

Lochdonhead Primary School Newsletter

Autumn Term 2021

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DEAR PARENTS

ABSENCE AND ILLNESS

possible if your mobile telephone number changes. Thank you.

Welcome back to a new year at Lochdonhead Primary School. We are delighted to welcome 2 new Primary 1 pupils to the school which takes our school roll up to 10!

We also welcome Mr Gordon Muchall to our staff. Gordon will be teaching the children on a Friday and really enjoyed his first day with the children last week.

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

Individuals should not attend school if they feel unwell.

The main symptoms of Coronavirus (Covid-19) are a high temperature, a new, continuous cough and a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste.

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

PICK UP / DROP OFF

Parents / carers should avoid coming into the school grounds unless it is essential. Can you please drop your child off at the school gate no earlier than 9.10am for a 9.15am start. We would ask that parents maintain the 2m distance between families while waiting at the school gate for your child at 3.30pm.

SCHOOL LUNCHES

Helen Ramage our Catering Manager will provide a lunch menu for 4 weeks. If you would like to order a school lunch please contact Gemma Paterson at the office. We request that payment is made online.

WATER & SNACKS

Children are encouraged to drink water at any time throughout the day. Please send in a water bottle to school where it can be refilled. We would ask that juices are kept for lunchtimes only.

Parent Council has kindly agreed to provide fruit and vegetables for the children at break-time. This will start week commencing 23rd August.

STAFFING

We would like to welcome Mr Muchall who is our new teacher at Lochdonhead Primary.



PUPILS

WELCOME BACK EVERYONE!



It's so lovely to welcome everyone back to Lochdonhead Primary School.

NEW PRIMARY 1 PUPILS

We are delighted to welcome 2 new Primary 1s to the school. They have settled in very well and are enjoying learning lots of exciting new things.



LAST TERM

OUTDOOR LEARNING

When we arrived at school on 25th March we were greeted by a cheery chap named Alex sheltering beneath a green tarpaulin tent in the playground! "What do you call something that is brown and sticky?" he joked. 'Mud?' asked someone. "Nope, a brown stick!" came the punchline! He was our leader for a morning of outdoor education fun in our school grounds, which began with orienteering.



Using the map of the world painted on the playground, we warmed up with a game to teach us about the points on a compass, racing between North, South, East and West! Working in teams, we then produced a map of our school grounds on a whiteboard, with a key showing all of the main areas.



After a short snack break, where Alex played a game of catch the pig (a bit like 'What's the Time, Mr Wolf?'), everyone was raring to go again! Putting their new orienteering skills into practice, the children headed off on a treasure hunt to find the hidden markers around the school grounds. Then it was on to fire building - the children learned which natural materials to collect to build a wee fire (mostly dry twigs,

sticks and bark) foraged from around the garden and, using a flint, the P6 and P7 students created sparks to get the fire going.



Once it was burning strong, we toasted marshmallows as a treat. Before saying our goodbyes and thankyou's, Alex used charcoal to draw on our faces - everyone raced in to look in the mirror before washing our hands for lunch. Clean plates all round after all of that fresh air and fun!



Thank you Alex for sharing your knowledge and skills with the children. They all enjoyed it very much and have been busy working on Thank You cards to share what they learned and enjoyed the most.

Here is what the children had to say:

"I enjoyed learning how to make the fire and finding out about the different resources that you can use. I learned which resources are good for making a fire and what each different symbol means on a map. I would like to learn more about maps and use some in unfamiliar places. I would also like to learn more about countries. Thank you for coming and teaching us about the outdoors; it was very fun doing all the activities." Lucy.

"I enjoyed marshmallows and I learned how to play a new game. Thank you." Tyler.

"I learned that birch bark has good oil in it and it can be used in fire." Lucille.

"I enjoyed the marshmallows. I learned how to go North, South, East and West." Caitlyn.

"I enjoyed the treasure hunt we did! I learned how to use flint and steel. I would like to learn more about different ways to make fire in the wilderness. Thank you for all the learning you did for us." Callum.

"I learned North, South, East and West. Thank you." Hannah.

"I enjoyed roasting a marshmallow and I learned to stay back away from fire." Isla.

"I enjoyed making fire and knowing what item to use. I learned what symbols on the map mean. I want to learn more about maps." Joseph.

"I enjoyed making fire. I learned about wildlife. Thank you." Mya.

"I enjoyed marshmallows and I learned about North, South, East and West." Leo.

The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child:

Article 29 (goals of education): Education must develop every child's personality, talents and abilities to the full. It must encourage the child's respect for human rights, as well as respect for their parents, their own and other cultures, and the environment

Article 31 (leisure, play and culture): Every child has the right to relax, play and take part in a wide range of cultural and artistic activities.

RUGBY TRAINING

On Tuesday 8th June 2021 we welcomed Rugby Development Officer Andrew Johnston to school.



We worked on our fitness, rugby skills and teamwork.

After lots of fun, energetic warm-up games, we practiced passing and catching the ball, and even worked on our line-out. Thank you Andrew for a great rugby session.



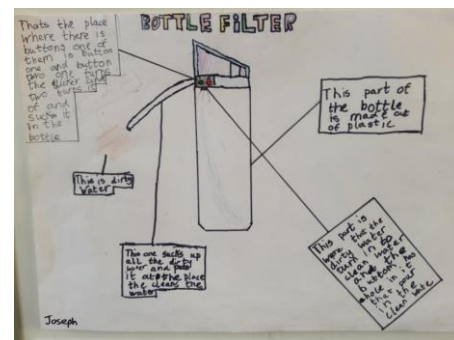
ENGINEERING AWARDS

Last term our pupils participated in the Scottish Engineering Leaders Awards and developed their ideas into inventions to solve a world problem.

