



Head Teacher: Mrs Alison Palmer

Arrochar Primary School

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21 August 2019

Dear Parents

Welcome back to the new session. I hope you all had a lovely summer; it was so good to have some nice weather. It was lovely to see all the pupils back at school, they all looked so smart in their new school uniform.

Apologies for the length of this newsletter – there is just so much information at the start of the year to inform/ remind you of.

A big welcome to our new P1 starts.



Primary 1-7 pupils will enter through the main front door, only Pre-5 pupils and parents should enter the school through the Pre-5 Unit entrance; this entrance will only be open from 8.40am to 9am. For security reasons, please use the main school entrance outwith these times. We have a security entry system between the Pre-5 Unit and the school hall so if you wish to visit the school office, please come in through the main school entrance. Please note, Ms Kay, our janitor, will be supervising in the school playground from 8.40am each morning. There will be no adult supervision before this time so please don't leave your child in the school playground unattended.

Please find below, a list of staff for the new session:

Head Teacher	Mrs Alison Palmer
Principal Teacher/ P7	Mrs Jane McAloon
P5/6	Miss Catriona McMurtrie
P3/4	Ms Kirsten Black
P1/2	Mrs Kerry Hendry
French/ P.E./ Gaelic	Mrs Julie Dodson
Music	Mrs Morag Ridland (every 2 nd Tuesday, from 20.8.19)
Area Network Support Teacher	Mrs Barbara Gillies (every Tuesday)
MOD Support Teacher	Ms Carol Holloway (every Wednesday)
Childcare and Education Workers	Ms Kathryn Haggarty
	Mrs Natasha Stephenson
	Mrs Joanne Stark
Fitness/ Zumba	Mrs Lynn Nicolson (every Wednesday)
Music – Instrumental	Mr Ian Skelding (every Monday)
Pupil Support Assistant	Mrs Natasha Stephenson
	Mrs Natasha Stephenson
	Mrs Joanne Stark
SEN Assistants/Classroom Asst.	Mrs Julie Dodson
	Mrs Geraldine Martin
	Mrs Ann Huggans
	Mrs Joanne Stark
	Mrs Nicola Mathieson
	Miss Kirsty Cordner
Clerical Assistants	Ms Tracey Marshall
Janitor/ Cleaner	Ms Sandra Kay
Crossing Patrol	Mr Hugh Robertson
Catering Manager	Mrs Hannah Ross
Catering Assistant	Mrs Mary Ann McFadyen
Cleaners	Ms Fiona Miller
	Ms Sheila Miller

Staffing Update

After 15 years as the school's clerical assistant, Joyce has decided the time is right for her to move on to a new challenge. She is heading off to university to study business. We would all like to wish her the very best of luck and thank her for all her hard work and organisational skills over the last 15 years.

I am delighted to say that Ms Tracey Marshall will be joining us as our full time clerical assistant, from September 2nd.

Important Medical Information

We have a pupil in the school who has severe allergies and can suffer from anaphylactic shock if they come into contact with certain food items. One of the main, life-threatening allergies is to kiwi fruit. I would like to ask for your assistance, to ensure that kiwi is **never** sent to school, either as a snack or for lunch. We also have a member of staff and a pupil with allergies to nuts. Could I also ask that **no packets of nuts** are sent into school. I am



aware that most products say on the back 'may contain nuts' – these products are ok to send in, it is just the packets of nuts we would like to avoid having in the school. If asked to provide empty cardboard boxes for craft activities, could you also please not send in crunchy nut cereal boxes. Many thanks for your support in this matter.

P.E. / Fitness

Please ensure that P.E./gym kit is sent to school every Monday and Wednesday. Please remember, no football strips/colours and please remove jewellery, including earrings. If your child has long hair, then please send them to school with their hair up or with a band for their hair on P.E. days. If it's easier, your child could leave their gym kit in a bag with their name on it, to save them carrying it back and forth from home to school, as sometimes they need their gym shoes on other days of the week, e.g. drama, dance etc. All pupils will be doing the mile a day run/ walk, weather permitting, so it would be easier to manage if a pair of plimsolls/ trainers were left in school.

