

# Lochdonhead Primary School News

## Autumn Term 2019

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### DEAR PARENTS

I hope you have had a wonderful, relaxing summer holiday. It's great to see the pupils back after their break. It certainly seems that the weather is turning autumnal now that we are back to school.

I look forward to another busy, productive year and I am extremely fortunate to have such committed and dedicated staff working in our school. This, coupled with the pupils' enthusiasm and hard work, will ensure on-going success.

Let us not forget, of course the enormous support that you, as parents and carers provide to the school - we are indeed very fortunate.

Do not hesitate to contact the school if you want to chat over any areas of concern. Also be assured that no matter which school I am in, I can be contacted at any time.

For point of reference, the telephone number for Ulva Primary School is - 01688 500 246 and my mobile number is 079029 44626/07786685227.



Susie Carmichael,  
Head Teacher

### STAFFING

The staffing arrangements for this year are -

Head Teacher - Susie Carmichael. I shall be in school for half the week. The days will be dependent on the needs of each school.

Claire Bidwell / Kate Grierson, Principal and Class Teacher will be in school each day.

Rachel French, Class Teacher 0.16 FTE

Sarah Dickinson, clerical & classroom assistant and cleaner & janitor.

Helen Ramage, catering manager & minibuss driver.

### TRANSPORT

Helen provides our school transport. If for any reason there should be an alteration to the pick up/drop off for your child can you please contact Helen directly? Her mobile number is - 07837444641 and her home number is - 01680812175. If there is any absence, please follow our procedures and phone the school before 9.15am as well as letting Helen know as soon as possible in the morning.

School starts at 9.15am and finishes at 3.30pm and we want to support Helen to ensure the pupils arrive to school in good time and leave promptly to ensure health and safety for our pupils.

Thank you for your support with this.

### PUPILS

We are delighted to welcome 5 new Primary 1s to the school. They have settled in very well and are enjoying learning lots of exciting new things.



### ABSENCE AND ILLNESS

As we move into autumn, we feel it is a good time to remind everyone about NHS advice on children's attendance at school when they are feeling poorly. For bouts of sickness or upset stomach children should be kept at home for 48 hours after the last bout of sickness. If your child shows signs of being unwell, please keep them at home until they are well enough to return to school. Please refer to the "Advice on Illness" page on our school blog <https://lochdonprimaryschool.wordpress.com> for advice relating to the exclusion period following various ailments or you can request a paper copy from the office. Thank you for your co-operation and partnership in

helping us to maintain a happy, healthy school.

If your child is absent from school it is important that the office is contacted on the morning of absence before 9:15am if possible. This procedure is in place for the safety and security of pupils. You will receive a telephone call or text message if no call is received. Please inform the school office as soon as possible if your mobile telephone number changes. Thank you.

### ONLINE PAYMENTS FOR LUNCH

This is just a gentle reminder to highlight the online system for paying for lunches. We will have to be very rigid about issuing reminders as we do not have any facility to provide credit. Please pay for your child's lunch on a Monday morning for the week ahead.

### LAST TERM

This is just a selection of events that have happened in the last term. For more information, and many more photos, please visit our blog on <https://lochdonprimaryschool.wordpress.com/>

### FILM WORKSHOP

In May Alasdair Satchel came in to lead a film workshop session with the children. Alasdair helped the children think of ways to describe their favourite films in just a few words (without using the title) to see if others could guess the film they were describing. This helped them to think about the important features that make up a film - like the characters, the storyline, and music.

The children then listened to a sound clip from a film and worked together, using their imaginations, to describe what was happening. They then watched the clip to see how it

compared with the images they had imagined.

Next the children created their own film using their own chosen props.



### STAFFA TRIP

Staff, pupils and parents from both Lochdonhead Primary School and Ulva Primary School enjoyed an afternoon trip to Staffa.

Turus Mara picked us all up from Ulva Ferry and sailed us across to Staffa. We were lucky enough to see dolphins swimming about. Colin our captain floated alongside for us all to get an amazing view!

Once on Staffa, we all went exploring down to the cave and up to the top of the island where we sat and watched the puffins fly in and out and wander along the cliff edge.

The children were extremely happy to see for themselves, the facts they had learnt within the classroom before we left...