Supported by Scottish Engineering and The University of Strathclyde, this award invites pupils from Primary and Secondary schools in Scotland to be inspired by an engineer from a local industry. They can then apply an engineer's eye to the world and identify problems in need of solving. When they have settled on their idea, they draw and annotate it, making clear what the problem is and their unique solution to it.

We were amazed by the ideas, including robots, a food recycling machine, a beach cleaning device, a clothes folding gadget and a bottle that filters dirty water to make it safe to drink.

All of the class passed and received a certificate, with two pupils passing with 'Merit' and one receiving a 'Distinction Shortlisted'. We're all delighted that Joseph's design for a bottle filter was awarded Distinction Shortlisted and has the chance to be crowned the winner in our region! A huge achievement!



JOINT SCHOOL TRIP

On Friday 11th June 2021 we all had an amazing joint school trip to the islands of Lunga and Staffa with Turus Mara. We were delighted to enjoy lunch with the puffins.



"Everybody was so excited when we jumped in the car. Finally we made our way to the boat. It was a bumpy ride to Lunga. We saw lots of puffins and I felt happy as they are so cute. It was calm on the way back. I felt very tired by the end of the day." Hannah

"Our journey began at the beautiful location of Lochdonhead School. After everyone had arrived we started travelling in cars along the windy yet scenic roads to Ulva. Eventually we arrived at Ulva after what felt like years of travelling! Next, we boarded a small boat (we sat inside). The trip was long, bumpy, and over all just very time consuming. Later, we disembarked the boat before climbing up basically a cliff (although that could be a bit dramatic). At the top we sat down. When we were still the puffins started appearing from their burrows. As soon as I saw their tiny figures appear immediately my heart was warmed.

Not long after, some of the older children walked to a huge rock. It was completely covered in all kinds of birds one of which were guillemots. The sound was almost deafening as all of the birds communicated to one another not to mention the smell. However it was worth it to see the colony.

A little while later we boarded the boat once again. Before going home we sailed around Staffa. The view was incredible. Finally we travelled back to the school before going home." Lucy

Thank you to Colin and Fergus for a super trip.



THIS TERM

PE KIT



N.B Please name all your child's clothing

We will be having PE at school as before but this will be done mainly outside. We will let you know when to bring a PE kit into school.

SWIMMING

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



Monday 23rd August was our first session back and we were so delighted to be back in the water.



Joseph

I enjoyed going into the pool because it felt good to go with the school there because it has been a long time.

I was proud about getting my swimming right and in a good style.

Target - I want to improve my movements or example gliding my hand in the water.

Leo

I enjoyed swimming because it was my first time without any goggles.

I was proud about how I was swimming without anything to float.

Target - To swim underwater.

Mya

I enjoyed going under the water to get the sinking fish.

I was proud that I was able to swim under water.

Target - To swim on the surface.



Lucille

I enjoyed playing with the sinking things.

I was proud that I could hold my breath longer than the last time.

Target - To do a somersault in the water.

Hannah

I enjoyed getting into the water for the first time with the school this year.

I was proud that I could swim the whole way to the other side.

Target - To improve my gliding to help me reach the other side.

Isla

I enjoyed going under water to fetch all the things that were sinking and Jayden threw them so I went to get them.

I was proud going under water and staying under water for a long time.

Target - Swim well without a float.

Tyler

I enjoyed putting my feet into the water as the water was warm.

I am proud that I didn't have any arm bands.

Target - I'd like to learn to go under water.

Caitlyn

I enjoyed swimming under water for a long time.

I was proud that I could swim without the shark fin.

Target - swim all the way across the pool without stopping.

Jayden

I loved going swimming and jumping in the water.

I am proud of my jumping in.

Target - to swim to the bottom to reach the sinking things.

Gryff

I enjoyed jumping in.

I was proud that Jayden was getting the fish for me.

Target - I want to be able to go down for the fish.



MILE A DAY



We have been enjoying our walks along the nature trail for our mile a day.

BEACH CLEAN

We hope to run a beach clean on Tuesday 21st September. More details will be sent regarding this nearer the time.

OUTDOOR LEARNING

We continue to enjoy a lot of outdoor learning. We have a number of waterproofs and wellington boots at the school that have been thoroughly cleaned. We will not be using these on a shared basis as before, but we can allocate a set to your child to be used if you would like, or you may prefer to send in a set of your own from home.

CONSERVATION GARDEN UPDATE

Last term the school put forward an funding application from Argyll Community Housing Association - 10th Anniversary Legacy School Awards Scheme. This scheme provides awards of up to £1000 per school, for 10 schools per year.

We are delighted that we were one of the successful schools, getting awarded £1000 to contribute towards work needing done on our conservation garden. Together, with the Parent Council, we will be able to see how best to use this funding to make our learning areas even better.

PARENT COUNCIL

Our office bearers are:

Chair - Claire Graham

Secretary - Clare Wriighthouse

Social Media Secretary - Elissa Fenwick

Treasurer - Gemma Paterson

Thank you all for your continued support to the 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. Unfortunately, at present, we have been advised against non-essential visitors to the school. We will therefore be getting in touch with you online for your thoughts and views.

For more information, and many more photos, please visit our blog on <https://lochdonprimaryschool.wordpress.com>

REPORTING

We will be continuing with 'Seesaw' as a reporting tool. If you need any assistance with this please let us know.

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

DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES

12.8.21 - In-service

13.8.21 - Schools open

23.8.21 - Swimming

30.8.21 - Swimming

6.9.21 - Swimming

13.9.21 - Swimming

13.9.21 - Climate Action Week

20.9.21 - Swimming

21.9.21 - Beach Clean

27.9.21 - Maths Week

8.10.21 - Schools close

25.10.21 - Schools open