



Customer Services

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Arrochar Primary School

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Dear Parents

Welcome back to the new term. I hope you all had a lovely Christmas and New Year. Please find below, some information which I hope you will find useful:

Congratulations to Nina in P7 who was a runner-up in MSP Jackie Baillie's Christmas card competition.

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.



School Diary/ Personal Learning Plans

In order to keep you involved as much as possible in your child's education, you will receive a termly curriculum bulletin and a termly progress report on your child. The class teacher will write a report on your child and this can be found on page 133 of your child's diary. Over the page, on page 134, there is a section for parents to add any comments they wish to contribute. If you have not done this yet, could you please do so as soon as possible.

Please chat through the termly report with your child and add your or your child's thoughts to the home/ parent comment section. At the back of the diary, on page 139, there is a page on achievements. Can you also help your child complete this page for any achievements outwith school, e.g. swimming badges, Cubs badges, football awards, karate belts, piano gradings, horse riding rosettes, learning to ride a bicycle, tie shoe laces etc. Every fortnight, we have a school assembly where we like to share good news/ achievements throughout the school. If your child has something they would like to share with us or show us, could they please bring it in to school for assembly.

Homework will be noted in your child's diary each week; could you please check this over before it is returned to school, sign your child's diary every week and add a comment beside the teacher's comment. You will also soon receive this term's curriculum bulletin, which will highlight the work your child will cover this term. If you have any suggestions or want clarification on anything we send home, please just ask.

P1 Registration Week

Children who attain the age of five between 1st March 2020 and 28th February 2021 should be registered for education during w/c 13th January. Children can be registered by visiting the school office. You may visit Monday - Friday, from 9.15am-12 noon and 1.15pm-2.45pm.

School Volunteer

I am delighted to say Cate Thompson is volunteering in the school. Cate will be working with us on a Tuesday and a Thursday, assisting the class teacher.

Soft Start

Primary 1/2 Soft Start sessions start again on Friday, 24th January, in the school, from 9.00-9.30am. Dates are as follows, which takes us up to the end of May: 7th & 28th February; 13th & 27th March; 24th April; 10th and 8th May.

Swimming Lessons

Primary 5/6 and 7 start their block of swimming lessons at Helensburgh pool on Thursday, 23th January. Consent forms will be issued shortly. These lessons will take place every Thursday (missing out the February week holiday). The last lesson will be on Thursday, 19th March. Please ensure your child has a swimsuit/ shorts, towel and £1 for their locker each Thursday. The school will meet the cost of these lessons and bus hire. A few of our really good swimmers have agreed not to go swimming but to stay in school and work.



Scottish Poetry/ Dress Down Day

All pupils will be learning a Scottish poem over the next few weeks, which they will recite at our Scottish celebration on Thursday, 30th January. This will also be the date of the Pupil Council's dress down day. The theme for this day will be 'Scottish'. Please send your child to school dressed in their Scottish clothing and with £1. All money raised will go to the Pupil Council to spend on playground games/ activities. The next dress down day will be on Wednesday, 26th February and will be 'crazy hair day'.

NSPCC

Scott from the NSPCC will visit the school on Tuesday 14th January to deliver an assembly to P1-3 and P4-7, he will then lead a workshop for P6 and P7. Through child-friendly interactive assemblies and workshops the specially trained staff will give our children information about how to keep themselves safe from harm and how to get help if they have any worries, sensitively discussing issues with them, without using scary words or adult language. If you would like any more information about the NSPCC Speak Out Stay Safe programme, including frequently asked questions, you can find these on the NSPCC website nspcc.org.uk/schools or please come in to speak to me.

Internet Safety Talk

PC Ian Mustarde and PC Stephen Carr will visit the school on Tuesday 21st January to deliver an Internet Safety talk to Primary 6 and 7 pupils.

Health Team Visit

The school nurses will visit the school on Friday 24th January to take the height and weight of our Primary 7 pupils.

