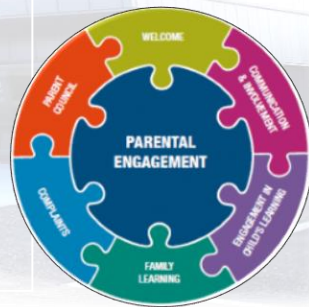


Struthers Primary School and EYC

September 2023 Newsletter



Dear parents and families

I hope you all enjoyed the summer break and were able to relax and spend some precious time with your loved ones. 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 had a super start and have been working well in their new classes, getting to know their new class teachers and spending time with their friends again. We look forward to working in partnership with our parents, families and community partners in the weeks and months ahead.

COMMUNICATION

A school newsletter will be issued throughout the session, providing updates on what has been happening in school and informing you of any upcoming events. The newsletters will also be made available on the school website - struthers.sayr.sch.uk. All letters from the school will also be available on the school website, so please use this to check for details if you misplace an original letter. In cases where we need to send out important reminders, parents will receive an email from the school office.

We enjoy sharing daily school news via our twitter account @StruthersSchool. This is a closed account, so you must request to follow us before you will be able to see any information. It is a great way to share pupil achievements and photos of the daily life of the school.

LEARNING AND TEACHING

We are delighted that so many of you were able to come along to our Meet the Teacher evening, on Wednesday 30th August. We hope you enjoyed meeting with your child's teacher and joining in with Chris McKenna from Count on Us www.countonus.org for our Numeracy and Maths workshop.

At Struthers, we provide a nurturing and caring environment for your child to grow, learn and develop. We understand the importance of working together with our families to ensure that all children have a strong foundation on which to build in later years. Throughout the session, we will host many opportunities where we encourage you to get involved, strengthening our partnerships between home and school. We will also issue a range of different information leaflets to help support learning at home and provide a variety of helpful information.

Family learning encourages positive attitudes to lifelong learning, helping all our children achieve the highest standards possible. It is our aim to ensure you are fully aware of the types of learning taking place within our Early Years Centre and School, and how best to support your child/children in their learning. Curriculum Flyers outlining the learning and teaching for each class will provide class specific information each term too. All information guides will also be available on our school website.

READING SCHOOLS ACCREDITATION

We are thrilled to share that we have recently been awarded a core Reading School accreditation from the Scottish Book Trust. This will be officially recognised and celebrated on Wednesday 27th of September. This achievement would not have been possible without the hard work and passion for reading shown by all Struthers pupils, parents and staff. We are now working towards our Silver award so look out for lots of reading events and initiatives this session.

STAFFING NEWS

EARLY YEARS CENTRE

Mrs McGuigan is currently on maternity leave after giving birth to baby Oren in March, during this time we welcome Miss Nicoll as our EYC teacher this 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 every day over the summer session.

SCHOOL

A new session inevitably brings changes in staffing and this year is no different. We welcome Miss Laura Muir, Mrs Johanna Dees, Mrs Dorothy Yost, Miss Kara McCormack and Miss Natalie McKay to our teaching staff. Miss Muir will be teaching P2, Mrs Dees will be teaching P3/2, Mrs Yost will be teaching P4 and visiting P1 – P2 throughout the week, Miss McCormack will be teaching P7/6 and Miss McKay will be teaching in P7. We also welcome Mrs Cheryl Elliot, Mrs Fiona Baird and Mrs Carol Flynn to our team of school assistants for this session.

In other exciting news, Miss Leck got married in the holidays and is now Mrs Roots. Congratulations to Catriona and her husband!

HEALTH AND WELLBEING: PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Mrs Love is bursting with enthusiasm this session as she is working with all children across the school to up-level their skills, knowledge and participation in a range of sports and activities. P.E. kits can be brought in a clearly labelled bag and left in class. Older pupils may wish to bring their kit in on their set P.E. days. P.E. kits should consist of shorts and a pair of gym shoes/indoor trainers. It is helpful if younger pupils wear polo shirts on P.E. days rather than a shirt and tie. Pupils in P1-3 will change in the classroom whilst pupils in P4-7 will make use of the changing rooms outside the gym hall.

CHILD PROTECTION

Everyone has a responsibility for the safety and wellbeing of children and young people in our communities. Should any parent or family member be concerned about the wellbeing of any child, this should be reported immediately to Mrs Clark, our Head Teacher, who is the school's Child Protection Co-ordinator.

