

Lochdonhead Primary School Newsletter

Spring Term 2018

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DEAR PARENTS

Happy New Year to you all!

I hope you had a lovely relaxing time over the festive period and, like me, are raring to get started into the new term.

We have had a very busy Christmas term as you can see from some of the events shown.

Please remember that Claire, as Principal Teacher, is at school to support the pupils and yourselves, which she does to a very high standard. 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.



LAST TERM

COMMUNITY CAFES

We had a Halloween Community Party on Tuesday 31st October and a Christmas themed café on Tuesday 5th December. We were delighted with the super turnouts to these

cafes and look forward to welcoming the community to the next ones. We will send out dates when they have been set.



FOOD TECHNOLOGY

Thank you to Flora, for coming in to the school to share her baking skills with the children. We used our listening and teamwork skills to create chocolate brownies for our Hallowe'en Community cafe.



REMEMBRANCE DAY

Rev Johnny Paton very kindly visited the school to discuss with the children the significance of Remembrance Day. He had photographs of a soldier who had served during the First World War who had relatives still living on Mull which made the connections very significant for the children.



MULL OTTER GROUP AGM

Ms. Bidwell attended the Mull Otter AGM on Saturday 11th November in the Isle of Mull Hotel to share the video that the pupils had made about our Nature Trail. We are delighted to be sponsoring the Mull Otter group by placing an information board along the trail. The video was very well received and there was a lot interest and enthusiasm for our creation.

90KG RICE CHALLENGE

To learn more about Social Enterprise, Learning for Sustainability, Fair Trade and Global Citizenship, the pupils in Lochdonhead and Ulva Primary Schools undertook the 90kg Rice Challenge.

In Malawi primary education is free, but secondary school education is not and is often far too expensive for the majority of the population to afford. This means that one in three children is unable to attend secondary school. Selling just 90kg of fairly traded Kilombero Rice at £3.00 a bag is all it takes to enable a farmer to send their child to secondary school for a year.

Argyll and Bute Council's policy lead for education Yvonne McNeilly said: 'The pupils at both these schools have to be commended for the hard work they have gone to for this very worthwhile cause. Projects like these teach our children about compassion and global issues'

The children worked very hard and have almost sold out! Thank you to everyone who helped us by buying some rice.

We hope to do it again next year so that our help can be sustainable.



PANTOMIME TRIP

Pupils from Lochdonhead and Ulva went to the Citizens Theatre to see Cinderella and to GoMA for a workshop with Anna on sculpture followed by a session on clay modelling where they successfully threw a pot using a potter's wheel!

The children received some lovely comments from visitors we met along the way including one taxi driver who said they were the best behaved children he had ever met.....Well done everyone for setting such a great example and always being so polite. Thanks also to our parent council for funding the trip.



CRAFT WORKSHOP

We were delighted to welcome Ella's Auntie Monica into the school for a Christmas Craft workshop. The children made some stunning cards. Thank you so much for coming Auntie Monica and we hope you visit us again soon.



MULL MUSICAL MINDS

The pupils were delighted to be asked again to sing with Mull Musical Minds at their Christmas dinner in An Roth on the 14th December. Firstly, the children played some music that they had been learning on their violins, keyboard, xylophone and whistles before singing carols with the group.



CHRISTMAS LUNCH

What a treat we had in store on Friday 15th December when we enjoyed a joint school day and Christmas lunch. The children were given the opportunity of performing a rehearsal of their own school shows to each other, and then Helen Ramage, our school catering manager, served up an amazing turkey dinner with all the trimmings. Thank you Helen, you are a star!



CHRISTMAS SHOW

What a marvellous musical Christmas Nativity the children performed on Monday 18th December in the Craignure Hall. It was a great success and very well attended by our parents and community. We raised just under £400 on the night with the sale of craft items and raffle tickets which is an amazing amount. The children did a wonderful job. They received so many super comments from the community, all congratulating their musical, singing and acting abilities. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your hard work and generous donations you gave to make the show such a success and an enjoyable night out for the whole community.



REPORTING

Last term set up the parental access to the Evidence for Learning App. This allows you to follow your child's progress through their weekly learning journal. I have had many positive comments from you regarding this method of reporting. If you would prefer a paper copy, then please just let us know.

THE TERM AHEAD

SWIMMING

We shall have joint school swimming sessions this term starting Monday 12th March to 30th April.

AFTER SCHOOL SWIMMING CLUB

Flora has kindly agreed to continue the popular after school swimming club. The swimming will start after school on Tuesday 16th January. Thanks so much to Flora for volunteering to run this club that the children really enjoy.



COMMUNITY CAFES

We are so delighted with the super turnouts to our community cafes. We plan to have our next one in March in aid of the Marie Curie Fund. We will let you know the date when it has been set.

SCHOOL BLOG

We are really pleased with the feedback we are getting from you about our school blog. We would really love if all our parents could "follow" us as you will then automatically receive notifications when new information is added.

We use the blog like an online newsletter and we update it as

events, news and activities happen. There are also dedicated information pages where we will post about classroom activities and share the curriculum overviews for each term. Our parent council will continue to run the school facebook page, there is a link to this on our blog page.

If you have any questions or suggestions about the information that is available on the blog, or information that you would like to see, please get in touch. If you are unable or have difficulties in accessing the internet and wish to receive updates in paper or email format please let us know.

The blog address is <https://lochdonprimaryschool.wordpress.com/>

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.

STAFF DEVELOPMENT

Kate Grierson attended the Scottish Association for Teachers of Physical Education's (SATPE) annual conference in Denny on Saturday 4th November. Here she took part in a number of super primary specific workshops and this has further developed her skills in teaching PE to the pupils.

On the 3rd October Claire attended QAMSO (Quality Assurance and Moderation Support Officer) training. These conferences allow Claire to be able to meet with other practitioners where they can assess and moderate Second Level Reading with a deep understanding of the requirements identified by Education Scotland. The next meeting will

focus on the moderation process and in ensuring that high quality assessment opportunities are allowed for by planning effective learning intentions and success criteria.

Claire attended the Assessment and Moderation Facilitators recall day on 15th November. This has further strengthened her understanding of shared moderation.

As part of the Literacy Forum, Claire has been working with colleagues from across Argyll and Bute to develop the final version of the literacy strategy and planning Authority wide twilight literacy workshops. As an extension of the Literacy Forum, Claire will be leading a literacy twilight for the cluster staff on Tuesday 16th January in Salen School.

I am planning an 'Assessing Progress in Primary Languages' workshop on the 15th February at the in-service day. This course is being run by SCILT - Scotland's National Centre for Languages - and all teachers from the cluster will be invited to attend.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES

- 8.1.18 - School starts
- 9.2.18 - School closes
- 15.2.18 - In-service
- 16.2.18 - In-service
- 19.2.18 - School starts
- 12.3.18 - Swimming
- 19.3.18 - Swimming
- 23.3.18 - Health Day
- 26.3.18 - Swimming
- 29.3.18 - School closes
- 16.4.18 - School starts
- 16.4.18 - Swimming
- 23.4.18 - Swimming
- 30.4.18 - Swimming
- 4.5.18 - School closes
- 8.5.18 - School starts
- 28.5.18-1.6.18-P6/7 residential trip
- 8.6.18 - Sports Day
- 11.6.18 - P7 induction week
- 29.6.18 - School closes
- 13.8.18 - In-service
- 14.8.18 - School starts