



Head Teacher: Miss Marianne Docherty

Arrochar Primary School

Tarbet G83 7DG

Tel: 01301 702261 Fax: 01301 702782

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

30th August 2022

Dear Parents

Welcome back to all of our children and families for Session 22-23. We would like to extend a very warm welcome to our new P1 pupils who have all settled in so well!



This year we are able to extend our highly successful outdoor learning sessions with our outdoor instructor using Pupil Equity Funding. These sessions were extremely successful last session in helping children develop a range of skills. Our evaluative questionnaires suggested that parents and children highly valued these sessions. A timetable for your child's sessions can be found below.

We have three key school improvement priorities this session. These are: developing maths teaching strategies, improving our use of assessment data to plan next steps and improving wellbeing and our pupil experience.

We look forward to welcoming you all back into school during our open afternoons. These replace previous soft start sessions and are being held at a time of day which causes less disruption during key teaching time.

PE / Outdoor Education

We now have our school hall available again for PE so children will have a mixture of indoor and outdoor sessions depending on the activity and weather. Thank you so much for supporting our school PE kit – the children are looking so smart on PE days especially as they stay in kit for the full day.

Children should also wear their PE kit with the addition of any additional layers required for their outdoor learning sessions. See the timetable below for your child's session:

Wed 7 th Sept	Wed 14 th Sept	Wed 21 st Sept	Wed 28 th Sept	Wed 5 th Oct
P1/2 Morning	P4/5 Morning	P3 Morning	P7 Morning	P1/2 Morning
P3 Afternoon	P7 Afternoon	P1/2 Afternoon	P4/5 Afternoon	P3 Afternoon

Arrochar Challenge 2022

Our school has annually held a sponsored walk organised by the PTA which is a great community event and fundraiser for the school. Parents are invited to accompany their child on the walk and children should seek sponsorship for this fantastic challenge. A barbecue is provided on return to the school where children will also receive their medals. This will be our first walk since before the pandemic so we would like as many families as possible to get involved.

Important Medical Information

We have a member of staff with a severe nut allergy. Please avoid sending children in with nuts or nut products – thank you.

School Uniform

Thank you so much for supporting our school uniform – as we walk around the school it has been lovely to see the high standard of uniform throughout. This is very important as we get back to having a normal school year and the children are involved in more projects and have visitors in school. Please make sure all your child's belongings are labelled with their name. School ties can be purchased from the school office for £5.50. If you think you are eligible for a school clothing grant please follow this link for more details <https://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/education-and-learning/free-school-meals>.

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.

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		48 hours from last episode of diarrhoea or vomiting. Should be excluded from swimming pool for 2 weeks following last episode of diarrhoea.



(unknown cause)		
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-P5 pupils receive a free school meal daily.

If you have still to apply for free school meals, please follow this link 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/SeeSaw

Please ensure that you check your child's school diary and SeeSaw regularly as teachers will use these to communicate with you and share learning, targets and homework.

Twitter

Our school Twitter account allows us to share celebrations and news with our wider school community, education authority and our local cluster schools. Please follow us @ArrocharPS.

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 to avoid children using them late at night.

Flu Immunisations

The school nurses will visit the school on Friday 5th October to undertake flu vaccinations. Forms have already been issued. No forms will be accepted on the day.

October School Holiday

The school closes on Friday 7th October and re-opens to pupils on Monday 24th 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.

Parent Council

The Parent Council works in partnership with the school to plan key priorities. If you wish to join our Parent Council to help shape priorities and future developments please contact the school office – our first meeting of the session will be held on Tuesday 6th September in school.

PTA

Our school has an active PTA group who help to organise school events and fundraisers – if you are able to spare some time we would love to welcome more parents to join. Please contact the school office and we will direct you to some key contacts. Our next meeting is on the 4th of October in school.

Parents Evenings

Results from our parental survey indicated that parents liked to be offered the option in school or virtual parents meetings. We are therefore offering two separate sessions to accommodate different needs and work patterns.

Seasons for Growth

Our Seasons for Growth sessions will be starting soon led by Mrs Hendry and our Educational Psychologist Mhairi Irvine. These sessions support any child who has suffered bereavement or who has gone through any significant change in their life that it would help them to talk through in a warm group setting. These sessions would suit P5-P7 pupils and we still have a few places remaining. If your child would benefit from this please contact the school office.

Key Dates

Thursday 22 nd September	Tempest Photographers
Friday 23 rd September	Arrochar Challenge Sponsored Walk and BBQ. Parents are invited to attend.
Thursday 6 th October at 1.30pm	Open afternoon – all classes
Friday 7 th October	School closes at 3pm for October Break
Monday 24 th October	School re-opens at 9am
Thursday 27 th October - Evening	Halloween Disco – details to follow
Wednesday 2 nd November	In school Parents Evening 3.30-5.30pm
Thursday 3 rd November	Google Meet Parents Evening 6-8pm

Yours sincerely



Marianne Docherty
Head Teacher