



Guiding, Uniting and Promoting Success

Glenurquhart Primary News

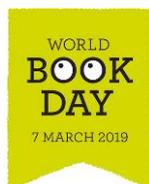
Issue 7 – end Feb'19

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It has been a delight sharing all the achievements over this last month with you all. We are all proud of the work being completed and the opportunities and experiences offered to the children as part of this. We continue this term looking towards work in Fairtrade Fortnight and Science Week and have lots of further exciting learning planned as part of these.

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



World Book Day This takes place on Thursday, 7th March and has a 'Share a Story' theme. Children are asked to **take in their favourite story** and will be sharing these in various ways throughout the day. This includes with nursery and at the care centre. Also, throughout the week Mr Macleod will hold a **reading café** in his classroom at

lunchtime. Children can come along after their lunch to share stories in the infant classroom. This can be sharing their favourite chapter, taking part in paired reading, enjoying some quiet reading etc.

Fairtrade Fortnight - Starting on Monday, 25th February. The teachers have planned together various exciting experiences for the children to learn through the Fairtrade theme and extend their understanding of their roles as Global Citizens and links with Rights of the Child. This year the fortnight focuses on Fairtrade chocolate. It will conclude with a Pop-up Café on Friday, 8th March that will be run by the upper children as an enterprise project and is supported by the new Scotmid store in the village. More information will follow. Through the learning in this week we hope to achieve our Fair Aware Award.



British Science Week The teachers across the ASG have planned various experiences which allow the children to explore different areas of the STEM curricular areas over Science Week beginning, Monday, 11th March. All the children will complete various challenges over the week, working towards their CREST awards, inspiring them to think and behave like scientists and engineers.

P3s Kodaly These singing and music session begin again for a 4 week block for the P3 children on Monday, 18th March.

Competitions - We have many school competitions coming up this month including McRobert Cross Country, P6 Euroquiz and shinty. Good luck to all taking part!



WELLBEING COMMITTEE - FRUITY FRIDAY

Every Friday in March, the Health and Wellbeing committee is asking everyone to bring in one piece of fruit for break. We are hoping people will be more healthy at break time because of this. Hopefully you will choose to continue after March also.

Thank you to Tesco for supplying free fruit on a Friday to start us off with this.

PARENTS' MEETINGS

Letters were issued last week for appointments for our Parent meetings which will be held on Wednesday, 6th March from 3.45-5.45pm and Thursday, 7th March from 5-7pm. During these meetings, class teachers will discuss your child's progress and achievements this session. These meetings will take place in the middle classrooms. Our prefects will serve teas and coffees in the hall where we will have various displays and opportunities for parents to engage with school self-evaluation and lead improvements. We look forward to seeing you there.

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT

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

During the recent Inset training day, staff worked together to review our **Curriculum Rationale** which can currently be found here: <http://www.glenurquhartprimary.org.uk/our-school/curriculum/> This included a review of each of the curricular areas with a view towards improvement targets for next session. This will now be looked at with the Pupil Learning Council and with parents over the two parent meeting sessions prior to being updated and published on the website.

Also at the Inset day, teaching staff worked together to look at our ongoing developments for **International Education** and developing **global citizens** as well as, further work on **Children's Rights** and our continued work in embedding children's understanding of these.

PARENT FOCUS GROUP

Thank you for all the responses to this. From the responses the time which most parents are free to meet is between **2-3pm on a Thursday**. I will then look to include those who replied but were unable to attend at this time in future meetings at a different time e.g. HT Open Forum. These sessions are open for any parents that would like to work with me to support ongoing development in more detail and will begin next **Thursday, 7th March** in the portacabin when we will look at Key Assessment Tasks and how we can make these best suited for sharing learning.