School Uniform

Please remember, black/ dark school shoes should be worn to, and from, school. Training shoes should be kept for P.E. lessons. Please refrain from bright coloured hair dye during term time as this tends to spoil photographs.

Could you also ensure that your child's name is clearly written on **ALL** clothing items sent to school. This will really help us when trying to match items to pupils! School ties can be purchased from the school office at a price of £5.50. All other uniform items can be purchased from <https://myclothing.com>. Primary 7 pupils will require a white shirt and school tie when representing the school. If you are struggling financially to provide a school uniform, please let us know and we will do what we can to assist you. Clothing grants of £100 are available to those who meet the criteria - <https://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/forms/application-clothing-grant-free-school-meals>. It's fine for white tops and navy jumpers to be worn, which can be purchased from any shop, it's not essential that they have the school logo.

School/ PTA Volunteers – Getting Involved In School Life

Please find attached, our annual form which we hope you will be able to complete, to enable you to feel more involved in your child's education. You may return the completed form, or email the school with the information. The school's PTA are also keen to attract more members, so come long to the next PTA meeting on Monday 21st October at 9am, in the school. You will be made very welcome.

School Bank

Every Wednesday morning, the Royal Bank of Scotland's mobile banking unit will call at Tarbet pier. If your child does not have an account, you can open one with the Helensburgh branch or with the RBS mobile unit when it visits Arrochar. Pupils will have the opportunity to save every week, which teaches them about the value of money and gets them into good habits for the future. Ms Kay will walk the pupils to the pier to visit the bank.

E-Mail Correspondence/ Groupcall

We are keen to communicate via e-mail as much as possible. Currently, 3 families still opt to receive paper copies; all others receive correspondence by e-mail. If you are having a



problem with e-mails, please let us know as we can always provide a paper copy until the problem is resolved.

As all text messages to parents now go through a system called Groupcall, please sign up to this if you have not already done so. Information about Groupcall (Appendix 1) is attached to the end of this newsletter. It is really important that you let us know if you change your email address or phone number throughout the term.

Water Bottles

It is important that pupils drink throughout the day to stay hydrated. We have issued the new Primary 1 pupils with a school logo water bottle. If any other pupil would like to replace their water bottle, they can do so by bringing £2 to the school office. These water bottles should be filled with **water** only and brought to school daily. We have also purchased some water bottle lids, so if you only require a lid, it saves buying a whole water bottle. They can be purchased at a cost of 50p.

Soft Start for Pre-5 and P1/2

The Pre-5 Unit operates from 8.50am – 2.50pm, Monday to Friday. Soft Start for Pre-5 parents will continue this session. It will take place once a month, on the last Thursday of each month, from 8.50am – 9.30am. Please put the dates below in your diaries: Thursday, 26th September, 31st October, 28th November and 19th December.

Soft Start for P1/2 will begin after the October holiday, once a fortnight from 9.00-9.30am, on the following dates:

25th October, 8th & 22nd November and 6th December. There will be no Soft Start on 20th December.

What Is Soft Start?

Parents will get the chance to work with their child on class/ fun activities. These activities will be led by the class teacher. Could you please note that it is not a parents' meeting, as the staff will be working with pupils during this time. There will be a chance to discuss your child's progress at other times throughout the year. We realise it is not always possible for you to visit for every session; please join us, or send a member of your family, whenever you can. School staff will be available to work with pupils who don't have a visiting adult.

Parking

When visiting the school, or dropping off/ collecting your child, please park in the car park opposite the Tarbet hotel and walk down the footpath. Please don't park in the staff car park or at the car park entrance as this just causes chaos in an already busy car park. For the same reasons, please don't let your child/ children walk through the staff car park to enter/ leave the school as this is a very busy, dangerous place for small children. The bus bay at the front of the school is only for the school bus/ taxis.

Reading and Spelling Assessments

Over the next few weeks, some pupils will be assessed in Reading and Spelling. The class teacher will use these results to determine Spelling and Reading groups and appropriate resources. These groups will be reviewed throughout the year as pupils will progress at different rates.



