



Guiding, Uniting and Promoting Success

Glenurquhart Primary News

Issue 6 – end Jan'19

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Our **Health and Wellbeing week** was another big hit this year with the majority of children seeming to really enjoy it and agreeing our aims were met. Feedback from the children has been collated (available in the Improvement section of the Parents page on the school website) and we have already begun using their super ideas to plan how we can extend this for next year.

I was delighted with the fantastic **Head Teacher's Writing Challenge** books that were handed in at the end of last week. I had a great weekend reading the wonderful pieces. Presentation of the Star Writer pencils for all who took part and the book vouchers for the winning books in each year group will be made at next week's assembly. It has not been an easy decision though! A short survey of how the children found these and whether they would like a similar homework challenge again will be done with them over the next few weeks. A parent feedback form is available online here: <https://goo.gl/forms/1VDLoicDz39M4pRA2> (a paper copy can be requested from the school office) to allow parents to let me know their thoughts also. This can also be accessed through the News section of the school website. The survey will close on **February, 15th**.



Staffing Karen Price, who has been a Pupil Support Assistant with us for the past seven years will leave us at the end of February to go on and devote her time to her ever growing and popular craft business. She has been a valuable asset to our team and will especially be missed for all the arts and crafts input she has had with the children over the years. While we are very sad to see her go, we wish her the best of luck.

Sarah MacLean, who has been covering for absence as a Pupil Support Assistant will also finish with us on Wednesday, 13th February. She has very quickly become a valued support in classes and we will be sad to see her go.

We would like to thank both Karen and Sarah for their commitment and the hard work given to support the children at Glenurquhart Primary over their time here.

CLASS EVENTS Please follow the class blogs on the school website for more information and regular updates.

All classes should now have issued their class newsletter for this term detailing the main learning taking place. We have a focus on people in the past topics this session before moving in to each class looking more closely at the Rights of the Child.

CELEBRATION PRESENTATION

We are thrilled to let you know that all the children achieved outdoor learning awards this session.



The P4-7 children and Gaelic class have all been awarded a Discovery John Muir Award for their work down at 'The Cover', over at Craigmorie Woods and in building bee friendly areas.

All the children in P3-4 achieved the RSPB Bronze Wild Challenge award for their work in the central area of the school, re-establishing it and making it bird friendly.



While all the P1-2 children have achieved Bronze Woodland Trust award for their outdoor learning work where they visited the woodland, recycled cards and dressed the tree outside their classroom with their wishes.

On top of all of this, we'd also like to celebrate the work all the staff (led by Miss Mullin) and children have completed in allowing us to achieve a Bronze Rights Respecting Schools award.



To highlight this work and thank those that supported it, we hope to have a celebration presentation of the awards for each child on the morning of **Friday, 22nd February at 10.30am in Glen Urquhart High School hall.** We have invited the partners involved with the work completed, our local councillors as well as, the local press along to help the children celebrate their achievements. All parents/carers are also welcome to attend to hear a bit about what each class did and see the awards presented.

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT

<http://www.glenurquhartprimary.org.uk/our-school/improvement-plan/>

SUSTAINABILITY In continuing our work towards Rights Respecting Schools and onwards to achieving our Silver award, we will begin to look at a different Right of the Child each fortnight in more detail with the children. This will be led by the Rights Respecting Schools Committee group. Each class will also look at different Rights in more detail in the second half of our term through a book study. All the children will continue their work linking this with learning around **Equality and Diversity** and our school vision, values and aims through

Literacy lessons with Mrs Laird. This has focused on the life of Malala Yousafzai and Iqbal Masai so far this term.

We are delighted to welcome a **French student** to work alongside all classes from 21st February to Friday, 1st March. This will provide a superb link for our children in developing their language learning as well as understanding of French culture.



Fairtrade Fortnight will take place from 25th February and all the children will complete work around this, extending their understanding of their roles as Global Citizens and links with Rights of the Child.

STEAM We welcome our new **Maths Development Officer** to work with staff this term continuing to develop skills from training delivered last year through looking at multiplication and division as well as Number Talks. We will then go on to review and refresh the maths home learning packs.

A group of children have now begun work on building our go-cart **Kit Car** a having a go at being real engineers with the support of Mrs Stebbings, a parent Civil Engineer. A big thank you to Gary MacKintosh at H.I.S. for supplying us a big box of tools to help with the project. You can follow their progress on our school website here:

<http://www.glenurquhartprimary.org.uk/stem-kit-car/>

PARENT COUNCIL <http://www.glenurquhartprimary.org.uk/for-parents/parent-council/>

Our next Parent Council takes place on **Thursday, 7th February at 6.30pm** in the school upper classrooms. All parents and carers are warmly invited to attend. Next year, we will require a new **secretary and treasurer** and the parent council are very keen to have new parents attend. If you have any questions or would like to find out more about what is involved, please get in touch with Lynn Milton through the email: glenurquhartprimarypc@gmail.com

PARENT FOCUS GROUP

As part of increasing our engagement with parents and in considering previous feedback, I would like to invite parents to work with me in a focus group. This will initially look at the Key Assessment Tasks which go home as part of the profiling process and how we can make these more meaningful for parents. The group will meet during the school day, at a time best suited to parents. A slip will be sent home next week and if you would like to be involved please complete this and send it back to me.



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 <http://www.glenurquhartprimary.org.uk/calendar/>

Thursday, 7 th February	Parent Council meeting 6.30pm in school building
Wednesday, 13 th February	Nursery and P1 working outdoors together
Monday, 18 th - Wednesday, 20 th February	School closed Mon/Tue for half term break and Wednesday for staff training
Friday, 22 nd February	Celebration Assembly 10.30am Craigmonie Theatre - all parents/carers welcome
Monday, 25 th February to Friday, 8 th March	Fairtrade Fortnight



Term Dates 2018/19 A downloadable calendar can be found here:- [Downloadable Calendar](#)

Open	Close
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

Wednesday, 20th February 2019

Monday, 3rd June 2019

MAY DAY HOLIDAY - Monday 6th May, 2019