

Lochdonhead Primary School Newsletter

Winter Term 2018

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DEAR PARENTS

I hope you had a good October break. The weather has certainly become very wintry.

We have had a very busy first term as you can see from some of the events shown, but this term promises to be even busier!

Pupil voice is very important to us at the school and so I have changed the format of the newsletter to include more reports from the pupils. I hope you enjoy reading their views on school events.

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

STAFFING

I was delighted to be offered the permanent position of Joint Head Teacher of Lochdonhead and Ulva Primary Schools at the end of term.

The staffing arrangements for this year are -

Head Teacher - Susie Carmichael. I shall be in school for half the week. The days will be dependent on the needs of each school.

Kate Grierson, Principal and Class Teacher will be in school each day.

Clerical & classroom assistant - vacancy, posts have been advertised.

Anna Smereczniak, cleaner and janitor.

Helen Ramage, catering manager.

NEW START

We are delighted to welcome another new pupil and his family to Lochdonhead Primary.



"This is my letter 'm'. I was learning to throw a ball at PE. I like being at the school."

TRANSPORT

Helen provides our school transport. If for any reason there should be an alteration to the pick up/drop off for your child can you please contact Helen directly? Her mobile number is - 07837444641 and her home number is - 01680812175. If there is any absence, please follow our procedures and phone the school before 9.15am as well as letting Helen know as soon as possible in the morning.

School starts at 9.15am and finishes at 3.30pm and we want to support Helen to ensure the pupils arrive to school in good time and leave promptly to ensure health and safety for our pupils. Thank you for your support with this.



ABSENCE AND ILLNESS

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.

ONLINE PAYMENTS FOR LUNCH

This is just a gentle reminder to highlight the online system for paying for lunches. We will have to be very rigid about issuing reminders as we do not have any facility to provide credit. Please pay for your child's lunch on a Monday morning for the week ahead.

LAST TERM

SWIMMING

"Fiona was teaching us how to swim at the hotel. I never knew how to swim properly and now I can. We were using floats to help us develop our strokes. I can now do forward stroke and backward stroke." - Callum

SMOKE FREE ME

Primary 6 and 7 pupils went to the 'Smoke Free Me' workshop in Salen on 3rd October.

"When we first got there we sat in a classroom and had our break then we headed to the hall. I sat next to Nouille and Jude. We learned not to smoke because it's really bad for your health and there was really catchy songs." - Sara P7



MOD

The local Mod took place on Friday 7th September in Tobermory. The pupils performed a wonderful joint school action song with Ulva.

"When we started getting changed I was really nervous, then when we went on stage I was more nervous. When we were doing the song it went really quickly and it was great fun. I was the farmer and Callum was my cow! Afterwards we went to the park for lunch and then we bought a book for the school library" - Sara



MACBETH

On the 5th September Andy Cannon, formerly of Wee Stories Theatre brought 'Is this a Dagger?' To Ulva Primary School for P4-P7. In this story of Macbeth, audiences joined Andy on a thousand-year journey from fact to fiction and back again.

The show was nominated for CATS Award for Best Show for Children and Young People and described as "Strikingly heartfelt and intelligent... immensely classy stuff" by The Scotsman.

"I loved the guy who was acting. He pretended to be the 3 witches who looked into the future. They saw that Macbeth would be promoted to Thane of Cawdor and to be the 'King of an awfy lot of Scotland'. He became the king because he killed the guy who was king. I liked the play. I thought it was good because it was entertaining and I learned a lot from history." - Nouille

THE CHALLENGER BUS

On Thursday 13th September the Challenger Bus visited the island.

"A big bus came to the school. We saw a puppet show and played games. We were also singing. I loved the puppet show. We learned about a lady who believed in God and helped save slaves. She was really good. She saved twins." - Joseph



IONA ABBEY WORKSHOPS

Last term, the pupils from P6 and P7 were invited to Iona Abbey to see the new Library.

