



Garelochhead Primary School

Newsletter 2 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.

This has been a fantastic first term for everyone and lots of amazing things have been happening, some of which we will be sharing with you in this newsletter.

We have been delighted at how well our children have all returned to our school and our ELC and how well they have adjusted to new staff and routines. Thank you to all of our parents and carers for supporting our children so well.

We are always looking for ways to improve so if you have any suggestions about what you would like to see in our newsletters then please let us know by dropping a line to enquiries-garelochhead@argyll-bute.gov.uk

New Staff

We welcome to our staff team Michelle Heesom, Danielle Pearson and Amy Paxton who were all successful at interview recently for the position of ASN assistants. Lindsay Craven has become a full-time ASN with the school. She will continue to support our ELC until we can fill the Classroom Assistant position. We will keep you posted! In addition, Jillian Bechelli and Zoe Canty were appointed as P3/2 and Pupil Support Teacher respectively, and will be working with us until June 2024.

Smoke Free Me

Our Primary 7 pupils travelled to Hermitage Academy on Wednesday 13th September for a performance of Smoke Free Me. They had a great time and enjoyed their first taste of learning at the Academy. They learned some really important messages about the dangers of smoking and vaping as well which we know will have an impact on their choices.

Fire Station Visit

P2/1 went to our local fire station as part of their learning about our local community. Thanks to Phil Douglas



for organising this amazing trip for us! Everyone had a great time.

Great British Beach Clean 2023

As part of the Great British Beach Clean national campaign, the Environmental Department organised local beach cleans, which were held on 15 September 2023. Garelochhead Primary School, Argyll & Bute Council, volunteers and various stakeholders at HMNB Clyde all participated. Over 40 pupils and around 35 HMNB Clyde employees targeted local beaches in Garelochhead and Helensburgh. Over a two-hour period approximately 130kg of waste was collected. The waste predominantly consisted of plastics; it is estimated that approximately 8 million pieces of plastic pollution end up in our seas daily, this has a significant adverse impact on the marine habitat and the wildlife that depends upon it. Half of the safety equipment used i.e. litter pickers, bag hoops etc. were donated to Garelochhead Primary School, enabling our school to participate in similar events.



Blair Drummond Safari Park

The school children all had a wonderful day at Blair Drummond Safari Park on Thursday 28th September. The weather was very kind, the lions were wide awake and there was much excitement as we drove through the monkey enclosure! Monkeys were jumping and climbing all over our buses. We would like to say a huge THANK YOU to all of the parents who came with us on the day, and to the staff who also gave additional time to allow this to happen. The children all behaved fabulously and we were very proud of how well they demonstrated our school values. Many members of the public commented on how well they behaved as well. This trip would not have been possible without the money that we received from Garelochhead Playgroup so another big thank you to all of the committee members for this kind donation.



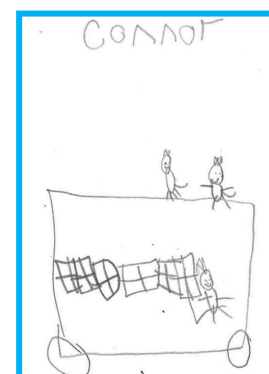
"My favourite part about the safari park was EVERYTHING"

PEYTON P5

"I loved the lion enclosure"

LOCHLAN P3

"Seeing the monkeys and sea lions and the play park and the big slide!" MOLLIE P4



"I liked the monkeys because they jumped on to the bus one by one" OLIVER P6

"I liked the park because everyone was playing together."

ALYSSA P7

House Elections

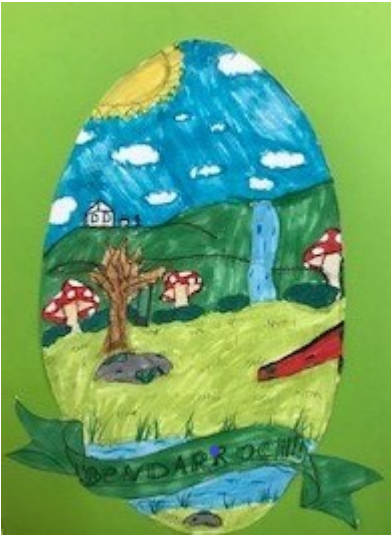
Our P6 and P7 pupils took part in our House Elections. All our children and staff were involved

in selecting our Captains and

Vice-Captains for each of our four

houses—Bendarroch, Dunivard, Feorlin and Whistlefield. Our school was festooned with campaign posters and our nominees prepared speeches and delivered these to a very receptive audience. A big well done to all who took part in this—I was so impressed by the hard work and the dedication shown by our pu-

pils. Congratulations to our successful candidates and we are looking forward to working with them during the year.



