



Community Services

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Dear Parents

I am delighted to start with some great news, Primary 4 and 5 pupils retained the Helensburgh and Gareloch Horticultural Society Shield. We were judged as having grown the best hyacinth and tete-a-tete plants in the Helensburgh and Lomond area.

Congratulations should also go to Erin, P5, she has been selected to appear in the Opera Madame Butterfly at the Glasgow Concert Hall in March.

Well done also to Amanda in P7, she was highly commended for her Internet Safety poster.

Samba Drumming Sessions

Mark Macsporrán will be in the school tomorrow 21st February to deliver his Samba drumming Sessions to P5/6/7. He will also visit the school on the 28th Feb, 13th March, 20th March and 1st April.

Foodbank

We have had a request from the Helensburgh and Lomond foodbank, as they are desperately short of food. The school have their termly foodbank donation box on the go again, if you can spare some items from the enclosed list please send them in to school with your child. Your support is much appreciated. Items such as - long-life milk (blue full fat), boxes of 'cuppa soups', breakfast cereal (small or medium boxes), cereal bars, jars of pasta sauce, tins of fruit, tins of tomatoes, tea bags, tins of spaghetti, macaroni cheese and soup etc. All items will be gratefully received.

PTA AGM

The Parent Teacher Association Annual General Meeting will take place in the school on Tuesday 25th of February at 9am. We really need parents to join this group and would love to see new faces. We have about five meetings per year, usually 9am meetings and organise two fundraisers per year. If you would like to get involved in the life of the school, this is a fun and friendly way to do it.



Friday Afternoon Clubs

Thank you to Angie Paxton, Ritchie Mathieson and Jennie McLaren for continuing to help us out with our Friday afternoon clubs, once a fortnight. At a recent Pupil Council Meeting the pupils asked if we could have rugby, cycling and running as possible clubs before the summer holidays. If there are any parents, or if you know of any community members willing to help out or to offer another alternative please get in touch.

Seesaw

This new App is working well and the feedback from parents is very positive. Everyone involved is loving the sharing of photographs and videos between school and home. If you are still wishing to join us on seesaw please let your child's teacher know and they will give you the necessary information.

Our Vision, Value and Aims

We have a lovely new display in the school hall reflecting our Vision, Value and Aims. The pupils have been asked to take one of our school values, either Respect, Included, Confident, Honest, Enthusiastic or Responsible and on A4 paper come up with a design for that value. The pupil council, who came up with this idea will then select the winning design for each value and this will be made into a cushion for our outside classroom.

Dress Down Day

As mentioned in the previous newsletter the next Pupil Council Dress Down Day will be on Wednesday 26th February and will be crazy hair day. Please send your child in to school with a £1 and with crazy hair. The Pupil Council will spend all money raised on the pupils and resources.

Soft Start

Reminder of soft start days dates – 28th February, 13th March, 27th March, 24th of April and the 8th May.

London Residential Trip (Monday 30th March – Thursday 1st April)

Just to remind P7 parents our residential trip to London Parent Information session will take place on Wednesday 26th February at 2pm in the school. If for any reason you can't make it please let us know and we will ensure all the information is passed on to you.

Generation Communities Group

Our next meeting is on Thursday 27th February at 1pm in the school. The topic we will be working on will be mindfulness.

Apologies for not mentioning this in the last newsletter, we would like to thank Hamish and Vicki and staff at the Arrochar Hotel for a fabulous lunch at Christmas time. The group thoroughly enjoyed it and we thank you for your generosity. Our last Generation Communities group this term will be Thursday 26th March.

Book Fair

The travelling book fair will visit the school on Wednesday 4th March for a week. Please support this event if you can as the school gets a percentage of every book sold.



Green Tourism

We are delighted that Fiona Campbell and Andrea Nicholas will be visiting the school on Thursday 5th March to talk to Primary 3/4.

Day of Dance

As part of the Primary 7 transition calendar the pupils will take part in a Day of Dance in Helensburgh. They will get the opportunity to meet up with all the other P7 pupils before they start at the Academy. Consent forms and more information to follow.

