



NEWSLETTER



Dear Parents/Carers



Welcome back and a *Happy New Year* to you all! We hope you have had a well-earned rest and are looking forward to the term ahead; it's going to be a busy one...

We are all very optimistic that this year we will see more lifting of restrictions and an end to this awful pandemic we are living through right now. Circumstances in school are changing on a daily basis and we will endeavour to ensure that we keep you up to speed with any changes as we progress through this term. We are continuing to follow Scottish Government Guidelines, which, you are aware, can change at any time.

Please note, as much correspondence as possible will be delivered through Group call and email.

We hope that you enjoy reading our first Newsletter of 2022 with your children 😊

COVID

With COVID-19 prevalent across the country, it's extremely important that we do everything we can to help to minimise the spread. The measures we need to take are simple, such as wearing a face covering where required (unless exempt); limiting social contact with other households (gather in groups of no more than three households); avoid crowded places and get the vaccine or vaccine booster. You can read more about what you can do to protect yourselves and those around you on the [Scottish Government website](#).



If your child has a positive Covid test result then isolation advice for household contacts is as follows;

- If household members are **under the age of 18** years and 4 months and have a negative LFD Test and no symptoms, they can end isolation once they have taken a test and take daily lateral flow tests for 7 days. The same applies to household members aged **over 18** years and 4 months if they are **fully vaccinated (3 doses** with more than 14 days since the booster/third dose).



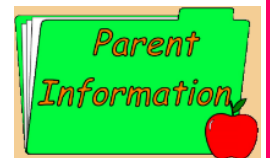
- Household members aged **under 5 years** are advised to take a LFD Test, but do not need to continue these for 7 days.
- If any household members over the age of 18 years and 4 months are **not fully vaccinated** (3 doses) then they must self-isolate for 10 days and book a PCR test.

Please do not send your child to school when a member of your household has tested positive **unless they have a negative test result and then continue to test negative for 7 days.**

All other mitigations that have been in school since August will continue this term.

School Office Update - VERY IMPORTANT!

If any of your contact details - address, telephone, e-mail have changed, please contact the school office. We send out lots of e-mails, letters etc and it is important that we have the correct details for parents/carers. It is also important that your child's nominated contacts are also kept up to date - i.e. who it is that we can contact and who could collect your child in the event of an emergency. If you are unsure what details the school holds for you please contact the school office.



Unless your child qualifies for free school meals, parents/ carers can make payment on line at: www.south-ayrshire.gov.uk/school-payments. If you need help to do this or require a note of your child's log in details to enable you to go online, please contact the school office. Once you are set up it's easy to manage and monitor your child's school meal account.

Free School Meals for All Primary 5 Pupils Since August 2021 all pupils in P1 to P4 have been entitled to a free school lunch during term time. From 06 January 2022, the expansion of the free school meals programme now extends to all P5 pupils as well.

This is a great opportunity for all P5 pupils to enjoy a nutritious, freshly cooked school lunch and further information on menus and school food regulations can be found on the South Ayrshire Council website.



If you feel that you might qualify for free school meals and have not yet applied please can we encourage you to do so. If you need any help to do this please contact the school office. Applications for free school meals can be made online using the following link: www.south-ayrshire.gov.uk/free-school-meals. An application for free school meals does not require to be submitted for P1 - P5 as a meal is provided to pupils at no cost, **however those families in P1-5 who do qualify for free school meals on the basis of income/receipt of benefits, can be eligible for additional support in times of crisis such as Co-vid, so please follow the link and apply!**



Primary 1 Online Registration - Monday 17th January



Children who are 5 years old between 1 March 2022 and 28 February 2023 are due to be registered for Education. Parents should register their children online at www.south-ayrshire.gov.uk/schools.

The link will be available from Monday 17 January 2022 and all registrations should be complete by Friday 21 January 2022.

When registering your child, you should attach their birth certificate and proof of your residence in the catchment area in the form of a Council Tax Notice and Utility Bill to the on-line registration.



Parking

Parking at Annbank Primary School and Nursery Class is challenging, we are on a main road with a small car park that is used mainly by staff and library visitors.

Where possible we would encourage you to walk, cycle, scoot or bus to school.

If you do need to bring a car then please park responsibly.

