



Garelochhead Primary School

Newsletter 1 Session 2023/2024

Our office hours are **8.30am to 4pm**. Out with these hours, please email or use Xpressions to communicate with us and we will get back to you as soon as we can.

Welcome back! We hope you all had a wonderful summer break—even if it was a little damp! We are so looking forward to seeing everyone again tomorrow morning. The staff and I would like to say a HUGE thank you for all the wonderful cards and gifts that we received at the end of the term - they were greatly appreciated.

There is lots of information in this newsletter. If there is anything you would like to discuss in more detail, please feel free to drop us a line or pop in to see us. Please read carefully the section on the playground and how we will be keeping our pupils safe going forward as there are a few changes to our routines!

Baby News!

Congratulations to Mrs. Ren-
nie and her family! Baby
Skye was born over the holi-
days. We started



our year with cud-
dles and everyone is
delighted for them.

Wedding Bells!



We have a new
member of
staff!! Mrs.
Wain will be
teaching Prima-
ry 2/1 this year ... our own
Ms. Howell was married just
last week, and from now on
will be known as Mrs. Wain.
We are all delighted for her
and her new husband.

Staffing this session

Class teachers:

Primary 2/1: Mrs. Wain

Primary 3/2: Mrs McBride/Mrs. Bechelli

Primary 5/4: Mrs. Ferry

Primary 6: Ms. Cormack

Primary 7: Mrs. Guy

Pupil Support: Ms. Canty and Mrs. Barton

ELC Staff:

Amanda Robinson

Kerry Smith

Lisa Waldron

Support staff:

Mrs. Aitken

Mrs. Gall

Ms. Horne

Ms. Martin

Mrs. Craven

Mrs. Smith (Clerical)

Mr. McAloon (Janitor)

We have a teaching vacancy which we will be interviewing for on Thursday 25th August. We also have around 70 hours vacant for our support staff, and will be hoping to fill these positions from interviews on Wednesday 24th August. We will keep you posted!

Primary 1 parents

On the first day please feel free to come in with your child to drop them off in the morning. Our gate opens at 8.45am and Mrs. Wain will be waiting in the classroom to get everyone settled and organised! We know this can be a big moment but we would encourage you to make your goodbyes short and sweet! At the end of the day, Mrs. Wain will bring them down to the bottom of the driveway and hand them over to their grown up. After this, please drop your child off at the school gate each day.

Keeping our children safe

As part of our Health and Safety Risk Assessment, our playground gates will now be locked at 9am and will be re-opened at the end of the day. Anyone arriving after 9am, will need to report to the School Office Entrance. Any visitors or parents who are picking up during the school day must come to the School Office Entrance. This will also have an impact on those returning from home lunch: a member of staff will be able to open the gate at 12.15 to allow them to go home. However, if they wish to return before 1pm, they **MUST** report to the School Office Entrance so that we can ensure they are marked as returned.

Keeping all of our children safe is our most important job and this is why we have made these changes. If you would like to discuss this in any more detail then please get in touch.



Punctuality

Could we ask all of our parents and carers to work with us to make sure that our

children are arriving on time for school?

We open our doors from **8.45am** and the school day begins officially at **9am**. As we do our soft start, the learning begins the minute our children come through the door, so being on time is very important.

Don't forget your
WATER BOTTLES!



We can refill them in school but we no longer have any spare bottles.

Ipay Impact

Can all SCHOOL parents make sure that they have logged in and pre-ordered children's lunches. Can you log in and mark on the system EVEN IF they are a packed lunch or home lunch. The new menu has already been issued and is available to view on the Ipay Impact website. All children in ELC and P1 to P5 are entitled to a free school meal. Our ELC parents will mark their meal choice on the sign-in sheet as normal each morning. If you are having any issues with the system please let us know and we will be happy to help.

Data Check Forms

These will be issued tomorrow and we would ask that you read them carefully, check all of the details are still correct and return them by Friday at the latest. In particular, please remember to sign and date them! The information you provide is used to keep in touch with you and it is especially important in an emergency. Can all parents and carers ensure that they are keeping the information we hold on you up to date throughout the year? Thank you so much for your support with this.

ELC/School Calendar for session 2023/2024

We will be issuing our calendar shortly for our families so that you can see all of the dates that will be coming up over the year.

Collection at the end of the school day

Please note that all children in Primaries 1 to 3 must be collected by an adult at 3pm. We know that circumstances change so if there are any last minute changes to the adult who is collecting could you please let the school know as soon as possible? Pupils in Primaries 4 to 7 may walk home themselves.

Also, please observe the parking regulations when you are dropping off and picking up! Our school gate is very busy and there is no school crossing patroller so it is important that we all work together to keep our children safe.

There will be no PE this week for our classes. We will send our PE timetable by the end of the week. Please remember that on PE days our children should wear our PE uniform which is:

White polo shirt/t shirt

Blue school jumper/blue PE hoodie

Black jogging bottoms/leggings/shorts

We would really appreciate your support with this, and staff will be reinforcing this expectation on every PE day.

ELC Arrangements

The ELC will run from 8.45 until 2.45 each day.

Children are provided with a hot meal at lunchtime each day and the menu has been sent to you.

Snack is always fruit and milk which we encourage the children to serve themselves.

At pick up and drop off there might be a bit more queuing as we are trying a new system, so only two adults at a time will be able to access the foyer. We will see how it goes and make changes if we need to.

Please don't send your child in their best clothes! They are likely to get pretty mucky as we are out in all weathers.

Can you let us know if your child is going to be off or you are running a bit late so that we can make sure our registers are updated and we are ordering the correct number of lunches. Thank you!



Contact us:

Call: 01436 810322

Email: enquiries-
garelochhead@argyll-
bute.gov.uk

Via **Xpressions** (download from
your app store)