"We went on a double decker bus to Iona with children from Salen and Tobermory and we picked up children from Bunessan too. We went on the ferry and then we walked to the Abbey. We learned that a long time ago a monk came to Iona." - Nouille

OTTER GROUP VISIT & GREAT BRITISH BEACH CLEAN

On Thursday 20th September we had a visit from the Mull Otter Group. "The man showed us otter spray and where otters mark their home. He showed us where the otter holts are." - Callum

In the afternoon the pupils took part in the Great British Beach Clean at Lochbuie Beach.

"There was lots of plastics and wrappers that we collected and we recorded everything we found." - Callum

THE TERM AHEAD

PE

COMMUNITY CAFÉS

RIGHTS RESPECTING SCHOOL



The pupils will be doing joint PE with the Ulva pupils this term in Craignure Village Hall. This will be on a Thursday morning where they will be learning basketball skills and team games. On 6th and 13th December, Allan Wright will be leading touch rugby sessions with the pupils.

The community cafes are a wonderful way of establishing ourselves into the heart of this wonderful community as well as providing the school with much needed school funds. We have a very exciting 'Thanksgiving' themed community Café planned for Thursday 22nd November. Look out for the posters! Thanks to Elissa who has come into class and prepared for this with the pupils. We thank you all for your continued support with these.

PE KIT

We were delighted to be awarded our Bronze: Rights Committed Award for Rights Respecting School last term. We are now on our journey towards Silver: Rights Aware Award. Our focus for November is Article 28 - Every child has a right to an education.

Can pupils please ensure that they have a PE kit in school? They need a t-shirt, shorts, socks and trainers/gym shoes, all named. If your child has long hair, can they please have a band to tie it back? We would appreciate it if pupils could keep jewellery to a minimum on a PE day.



90KG RICE CHALLENGE

The pupils were very keen to take on the 90kg rice challenge that they successfully achieved last year. The challenge is to sell 90 x 1kg bags of rice for £3 each. All the money raised goes to a farmer in Malawi to pay for their child to go to school. Orders can be placed at the school.

CHRISTMAS SHOW

The School Christmas Show will be in the evening of Tuesday 11th December in the Craignure Hall. We hope to have a raffle for school funds and we would be grateful for any donations you can provide. Thank you.

HALLOWE'EN PARTY

The pupils will be having their Halloween Party on Wednesday 31st October.



CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY

Friday 14th December is Save the Children Christmas Jumper Day. We would like to invite everyone to come to school wearing a Christmas jumper and bring £1 to donate to Save the Children.



PANTOMIME TRIP

Pupils from Primary 5 - Primary 7 will be joining pupils from Ulva, Tobermory and Dervaig for the Pantomime Trip this year. The trip is on 6th and 7th December and they will be going to watch Aladdin at the Kings Theatre. More detail will follow.



PARENT COUNCIL

Elissa Fenwick is the Parent Council Chair and Secretary. The next parent Council meeting for this term will be organised soon.

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.

REPORTING

We will continue to be using the Evidence for Learning App to allow you to follow your child's progress through their online learning journal. If you need help with accessing this please let me know.

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

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. We now also have a 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/>

DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES

- 22.10.18** - Schools open
- 31.10.18** - Hallowe'en Party
- 8.11.18** - P5-6 Digital Leaders workshop at THS
- 22.11.18** - Thanksgiving Community Cafe
- 23.11.18** - Schools close
- 26.11.18** - In-service
- 6.12.18** - **7.12.18** P5, 6 & 7 Panto Trip to Glasgow
- 11.12.18** - Christmas Show
- 14.12.18** - Christmas Jumper Day
- 21.12.18** - Schools close
- 7.1.19** - Schools open
- 15.3.19** - Health Day
- 14.5.19** - **17.5.19** - P6/7 Residential
- 7.6.19** - Sports Day
- 10.6.19** - **14.6.19** - P7 Induction week
- 28.6.19** - Schools close