



## Customer Services

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4<sup>th</sup> June 2021

Dear Parents

Firstly can I thank everyone for the lovely comments/emails I received after I announced I was leaving Arrochar Primary School. It will certainly be a big wrench leaving everyone.

Please find enclosed some information which will take us up to the summer holidays. It certainly has been a very strange term, however you will see from this newsletter that we are determined to make it an enjoyable last 3 or 4 weeks for everyone.

I would like to start by congratulating some of our Primary 6 and 7 pupils. They recently took part in the Strathclyde University Scottish Mathematical Challenge. Throughout this year they have been answering a variety of challenging problem solving questions and they have had to display their mathematical knowledge and problem solving skills to answer them. This competition is usually only entered by the top 10% of Primary 7 pupils in Scotland. We have some very able pupils in Arrochar Primary school, some P6 pupils were selected to enter as well as some P7s. I am delighted to report that Dylan and Matilda from P6 were awarded a Gold award. Willow, Leigha, Madeline and Ruby from P7 were awarded Silver awards and Seoras from P7 a Bronze award. Well done to everyone, this is a fabulous achievement. They will be awarded certificates and mugs at the end of term presentation.

### **Hermitage Academy Information Evening**

There will be an online P7 parent information session on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> June at 5.45-6.15pm and 6.30-7pm. You will be sent your timeslot and joining code from the Academy.

### **New Primary 1 Information Session**

Ms Black and Mrs Palmer will be meeting with the parents of our August new starts on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> June at 2pm.

### **P7 Activity Days**

Due to Covid restrictions we have been unable to offer our usual residential trip this year for our P7 pupils. We were keen for them not to miss out on this experience. We have teamed up with Ross Cadie and Neil McLaren, two very experienced outdoor instructors, who also happen to be parents. They have kindly agreed to plan three fun days of activities for our P7 pupils, based on their wishes. They are doing so as volunteers and have taken time off work



to help us out. The pupils will be boulder climbing, gorge walking, climbing the Cobbler, kayaking and canoeing. A huge thank you to both Ross and Neil, we really appreciate their help and support. Consent forms and an information letter have already gone out to parents. These activities are on the 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> June.

### **Induction/Moving on Day – 11<sup>th</sup> June**

Primary 7 pupils will be visiting Hermitage Academy on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> June. This will be a little different to previous years, as they will be kept in their class bubbles as they meet some of the staff and experience the bus journey. Information has already been sent out regarding this. The rest of the school will also be moving on to their new class and teacher on the 11<sup>th</sup> June.

The following are the plans for the school and for the classes for next year. As you know I will be leaving at the end of June after 16 years as Head Teacher. I first arrived at Arrochar Primary as a class teacher in 1993, moving from a school in Glasgow. The first class I taught was a P3/4 and in that class was none other than Mrs Hendry, a delightful Primary 3 pupil, here we are today working alongside each other. I have thoroughly enjoyed my time at Arrochar, it has been an absolute pleasure and privilege to have taught so many amazing pupils, worked with such inspirational staff and being part of a very caring community, with so many wonderful members keen to get involved in school life. Arrochar Primary will always have a special place in my heart.

Also leaving at the end of June is Mrs Martin, one of our Additional Support Needs Assistant, Geraldine has been with us for over 13 years and worked with a number of pupils from nursery right through to P7.

Mrs Nicolson, our fitness teacher is also leaving, Lynn has been working with us for almost 16 years. Lynn replied to the first newsletter I sent out as Head Teacher, inviting members of the community to get involved in school life.

Mrs Ferrari, our PE teacher is also leaving, she is moving out of the area.

I am sure you will join me in wishing all of our leaving staff the very best for the future.

This year Mrs Freda Mucklow has been covering P3/4, as Mrs Hendry has been on maternity leave. I am delighted to say that Kerry will be returning to work in August. I would also like to thank Freda for her hard work and dedication during this year.

I would also like to thank our supply janitor, Mr Charlie Cook, he has been amazing! The children are having a great time in the playground at break and lunch playing with all the equipment from the shed. He has fixed fences, taps, door handles and made a fabulous job of clearing all the blue matting from the bottom playground.

The proposed class structure for next year is –

ELC – Mrs Kathryn Haggarty, Mrs Joanne Stark, Miss Kirsty Cordner, Mrs Catherine Driscoll & Mrs Susan Tighe

P1/2 Ms Kirsten Black

P3/4 Mrs Kerry Hendry/new Head Teacher

P5/6 Miss Catriona McMurtrie

P7 Mrs McAloon



The children experienced some outdoor instruction and team building activities at the start of this term. They thoroughly enjoyed this experience. As a staff, after consulting with our pupils we have decided to use some of the PEF (pupil equity fund) to fund weekly outdoor education sessions. I am delighted to say that Stanley Topalian will be joining us each week from September to June. Everyone is looking forward to working with him.

The school have also agreed to purchase two Hobbit houses and two climbing tunnels, one for the ELC and one for P1/2 area. We have also purchased a Trim trail for the outside area. These items will be with us very shortly, I've always wanted a Hobbit house, so I'm looking forward to sitting in it before I leave.

### **ELC Picnic – 15<sup>th</sup> June**

The ELC will be enjoying a picnic lunch on the shore at Tarbet, weather permitting, on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> June. There is no need to provide a packed lunch or pay for a school lunch that day as the ELC will provide everything that is needed. Please just remember appropriate clothing for being outside all day by the water.

### **Transition Event**

Helen Buchanan from Contraflow will be visiting P7 on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> June to work with them on a transition activity. This event will take place outside, so please send your child to school prepared for all weather.

### **Head Teacher Interviews**

Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> June is the provisional date for the interviews to find my replacement. The Parent Council will be fully involved in this process.

### **Generation Community Group**

There will be a socially distanced meeting and lunch on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> June in the Three Villages Hall. Primary 7 will be involved in this activity. More information and consent forms to follow.

### **Primary 7 Sports Ministers**

Ruby and Reyss have planned a sports day on 24<sup>th</sup> June and Tristan and Cooper have planned some fun activities for each of the classes. We have to keep the classes in their own bubbles but we intend to have some fun. P3-7 will enjoy games like capture the flag and dodgeball on Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> June, so please send your child in wearing sports clothing that day.

They have organised an obstacle course for P1-P7 pupils and a water balloon fight between P7 and some staff on Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> June. So Primary 7, please come dressed ready to be soaked!

### **Sports Day**

We are having to follow Scottish Government and Argyll & Bute guidance with regards to sports day. We are not allowed to have a whole school event and we are not allowed to invite parents to watch. We will be having individual class sports days on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> June, weather permitting, so please send your child in dressed in sports gear.



### **Magic Man and BBQ**

The PTA have kindly agreed to fund the Magic Man to visit the school on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> June. Each class from ELC to P7 will visit in their bubbles to see some magic tricks and be entertained outside in the school grounds. The canteen staff will provide the pupils with a lovely BBQ lunch that day.

### **ELC and P7 Graduation**

These events will sadly have to take place without any parents, we will however ensure we take plenty of photographs to share with you via Seesaw. Graduations will take place on Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> June.

School closes at **1pm** on Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> June for the Summer holidays.

I would like to wish you all a lovely summer and all the best for the future, it has been a pleasure working with you all.

School re-opens to staff on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> August and to pupils on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> August.

Yours Sincerely

Alison Palmer  
Head Teacher