- Staffa has no trees
- The island is made up of hexagonal rocks
- Lots of birds nest in the cave
- There are 2 big caves at the front of the island

It was also great for them use their map skills, being able to pinpoint certain aspects of the island such as the caves.

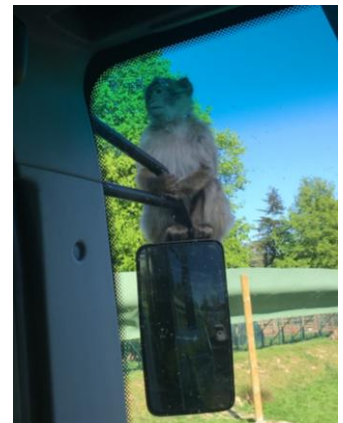


A super day was had by all! Thanks particularly to Colin, Fergus and our very own Cooch for the hospitality, knowledge and excellent customer service and thanks to the Parent Council for helping to fund it.

### P6/7 RESIDENTIAL

As part of Primary 6 & 7 transition, all the pupils from the North of Mull cluster went to Stirling in May for a 4 day residential.

The pupils visited so many super sites including: Banockburn Visitor Centre, The Kelpies, Falkirk Wheel, The Wallace Monument, Stirling Castle and Blair Drummond Safari Park - where we welcomed a visitor onto the bus!



Residential trips are such a valuable learning experience and on top of that all our pupils were so kind and considerate to each other.



## WILD EXPLORERS

In May we had a visit from two Masters students from Edinburgh Napier University who are studying Wildlife Biology and Conservation.

Molly and Neil came into school to talk to the children about wildlife camera traps, plant identifications and terrestrial and marine invertebrates.

The children were given the opportunity to touch skulls, dissect owl pellets and learn more about nature, as well as having the chance to look closely at minibeasts such as beetles and bees.



These are just a few of the things the children enjoyed most from Molly and Neil's visit...

Joseph: I really enjoyed taking the bones out of the owl pellet.

Callum: I enjoyed how they showed us their videos from the camera traps that they had set up for deer.

Nouille: My favourite part was when they showed us the dead bugs and we got to touch them and they showed us a video about deer walking around.

Leo: I like using the magnifying glasses. I wish I had one every day so I could always look at bugs.

Lucy: My favourite part was holding all of the bugs and looking at them through the magnifying glass.

Sara: My favourite part was holding Kevin the bee.

## SPORTS DAY

All pupils put in a tremendous effort on Island Sports Day on 9<sup>th</sup> June. Despite the unpredictable weather, everybody soldiered on, with great performances from all children.

Lochdonhead did especially well, winning 2 bronze medals for u13 girls; one for Javelin and one for Cricket Ball Throw.

Congratulations to all pupils on their enthusiasm and commitment to fun sports. Their attitude towards the activities was outstanding and they can be proud of their positive, caring and respectful behaviour.



## DEFIBRILLATOR AT SCHOOL

In June we had the pleasure of welcoming Moray Finch from MICT to the school to install a defibrillator.

The defibrillator is now available for public access in case of emergency and it is located at the front entrance of the school.

Moray took his time to explain to the children what the defibrillator is used for and all the children were keen to learn how it can be used. We look forward to receiving some official training very soon just for those rare emergencies!



## CELEBRATION OF ACHIEVEMENT

Well we could not have had a better day if we had tried!

On Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> June, we enjoyed our Celebration of Achievement. It is with best wishes that we said goodbye to Sara and wish her the best of luck for her adventures in High School. We would like to thank Cathy MacLean for visiting and saying such kind and inspiring words to send Sara on her way.



After the awards ceremony, we opened our gates to the public for our final community cafe of the year. We welcomed the new residents to Swan Drive, and the pupils each had their own fun stall; face painting, hook a duck, lucky dip, beat the goalie and even a stall selling their home grown potatoes and plants!

In total we managed to raise a whopping £472.60 towards our School Funds! A huge thank you to everybody who came along to support, baked cakes and donated raffle prizes.



## THE TERM AHEAD

Children are encouraged to drink water at any time throughout the day. If you have a water bottle please send it to school where it can be refilled. If your child requires a bottle, please let us know. We would ask that juices are kept for lunchtimes only.

