



Customer Services

Head Teacher: Mrs Alison Palmer

Arrochar Primary School

Tarbet G83 7DG

Tel: 01301 702261 Fax: 01301 702782

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

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Dear Parents

Welcome back everyone, I hope you all had a lovely October break. It is good to see all the pupils back with us again.

Thanks to Karl Healy for adding steps and a very creative handrail to the P1/2 outside space. We will certainly make good use of it.

Could I start with a few reminders and ask for your assistance in these matters. Could I please ask that no one parks in the bus/taxi bay at the front of the school, or in the staff car park when dropping their child off at nursery or school. It is fine to park in this bay when collecting your child from nursery or school if you have been phoned to collect them because they are unwell, but it is not okay to park here between 8.45-9.15am and 2.40-3.15pm. It is reserved solely for the school bus and taxi. Please park in the pier car park opposite the Tarbet Hotel and walk down the footpath. Can I also remind nursery parents that drop off is from 9am-9.15am each day and collection is from 2.30-2.45pm, unless you have previously spoken to, and arranged something different with staff. This will allow nursery pupils to enter and vacate the school premises out with the school hours, to ensure bubble groups are maintained and social distancing at the school gate is adhered to.

I would like to welcome Susan Tighe to the school staff. We have known Susan for a long time as she has taught music in the nursery for years.

School Lunches

A school lunch costs £2.30 per day, milk is included in nursery but an additional charge of 10p is payable if a school pupil would like milk. Due to Covid we are not supposed to be handling school lunch money daily. Could I please ask, if possible, that you hand in your child's lunch money in an envelope with their name on it (for nursery) and if you can pay weekly for school lunches in school. It will be £11.50 per week without milk and £12 per week, per pupil with milk. This would make life so much easier for the canteen staff, who collect the money and do the ordering. Sadly we can't take cheques as the mobile bank has stopped visiting the village due to Covid and we can't deposit cheques in the post office.



Pre-5 Fund

The termly nursery £10 fee is now due, please send this in to staff in an envelope with your child's name clearly marked on it and labelled fee, so it is not mixed up with lunch money.

Fitness and PE

Scottish Government and local authority guidelines state that PE and fitness should continue to be outside. So please remember to send your child dressed for PE/fitness on a Wednesday and Thursday and with a waterproof jacket. We will continue to use Karl's cosy outside cabin for PE and I am trying to get the ground in the cabin tarmacked so there is a smooth surface for the children to work on.

Ventilation

Scottish Government and local authority guidelines also state we should keep windows and doors open to allow flow of air throughout the classroom. As we head towards winter please remember this and send your child in layered up, it's easier to remove clothes if the children are too warm. We are trying to do everything we can to keep the school open, I know it is not ideal but it's the best we can offer at the moment.

Parents Meeting

Obviously at the moment we aren't allowed to meet with parents face to face. We have weekly diary communication, communication via Seesaw and you would have recently received your child's termly report on page 135 of the school diary. If you haven't already, can you please add a comment in the parent comment section of this report. If you still feel there is something specific you would like to talk to your child's teacher about we are offering telephone appointments. If you would like a telephone appointment please email the school to let us know. We will arrange appointments on Tuesday 10th and Wednesday 11th November between 9am-12noon and between 1pm-4pm. Please indicate your preference slot and we will get back to you with an exact time. Please note this also applies to the nursery parents. I know you see the early years staff daily, but if you feel you need a phone appointment, please email the school.

Hallowe'en

We are determined to have some fun at Hallowe'en in school. I have spoken to the pupil council and we have agreed the following. The staff will decorate the classes, the PTA will provide a drink and a sweet and the Arrochar Hotel have kindly agreed to purchase a pumpkin for each pupil, including the children from nursery. We will carve their pumpkins in school and send them home on Friday 30th October. We will have Hallowe'en fun in each classroom in our own wee bubbles. Please send your child in to school on Friday 30th dressed in their Hallowe'en costume – if possible. The canteen will use the pumpkin flesh to make muffins and they will also make Hallowe'en empire biscuits, these will be donated to our Generation Group members just to remind them that we are missing and thinking of them. We will also include some photos of their carved pumpkins to cheer them up and some letters from the children.



In-service Training

The school will be closed to pupils on Friday 27th and 30th November for staff training.

Parent Council

Jean Mustarde, the Parent Council Clerk is presently arranging a suitable date for an on-line Parent Council meeting.

Christmas

At the moment there is no Christmas Fair, concert, John Lewis carol singing, Panto etc. However we will definitely be celebrating it, Christmas will not be cancelled in Arrochar! More information to follow as we come up with ideas and different ways of doing things. Any thoughts please drop us an email.

The school will be closed for Christmas on Wednesday 23rd December at 2.30pm and will re-open on Thursday 7th January.

We are hoping not to move to blended learning or home learning anytime soon. Last term you were all fabulous and sensible about when to send your child in and when to keep them off. Please continue with this and remember, if your child is feeling unwell could you please keep them off school, until they are feeling better. This will hopefully stop colds and upset stomachs spreading. If your child is displaying a high temperature, has a continuous cough or loss or change to sense of smell or taste, please get your child tested for coronavirus as soon as possible. Stay at home, do not have any visitors, do not send your child back to school unless the result is negative or after self-isolation has finished.

Could I also remind everyone if you change your mobile phone number please let the school know the updated number in case we have to contact you in an emergency.

Stay safe and let's work together to make the school experience as normal and fun as we can.

Yours Sincerely

Alison Palmer
Head Teacher

