

# Lochdonhead Primary School Newsletter

## Winter Term 2021

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

### ABSENCE AND ILLNESS

possible if your mobile telephone number changes. Thank you.

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

We have another busy term planned in the run up to Christmas 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

**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.**

As we move into winter, we feel it is a good time to remind everyone about NHS advice on children's attendance at school when they are feeling poorly. For bouts of sickness or upset stomach children should be kept at home for 48 hours after the last bout of sickness. If your child shows signs of being unwell, please keep them at home until they are well enough to return to school. Please refer to the "Advice on Illness" page on our school blog <https://lochdonprimaryschool.wordpress.com> for advice relating to the exclusion period following various ailments or you can request a paper copy from the office. Thank you for your co-operation and partnership in helping us to maintain a happy, healthy school.

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

### 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. New guidance regarding healthy eating in schools came into effect in April this year, 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.

### STAFFING

The job for Janitor / Cleaner is advertised on myjobscotland with a closing date of 19<sup>th</sup> November.

### LAST TERM

### OUTDOOR LEARNING

Last term we have been visiting Ardura Forest for outdoor learning sessions with Miss French in her new role as 'Ardura Community Well-Being Officer' with Mull and Iona Community Trust.

This is our report from our first visit:

Wearing cosy clothes, waterproofs and wellies, we were guided into the woodland by Rachel. For some, this was their first trip to this forest; others in the group had visited before, but we were all excited to take a tree stump seat in a clearing amongst the trees.



During our time in the woods, we learned to identify different leaves with a scavenger hunt and an ID activity sheet from the Woodland Trust.



We found oak, birch, holly, rowan, and hazel trees, and lots of other plants. We were amazed to learn how long oak trees can live for and that we could make our own chocolate spread using hazelnuts. The rowan trees had lots of bright red berries that are an important food source for the birds that live in the forest.



Our final activity was working in pairs to 'meet a tree'. Taking it in turns, we were blindfolded and led over to a tree. We used our sense of touch to feel the tree - many of them had rough bark and soft, damp moss growing on them, and we gave them a good sniff - we thought they smelled earthy and nice. We were then led back to the clearing, the blindfolds were removed, and we had to find the tree that we had just met. Most of us managed to identify the correct tree! It was good fun as we had to trust our partner to make sure that we didn't trip, and to give the tree a hug, including Miss Bidwell!



Here is what we learned and enjoyed most about our day:

I enjoyed looking for the leaves - Mya

It was fun blindfolding Mya and I learned all about the hazel tree - Lucille

I enjoyed finding the leaves - Hannah

Finding the leaves and blindfolding Joseph - Isla

I enjoyed sitting on the stumps and listening - Tyler

We learned all about different types of trees - Hannah, Mya and Isla

We loved playing the cuddle a tree game - Jayden, Hannah and Caitlyn

It was fun playing the games and sitting on the stumps in the forest; I learned how old oak trees are - Leo

I enjoyed getting sticks near the stump and I learned to identify different trees and leaves - Gryff

I learned to identify different types of trees and leaves - Joseph

We are looking forward to our next trip to the forest, where we hope to plant trees, make a camp fire and have hot chocolate. Our visits to Ardura Forest are also helping us to achieve the Woodland Trust Green Tree Schools Award that we are working towards this year.

Thank you Rachel for being our guide in the forest.

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

**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 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 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.

## SWIMMING

Last term we attended swimming lessons at the community swimming pool. We all want to say a big "Thank You!" to Vanessa and Pippa for being our fantastic swimming instructors. You have helped to build our confidence in the water, were patient with us as we worked on our swimming ability and we have all had great fun in the pool. At our final session we were allowed to get the big floats out!

Here is what the children had to say:  
Joseph: "I learned to blow bubbles rather than holding my breath to improve my breathing when doing front crawl."

Tyler: "I practised swimming without arm bands and I'm more confident in the pool."

Hannah: "My front crawl and breast stroke are much better as I have been practising every week."

Caitlyn: "I learned to swim to the bottom like a dolphin."

Isla: "I can swim without a float and I can do a roly poly under the water."

Jayden: "I can swim with a shark fin."

Gryff: "I learned how to float on my back like a starfish."

Leo: "I'm more confident in the water - I love swimming!"

Mya: "I got better at breathing and holding my breath by swimming like a dolphin."

Lucille: "I can do a forward roll under the water that I couldn't do before."

The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child

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## GAELIC

The pupils are really enjoying their weekly Gaelic lessons with Miss McDonald from Tobermory High School.