- You should not double park or park on corners that prevent other car users from exiting.
- Do not park on the zig-zag crossings outside our school.
- Be respectful to our neighbours - do not block driveways, block views for residents to get in and out their driveways or double park on streets nearby.

Neighbours

Having good relationships with our neighbours is important to our school community.

Please respect those who live locally to the school by:

- Not sitting on their property walls.
- Not blocking their driveways.
- Not littering their streets.
- Not acting in an aggressive, intimidating, offensive or abusive manner.
- Keeping their access routes clear at drop off and pick up time.



Staffing



We are pleased to welcome five new staff members to Annbank Primary School and EYC. Mrs Kim Emmerson is our new EYC teacher, Miss Rayanne Riddell is our new P2/1 class teacher, Miss Annie Bray and Miss Laurie Nant are both Early Years Practitioners who will be joining our Early Years Team and Miss Louise Clark is joining us in her role as School Assistant.

Welcome to #teamannbank!

Local Food Bank Information



The Annbank, Mossblown and Tarbolton Food Bank is being run by the local church and is offering free food to all families who need it during this very difficult time. Just before Christmas we asked for donations for the Food Bank and thanks to your generosity we contributed a full car load of food to this very important cause.

If you and your family are struggling to make ends meet at the moment and you would like to receive a food parcel from the church please email/ telephone the school and let us know and we will pass your telephone number and address on to the organisers of the food bank who will get in touch with you as soon as possible.

We are also able to continue to support families through the Greggs Foundation Hardship Fund Grant Programme 2021/22. This grant is to help alleviate financial pressures felt by families, none so more than the provision of food and living necessities during the current Coronavirus pandemic, and applications can be submitted for the purchase of the following: Fridge, freezer, fridge-freezer, cooker, washing machine, clothing, (inclusive of school uniform) supermarket vouchers, beds and bedding. Please be aware there is a limited budget and not all applications can be awarded therefore this grant is for the families who are most in need and where the grant will make the most difference. Please contact the school office for more information.

Right now we are living through very difficult and different times and we are here to help, so please ask for help if you need it.

Attendance and Late Coming



Can you please ensure that you contact the school either via telephone or email, before 9.30am if possible, if your child is unwell or unable to come to school.

The number of pupils arriving late at school is still causing concern and impacting on learning and teaching. Please ensure your child is on time for school. Any child arriving late must report to the school office. All late comings are recorded and this is closely monitored.

Ready, Respectful, Safe

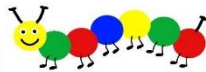
At Annbank Primary School and Early Years Centre we believe that positive re-enforcement of good behaviour is more effective than negative sanctions and our relationships with pupils are built on ensuring that we are always: Ready, Respectful and Safe. We are:



- ✓ READY to learn
- ✓ RESPECTFUL at all times
- ✓ Keeping ourselves and others SAFE

All staff and pupils have high expectations of behaviour and these 3 school rules apply to every aspect of school life. The recognition of positive behaviour helps to ensure that Annbank Primary School is a safe and happy learning environment for all pupils.

Parent Council



Our Parent Council continues to meet, via Zoom, once a term. We are always looking for new parents to become involved. If childcare has stopped you joining previously

then this could be your opportunity as the meetings will be held on Zoom!

Our next meeting is on 31st January at 7pm. An invite will be sent out on Group Call and then, if you wish to attend, a code will be sent to you to join the meeting.

A huge thank you to the Parent Council for their support over the Christmas period. Money raised helped purchase a Christmas gift for all pupils in the school and EYC.

Holocaust Memorial Day - Thursday 27th January 2021

This year, the theme for Holocaust Memorial Day 2022 is '*One Day*'.

Primary 7 will deliver a virtual assembly to the whole school based on this theme, giving time to remember the millions of people who lost their lives in the Holocaust of World War 2.

More information on this theme can be found on the website:

<https://www.hmd.org.uk/what-is-holocaust-memorial-day/this-years-theme/>

Primary 6 Burns Supper

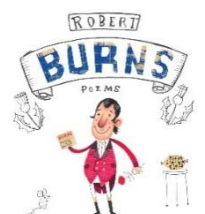


Primary 6 pupils will hold their annual Burns Supper after lunch on Thursday 3rd February. There will be speeches delivered, songs sung and poems recited by the boys and girls in Primary 6. This celebration of 'Burns' will be 'zoomed' into all classes, and all pupils

will be entertained by our Primary 6 year group. Following this feast of entertainment, everyone will be offered a selection of traditional Scottish fare to enjoy in their classrooms and an extra choice of haggis, neeps and tatties will be on the school lunch menu for everyone to enjoy.

