



Head Teacher: Miss Marianne Docherty

Arrochar Primary School

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24th August 2021

Dear Parents

Welcome back to the new session and thank you to everyone for the warm welcome. It has been lovely getting to know all the children and staff – I hope to have the opportunity to meet with parents soon.

A big welcome to our new P1 starts – they have all settled in so well!



At the present time we are following most of the restrictions/ routines which were in place before the holidays such as handwashing, one-way system, ventilation and enhanced cleaning. We look forward to opportunities to bring parents back into our school when guidance permits.

As you may be aware we have had some Covid cases within the local community so I would encourage you to keep your child off school if they are feeling unwell until they make a full recovery. 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 we also ask if you go on holiday abroad that you follow the current government rules regarding quarantine on your return.

Please note that children under 12 years of age are no longer required to wear a face covering on the school bus.

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

Head Teacher	Miss Marianne Docherty
Principal Teacher/ P7	Mrs Jane McAloon
P5/6	Miss Catriona McMurtrie
P3/4	Mrs Kerry Hendry (Mon-Wed), Marianne Docherty (Thur/Fri)
P1/2	Ms Kirsten Black
Teacher NCCT cover	Mrs Katie Dobson
French	Mrs Julie Dodson
Music	Mrs Morag Ridland (every 2 nd Tuesday, from 24.8.20)
Area Network Support Teacher	Mrs Barbara Gillies (every Tuesday)
Childcare and Education	Ms Kathryn Haggarty
Workers	Miss Kirsty Cordner
	Mrs Joanne Stark
Outdoor Instructor	Mr Stanley Topalian
Music – Instrumental	Mr John Grant
SEN Assistants/Classroom Asst/	Mrs Julie Dodson
Pupil Support Assistant	Mrs Ann Huggans
	Mrs Hannah Ross
	Mrs Nicola Mathieson
	Mr Adam Brown
	Miss Kirsty Cordner
	Miss Tracey Marshall
Clerical Assistants	Ms Sandra Kay
Janitor/ Cleaner	Mr Hugh Robertson
Crossing Patrol	Mrs Hannah Ross
Catering Manager	Mrs Mary Ann McFadyen
Catering Assistant	Ms Fiona Miller
Cleaners	Ms Sheila Miller

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.

PE / Outdoor Education

Please remember, no football strips/colours and remove jewellery including earrings before taking part. Gym will be outside this term, so please send them in with joggers, t-shirt, sweat shirt and with a light rain/running jacket (if you have one). If it is really wet we will not be going out to do PE, but please send them in dressed for it anyway – just in case the weather changes midday. They should bring a change of clothes (school uniform) with them in their school bag, which they will only change into if they get wet. We will inform you when our Outdoor Education sessions start later this term.

- **P1/2, P3/4, P5/6 & P7 will all have their main PE session on a Thursday.**

Outdoor Education

Stanley Topalian will be leading outdoor education sessions with each age group this term. The children should come dressed appropriately for the weather on these days. Typically outdoor P.E kit would be suitable. We will have a weekly rotation of classes and the dates for this term are –

- P7 – 8th September
- P5/6 – 15th September
- P3/4 – 22nd September
- P1/2 – 29th September
- P7 – 6th October

School Uniform

Please remember, black/ dark school shoes should be worn to, and from, school. Training shoes should be kept for PE lessons. Please refrain from bright coloured hair dye during term time. Please 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.

E-Mail Correspondence/ Groupcall

We are keen to communicate via e-mail as much as possible. 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. Children should bring in their water bottle each day filled at home then take it home to be cleaned out each evening. Bottles should only contain plain water.

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. This is a very important process as we wish to see the levels the pupils are currently at, this may well have been affected by lockdown.

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 unauthorised 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.

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.

School Lunches/ Snacks and Free School Meals

Children should bring a healthy snack with them to school each day for break time. School lunches cost £2.30 per day and milk is now included in this price. The latest menu has been sent out for your convenience. Please remember, Pre-5, P1-P4 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 will shortly be issued with their new school diary – while these were ordered in plenty of time last session there has been a hold up due to transport issues within the company. 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 119-153. 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 135. Could you please write a short comment in reply to this report. Your child and teacher would appreciate this. Please communicate with your child's teacher via the school diary, each week they will write a comment for you to read.



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, if we are ever allowed to have them. 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.

Seesaw

We still intend to communicate with you via seesaw. If you have not already done so please download the Seesaw App. The class teacher will issue you with a QR code to allow you to join. Privacy notices, information and consent forms have already been issued

October School Holiday

The school closes on Friday 8th October and re-opens to pupils on Monday 25th October at 9am.

Pupil Council

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

Parent Council

The Parent Council needs your help! Parent Councils work in partnership with the school to decide on the key priorities to take forward. They also help parents to become more actively and effectively involved in their child's learning. The Parent Council is a group of parents selected by all parents in the school to represent their views. They work on behalf of all parents to discuss educational matters that are of importance to us all. We are now looking for volunteers to join our Parent Council, existing members are also allowed to put themselves forward. If you are interested in standing as a representative on the Parent Council or if you need more information, please e-mail the school to let us know. Depending on the level of interest, we may have to hold an election. I will be in contact if that is the case.

Yours sincerely



Marianne Docherty
Head Teacher

SCHOOL TERMS AND HOLIDAYS – ACADEMIC YEAR 2021/2022

School holidays for all areas of Argyll and Bute – August 2021 to July 2022:

Break	Dates of attendance	
Start of term		<i>Thursday 12 & Friday 13 August 2021- Teacher in-service days</i>
	Open	Monday 16 August 2021 <i>Pupils return</i>
October	Close	Friday 8 October 2021
	Open	Monday 25 October 2021
November	Close	Friday 26 November 2021 <i>Monday 29 November 2021 – Teacher in-service day</i>
	Open	Tuesday 30 November 2021
Christmas	Close	Thursday 23 December 2021
	Open	Thursday 6 January 2022
February week	Close	Friday 4 February 2022 <i>Monday 14 February 2022 - Teacher in-service day</i>
	Open	Tuesday 15 February 2022
April	Close	Friday 1 April 2022
	Open	Tuesday 19 April 2022
May	Close	Thursday 26 May 2022 <i>Friday 27 May 2022 – Teacher in-service day</i>
	Open	Tuesday 31 May 2022
Summer	Close	Friday 1 July 2022

Holiday dates for subsequent years, where already set, may be found via <https://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/education-and-learning/school-holidays>

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*.