Attendance

It's important you follow this procedure for safeguarding reasons.

The procedure regarding absence from school is as follows:

You should telephone the school on the first morning of absence to let us know (before 9.15am). If we do not hear from you, we will text, phone or visit to enquire as to why your child is absent. If your child is late, they should visit the school office on their arrival to inform staff that they are in school.

Keep us updated on your child's illness if it lasts longer than 3 or 4 days.

Family holidays during term time are categorised as unauthorized absence. In exceptional circumstances, a family holiday may be categorised as authorised if it is judged to be important for the wellbeing and cohesion of the family. When a pupil is off school for an unauthorised absence, work will not be provided in advance by the school. Any work missed can be caught up on, on their return.

Transport

In conjunction with Argyll and Bute Council, Garelochhead Coaches provide the school transport. The school is not responsible for transport, however to help things go smoothly, we have allocated all new or younger pupils an older bus helper/ partner to ensure they are safe on the bus and able to work their seat belts. Any concerns with the allocation of helper/ partner should be made to the school. All other concerns regarding transport should be made to Garelochhead Coaches.

NHS Highland Guidance

Please find below, advice from NHS Highland on some of the more common childhood illnesses and their associated exclusion periods from school:

Disease	Normal Incubation Period	Minimum Period of Exclusion
Diarrhoea and / or vomiting (unknown cause)		48 hours from last episode of diarrhoea or vomiting. Should be excluded from swimming pool for 2 weeks following last episode of diarrhoea.
Measles	8-13 days	5 days from onset of rash
Slapped Cheek	4-20 days	None, though consider if fever present
Ringworm	2-6 weeks	None once treatment has started but restrict activities involving physical contact
Chickenpox	11-21 days	5 days from onset of rash, or until spots have dried up
Impetigo		Until lesions are crusted or healed
Conjunctivitis	24-72 hours	Exclusion only considered in outbreaks. Contact school.
Glandular Fever	4-6 weeks	None

If your child has been prescribed antibiotics, please check with your GP as the exclusion period can vary.

If your child contracts an illness not listed above, please contact the Health Protection Team on 01436 704886 for advice and information.

Please do not send your child to school during the exclusion period for any of the above illnesses.



Access To Free Sanitary Products

The Scottish Government has launched a scheme where sanitary products will be freely available for children in school, both to use in school and to take home, if required. These products will be provided in school toilets; children will be advised of this and that they do not need to ask for these products, they will have access to whatever is required as and when they need to.

Ragbag Recycling Bin

The Ragbag recycling bin has proved to be very successful, and a fabulous fundraiser for the PTA. Please continue to recycle your unwanted clothing in this facility in the school grounds. You may drop off your items any day, outwith school hours. Please ensure you bag and tie all your Ragbag items as they do not take them if they are unbagged.

Recorders

Mrs Ridland will be teaching recorder to P4 this term. If your child has their own, good quality recorder, please send it with them on music days. If you would like to purchase a recorder from the school, please send in £4 with your child.

School Lunches/ Snacks and Free School Meals

Snacks will be available daily, from the school canteen, costing 25p each. Milk will be available to purchase at both snack and lunch time and costs 10p per carton. School lunches cost £2.10 per day. The latest menu is attached, for your convenience. Once the Autumn menu has been issued to us, we will forward to parents. Please remember, P1-P3 pupils receive a free school meal daily.

If you have still to apply for free school meals, please follow this link <https://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/forms/application-clothing-grant-free-school-meals> or you may request a form from the office. Please do this, as if you are entitled, the school receives Pupil Equity Funding for each pupil registered for free school meals, whether they take them or not. We will benefit financially for each pupil registered as receiving free school meals.