HEAD TEACHER'S HOMEWORK WRITING CHALLENGE FEEDBACK

Thank you to all those who responded to the online questionnaire relating to this. It was fantastic reading through all the 'books' the children created and the wide variety of pieces included. Overall feedback from both parents and the children has been very positive with 77% of parents and 84% of the children saying that the children enjoyed the challenge. 94% of parents and children said they would like to do this again next year. Further feedback has given me details on what was enjoyable and lots of ideas of how to continue to improve parental engagement in learning.



ONLINE SAFETY WORKSHOP FOR PARENTS AND CARERS

Will you join us and help keep all children safe online?

O2 and the NSPCC have joined forces on a mission to help all children and their families in the UK stay safe online. Together, they're offering useful tools, support and guidance to help parents and carers have conversations with their children about their online lives.

As part of this, they're running free online safety workshops for parents and carers and will be hosting one at Glenurquhart Primary at **6-7pm on Monday, 1st April**. We would like to invite all parents and carers to join.

The hour-long workshop will help parents and carers understand their child's online world and build confidence to have those important conversations that can help keep children safe online.

Until then, if you need any support or guidance, check out our [website pages](#) and [step-by step guides online](#), call the O2 and NSPCC Online Safety Helpline on 0808 800 5002, or pop into your local O2 store for help from a Guru.

HELP TOWARDS SCHOOL MEALS AND CLOTHING and PUPIL EQUITY FUNDING

We would like to encourage any families who are entitled to support with meals and clothing to apply for this. We are aware that there may be a number of families who are unaware that they are entitled to this support, especially for those who are in Primary 1-3 who already and will continue to receive free school meals.

For every child who is registered for free school meals, the school also receives Pupil Equity Funding money to help us provide the best possible opportunities for your child's learning and support your child to achieve their potentials. This money is given to schools as part of the Scottish Attainment Challenge and we plan and evaluate how we use it through our school improvement planning process. This year it has helped increase our digital provision with more Chromebooks and Ipads, supported extra teaching and learning in mathematics, provided the kit go-kart building experience, provided free break-time and paid for outside agencies such as, Live N Learn to visit the school and complete work around Growth Mindset. Further information and the application process can be found here: [Highland Council - Free School Meal and Assistance with Clothing](#)

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

Our next Parent Council takes place on **Thursday, 2nd May 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

The Parent Council have also agreed to change the date of the **School Summer Fayre to Saturday, 29th June 2-4pm** in the school grounds.

DRESS DOWN DAY 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 will be **Friday, 29th March**.



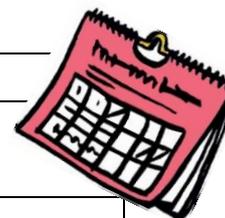
SCHOOL CLOSURES To check for information on schools closures or other details out with school hours, telephone the schools information line to access the latest pre-recorded message(s) from the Head Teacher.

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

A reminder that these are regularly updated on the Google Calendar on the website:

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



Monday, 4 th March	P1 and P7 dental checks
Wednesday, 6 th March	Tempest Class Photos Parent Meetings 3.45-5.45
Thursday, 7 th March	World Book Day Parent Focus Group 2-3pm in portacabin Parent Meetings 5-7pm
Friday, 8 th March	Pop-up Fairtrade Café Fruity Friday (can be taken from café)
Monday, 11 th March - Friday, 15 th March	British Science Week
Friday, 15 th March	Fruity Friday
Monday, 18 th March	P3s Kodaly
Tuesday, 19 th March	P7s transition visit to Glen Urquhart High
Wednesday, 20 th March	McRobert Cross Country
Thursday, 21 st March	P6 team Euroquiz
Friday, 22 nd March	Fruity Friday
Monday, 25 th March	P3s Kodaly
Thursday, 28 th March	Shinty event
Friday, 29 th March	Dress Down Day Fruity Friday
Monday, 1 st April	Parent Online Safety Workshop 6-7pm in P6/7 classroom

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

Open	Close
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, 3rd June 2019

MAY DAY HOLIDAY - Monday 6th May, 2019