Sea Life Centre

As part of the Interdisciplinary learning topics Primary 1/2 and Primary 3/4 have been working on this term, they will visit the sea life centre in Balloch on Wednesday 11th March. This will be an all-day event, so a pack lunch is required. Consent forms and other information have already been issued. Thank you to the PTA for agreeing to cover the cost of the transport for this trip. If you have still to pay for this trip please do so.

Edinburgh

As part of their Interdisciplinary topic Primary 7 have been learning about Parliament. They will visit the Scottish Parliament on Tuesday 17th March and also Mary King's Close. Consent forms and further information have already been issued.

Belfast

As part of their Interdisciplinary learning the Primary 5/6 pupils will be visiting the Titanic Museum in Belfast. Consent forms and an information letter have already been issued. If you have still to pay for this trip could you please do so. Thanks again to the PTA for agreeing to fund the bus to get us down to and back from the ferry port.

Grab Trust

Ben Appleby from the Grab Trust will be visiting the school on Wednesday 18th March to work with each class on - P1/2 - Storytelling, 9.30-10am, P3/4 - Storytelling, 10-10.30am, P5/6 - STEM activities, 11am-12pm and P7 - STEM activities, 1-2pm.

Helensburgh and Lomond Rotary Club Quiz

Last year we won the Rotary Club general knowledge quiz and went on to represent the area in the finals in Glasgow. This years competition will take place on Thursday 19th March in the 3 Villages Hall in Arrochar. We wish our four Primary 7 representatives the best of luck, fingers crossed we retain the trophy.

Pupil Council Meeting

Our next Pupil Council meeting will be held on Monday 23rd March. If your child has any items they wish to bring up, please get them to speak to their class representative before the meeting.



Easter Service

Our Easter Service will be held in the school on Tuesday 24th March at 1pm. The parents of pupils in P1/2, P3/4 and P5/6 are invited to join us along with PTA members. If you could please try and limit this to two members per family, this would really help us out.

Open Afternoon

Please join us if you can on Wednesday 25th March from 2-3pm. We would like to share with you what we have been learning this term.

Parental Engagement Session

The Oral Health team are holding an oral health tooth brushing/mouth hygiene session at 9am on Thursday 26th March in the school. Any parent who wishes to attend is more than welcome.

Parent/Pupil Questionnaire

The Parent Council and school staff will shortly be issuing some questionnaires to P3-P7 pupils and to all parents. We would really appreciate if you could complete this and return it to the school. It will enable us to see what parents are happy with and what you feel we still need to develop or improve.

Easter Holiday Sports Camps

Live Argyll's co-ordinator, Martin Caldwell will be running some sports camps during the Easter break. This information is attached along with this email.

Cross Country

Some Primary 6/7 pupils will participate in their first cross country event on Thursday 23rd April in Helensburgh. This will be a relay competition, so the fastest pupils from P6 and P7 will be asked to participate. More information and consent forms to follow.

Every P6 and P7 pupil will then compete in the Inter-school cross country event in Helensburgh on Friday 1st May. They will be expected to run 1 mile. We have been training in school for this and would like the children to continue training over the Easter holidays, please encourage them to go out as much as possible as this will help them prepare for this event.

Easter Disco/Egg Hunt/Enterprise

Primary 5/6 will be running the Easter disco and having a tuck shop as their enterprise topic this term. The Easter disco/egg hunt will be on Friday 27th March. P1/2 and P3/4 from 9am – 10am and P5/6 & 7, from 11am-12pm. This date and time coincides with P1/2 soft start, so parents can join us for the egg hunt part of the day. The cost for the disco will be £2 per pupil, this will cover a drink, a chocolate egg and prizes.

The P5/6 Enterprise tuck shop will start on the 2nd March. Could P5/6 parents please provide something from the following list for pupils to sell – water-plain or flavoured, Qwenchy cups, capri sun, crisps, haribos, fruit, strawberry laces & maltesers.

As you can see, this is a very busy term, we will all be needing a holiday!



Easter Holiday

School closes for our Easter break on Friday 3rd April at 2.30pm and re-opens on Monday 20th April at 9am.

Dates For Your Diary

I am providing some dates for your diary, as you may need to arrange time off work.

Sports day – Monday 15th June at 1pm.

End of term service – Tuesday 23rd June at 1pm.

Yours Sincerely

Alison Palmer
Head Teacher

