

# Lochdonhead Primary School Newsletter

## Spring Term 2023

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### DEAR PARENTS

Welcome to our spring term at Lochdonhead Primary School. I hope you enjoyed your February break. We have another very busy and exciting term ahead.

This newsletter gives just a taste of what our school has been up to, for much more information please visit our blog on

<https://lochdonprimaryschool.wordpress.com>

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.

My mobile number is 079029 44626/07786685227.



Susie Carmichael,  
Head Teacher

### ABSENCE AND ILLNESS

**Individuals should not attend school if they feel unwell.**

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.

### SCHOOL LUNCHES

All pupils from P1-P5 are eligible for free school meals.

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

### LAST TERM

### AFTER SCHOOL CLUB

On Thursdays we enjoy going to Ms Bidwell's Art and Science club. We have watched volcanoes erupting whilst we create our own volcano. We made our volcano out of Paper Mache and paint. We experimented with different chemicals to encourage our volcano to erupt. We tried coca cola, mints, bicarbonate of soda, vinegar,

ketchup and washing up liquid. We found that bicarbonate of soda and vinegar worked the best.

"I really enjoyed erupting the volcano." Isla

"I enjoyed experimenting putting different items in the little jugs." Hannah

"I enjoyed everyone putting lots of stuff into the volcano." Tyler

"We made the best volcano ever." Mya

"When it erupted it was very satisfying to watch." Lucille

"I enjoyed putting the mints into the volcano." Autumn

"I liked it when the volcano exploded." Jayden

"It was fun when the volcano exploded." Skyla

"I enjoyed making the volcano." Layla



**Article 15 (Freedom of association)**  
Every child has the right to meet with other children and to join groups and organisations.

## REMEMBRANCE DAY

On Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> November 2022 Cathy MacLean came in to help us learn about the importance of Remembrance Day and that we should remember those who fought and died during the war, as they gave up their lives for us.

Cathy shared a verse from a poem with us "For the Fallen." She also showed us a wreath that would be like the ones being laid across the whole country. We shared stories of our families and war time. Leo showed us medals that his Great, Great Grandad had won in the war. One of these was the African Star.

At 11am we stood still for a two minutes silence and then Layla displayed a red poppy for us to show as a mark of respect and remembering.

We are grateful to Cathy for visiting us and will always remember those who died during war and work hard to make sure that we always live in peace.



**Article 6 (life, development and survival)** Every child has the right to life. Governments must do all they can to make sure that children

survive and develop to their full potential.

**Article 17 (access to information from the media)** Every child has the right to reliable information from the media. This should be information that the child can understand. Governments must help protect children from materials that can harm them.

## SCOTTISH BOOK WEEK

On Tuesday the 15<sup>th</sup> of November, we were all delighted to have the parents join us in the school to read with us for Scottish Book Week. We all read and discussed a number of favourite books that had been brought in from home and when leaving P2 and P3 received a book bag each to take home to enjoy.

"Playing online literacy games with my mum was the best part of my day"- Leo

"Michael reading a story was very funny and the best part of my morning"- Mya

"The monster at the end of Michael's story was very funny because of the funny voice"- Jayden and Tyler

"I Loved all of Mummy's books" - Autumn

"Autumn's dad's book was the best"- Skyla



**Article 5 (parental guidance and a child's evolving capacities)** Governments must respect the rights and responsibilities of parents and carers to direct and guide their children as they grow up, so that they can enjoy their rights properly

## CHRISTMAS SHOW

On the evening of Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> December, Lochdonhead Primary School pupils were excited, pleased and proud to perform their first Christmas show in the Craignure Village Hall for three years. We were delighted to see that the event was very well attended by parents, family and local community members. We were all very grateful to the Tobermory Co-Op for donating mince pies for the occasion and to the parents for making teas, coffees and running the raffle. £251.20 was raised for school funds.

The pupils put on an extremely successful and enjoyable performance which told the traditional nativity story from the perspective of the wise men "Sheik, Rattle and Roll," who went on a quest to follow the star that led them to the stable where the baby Jesus was born. The Inn backdrop was created by the pupils. They remembered their lines, organised themselves well and understood what they needed to do.

Before the performance the pupils evaluated how they felt. Here are some of their comments:

Leo: "I'm excited about sleeping in my role."

Hannah: "I'm a bit worried about everybody being on the stage all the time."

Anna: "I'm nervous in case I forget all my lines and people laugh."

Isla: "I'm feeling nervous because it is my first time being a narrator but I am also excited."

Jayden: "I am feeling excited to be on the stage and a little bit scared of doing the show."

Skyla: "I'm feeling excited."

Autumn: "I am excited and I am excited because the parents are coming to watch us."

Layla: "I am excited and nervous."

Since the return to school after lockdown our learning community have worked hard to ensure that our



pupils feel, safe and nurtured and that they build their resilience and confidence. Their performance on the stage using loud, clear voices, energetic singing and competent performances was heart-warming to watch. The various comments about their effective contributions after the performance conveyed how much they enjoyed the experience...