Scottish Poetry Competition

Our Burns Recitation Competition will take place on Friday 28th January. Teachers will choose a Burns or a Scottish poem which they will give out to all





OUR SCHOOL VALUES EFFORT INCLUSION EQUALITY TRUTH/HONESTY RESPECT



pupils. Children are encouraged to learn it, then recite it in front of family and then each other, their teacher will give them a date for this.

3 finalists will be chosen and they will then recite their poem on Friday 28th January in front of invited judges who will determine a class winner and then an overall school winner. Children will receive a first, second and third place certificate and the overall school winner will receive a book of poems written by our very own local poet, John Rodie.

Good luck everyone!



An Afternoon of Scottish Culture



On Thursday 10th February all classes will enjoy an afternoon of Scottish songs and poems. Each class will sing a chosen Scottish song and the winners of this year's Recitation Competition will recite their poems. This event will be watched by all classes on Thursday afternoon on zoom and all parents are invited to join us virtually for what will be 'a right great afternoon!'

Children's Mental Health Week



From Monday 7th - Friday 11th February your child will be taking part in a number of activities designed to mark Children's Mental Health Week.

It is so important that we take care of our children's mental health as well as their physical health. All activities have been designed to promote positive mental health and wellbeing in our children. Classes will also learn techniques which will enable them to be mindful of and self-regulate their feelings and emotions.

The theme of this year's Children's Mental Health Week is **Growing Together**. We will be encouraging children (and adults) to consider how they have grown, and how they can help others to grow.

To find out more about this week please visit

<https://www.childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk> where you will find some really helpful resources.

February Mid-Term Break

The mid-term holiday is Friday 11th and Monday 14th February. Teachers return for in-service training on Tuesday 15th and pupils return to school on Wednesday 16th February.



World Book Day - Thursday 3rd March



For World Book Day 2022. We will have activities during the day. More information will be provided nearer the time.



Comic Relief - Friday 18th March

Friday 18th March is Comic Relief. We will be consulting the pupils on how to celebrate this event and will send out further information. Parents may wish to send in a small contribution of £1 towards Comic Relief on this date.

Easter Service 2022



There will be a virtual Easter assembly for all pupils at 9.30am on Friday 1st April. This will be delivered by our Primary 5 year group and it is hoped that Rev. Mandy will also join us via zoom to celebrate this very special time in the Christian calendar.

Easter Holidays and First Day Back!

The last day of the term is Friday 1st April, school will close at 3.00pm for the Easter holiday and pupils will return to school on Tuesday 19th April.

TERM 3 DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- ✓ Wednesday 12th January - P5 Swimming lessons start
- ✓ Monday 25th January - A Celebration of Scottish Culture Assembly
- ✓ Thursday 27th January - P7 Holocaust Assembly
- ✓ Friday 28th January - P1-7 Scottish Recitation Competition
- ✓ Monday 31st January - Parent Council Meeting 7pm on zoom
- ✓ Thursday 3rd February - P6 virtual Burns Supper
- ✓ Monday 7th February - Children's Mental Health Week
- ✓ Thursday 10th February - Virtual Whole School Scottish Afternoon
- ✓ Friday 11th February - Mid-term holiday, pupils return Wednesday 16th February
- ✓ Friday 18th February - Bikeability starts for all P6 pupils
- ✓ Monday 26th February - The start of 'Fairtrade Fortnight'
- ✓ Thursday 3rd March - World Book Day
- ✓ Friday 18th March - Comic Relief
- ✓ Friday 1st April - School closes for the Easter break

This is, as mentioned at the very beginning of this newsletter, a very busy term! As you are aware, because of Co-vid, things are changing all the time and by the time you read this newsletter there may already be changes to our 'new normal' situation. I will try my very best to keep you aware of these changes as timely as possible.



Take care and stay safe!

Karen Butchart
Head Teacher