We have been learning about weather and we had fun learning some new action songs. We are also learning to tell the time in Gaelic, which ties in with the work we are doing at the moment on time as well as it being Maths Week.



UN Convention on the Rights of the Child

**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.

**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.

## BEACH CLEAN

On Monday 27<sup>th</sup> September we travelled down to Loch Buie to do a beach clean.



Using litter pickers and wearing gloves, we collected litter from the beach to clean up our environment and make it better for nature. We were careful to leave anything natural, such as seaweed, wood, rocks and shells, behind at the beach. We collected five bags of rubbish.



Once back at school, we emptied out all of the rubbish onto the playground to sort it into 'types' including plastic, rope, rubber, pottery and glass. The most common rubbish we found was plastic and rope, as you can see from the bar chart of our data.



In amongst the seaweed, we also discovered four 'mermaid's purses'. We brought them back to school, soaked them in water and used an identification guide to find out that they were small spotted catshark egg cases. We reported our findings online to The Shark Trust for their records.



Our beach clean tied in with the Marine Conservation Society's Great British Beach Clean, as well as helping us with our Keep Scotland Tidy Eco Schools Green Flag Award.

'We went to the beach nearby so we can help the environment. I picked all the litter I could find and I found a mini soldier.' Joseph.  
'We cleaned the beach to help the environment. I felt very, very happy.' Caitlyn.

'My daddy came to help with the beach clean.' Gryff.

'After we cleaned the beach, we had hot chocolate and brownies.' Tyler.

'We cleared rubbish from the beach so we could save the animals so that they could eat more food.' Isla.

'We went to Loch Buie to clean the beach. I collected bottle caps and rope.' Hannah.

'I found lots of rope. We were wet and hungry so we got hot chocolate and the brownies were very good.' Mya.

'My mummy and daddy came to help clean the beach.' Jayden.

'We went in the bus to the beach to collect rubbish. When we went back to school we sorted the rubbish on the playground.' Leo.



Thank you to the parents that came to help us with the beach clean and thank you to Flora and Elissa at the Lochbuie Old Post Office café for the yummy hot chocolate and brownies.

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**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.

## BLYTHSWOOD CARE SHOEBOX APPEAL

Christmas came early at Lochdonhead Primary as we prepared our Blythswood Care Shoe Boxes. We collected 6 boxes filled with lovely items, including toys, sweeties and toiletries, to send to people in need.

Thank you all for your generous donations again this year.



## CRICKET

To celebrate the end of term, and as part of our PE lessons, we enjoyed a cricket match, umpired by Mr Muchall.



There was some excellent batting, bowling and fielding displayed but most importantly great teamwork and sportsmanship all round.



Unfortunately, in true British cricket style, rain eventually stopped play!

We are very grateful to the South Shields Cricket Club for generously loaning the cricket equipment we have been using.

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**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 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

### DANCE & DRAMA WORKSHOP

Andi Stevens will be visiting the school on Monday 22nd November for an exciting dance and drama workshop.

### OUTDOOR LEARNING

We continue to enjoy a lot of outdoor learning. We hope to continue to visit Ardura Forest for our weekly sessions.



## ARMISTICE DAY

We will be joining in the 2 minute silence on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> November to remember those who have died in wars. Poppies will be available from the school with all donations to Earl Haig Fund.

## CHILDREN IN NEED

The children would like to celebrate Children In Need Day on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> November. More details to follow.



## TREE HARVESTING

We have been invited to Ardura Forest on the 18<sup>th</sup> November to have a look at the harvesting of the trees and the machinery that is used.

## AFTER-SCHOOL CLUB

Ms Bidwell has kindly agreed to continue with the sewing and craft club this term.

## CHRISTMAS SHOW AND PARTY

We are hoping to enjoy a Christmas show in the village hall and Christmas party at the school. More details to follow.



## 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 Wright

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 an interim report in November. Dates and times will be sent out for the Parental Consultations on the week of 22<sup>nd</sup> November.

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES

25.10.21 - Schools open

28.10.21 - Trip to Iona

29.10.21 - Hallowe'en Party

11.11.21 - Armistice Day

15.11.21 - Anti-bullying week

18.11.21 - Ardura tree harvesting visit

19.11.21 - Children in Need

22.11.21 - Dance and Drama with A. Stevens

22.11.21 & 24.11.21 - Parental consultations

26.11.21 - Schools close

29.11.21 - In-service

30.11.21 - Schools open

Dec - Christmas Show

22.12.21 - Class Christmas Party

22.12.21 - Schools close

6.1.22 - Schools open