ALLERGIES

Within the school, we have a pupil with a severe egg allergy and also several pupils with a nut allergy. All staff have received training on Anaphylaxis. As a school we have to take steps to prevent any allergic reactions and as such, would remind parents that pupils **should not bring products containing egg in its whole form (such as egg sandwiches) OR nut-based products to school**, including peanut butter and nut-based chocolate spread.

Within Struthers, we cater for pupils who have specific dietary requirements including:

- Additional support needs e.g. those with chewing and swallowing difficulties
 - Religious, cultural or ethical reasons e.g. individuals from different ethnic origins
 - Medically prescribed e.g. due to coeliac disease, food allergy, food intolerance, etc
- In providing a specific diet, differing approaches are taken depending on the reason for the diet requested. In respect of a specific diet due to additional support needs or ethical/religious/cultural reasons, the parent/guardian should notify the Head Teacher who will liaise with the Catering Supervisor in respect of the specific diet required.

In respect of a medically prescribed diet or amendment to an existing medically prescribed diet, you are required to make a formal request using the online form which can be accessed [here](#).

ABSENCE / LATE COMINGS

We hold the safety and security of pupils as highest priority. To this end, please could we ask that parents/carers notify the school office immediately if a pupil is going to be absent from school and on each day of their absence. Failure to do so will result in our clerical staff sending a text message asking you to contact the school. Pupils who arrive late to school must report to the main office before heading to class.

Please be aware that in line with the authority's 'Maximising Attendance' procedures, a letter will automatically be issued to parents/carers, when a child's unauthorised **absence falls below 90%**. Although you may think this figure is high, **an attendance of 90% over a whole school year equates to missing 4 weeks of education**. You will find more information on council policy and procedures at: <https://www.south-ayrshire.gov.uk/schools/absence.aspx>

THE YEAR AHEAD

The following annual calendar highlights the many ways we have developed and extended parental involvement and engagement at Struthers for this session. Please note, all dates are subject to change; additional dates and opportunities may be added as the year progresses.

Date	Time	Event
18.09.23	08:30	Fun 2B Fit Class for children and adults
22.09.23	All day	School holiday weekend
26.09.23	09:00	Return to school
29.09.23	15:00	Fairtrade and Sustainability Swap Shop (Parent Council)
04.10.23	From 15:30	Parents' Appointments
13.10.23	15:00	Close for October holiday
23.10.23	All day	In-service day for staff
24.10.23	09:00	Return to school
27.10.23	15:00	Fairtrade and Sustainability Swap Shop (Parent Council)
31.10.23	All day	Hallowe'en Parade
11.12.23	Afternoon	P5 Christmas Party
12.12.23	Afternoon	P6 Christmas Party
13.12.23	Afternoon	EYC Nativity
14.12.23	Afternoon	Infant Nativity and Snowball Party for P7
15.12.23	TBC	P7 Walk-round Marr
18.12.23	Afternoon	P2 Christmas Party
19.12.23	Afternoon	P3 Christmas Party

20.12.23	TBC	EYC and P1 Christmas Party
21.12.23	Afternoon	P4 Christmas Party
22.12.23	15:00	Close for Christmas Party
2024		
08.01.24	09:00	Return to school
26.01.24	TBC	P7 Burns Supper
12.02.24	All day	School holiday
13.02.24	All day	In-service day for staff
21.02.24	From 15:30	Parents' Appointments
23.02.24	From 15:00	Fairtrade and Sustainability Swap Shop (Parent Council)
22.03.24	From 15:00	Fairtrade and Sustainability Swap Shop (Parent Council)

Date	Time	Event
15.04.24		Pupils return
26.04.24	From 15:00	Fairtrade and Sustainability Swap Shop (Parent Council)
02.05.24	All day	In-service day for staff
07.05.24		P7 residential trip (Tues – Friday)
17.05.24	15:00	School reports issued
31.05.23	From 15:00	Fairtrade and Sustainability Swap Shop (Parent Council)
05.06.24	TBC	EYC Sports Day
07.06.24	TBC	School Show
11 and 12.06.24	All day	P7 at Marr College transition days
17.06.24	TBC	Guidance Meetings on offer at Marr for new S1 parents
19.06.24	TBC	School Sports Day
21.06.24	TBC	EYC Graduation
26.06.24	TBC	P7 Leavers' Assembly
28.06.24	TBC	Last day of session

As Acting Head Teacher, I look forward to a busy and successful school year with all our families at Struthers EYC and Primary School. As always, should you have any queries about anything within our newsletter, or in connection with your child's learning, please do not hesitate to contact the school.

I look forward to your support as we work together to provide the very best for the young people.

Best wishes

Mrs Laura Clark