School Diary

The pupils have been issued with their new school diary, which the PTA have kindly funded for the school. Please spend some time with your child, having a look at pages 1-22. Each week, your child will spend time in class with their teacher, completing the diary page and weekly reflections on pages 24-25. Could you please make sure you sign your child's diary each week. The Personal Learning Plans have also been incorporated into the diary, on pages 117-152. Every Friday afternoon, in the school, your child will be working on their targets for the term and their next steps. It would be good if you could spend some time with your child, having a look at all the different sections/ pages/ targets they have set and encourage them along the way. At the end of each term, the teacher will write a report; this will be on page 133. Could you please write a short comment in reply to this report, on page 134. Your child and teacher would appreciate this.

Mobile Phones/ Electronic Devices/ Guidance On Photography and Filming Children

The school has a mobile phone policy for pupils. If a mobile phone is brought to school it must be switched off and kept off until the pupil leaves the school at the end of the day. It may be a good idea to remove mobile phones and electronic devices at night time from



pupils' bedrooms during the school week, as several pupils appear to be contacting each other in the early hours of the morning and coming to class tired.

We understand you may want to record your child's achievements, school events and concerts at school, however the new Data Protection laws are now in effect and this means that any photographs/ videos taken within Argyll and Bute Council establishments, or at any school events, for purely personal use should not be uploaded onto public internet websites or social media sites, where other children and young people have also been captured on film or photographs. Argyll and Bute Council forms have been issued in relation to these new laws.

P5/6/7 Playgroup Liaison

We hope to continue our P5/6/7 link with our Playgroup, on a Friday again this year, from 11.00-12.15. It is once a week and would involve your child on a rota, attending approximately once or twice a term. We hope to start this in September. If your child is in P5/6/7 and you would like them to be involved in working with our Playgroup pupils in the school, please e-mail the school to let us know. If we do not hear from you, we will presume you do not wish your child to be involved.

Generation Communities Group

The school will be working with some older community members on the last Thursday of each month, from 1-3pm, starting in August, on a Generation Communities project. This project is being funded thanks to Fiona Paterson securing a grant from Argyll and Bute Council. The aim of the project is to create a link through the generations. A few pupils, from nursery to Primary 7, will be working and learning with some members of the community, in the school, on a monthly basis. They will be involved in team building, i-pads, storytelling, researching, cinema/ panto trip etc.

Educational Psychologist

Our new psychologist, Sarah Jamieson, will visit the school on Monday, 2nd September at 9.30am to meet the pupils that were previously seen by Prof. Tommy MacKay.

Food Bank

We would like to collect some items to donate to Arrochar's food bank. If you could select one or two items from the list below, and send in to school, it really would be appreciated. All donations will stay local, helping people in our community:

breakfast cereals, cereal bars, longlife milk, tins of fruit, tins of meat, tins of fish, tins of vegetables, jars of pasta sauce, jars of sweet and sour sauce, jars of curry sauce, packets of rice, teabags, coffee and packets of biscuits.

Each term, we hope to make a school donation to the foodbank in the Arrochar doctors' surgery, so please send your item/items at any time.

Mobile Planetarium

The playgroup have kindly agreed to fund a visit from the mobile planetarium on Friday, 23rd August. This activity will be offered to all the pupils, from the playgroup, Pre-5 and the school. There will be no cost to parents for this event.



P1 Helensburgh Advertiser Photograph

The Helensburgh Advertiser photographer will be here at 9.30am on Friday, 30th August to take a photograph of the P1 pupils. Only the pupils who have consented to media publication will have their photographs taken, so please return the media consent form which has been issued, as soon as possible.

Gardening/ School Grounds Afternoon

On Friday, 27th September, we hope to have a parent/ pupil gardening/ school grounds day. If you are free that day, please come along to help us maintain the school grounds. Can you please let us know if you are willing to help on that day. It's that time of year again when we need someone with a bit of skill in this area to check over the Pirate ship and advise what maintenance would need to be carried out. If you are able to pop over to help with this, please let us know. Fiona Paterson will host a Macmillan coffee morning in the Three Villages Hall that day, and will pop over to school in the afternoon to sell some cakes in the school. Please send your child to school with some money, if you'd like them to participate in this.

