

# Lochdonhead Primary School Newsletter

## Spring Term 2022

website: [www.lochdonhead.argyll-bute.sch.uk](http://www.lochdonhead.argyll-bute.sch.uk)  
e-mail: [enquiries-lochdonhead@argyll-bute.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries-lochdonhead@argyll-bute.gov.uk)



### DEAR PARENTS

I hope you all enjoyed your Christmas break. The weather was mixed but we did see some bright winter days.

We have another busy term planned in the run up to Easter and we really hope that we will soon be able to welcome families and members of the community into the school again.

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 numbers are 079029 44626/07786685227.



Susie Carmichael,  
Head Teacher

### ABSENCE AND ILLNESS

**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.**

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.

### 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

We are a health promoting school. Guidance regarding healthy eating in schools came into effect in April 2021, and the regulations apply across the whole school day.

Only the following drinks can be provided at any time of the primary school day:

Plain still or sparkling water

Plain lower fat milk

Plain, lower fat, calcium enriched milk alternatives

No added sugar, lower fat milk drinks

No added sugar, lower fat drinking yoghurt

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/healthy-eating-schools-guidance-2020/documents/>

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.

Parent Council have kindly agreed to subsidise fruit and vegetables for the children at break-time.



## LAST TERM

## TRIP TO IONA

On Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> October 2021, as part of our work this term learning about St Columba and Christianity, we visited Iona to spend time at the Abbey. After a long drive from school, and an exhilarating ferry crossing, we landed on Iona.



'I enjoyed the boat because I liked how it was bumpy.' Isla.  
First, we walked through the old nunnery and looked at some of the ruins and graves. Some of the girls noticed that there were many crosses and decided to count them throughout the day.



In a small chapel, some of us lit candles to remember loved ones. We found the grave of the politician John Smith buried on Iona, along

with the graves of many kings, Lords, clan chiefs as well as some local island residents.

'When we got there we went to the abbey and saw the graveyards. I feel bad for the people that did good things.' Leo.

On our walk to the abbey, we passed the 'Rest and Remember' bench. Some of us had been to Iona before, and sat down to remember our previous visits; for others it was our first time on Iona. Then we arrived at the abbey, where we each borrowed audio guides to tell us interesting facts along the way.



We climbed to the top of a mound in front of the abbey and saw the Street of the Dead.

'The abbey was awesome and we borrowed some audio guides.' Hannah.  
'We carried speakers and we put in numbers to tell us what we saw.' Tyler.

We had our lunch in the cloisters surrounded by the arches with their beautiful carvings of plants and birds.



At the centre is an amazing sculpture by Jacob Lipchitz called Descent of the Spirit, which we sat around.



Finally we visited the small museum where there were many crosses, stone carvings and grave slabs and then onto St Oran's Chapel. We headed back to wait for the ferry for our journey back school.



'I saw 62 crosses.' Hannah.

'I saw lots and lots of crosses.' Mya.  
We all really enjoyed our school trip and are grateful to Mr Muchall for helping to organise it for us. Thank you to Historic Scotland for allowing us in to the abbey and for providing the audio guides. Back at school, we wrote about our visit and drew pictures of our memories. We also made a Thank You card for Historic Scotland. Hopefully we will return to Iona next year as there is lots more to see.

(There are lots more photos online)



## The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child

**Article 2 (non-discrimination)** The Convention applies to every child without discrimination, whatever their ethnicity, gender, religion, language, abilities or any other status, whatever they think or say, whatever their family background.

**Article 14 (freedom of thought, belief and religion)** Every child has the right to think and believe what they choose and also to practise their religion, as long as they are not stopping other people from enjoying their rights. Governments must respect the rights and responsibilities of parents to guide their child as they grow up.

**Article 28 (right to education)** Every child has the right to an education. Primary education must be free and different forms of secondary education must be available to every child. Discipline in schools must respect children's dignity and their rights. Richer countries must help poorer countries achieve this.