Amy: "I am relieved that the play is over. Ms Bidwell is proud of me for my speaking and playing my role beautifully and with effort."

Isla: "I enjoyed when we were doing the play because I liked getting into places."

Mya: "I enjoyed colouring in the pictures before the play and when Abigail let the dogs out. I felt excited about the play."

Hannah: "I feel relieved it was over as now we don't have to practice it again. I was excited about it and how well I did."

Autumn: "I felt a bit nervous and then it was funny. I enjoyed it."

Skylla: "I felt very happy when I was singing."

Well done to all involved and thank you so much to all community members for continuing to support us.



## 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.

## THIS TERM

### HMIE VISIT

We were pleased to welcome Lisa Marie McDonnell, a member of His Majesties Inspectorate of Education, to the school for the week of the 9<sup>th</sup> January. The children were absolute superstars.

We were really delighted that so many of you came along to our New Year Community Café and took the opportunity to talk to Lisa about our good practice - Thank You!

I am hoping that the full report will be published shortly and when it is I will share the link out.



The pupils taking Lisa on a tour of our Nature Trail.

### SWIMMING

Our second block of swimming starts on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> March and runs until 24<sup>th</sup> April. Thank you to the Parent Council for agreeing to subsidise this.

### HEALTH AWARDS

Marion MacLean, our Active Schools Co-ordinator, will be visiting the school on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> March to work with the pupils to gain our School Health Award.

### DRAMA WORKSHOPS

We look forward to welcoming Andi Stevens to the school to enjoy some drama workshops with a focus on 'Our Emotions'

## TRÈOIR PROJECT

This term we will be working with Riona Whyte and Lee Hendrick on the Trèoir project. This project has local culture at its heart with 'lost song' taking centre stage. Our first session is on 10<sup>th</sup> March.

### CAMAS

We are planning our joint school outdoor residential at Camas on Mull on 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> May. This trip is for all pupils in Lochdonhead and Ulva primary Schools from P1 to P7. I will send out more information regarding this nearer the time.

### P6/7 RESIDENTIAL

We are planning on the return of P6/7 trip to Stirling. This will be the first P6/7 trip with Tobermory, Salen, Dervaig, Lochdonhead and Ulva Primary School pupils since the pandemic.

The trip will take place from Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> to Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> May. Our visits include trips to Blair Drummond, Bowling, Dynamic Earth, The National Museum of Scotland and Stirling Castle. Evening activities include ten-pin bowling and a ghost walk. A detailed programme will be issued closer to the trip.

We are very grateful to have secured funding from Argyll Education Trust, which will reduce the cost by £50 per child.

### 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.

## 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 volunteer to run any lunchtime or after-school clubs we would love to hear from you.

For more information about our learning, and many more photos, please visit our blog on

<https://lochdonprimaryschool.wordpress.com>

## PARENT COUNCIL

Our office bearers are:

Chair - Elissa Fenwick

Secretary - Alison Holland

Social Media Secretary - Elissa Fenwick

Treasurer - Danielle Grimley

Thank you all for your continued support to the school.

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES

9.1.23 - Schools open

9.1.23 - HMIe visit

11.1.23 - New Year Community Cafe

23.1.23 - Andi Steven Drama workshop

30.1.23 - Andi Steven Drama workshop

3.2.23 - Schools close

13.2.23 - In-service

14.2.23 - Schools open

20.2.23 - Andi Steven Drama workshop

22.2.23 - Gaelic workshop from THS

27.2.23 - Fairtrade visit by Co-op

2.3.23 - World Book Day

6.3.23 - Swimming

7.3.23 - Marion MacLean, Health Awards

8.3.23 - Music workshop

10.3.23 - Trèoir project

13.3.23 - Swimming

13.3.23 - Andi Steven Drama workshop

14.3.23 - Tree planting at Ardura

15.3.23 - Music workshop

16.3.23 - Trèoir project

17.3.23 - Red Nose Day

20.3.23 - Swimming

20.3.23 - Andi Steven Drama workshop

22.3.23 - Music workshop

23.3.23 - Trèoir project

27.3.23 - Swimming

27.3.23 - Andi Steven Drama workshop

28.3.23 - Trèoir project

29.3.23 - Music workshop

30.3.23 - Trèoir project

31.3.23 - Schools close

17.4.23 - Schools open

17.4.23 - Swimming

19.4.23 - Music workshop

24.4.23 - Swimming

26.4.23 - Music workshop

3.5.23 - Music workshop

4.5.23 - Camas residential

5.5.23 - Camas residential

8.5.23 - Schools closed, public holiday

9.5.23 - 11.5.23 - P6/7 residential to Stirling

10.5.23 - Music workshop

25.5.23 - Schools close

26.5.23 - In-service

29.5.23 - schools closed, public holiday

30.5.23 - Schools open

30.6.23 - Schools close