains for helping finalise this ready for publication. Our pupil friendly posters have now arrived from the printers ready to hang in the foyer. All documents can be viewed online [here](#).

### ATTENDANCE UPDATE

This month, we have noticed a sharp increase in family holidays which is impacting on pupil attendance. In

| Understanding<br><b>95%</b><br>Attendance Impact | Understanding<br><b>90%</b><br>Attendance Impact | Understanding<br><b>80%</b><br>Attendance Impact | Understanding<br><b>70%</b><br>Attendance Impact |
|--------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|
|                                                  |                                                  |                                                  |                                                  |
| Outstanding attendance. Great opportunity        | Good attendance. Good opportunity                | This is concerning. It adds up quickly           | Serious Impact. Hard to catch up                 |
| <b>10 DAYS MISSED</b>                            | <b>20 DAYS MISSED</b>                            | <b>39 DAYS MISSED</b>                            | <b>59 DAYS MISSED</b>                            |
| That's nearly 2 weeks of learning lost           | That's nearly 4 weeks of learning lost           | That's almost 8 weeks of learning lost           | That's almost 3 months of learning lost          |
| <b>2 WEEKS MISSED</b>                            | <b>4 WEEKS MISSED</b>                            | <b>8 WEEKS MISSED</b>                            | <b>12 WEEKS MISSED</b>                           |
| That's nearly 2 weeks of learning lost           | That's nearly a whole month of school missed.    | That's two months of school missed.              | That's almost a term of school missed.           |

South Ayrshire, we are focused on 'Every Learner, Every Day' and aim to maintain at least a 90% attendance rate and ideally over 95%. Our whole school attendance last year remained strong at 95.6% however around the September weekend we had up to 16 pupils per day absent through family holidays.

Attendance percentages across a school year of 190 days equates to:

- Good attendance (over 95%): 9 days off or less
- Early concerns (92% to 95%): 15 days off (three weeks)
- Increased concern (below 90%): 19 days off or more (four weeks)

Research suggests not attending school has a negative effect on both achievement and wellbeing. However, we understand that there will be circumstances where children will sometimes be absent from school. It is important that children and families have the right support when this happens to return to school as quickly as possible.

If a pupil had 90% average attendance from P1 through to S3, they would have missed the equivalent of one full year of school. If attendance is falling, we will contact parents and carers at an early stage to offer support. Scottish Government policy states that holidays taken during term time are recorded as unauthorised absences unless there are exceptional family circumstances. If you plan to take your child out of school for a holiday, you must notify the school in advance. Parents are strongly advised to avoid term-time holidays to prevent disrupting their child's education. If we can help in any way, please contact the school office and a member of the Management team will be in touch.

## PARENTSPORTAL & EDUSPOT APP

At Troon, we use Parentsportal as a digital way to manage and access paperwork. This has now replaced a traditional bag drop for annual data returns, making it easier to manage paperwork. Our next parent appointments in February are planned to be booked through the Parentsportal app and it is therefore important that **all main contacts** are signed up and have access to this.

As well as Parentsportal, we also use Eduspot app to communicate with parents and carers. Most of our letters, newsletters and updates are sent by email and through the Eduspot App.

If you are having any difficulties accessing the Parentsportal or Eduspot app, or are unsure how to use them, please get in touch with the school office and we will be happy to help. We don't want anyone to miss out on important information about school events, their child, or their learning. If you are not yet signed up as an active user for these apps, we would urge you to set this up as soon as possible.

Please remember, all communication should be sent through the Eduspot 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 continued understanding.

## PARENT APPOINTMENTS – 7 OCTOBER

We look forward to welcoming you all to school for our Parent Appointments on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> October. We hope you enjoy finding out how well your child has settled this session; they are all incredibly proud of their hard work and effort so far.

Holding our parent meetings centrally in the gym hall 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. A timer will ring to signal the end of each appointment - out of respect to other parents, it is important that you please keep within your allocated time slot and allow the next appointment to start on time. The Senior Leadership Team will be available in the hall on the day.

A selection of your child/children's 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 leave all jotters on the table when you are finished ready for the children to use in class the next day.

Please note, appointments are for adults only, however, if you are unable to secure childcare during your appointment, any children who require to come along with their parents will be able to wait in the SLC classroom under the supervision of school staff to allow staff and parents to meet together in the hall. Entrance and exit will be through the P1/2 entrance at the rear of the playground.

## MEDICAL UPDATE

In our last newsletter we highlighted our Allergy Aware approach and signposted you to the SAC link for children requiring medical or ethical diet plans – thank you to those who have completed this. We are still

waiting on some prescribed medication being sent to school and would urge parents to please bring this as soon as possible to ensure your child's safety – parents or carers have the prime responsibility for their child's health and should provide the school with information about any medical needs pertaining to their child. Please remember, any prescribed medication in school must be labelled from the Pharmacy and must contain the information leaflet. The first dose must have been delivered at home to allow parents to confirm this will not cause any allergic reactions. Medication consent forms must be completed when bringing medicine/inhalers to school, including those who carry their own inhalers (P4-7 if required).