**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 30 (children from minority or indigenous groups)** Every child has the right to learn and use the language, customs and religion of their family, whether or not these are shared by the majority of the people in the country where they live.

## ST ANDREW'S DAY LUNCH

On Tuesday 30th November we celebrated Saint Andrew's Day at school. We learned about who Saint Andrew was and enjoyed a tasty 'Feast of Saint Andrew' at lunch time. Thank you to Flora Corbett for generously donating the lamb mince, and thank you to Miss Helen who turned into a yummy Shepherd's Pie.



## RECYCLING BOTTLE TOPS

Our pupils have been bringing in bags of plastic bottle tops to add to our collection to be recycled to make money for guide dogs for the blind.



If anybody has any bottle tops at home or is able to start collecting them, we would really appreciate it. Ask your friends and neighbours too. The plastic milk bottle tops are collected in bulk and some recycling centres will pay charities for the plastic, which is worth more than other types of plastic. The funds raised are used by our chosen charity to train guide dogs for the blind.

As part of our eco-schools work, we are aiming to reduce the amount of plastic we use and recycle more. This will help us towards gaining our Green Flag award.

### The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child

**Article 23 (children with a disability):** A child with a disability has the right to live a full and decent life with dignity and, as far as possible, independence and to play an active part in the community. Governments must do all they can to support disabled children and their families.

**Article 24 (health and health services):** Every child has the right to the best possible health. Governments must provide good quality health care, clean water, nutritious food, and a clean environment and education on health and well-being so that children can stay healthy. Richer countries must help poorer countries achieve this.

**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.

## TREE PLANTING

In September, we embarked on our Green Tree Schools Award with The Woodland Trust. We have been making regular visits to Ardura Forest with Miss French, but this time she visited us at school for a very special reason. Our free tree pack from The Woodland Trust arrived and Miss French and Jan Dunlop came to help us to decide where to plant them and to help each one of us plant our own tree at school.



All of the trees are native species, grown in the UK; a mixture of crab apple, rowan and hazel. First, we completed the online Trees for Schools planting tool to help us decide where to plant, taking into consideration other trees and plants already in our garden, areas of tarmac, our conservation garden and pond and the shed. It showed us what it might look like in 20 years.



As well as earning us two points for our Green Trees School Award, planting our trees is part of the Queen's Green Canopy to mark The Platinum Jubilee of Elizabeth II to plant a network across the UK and a

green legacy in honour of The Queen's service.

Our efforts also count towards the Big Climate Fightback, an initiative to get the UK involved in planting 50 million trees to help combat the climate crisis.

All of the children at Lochdonhead Primary think that trees are important because they create homes and food for wildlife, they make our grounds look nice, they clean the air we breathe and absorb carbon dioxide.

We look forward to seeing them grow!

**The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child**

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## CHRISTMAS PARTY

On Friday 17<sup>th</sup> December, we celebrated Christmas together at school. Dressed in our party outfits and Christmas jumpers, we enjoyed a lovely Christmas lunch prepared by Miss Helen. Thank you Miss Helen, it was delicious! We had crackers to pull, so we enjoyed wearing our party hats and telling silly jokes.



After lunch, we watched our fabulous Christmas play, The Puzzled Penguin. Everyone played their part so brilliantly and it was so much fun to watch it back together on the big screen.

Then we had a very special visitor from Father Christmas himself! All of the boys and girls were excited to see him, and he had a small gift for everyone.



## CHRISTMAS TREE DRESSING

Just before Christmas, as part of our Woodland Trust Green Tree Schools Award, we made natural decorations to have a go at 'tree dressing'. Tree dressing is celebrated in different cultures all over the world. It's a tradition that brings people closer to trees and highlights the important role they play in our lives. It's also a great way of saying thank you to trees for all the benefits they provide.



Rachel French (MICT's Community Wellbeing Officer) came to school to help us learn about tree dressing and made some decorations to celebrate a special tree as part of Tree Dressing Day, which takes place in the first weekend of December. As it was close to Christmas, we all agreed to choose the Christmas tree

in Craignure so that we could add to our community Christmas display.

