



Guiding, Uniting and Promoting Success

Glenurquhart Primary News

Issue 1 – end August '18

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Welcome back to all after your long, summer break. The children have been telling us what a wonderful time they had enjoying the super weather and all their adventures to various parts of the world. We have many exciting plans for the year ahead which will provide all the children with various, fun learning experiences. All classes are now settling into their routines and our new Primary 1s are beginning to settle with the fantastic help of their P2 and P7 buddies. Miss MacLennan has been enjoying her new class and we welcome her warmly to our staff.

These newsletters will again be issued at the end of each month and include a diary at the back to keep you up to date with upcoming events and school news. We are aiming to be Eco friendly and use as little paper as possible therefore, these are emailed and published on our school website; <http://www.glenurquhartprimary.org.uk/for-parents/newsletters/>

I would like to invite all parents/carers to our first Head Teacher's Open Forum on Tuesday, 11th September at 2.15pm in the portacabin. If you are free, please pop in for an informal chat and catch up over a tea/coffee and some biscuits/cake.



CLASS EVENTS

Class newsletters will be issued this week detailing the main learning for this session and giving any information relevant to their classes. Please watch for these in your child's school bag. I would like to encourage all parents to follow their child's class blog and the news page which can be found in our website: <http://www.glenurquhartprimary.org.uk/> Clicking on the button at the bottom of the page will allow you to enter your email to receive notification through email of new posts.



P6s Swimming All P6 children will have swimming lessons on a Thursday afternoon until Thursday, 8th November.

P4s, P5s and P7s Ross County Football While the P6s are away at swimming, the P7s will take part in football skills sessions with Ross

County football coaches. The P4s and P5s will also have a separate session with Ross County on a Thursday afternoon. The programme will run for a six-week block, for one hour per week, the session will be split into forty-five minutes of activity, followed by fifteen minutes working on worksheets. The worksheets range from healthy eating to bullying and racism. At the end of the block, the participating children will get the chance to come and take part in a session at Ross County in the state of the art indoor 3G AstroTurf facility. After the training session, they will then get the chance to go for a tour of the facility, including the first team dressing room, pitch side access and photograph.



Great Glen Football League Nine of our P5-7 children will take part in a football tournament with other schools in the glen down at Kilchuimen Primary on a Friday morning for 3 weeks beginning, Friday, 14th September. This has been an excellent, joint competition over the last 2 years with us being undefeated so far!!

P3s Kodaly These singing and music sessions began again on Monday, 27th August for P3 children and will run for a three week block this term.

P4s and P5s Feis Rois Gaelic singing and music sessions start for P4 and P5 children on Wednesday, 12th September and run for a four week block.

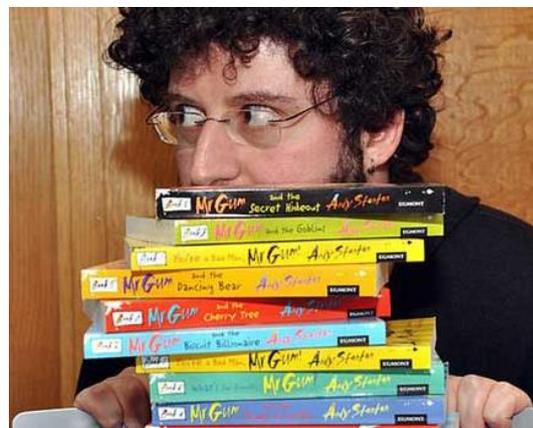
P7s Food@Gups This cooking project which we were given funding for last year was very successful and we intend to run it each year for the P7 children. During the first two terms the children will learn how to cook a week's worth of meals; budgeting, purchasing, planning and cooking then writing recipes which will be published on the school website. The children had their first session with Patrick McCafferty last week where they learnt about Food Hygiene. They will cook their first meal this Wednesday, 5th when they visit Pizza Express. Please follow their blog at: <https://foodatgups1819.wordpress.com/>

Hùb Hùb: Seirm na Sìde - Gaelic Play for Gaelic class and P5 children will take place on Wednesday, 12th September with a 30 minute performance during which Hùb and Hùb learning about the weather using Gaelic vocabulary.

P7 Digital Champions Intergenerational Project All P7 pupils will have the opportunity to take part in an intergenerational project supported by Soirbheas. This will include training from UHI STEM staff on basic ICT functions which the children will then support older members of the community to use at drop in sessions at the library. This will begin, with training session, led by UHI STEM staff on Friday, 5th October and Monday, 8th October.

Andy Stanton, Author Visit The P4-7 children will have the exciting opportunity to hear from children's author Andy Stanton on Monday, 24th September. Letters detailing this event will be issued nearer the time.

Loch Insh The Primary 7 children will once again visit Loch Insh outdoor centre for their week's residential from Tuesday, 25th September - Friday, 28th September. Full payments for this should now have been made to Miss Mullin.



SKILLS ACADEMY

In a change to Golden Time, we have decided to start Skills Academies. These will include the various activities that the children used to take part in for Golden Time but, will define a clear skills progression that the children can see their progress through and set goals towards. Our Skills Academies take place for 45 minutes on a Wednesday afternoon and allow children from all stages to come and learn together.