Parent Council Meeting

The next Parent Council meeting will take place, in the school, on Wednesday, 19th September at 6.30pm. At this meeting, we will be discussing the possibility of inviting another parent to join this group. If you wish to put your name forward, please email the school. More information to follow. Elections to replace the Parent Council are due next year.

Parents' Afternoon/ Evening

You are invited to the school on Thursday, 26th September to speak to your child's teacher. Appointments are available from 3.30-5.30pm and 6.30-8.00pm. Please complete and return the attached slip or e-mail the school with your preference, no later than Friday, 6th September. Appointment times will be issued after this date.

Arrochar Challenge Sponsored Walk

Please put Friday, 20th September in your diary. We hope to hold our yearly Sponsored Challenge on that day, and would like us to join us if you can. More information to follow shortly.

'Smoke Free Me' Drama

P7 pupils will be attending a Health & Wellbeing 'Smoke Free Me' drama at Hermitage Academy on Monday, 23rd September. More information and consent to follow.

Pupil Council

One pupil from each class stage will be selected/ elected to represent their class. These pupils will then meet monthly with the Head Teacher to see how we can improve the school. This term will also see house Captains and Vice-Captains elected from Primary 7. You might want to encourage your child to put themselves forward for one of these positions.



October School Holiday

The school closes on Friday, 4th October at 3pm and re-opens to pupils on Monday, 21st October, at 9am.

There will be two staff in-service days, on Monday, 7th and Tuesday, 8th October, where we will be working with other Helensburgh and Lomond schools on Literacy & Holistic Assessments and attending Autism training.

Yours sincerely

Alison Palmer
Head Teacher

Parents' Afternoon/ Evening Thursday, 26th September 2019

Name of pupil(s): _____

Preferred time: 3.30 – 5.30

6.30 – 8.00

I have no preference

I wish to make an appointment for a different date
(The school will contact you to arrange this)

I do not wish to make an appointment

Signed: _____ Date: _____



Parental Involvement – Session 2019-20

Name: _____

Child/ Children's Name(s): _____

Days available: Mon Tue Wed Thur Fri

Times available: Morning/ Afternoon

Any skills or interests which you are willing to share with us?

I would like to be involved in:

Garden/ Grounds (one Friday a month, from 1-3pm)

Running an after school club (one term – max 8 weeks)

Club type _____

Assist in an after school club (one term – max 8 weeks)

Club type _____

Running/ assisting in a Friday club, from 2-3pm, every second Friday, e.g. baking, sewing, knitting, DIY, den building, chess etc. (1 term – max 4 weeks)

Club type _____

Dear Parents

Receive notifications from your child's school on your mobile phone!

Groupcall Xpressions is a new service created by the award-winning school communication company Groupcall Limited. This exciting new service is now available for parents to ensure communication for everyone is easier and more effective.

The app is completely free of charge to you and can be installed on your mobile phone or tablet. It currently supports both Apple iOS and Android devices (with Windows mobile to follow) and you'll be able to receive information from your child's school.

If you have children in different schools within Argyll and Bute you will be able to receive information on multiple children within the same app.

What do I need to do now?

Please download the app from your usual App store. You will be prompted to enter the email address and mobile phone number that your child's school currently hold as contact details for you. If your details don't match the App won't download. If this is the case, simply ensure your data is up to date by emailing: enquiries-arrochar@argyll-bute.gov.uk and wait for a confirmation from the school that your details have been updated. You'll need to make sure you keep contact details up to date in future to maintain access to the Xpressions App.

You can access information and support at the following website <http://parents.groupcall.com/> Communications to parents will primarily be by email or push notifications using the Xpressions App, when the communication is standard to all parents, such as advising of school holiday dates or charity days in the school. Where we need to communicate individually with parents the method will be determined by the nature of the message.

Please note – the Xpressions App requires you to be connected to wi-fi or data in order for the push notification to be downloaded. You may incur costs if you do not have a data package or exceed your data limit on your mobile device. However you can amend settings within the Xpressions App to download the notifications when connected to wi-fi only.

If you have any questions about the use of this app or future communications from us please contact the school office on *01301 702261* or by *email*.

