



Arrochar Primary and ELC Newsletter

February 2025

Article 3: The best interests of the child must be a top priority in all decisions and actions that effect children

Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome to our February edition of our Newsletter

Farewell Mrs Driscoll

We will be saying a very fond farewell to Mrs Driscoll as she retires from Arrochar on Friday 14 March. Mrs Driscoll has been a very much valued member of staff since she joined Arrochar in 2018.

Everyone here at Arrochar Primary and ELC would like to say a huge thank you to Mrs Driscoll for her hard work and commitment to the children and families she has supported throughout the years.

We will be holding a special assembly on Friday 14 March to celebrate her time here at Arrochar.

We all wish her a very happy and peaceful retirement.

Regeneration Of The Playground.

Thank you to everyone for your support and feedback regarding the development of our playground. We are just waiting for confirmation of a date to begin the works. We will keep you updated with the progress.

Parent Council Meeting

The next Parent Council meeting is scheduled for at **6pm, in the school on Monday 3 March**. If any parent who is not currently a member of the parent council or the PTA would like to come along, you will be warmly welcomed. We would like to say a huge thank you to the Parent Council and PTA for all your ongoing support. It is greatly appreciated.

Parent Teacher Association Bounce-a-thon

The PTA will be organising a whole school and ELC bounce-a-thon on Friday 4 April, where the children and staff will be challenged to keep a ball bouncing in the hall all morning. More details from the PTA will follow.

Holidays

School and ELCC will close on **Friday 4 April**. The school and ELCC will reopen as usual on **Tuesday 22 April at 9am**.

Parents/Carers Evening

A reminder that our Primary School Parent/ Carers evening will take place on **Wednesday 19th March**. Appointment options will be sent out shortly.

ELCC parent's appointments will be available from **18 March - 21 March**. Please advise a member of the ELCC staff of your time when dropping off or collecting your child.

School and ELC Parent/Carers Open Afternoon

Our parent and carers open afternoon will take place on **Wednesday 2 April from 2pm- 3pm**.

This is chance to visit your child's class/ ELC and celebrate their learning and achievement.

World Book Day

This year's World Day will take place on Thursday 6 March. All children in the school and ELC are welcome to dress up as part of the theme, e.g. their favourite book character. Please note that outdoor learning will also be taking place that day as well.

Asda Cash Pot for Schools

Thank you to everyone who signed up to Asda's Cash Pot for Schools. We will hopefully be receiving the funds this term which we will be able to use to purchase sports related equipment. A huge thankyou to everyone for supporting this initiative.

GRAB Trust Partnership/ Keep Scotland Beautiful - Upstream Battle Art Competition

We are delighted to announce that our Primary 6 and 7 children have been announced as finalists for this year's Upstream Battle Art Competition. As such they will be showcasing their work alongside other school finalists, in the Three Villages Hall on 11 March. Well done and good luck to everyone!

Street Drumming

We are excited to announce that Primary 5-7 will be participating in street Drumming Sessions funded by the youth music initiative. They begin on Friday 4 April.

Euro Quiz

A selected team from P6/7 with reserves will be participating in this year's Euro Quiz on 27 March. Good Luck!

Easter Fun Activities Organised by the P4/5 Children

The children in primary 4/5 will be arranging some fun Easter activities for children in the ELC and the Primary on the 26 March. A small amount will be charged for each child as part of the Primary 4/5 Enterprise initiative.

Generation Group

We had a lovely time working with the Generation Group during Christmas. We are very much looking forward to working with them again this term.

Parking at the Gates

A reminder that there is no parking permitted at the front gates of the school. The Tarbet Pier Site car park is now open and is available for all Primary and ELC parents and carers to use.

Sport Update

We were absolutely delighted to be gifted a brand new table tennis table from the Arrochar Table Tennis Club. We would like to say a huge thankyou to Ross Little, Iain Dick, Colin Williams, Stuart Greenwood, Lewis Kennedy and everyone at the Arrochar Table Tennis Club for your support. Ross has kindly offered to deliver some lunchtime club sessions to the children, teaching them table tennis skills.

We also held our first inter house badminton tournament recently. All the children in Primary 4/7 showcased the skills they had been learning during their competitive matches. It was a very close event with Arrochar winning by 1 point.

Primary 5-7 children participated in young leaders training with Martin Caldwell from Active Schools. They will now be supporting the delivery of some sports sessions for the Primary 1-3 children.

We are continuing to develop out sports provision and will be applying to Sports Scotland for a recognition award before June.

P7 Day of Dance

Primary 7 will be participating in the day of dance in Helensburgh Victoria Halls on Friday 14 March as part of their transition to Hermitage Academy.

Attendance Procedures

Arrochar is committed to maximising pupil attendance in line with Argyll and Bute's maximising attendance strategy. Please see the table below regarding the impact of non-attendance at school.

Attendance Percentage	Number of school days missed
100%	0 days of absence No missed education
95%	9 days of absence 1 week and 4 days missed education
90%	19 days of absence 3 weeks and 4 days missed education
85%	28 days of absence 5 weeks and 3 days missed education
80%	38 days of absence 7 weeks and 3 days missed education
75%	46 days of absence 9 weeks and 1 day missed education

Should your child fall below the 90% threshold set by Argyll and Bute, you may be issued a letter to make you aware of the level of attendance your child is presently at.

Should you require any assistance regarding attendance please contact the school office.

Head Lice

Head lice can affect children and adults at any time, the NHS advice is:

- Washing hair with ordinary shampoo
- Smothering hair in any type of conditioner
- Combing the whole head from root to tip with a special fine-toothed detection comb available from pharmacists or online
- Repeating this process on days 1, 5, 9 and 13 to catch any newly-hatched head lice
- Checking again that everyone is lice-free on day 17

Mobile Phones and Smart Watches

Just a reminder that mobile phones and smartwatches are not permitted to be used in school. They should be switched off at 9am and not turned on again until 3pm. If you need to contact your child please telephone the school office. Please note the filming of other children without their or their parents' permission is not permitted. This includes travelling to and from school on the bus.

Allergy Aware School and ELC

At Arrochar we are committed to ensuring the wellbeing of all our children. As such we would ask that children do not bring anything into school that contains nuts. If your child has an allergy or a medical condition that we are not aware of, please contact the school office.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the staff, children, parents and community members who give their support and commitment to Arrochar. We appreciate all that you do for us.

Thank you again for all your continued support.

Best wishes

Ms Lynn Wells

Head Teacher