Captain: Erin Dougan

Vice-Captain: Evelyn Heywood



Captain: Oliver Kerr and Noah Phillips

Vice-Captain: Cameron Forrester



Captain: Nathan Boycott

Vice-Captain: Amelia Reynolds



Captain: Alyssa Timmins

Vice-Captain: Rhys Horne

Ipay Impact

Can all school parents make sure that they have logged in and pre-ordered children's lunches? It would also really help us if you could log in and let us know if your children will be a packed lunch or a 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.

Don't forget your
WATER BOTTLES!



Please make sure
that it is water in
bottles—not juice!

Punctuality



Please work with us to make sure that our children are arriving on time for school. At school, we open our doors from **8.45am** and the school day begins at **9am**. The learning begins the minute our children come through the door, so being on time is very important. Our ELC runs from **8.45am** until **2.45pm** each day, and parents and carers can access the ELC via the school playground or by coming up the driveway.

PE Timetable

This will remain the same
in Term 2.

P2/1— Monday and Tuesday

P3/2— Tuesday and Wednesday

P5/4— Wednesday and
Thursday

P6— Monday and Thursday

P7— Wednesday and Thursday

Remember to wear your
PE uniform on those days.

Parent Council

A new Parent Council was elected on Tuesday 3rd October and a letter from them has been sent out to you all. We are delighted to have representation from both school and ELC parents. Our new chairperson is Nicola Cheesman. We would like to thank Gillian Martin for all the work that she has done as Chairperson for the last few years.

The next meeting will be held on **Thursday 26th October at 3.15pm** to which all parents are invited.

Clubs

In response to your feedback, clubs will run in **Term 3** this session—Block 1 from Tuesday 9th January to 6th February and Block 2 from Thursday 22nd February to 21st March.

Dates for your diary:

Monday 23rd October—School/ELC open for new term

Thursday 26th October—Parent Council Meeting

Monday 30th October—ELC Hallowe'en Party

Tuesday 31st October—Parent Council Hallowe'en Event (school) and ELC trip to Ardardan

Wednesday 1st November—Tempest photos

Monday 27th November—In-Service Day, School/ELC closed to pupils

Thursday 30th November—Parents' Evening

Friday 8th December—P7 Trip to Scottish Parliament

All dates for Christmas activities will be confirmed in the first week of Term 2.

ELC Arrangements

The ELC runs 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.

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!

Homestart

From **Friday 27th October**, Homestart will be running Family and Children sessions, including a Bookbug session, in our school library every Friday afternoon from 1.30pm. There will be teas and coffees, baking and a chance for people to have a chat! This is open to all families in the Peninsula, not just those involved with our school community, so please share the word with anyone that you think would be interested.

If you would like any more info about this please give us a phone.

The logo for Homestart features the word "HOME" in large, bold, orange capital letters above the word "START" in the same style. A stylized purple figure of a person with arms raised is positioned between the two words, partially overlapping the 'O' in "HOME" and the 'A' in "START".

Our Children, Their Future

We will be looking for all our stakeholders to be involved in a consultation to refresh our current Education Vision and Strategy, Our Children, Their Future. In November Argyll and Bute will begin to gather views from all those who are involved in education. This includes our young people, staff, parents and carers and our partners.

There will be lots of ways to be able to give your views and more information will be available in November on how you can be involved.



ELC Trip

We are taking all our ELC children to Monty's Farm for their annual pumpkin and play celebration. Our children and adults will travel by bus, take part in pumpkin carving activities, visit the farm animals and have some time in the soft play! We are really looking forward to it!



Contact us:

Call: 01436 810322

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

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