



**Glenurquhart Primary School**  
**Session 2015-2016**  
**January Newsletter**



Happy New Year and welcome back to school after, what was hopefully, an enjoyable and relaxing break.

**Staffing** continues to be problematic. However, we hope to welcome **Mrs. Menzies** as **P4** class teacher on Monday and thanks are due to **Mrs Ford** who has taught **P4** since the beginning of term. More staffing changes arise as **Mrs McLean P6/7** class teacher begins her Maternity Leave in March and **Miss MacKinnon**, Pupil Support Assistant in the Gaelic Class begins her Maternity Leave in April. Good wishes are sent to them both as they begin this exciting stage in their lives. Both posts are presently being advertised.

**School Lunches** If your child is in P4- P7 and requires a school meal please ensure that payment is made on **MONDAY** of each week. In order to avoid confusion, payment **MUST** be made by cash or cheque (made payable to Highland Council) and sent in an envelope clearly marked with **Pupil's Name, Class** and **amount** enclosed. It would also be helpful to write the **days** on which lunches are required on the envelope. It may also be possible to make payments online – some parents are trialling this method at present and if successful details will follow.

**Packed Lunches** Parents of pupils having packed lunches are reminded that packed lunches should be carried in a semi-rigid container with a secure lid and should be clearly labelled with pupils' names. Neither glass bottles nor fizzy drinks in cans or bottles are permitted.

**Change in school hours.** A survey of pupils and staff has shown that all staff are reporting benefits from the earlier start and report higher levels of productivity in the mornings. The survey showed a mixed response from pupils with some complaints about early rising and hunger pangs by break time. However, all appeared to be in favour of the earlier finish time. Reports from The Parent Council expressed concerns with traffic congestion and parking in the mornings. Parents are reminded that the circular area is for **drop-off only** and should **not** be used for parking. In order to avoid traffic congestion, parents/carers are asked to park at the public car parks at the local shop or at the Tourist Information Centre and walk their children for the remaining part of the journey to school. Please park safely and responsibly and consider possible outcomes of irresponsible or prolonged parking. Access to the school is via the **main gate on Pitkerrald Road and this is the only gate that should be used by pupils and parents to gain access to school grounds. The St Drostans gate is for school business vehicular access only.**

**School Website** is now live and will be updated regularly. Thanks are due to **Mr Steven Ballantyne** (father of **George** and **Sam P5**) who gave his time and skills free

of charge to develop the site and to **Mr Michael Thorp** (father of **Shannon P4** and **Dylan P1**) who, according to Mr Ballantyne should be credited with providing “the momentum and initiative for getting the site up and running” The site can be accessed at [www.glenurquhartprimary.org.uk](http://www.glenurquhartprimary.org.uk)

**Parent Council** - The next meeting of the Parent Council will take place on Thursday **25<sup>th</sup> February** at **7.00 pm**. The Parent Council always welcomes new members and would be delighted if you could join them. All staff value the contribution parents make to the running of the school. The Council would welcome parents or carers who would be willing to form a fund-raising sub- committee and in particular parents or carers of pupils in **P2, P6** and the **Gaelic Class** as these classes are not at present represented on the Council. They have set dates for a **Summer Fayre on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> June** and a **Bingo Night** is planned in **March**. Please come along!

**Parent Helpers** who are able to spare a little time to help out in school are always required. There are a variety of ways in which parents can help – photocopying, laminating, organising resources, accompanying classes on school trips, gardening or sharing talents, hobbies or interests at Golden Time. If you are able to help in any way please contact the school office.

**Christmas Service** a total of **£170** was received from the collection at the school Christmas Service. This was sent to **The Archie Foundation** and **Yorkhill Children’s Hospital**. Thanks to all who donated so generously.

**Christmas Fayre** raised a total of **£729**. Again thanks for your generosity and to **Mrs McLean** and **P6/7** for organising the Fayre.

**Performances** – the whole school enjoyed “**Grubbage**” – an Eco play by **Eden Court Outreach** and **P1-P4** attended the dress rehearsal of **The Lion King** at **Glen Urquhart High School** while the **Gaelic Class** travelled to **Bun Sgoil Ghaidhlig Inbhirnis** for a Gaelic pantomime. Meanwhile **P5/6** are preparing for their performance of **The Titanic** on **3<sup>rd</sup> February** at the **Craigmonie Theatre, Glen Urquhart High School**.

**Absence from school** Apart from illness, absence from school should be kept to a minimum and parents/carers should not take a child away from school for holidays or social purposes. All parents are asked to telephone the school office before **9.00am** on each day of absence, to notify us of the reason for absence.

**PE Lessons** All pupils are required to have 2 hours a week of Physical Education. If your child needs to be excused from a PE lesson for any reason parents are asked to send a note to school informing class teacher and PE teacher of the reason for exclusion.

**Mid Term Holiday** Parents and carers are reminded of **the mid term holiday** and **In-Service** day on **Monday 15<sup>th</sup> – Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> February**.

**Dress Down Day** The next Dress Down Day is on **Friday 29<sup>th</sup> January** followed by **World Book Day** which takes place on **Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> March**.

**After School Activities** There are a number of activities available for pupils after school – for more details contact Garry MacKay Sports Co-ordinator at Glen Urquhart High School.

Dance	Thursday	3.45- 4.30
Badminton	Thursday	5.30- 6.30
Highland Dance	Thursday	5.00 start
Football	Friday	6.00-7.00
Shinty	Wednesday	
Karate	Friday	

**Achievement Tree**

Curriculum for Excellence encourages the recognition of children’s wider achievements, that is achievements in areas of life out of school. It also recognises that children learn and progress in different ways and at different rates. Therefore, while it may be considered an achievement for some to participate in national competitions, for others learning to tie their shoe laces, earn a Brownie Badge or move up a swimming group are achievements. Parents are encouraged to share their children’s achievements with school staff in order that these achievements may be celebrated and displayed on an Achievement Tree. Parents and carers are encouraged to share out of school achievements with the whole school community by completing slips for displaying on the Achievement Tree in the school hall.

Pupil Name _____ Class _____  <hr style="border: 1px solid black;"/> <hr style="border: 1px solid black;"/> Signature _____ Date _____
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