Pupil Council Meeting

Our next Pupil Council Meeting will be held on Wednesday 29th January at 11.30am. If your child has any items they wish to bring up please get them to speak to their class representative before the meeting.

Helensburgh and Gaerloch Horticultural Society

P4 and P5 pupils bulbs (which will hopefully have turned into beautiful plants) will be collected on 6th February for the Ardardan annual bulb competition. This competition will be judged during the February holiday. All the plants from all the schools will be on display at Ardardan Estate, Cardross for you to go and see, if you wish. We have been the winners of the Horticultural shield for the last 6 years, so fingers crossed we will retain it again this year.

Instrumental Teacher

Mr Ian Skelding retired just before Christmas, our new Instrumental teacher is Mr John Grant, he will be visiting the school every Friday morning to give the pupils their lessons. We are still waiting to hear when the P5 pupils will get the opportunity to learn to play an instrument, they will not be missed out but it may not be until after Easter. I will keep you updated.



Friday Clubs

Every second Friday we will be running clubs from 1.45-3pm. We have the following clubs on offer. Yoga, Drama, Gardening. Sewing, Netball, Warhammer and Baking. The pupils have had an input into the variety of clubs we have on offer. I would like to thank the following parents/community members for helping us out – Mr Ritchie Mathieson, Mrs Jennie McLaren and Miss Angie Paxton. If you would like to offer your services or expertise, please get in contact.

Our Vision, Value and Aims

We have been working in school with the children on our Vision, Value and Aims. Our main aim is to provide a school education of high quality which will equip children with skills and attitudes for lifelong learning and will prepare them for life beyond school. We aim to provide a safe, positive, nurturing environment where everyone has the opportunity to flourish.

The children came up with our school motto which is 'Dream It, Believe It, Do It!'

Our pupil values make up the word 'RICHER' these values are;

- Respect
- Included
- Confident
- Honest
- Enthusiastic
- Responsible

Throughout this year we will all be working together to make sure our Vision, Values and Aims are reflected in all that we do in Arrochar Primary.

Seesaw

The Pre-5 have been busy using the Seesaw App for several months now and we are going to introduce it into the school, Seesaw is a digital portfolio that gives parents a real-time glimpse into your child's school day. Seesaw helps you stay in the loop and gives you an opportunity to support your child's learning at home. Seesaw is simple for you to access, yet secure. Only you will be able to see your child's journal and begin to receive notifications. All content is secure and is never shared with 3rd parties. We hope you will join us in sharing photographs and further developing communication between home and school. Information on how to join will be issued on Friday.

Curriculum Bulletin

This terms Curriculum Bulletins will be issued shortly. Please let us know if you have any comments or if you can assist us in any of the areas.



Residential Trip – Parliament

The Primary 7 trip to London is progressing well. We will be leaving on March 30th at 8.26am, returning on Thursday 2nd April at 6.15pm. I will get exact cost to you shortly once the day time activities have been finalised and costed. The P7 pupils through their enterprise topic have raised almost £400, this means the initial cost of £186 will now be reduced and will approximately be £146 per person. This is a fabulous amount to pay for four days in London, travel, accommodation, food and activities. Could you please ensure your £50 deposit is paid by the end of January.

Parent Council

I am delighted that Mr Ross Cadie will be joining the Parent Council. There will be elections to elect a new Parent Council in September when the current Parent Council's term runs out. The Parent Council would also like to highlight their opposition to certain areas which are proposed for cuts in this years budget. They are opposed to the cuts to Pupil Support Assistants in primary schools, the removal of the PE/swimming budget, cutting the Psychological Services and to the removal of the school crossing patrols. The above areas are all vital to safety and the successful running of schools. They ask that you contact your local councillor to explain your opposition to these proposed cuts.

Mid-Term Holiday

The school will close on Friday, 7th February at 3pm and re-open on Monday, 17th February at 9am.

Yours sincerely

Alison Palmer
Head Teacher

