



Guiding, Uniting and Promoting Success

# Glenurquhart Primary News

Issue 8 – end Mar'19

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Another month full of achievements for the children at Glenurquhart! It is a real joy sharing these with the children and seeing their pride and self-esteem grow. All the children will be presented with their CREST awards from Science Week once they are received. As a school, we have also achieved our Fair Aware Certificate this month following the work around Fairtrade Fortnight and the valuable support from the new Scotmid store. On top of this we had our P6/7 boys team win in the McRobert Cup, our P4/5 boys team come second and our P6 Euroquiz team came first in the main heats and overall runners up in the Highland Euroquiz!



These are fabulous achievements for all and we congratulate everyone on their hard work, positivity and team spirit.



HT Open Forum Our next open forum will take place on Friday, 26<sup>th</sup> April at 9am in the portacabin. This was the next best time for parents who responded to the focus group but were unable to come along on the Thursday afternoons. We hope that you will be able to come along and join in this informal chat over a tea/coffee and cake when some of the work that focus group have been doing will also be available to look over.

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

Cross Country P4-7 The P4-7 cross country event run by Mrs Woodhouse will take place on the afternoon of Monday, 1<sup>st</sup> April.

SSPCA Visit - On Tuesday, 2<sup>nd</sup> April the SSPCA will visit the school to complete new workshops with all classes where the children will have the opportunity to play new games, quizzes and they will even introduce ROBOTS!



Easter egg decorating competition - Each year we ask the children to decorate a hard-boiled egg in class. These are then judged and a winner and a runner up from each year receive an Easter egg at our assembly. Children are asked to bring an undecorated hard-boiled egg on Wednesday, 3<sup>rd</sup> April. They can also bring in egg cups/holders and extra art materials if they wish. The school will provide glue, paint and various art resources so that everyone can create something in the time given. (Polystyrene eggs can be provided for anyone who requires an alternative e.g. for allergies.)

Aigas visit - On Thursday, 4<sup>th</sup> April, Aigas will join the school to complete various outdoor learning programmes with each of the classes. These will include looking at plastics, extinctions, ecosystem engineers, decomposers and food.



Swimming - All the Primary 4 and 5 children will go swimming next term on a Thursday afternoon starting 2<sup>nd</sup> May and finishing on 27<sup>th</sup> June.

### LOCH INSH INFORMATION EVENING

It is that time of year again when we start looking towards next year's P7 residential trip. We have preliminary booked Loch Insh again for Tuesday, 24<sup>th</sup> to Friday, 27<sup>th</sup> September and will hold an information evening for this in the P6/7 classroom on Thursday, 2<sup>nd</sup> May at 5.30pm (prior to the next Parent Council meeting.)

### THANK YOU

A big thank you to the McWhirr family who have passed on a cheque for £50 to school funds following them volunteering at the Inverness 1/2 Marathon.

### SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT

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

A summary of all the contributions to school self-evaluation and improvement were recently posted on the School Improvement page of the school website - link above.

We had a very positive visit from our Quality Improvement Officer on Monday and Tuesday last week with her seeing a real embedding of school improvement targets and being impressed by how well the children talked about being involved in their learning and opportunities for pupil voice within the school.

School Improvement for next term will now begin to look more at **digital skills** and continued focus on children developing their **global citizenship** skills.

### PARENT FOCUS GROUP

A big thank you to Nicola Christie and Abbi Thorp who have been part of our focus group. During the Thursday sessions, we have looked at how we can make the Key Assessment Tasks sent home as part of pupil profiles, more meaningful for families. We have also discussed ideas around the home learning packs including how we can increase use and impact of the maths home learning packs and the creation of STEM home packs. These will now be discussed at HT Open Forums, with Parent Council and with the children.



### 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, 1<sup>st</sup> 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, 2<sup>nd</sup> 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](mailto:glenurquhartprimarypc@gmail.com)

The Parent Council have also agreed to change the date of the **School Summer Fayre to Saturday, 29<sup>th</sup> 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, 26<sup>th</sup> April**.



**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.

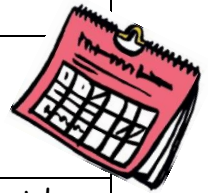
**The number is 0800 564 2272 + the school's PIN 04 2130.** Information is also posted on the website: <https://www.highland.gov.uk/schoolclosures> and is regularly updated on local radio station MFR.

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

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

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

<b>Monday, 1<sup>st</sup> April</b>	P4-7 Cross Country 1.30-2.30 Kodaly P3s Parent Online Safety Workshop 6-7pm in P6/7 classroom
<b>Tuesday, 2<sup>nd</sup> April</b>	SSPCA Visits to all
<b>Wednesday, 3<sup>rd</sup> April</b>	Easter egg decorating competition - hard boiled egg required
<b>Thursday, 4<sup>th</sup> April</b>	Aigas workshops
<b>Friday, 5<sup>th</sup> April</b>	School closes at normal times for Easter break
<b>Tuesday, 23<sup>rd</sup> April</b>	School returns for all as normal French Week Enterprising Maths Challenge
<b>Friday, 26<sup>th</sup> April</b>	Nursery and P1 working together for outdoor learning
<b>Monday, 29<sup>th</sup> April</b>	Kodaly P3s



### Advanced dates:

Loch Insh meeting and Parent Council - Thursday, 2<sup>nd</sup> May

Swimming P4 and P5 - Thursday, 2<sup>nd</sup> May

Parent Open Morning - 9-10am - Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> May - Literacy Focus

Groundforce Day - Friday, 10<sup>th</sup> May

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

<b>Open</b>	<b>Close</b>
Wednesday, 20 <sup>th</sup> February - staff only	
Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup> February - for all	Friday, 5 <sup>th</sup> April
Tuesday, 23 <sup>rd</sup> April - for all	Thursday, 4 <sup>th</sup> July

INSET DAYS - Staff training      Monday, 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2019

MAY DAY HOLIDAY - Monday 6<sup>th</sup> May, 2019