Rachel helped us to make a natural decorative garland by threading dried fruit, popcorn, dried fallen leaves, and wool pom-poms onto string, and each of us also made decorations from pine cones. It was important for us to use only natural materials so there was no threat to wildlife and no risk of littering. Lots of people came to see the tree over the festive period so we were proud of our contribution.

Completing the Tree Dressing Challenge has also earned us 2 points towards our Green Tree Schools Award!

**The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child**

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## TREE HARVESTING

On the 18<sup>th</sup> November we were invited to Ardura Forest to see the tree felling in operation (from a very safe distance!) We saw the MASSIVE machine that is used to chop down and log the trees. We couldn't believe how fast it went through them.





## CONSERVATION GARDEN

Last term work got underway on the school Conservation Garden.



We were delighted that some parents were able to come and offer their time, what a huge amount of work they managed to do it was wonderful, well done!

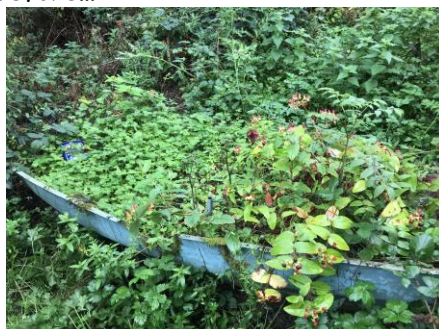
Before...



And after...



Before...



During...



And after...



Before...



And after...



Thank you to Claire Graham for the super photos.

## THIS TERM

### AFTER-SCHOOL CLUB

Ms Bidwell has kindly agreed to continue with the afterschool club this term. This focus this term will be Basketball skills.

### DANCE & DRAMA WORKSHOP

Andi Stevens had to rearrange her session last term but will be visiting us on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> January for an exciting dance and drama workshop.

### HEARTSTART

The children will be learning basic first aid from a HeartStart trainer on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> February.

### SWIMMING

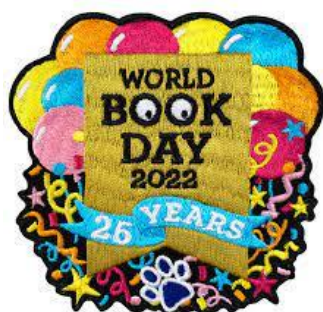
Our second block of swimming starts on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> February and runs until 28<sup>th</sup> March. Thank you to the Parent Council for agreeing to subsidise this.



## WORLD BOOK DAY

We will be celebrating World Book Day on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> February. The children are welcome to come to school dressed as their favourite character, however there is no obligation for this.

Ideally we would like to invite parents into school. If that is not possible we would love if you could share a story to the children online. If this is something you might be able to do please let us know.



## 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>

## PARENT COUNCIL

Our office bearers are:

Chair - Claire Graham

Secretary - Clare Wrighthouse

Social Media Secretary - Elissa Fenwick

Treasurer - Gemma Paterson

Thank you all for your continued support to the school.

## 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 full report in May. Dates and times will be sent out for the Parental Consultations which will be held at the end of May.

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES

6.1.22 - Schools open  
14.1.22 - Drama workshop  
3.2.22 - HeartStart Training  
4.2.22 - Schools close  
14.2.22 - In-service  
15.2.22 - Schools open  
21.2.22 - Swimming  
28.2.22 - Swimming  
3.3.22 - World Book Day  
7.3.22 - Swimming  
14.3.22 - Swimming  
21.3.22 - Swimming  
28.3.22 - Swimming  
1.4.22 - Schools close  
19.4.22 - Schools open  
26.5.22 - Schools close  
27.5.22 - In-service  
30.5.22 - Schools open  
1.6.22 - Schools close  
6.6.22 - Schools open  
1.7.22 - Schools close  
11.8.22 & 12.8.22 - In-service  
15.8.22 - Schools start