

Lochdonhead Primary School Newsletter

Summer Term 2021

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DEAR PARENTS

I hope you had a lovely Easter break. It certainly felt like a long holiday and we had a good mix of weather! We look forward to welcoming some new families to the school this term. I will organise a Google Meet to allow us all to get together virtually when they have settled in.

We are very happy to welcome Natasha Jarvis to the school as a student teacher this term.

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 my mobile numbers are 079029 44626 and 077866 85227.



Susie Carmichael,
Head Teacher



COVID-19

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.

Can we please remind you to maintain the 2m distance between families while waiting at the school gates and always wear a face covering.



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.

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.

At present we will not be providing healthy snacks. Can you please therefore provide a healthy snack for your child.

LAST TERM

Please read our blog to catch up with all our learning.

<https://lochdonprimaryschool.wordpress.com/>

OUTDOOR LEARNING WITH ARDROY

Report by Gemma - When we arrived at school on 22nd 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. 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 some of 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.



PEBBLE PROJECTS

The children worked really well on their independent PBL (Personal Based Learning) projects. Thank you so much for supporting your child with these, I'm sure you were as impressed as we were with the final outcomes.

THIS TERM

STAFFING

We are delighted to welcome Natasha Jarvis on her PGCE placement. Natasha will be joining us from 19th April until the 4th June.

PE KIT

We will be having PE outside this term. Please provide your child with suitable PE clothes for this. This term we will be focusing on cycling skills and athletics.



MILE A DAY

We are delighted that guidelines allow us to now resume our mile a day along our nature trail as before.

OUTDOOR LEARNING WITH ARDROY

We will be having 2 more whole day sessions with Alex from Ardroy which we are all looking forward to. The dates for this are the 3rd and 4th May.

NATIONAL NUMERACY DAY

We will be joining in National Numeracy Day on the 19th May with lots of fun filled numeracy activities with the children.



OUR P7 LEAVERS

Lucy and Callum will be leaving us in June to start High School in Tobermory. We wish them all the very best for their future.

Lucy and Callum's lovely leaver hoodies were donated by SCOTTISH SEAFARMS. Thank you so much to Michael Keenan for organising this.



PARENT COUNCIL

The post holders for the Parent Council are:

Chair - Emma Alecock

Secretary - vacancy

Social Media - Elissa Keenan

Treasurer - Gemma Paterson

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. I am happy to organise a Google Meet for the next Parent Council meeting.

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 a full written report in May and follow this with an online consultation on Wednesday 2nd and Thursday 3rd June, times to be arranged.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES

19.4.21 - Schools open

3.5.21 - Ardroy outdoor learning session

4.5.21 - Ardroy outdoor learning session

27.5.21 - Schools close

28.5.21 - In-service

31.5.21 - Holiday

1.6.21 - Schools open

2.6.21 - Parental Consultations

3.6.21 - Parental Consultations

30.6.21 - Schools close

12.8.21 & 13.8.21 - In-service

16.8.21 - Schools open