**If you have notified the school on your annual data forms that your child has a food allergy, a medical diet action plan must be requested through South Ayrshire Council, to access the link please click [here](#).**

## STAFF NEWS

We are delighted to welcome back Mrs McIntyre to Primary 7 after her maternity leave. Thank you to Miss Nicoll for ensuring P7 had a seamless start to their year. Miss Nicoll will still be with us, covering non-class contact and supporting in the SLC.

## PARKING/PLAYGROUND

Unfortunately, parking and road safety are an ongoing concern, and I would remind you of the information from our August newsletter around use of the car park. 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. **Children or parents should not cross the car park at any point to ensure their own safety. Parking is for staff, visitors and disabled access only – not for general drop off/pick up.** Please also remember that no dogs should be brought into the school grounds. Thank you for your support to help keep all our children safe.

## INFORMATION AND WAYS TO SUPPORT LEARNING AT HOME

Our website has a wealth of information that you may find useful. Throughout the year, we will highlight different information leaflets or policies with you to help share information and communicate effectively.

Please remember, our calendar has already been issued and is also available on the website along with class curricular maps. For term one, we would draw your attention to the following documents:

### Reporting and Assessment:

The Marr Cluster Schools Reporting Strategy: [Marr-Cluster-Primarys-Guidance-for-Families-on-Reporting-2026-2027.pdf](#)

Assessing Children's Progress: [Assessment-Guidance-for-Families-2025.pdf](#)

### Relationships:

Relationships Policy: [TROON PRIMARY SCHOOL & EYC](#)

### Pencil Control and Literacy:

Information on correct pencil grip and letter formation: [grip-formation.pdf](#)

Literacy and English: [LITERACY-AND-ENGLISH-ALL-LEVELS-NEW.pdf](#)

## PERSONAL ACHIEVEMENT AND META SKILLS

Every week we celebrate class successes at assembly and every term we celebrate personal successes too. We have a dedicated mailbox- [TECWA@south-ayrshire.gov.uk](mailto:TECWA@south-ayrshire.gov.uk) - where you can send in information about out of school successes and achievements – please note, these will be shared during our school assembly, by sending in any information/text or photographs we will take this as permission to share in school.

At school, we are continuing to focus on developing our children's **meta skills**. Meta skills are the important skills, attitudes and qualities that help children succeed not only in school but throughout their lives. Meta skills include qualities such as communication, creativity, collaboration, critical thinking, leadership, resilience and self-management. We are encouraging the children to recognise and talk about the meta skills they are using in their learning every day. For example, when working as part of a group, they may be developing their

collaboration and communication skills. When tackling a challenging task, they may be showing resilience and problem-solving skills.

Throughout the school, teachers are helping children to identify these skills in their learning and to reflect on how they are growing and improving. We are also linking our celebrations and achievements to meta skills during assemblies. As well as recognising academic success, we are highlighting examples of children demonstrating important life skills, such as showing determination, supporting others, thinking creatively or taking on leadership roles.

By giving children the language to talk about their strengths and skills, we hope to help them become confident, reflective learners who can recognise the valuable skills they are building every day.

## HOUSE CAPTAINS AND PUPIL VOICE IMPROVEMENT GROUPS

We are delighted to welcome our new House Captains! Congratulations to all those who put themselves forward for House Captain, preparing and delivering high-quality speeches to your House members. We are incredibly proud of how well everyone did! Our House Captains for 2026-2027 are:

**Titchfield:** Evie and Albie, **Portland:** Emma and Mollie, **Welbeck:** Ava and George, **Bentinck:** Bryce and Connie

Our Pupil Voice Improvement groups begin at the end of the month and run every month throughout the year. This year, we will also have P7 Ambassadors helping to run each group with a teacher. This further extends our leadership opportunities for the children, building on existing strengths. Our Young Leaders of Learning Group are also in place and ready to start working with St Patrick's Primary on their area of development.

Each month, we also meet with a group of pupils in our Learning Lens group. This is a great afternoon where different children from each class come along to the Management Room, joining the House Captains and Leadership Team to talk about and share their learning. A highlight last year, was sharing and talking about the class learning journey in their floor books. Floor books are used to document the learning taking place in class and have been a real success at Troon. We can't wait to see these again (class floor books will also be available on the tables at parents' night to share the class learning journey with you).

## CLUBS AND ACTIVITIES

Our after school clubs are now up and running for Term 1. So far, we have an afterschool dance club, gymnastics club, football for both boys and girls, netball club and a lunch time dodgeball club. We also have a new lunchtime mini bridge club. Each term our activities on offer will be communicate to the appropriate year groups, with something on offer for different ages across the year. Thank you to all the staff, parents and volunteers who help support our activities.

## New P1 Classroom Visit



If your child is due to start school in August 2027, we would like to invite you to pop in to see round the P1 classes between 3.30pm and 4.00pm on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> October.

Best wishes,

Aileen Roan  
HEAD TEACHER