This term our skills academies include; Fine Motor Skills & Mindfulness, Construction Challenge, Art & Design, Drama, Gardening, Gaelic Singing and Ceilidh Dancing, P6 Baking, P4-6 Knitting. During this time the P7 children will also take part in their bike ability training or Young Playground Leaders training.

COMMITTEES



Children will be voting for the various committees over the coming weeks. We are going to run these so that all P7 children have the opportunity to be leaders within one of the committees and all children in the school take part. Citizenship groups will run on a Wednesday afternoon instead of the Skills Academies, once a month.

This year our citizenship groups will include;

- Learning Detectives (Pupil Council) ~ Mrs Laird
- Eco Schools ~ Mrs MacVicar and Miss MacLennan
- Digital Leaders ~ Miss MacDonald
- Rights Respecting Schools/ Global Citizenships ~ Miss Mullin
- Celebrations and House Group ~ Mr Macleod
- Wellbeing ~ Mrs James and Mrs McLean

ABSENCE/LATENESS/ILLNESS

A reminder that the office should be contacted by 9.15am each morning to inform the school if your child is absent. It is a legal requirement for the school to follow-up as to where children are if they do not attend. If your child has vomited or had diarrhoea, they should not attend school until 48 hours after the last episode. This ensures that bugs are not passed on to other children or staff. Any holidays etc. cannot be authorised by the school and children will be marked as an 'unauthorised absence' for these times. Attendance is recorded for the Scottish Government and the Head Teacher will contact parents for any children whose attendance is low. Lateness is also recorded within the school and we encourage you to ensure your child is in on time each morning so that they do not miss out on the important initial teaching and check-ins with teachers.

INDOOR SHOES

Please could I remind families that children require indoor shoes to maintain our inside carpet areas and ensure the children have suitable indoor shoes for P.E.



GOOD TO BE GREEN

We are continuing to use this behaviour incentive scheme this year. The children have all been very excited about the various incentives. Remember to keep a look out for the Good to be Green stampers each week in homework jotters. More information on this can be found on the school website in the newsletters section.

PARENT COUNCIL

The Parent Council establishes close links between school and parents/carers to represent their views and to organise social and fund raising events in support of the school. Our Parent Council AGM takes place on **Thursday, 13th September at 6.30pm** in the portacabin. All parents and carers are warmly invited to attend and become part of our parent team.

DRESS DOWN DAY

This is an excellent way of raising funds for our school. It takes place the last Friday of every month. Pupils wishing to 'dress down' pay £1 and can come in to school in casual clothes. We continue to ask that no football colours are worn as part of this and also remind parents that this is optional. The next dress down date is therefore, **Friday, 28th September**.



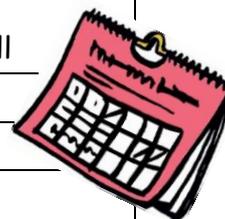
SCHOOL CLOSURES

To check for information on schools closures or other details out with school hours, telephone the schools information line to access the latest pre-recorded message(s) from the Head Teacher.

The number is **0800 564 2272 + the school's PIN 04 2130**. Information is also posted on the website: <https://www.highland.gov.uk/schoolclosures> and is regularly updated on local radio station MFR.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Monday, 3 rd September	Kodaly P3s
Wednesday, 5 th September	P7 trip to Pizza Express and STEM Hub
Thursday, 6 th September	P6s Swimming P4s, P5s and P7s Ross County Football
Monday, 10 th September	Kodaly P3s
Tuesday, 11 th September	2.15pm HT Open Forum
Wednesday, 12 th September	P4s and P5s Feis Rois Hùb Háb Gaelic Play - Gaelic class and P5s
Thursday, 13 th September	P6s Swimming P4s, P5s and P7s Ross County Football
Monday, 17 th September and Tuesday, 18 th September	INSET training days - school closed to pupils
Wednesday, 19 th September	P4s and P5s Feis Rois
Thursday, 20 th September	P6s Swimming P4s, P5s and P7s Ross County Football
Monday, 24 th September	P4-7 Author visit - Andy Stanton am
Tuesday, 25 th - Friday, 28 th September	P7 Residential to Loch Insh
Wednesday, 26 th September	P4s and P5s Feis Rois
Thursday, 27 th September	P6s Swimming P4s and P5s Ross County Football
Friday, 28 th September	Dress Down Day



Term Dates 2017/18 A downloadable calendar can be found here:- [Downloadable Calendar](#)

Open	Close
Monday, 20 th August - staff only Tuesday, 21 st August - for all	Friday, 12 th October
Monday, 29 th October - for all	Friday, 21 st December
Monday, 7 th January - for all	Friday, 15 th February
Wednesday, 20 th February - staff only Thursday 21 st February - for all	Friday, 5 th April
Tuesday, 23 rd April - for all	Thursday, 4 th July

INSET DAYS - Staff training

Monday, 20th August 2018

Monday 17th and Tuesday, 18th September 2018

Wednesday, 20th February 2019

Monday, 3rd June 2019

MAY DAY HOLIDAY - Monday 6th May, 2019