## PE KIT



Can pupils please ensure that they have a PE kit in school at all times? They need a t-shirt, shorts, socks and trainers/gym shoes, all named. If your child has long hair, can they please have a band to tie it back? We would appreciate it if pupils could keep jewellery to a minimum on a PE day.

## SWIMMING

We shall have swimming sessions this term. Please see dates in the section below.



## TOBERMORY FLOWER SHOW

The pupils have created lovely in the theme of 'Tropical Rainforest' for the Flower Show which is on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> August in Tobermory. If you would like to see the artwork it will be on display in the Aros Hall that day.

## MOD & AQUARIUM VISIT

The local Mod will be taking place on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> September in Tobermory. We will transport the children there

and back by minibus and car. After the singing we will be visiting the Aquarium for a workshop and touch pool session. The pupils will also visit Tackle and Books to purchase new books for our school library. Thank you to the parent council for agreeing to fund this.

## BOOK FESTIVAL

The pupils will be travelling to Salen on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> October to join the cluster schools for Author visits. P1-P4 will be having a workshop with Lari Don author of 'The Secret of the Kelpie' and P5-P7 will have a workshop with Lindsay Littleson, author of 'Guardians of the Wild Unicorns'.



## ARCHAEOLOGY

The pupils will be taking part in an archaeological dig at Lephin on 17<sup>th</sup> September. They will then be visiting the Mull museum as part of their topic, to investigate Viking history on Mull.



## P7 TRANSITION

Pupils from P7 are visiting Tobermory High School for a Marine Engineering workshop. This workshop is being run by the Sea Cadets in partnership with Seafarers UK. This fun, hands-on session will teach pupils about the principles of engineering through team challenges. Please go to [www.ms.sc.org](http://www.ms.sc.org) to visit the Marine Society & Sea Cadet (MSSC) website.

## THE BUD BUS

Poppyscotland has launched its ground-breaking new project that aims to explore a contemporary understanding of remembrance. Known as 'Bud', the 18-tonne truck transforms into an interactive learning space and will travel to schools and events across the country over the coming years.

The children will be visiting the bus at Salen School on 17<sup>th</sup> September. Exhibits within the mobile museum include historical artefacts, interactive displays and the moving stories of veterans and their families who have been supported by Poppyscotland.



## THEATRE VISIT

As part of our study of food technology, the pupils will be visiting Mull Theatre in Tobermory to watch EATEN, a production by Mamoru Iriguchi. This award nominated show invites children to the fascinating world of food, food chains and digestion

## COMMUNITY CAFÉ

The community cafes are a wonderful way of establishing ourselves into the heart of this wonderful community as well as providing the school with much needed school funds. We hope to continue these this year and will issue the dates when they have been set. We thank you all for your support with them, it is highly appreciated by all.

## PARENT COUNCIL

Elissa Fenwick is the Chair and Emma Alecock is the Secretary of the Parent Council. They will be in touch with you all to set a date for the first meeting.

**30.9.19** - EATEN at the Mull Theatre

**4.10.19** - Schools close

**21.10.19** - Schools open

**24.10.19** - Author visit to Salen School

## WORKING WITH PARENTS

As you know we are very keen indeed to involve you in any way we can in the working life of the school. If you would like to come in to share any skill, assist in any project, wish to help in class in any way, please let us know. We would really welcome your help.

## REPORTING

We have introduced WOW slips to celebrate achievements at home. Can you please return these slips to school to share.

We will be trialing 'Seasaw' as a reporting tool and will forward more information to you soon.

We will send out an interim report in December and a full written report in May.

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES

**13.8.19** - In-service

**14.8.19** - In-service

**15.8.19** - Schools open

**22.8.19** - HWDT workshop

**26.8.19** - Swimming

**27.8.19** - Mod practice at Salen School

**29.8.19** - P7 Engineering workshop in Tobermory

**2.9.19** - Swimming

**9.9.19** - Swimming

**13.9.19** - Local Mod & Aquarium visit in Tobermory

**16.9.19** - Swimming

**17.9.19** - Visit to Archeological dig & Mull Museum in Tobermory and Bud Bus in Salen

**22.9.19** - Ardura Forest Party

**23.9.19** - Swimming

**23.9.19** - Swimming