



Glenurquhart Primary

News/ Cuairt-litir

Guiding, Uniting and Promoting Success

Issue 1 – end Aug' 20

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What a fantastic start back at school we have had! It is really super seeing all the children back and the school bustling again with noise and fun. The new Primary 1 children have settled really well and are loving their new garden at the front. Mr Kelly has had a chance to meet his class properly, face to face and we have welcomed Mr Marshall (P2-3) to our staff team.

Our school newsletters are issued at the end of each month and aim to provide you with up to date information. With lots of important information going out at the moment though, we advise all families to sign up to email alerts for our school News page; <https://202021gupsnews.wordpress.com/> if you have not already done so. Included in the main school website is also a Calendar where you can see what is

happening each day as well as, Class blogs which you can sign up to alerts for also. We aim to update these weekly with class specific information, photos and events.

Throughout our newsletter you will also find links to Children's Rights as we work towards supporting children and families to understand these. If you click on the title of the Right it will take you to a more detailed overview.

[Article 42:](#)
Knowledge of
Rights

BUILDING WORKS

Next week work will begin to replace the current portacabin with a double classroom unit. This will provide extra space for our growing numbers in the school. It is also the start of works to bring the Gaelic nursery to our school. We are very excited for the opportunities this may bring for the children especially Primary 1, who will have a great view for the crane works taking place mid-September.



CLASS EVENTS/ TACHARTASAN

Following government guidance we continue to aim to, *'keep children with the same groups for the duration of the day.'* We recognise this can be hard for the children but, are working with them to try to come up with solutions. We are also unable to invite visitors into the school therefore, are looking at how we can use digital solutions to link up with the community and enhance our events and experiences.

[Article 12:](#) Respect
for the views of
the child

[Article 2:](#) Non-
discrimination

Maths Week Scotland – 31st August to 4th September – We have applied for a grant of just under £650 to further develop our outdoor maths, enhance hands on mathematical experiences and build on the resources available in the new Primary 1 garden. All classes will be looking to focus on fun maths during this week including games and materials.

Northern Alliance Promoting Equity Week – 28th September – 2nd October – Tying in with our work on Equality and Diversity and linking with Children’s Rights, we will be taking part in various activities this week to promote children’s understanding of Equity.

CITIZENSHIP GROUPS/ SKILLS ACADEMIES

To overcome classes being unable to mix for just now, we have agreed to have all classes take responsibility for one aspect of our Citizenship areas.

P1, P2/3 and Gaelic classes will focus on leading **Eco, outdoor learning** and working towards our **Gold Woodland Trust Award**.

P3/4 will lead on **Health and Wellbeing** linking the wellbeing indicators, our vision, values and aims and various topics related.

P5/6 will be our **Digital Leaders**

P6/7 will lead on working towards our **Fair Achiever Award** and **Rights Respecting Schools Gold Award**.

Skills will continue to be developed through our classroom experiences until we can re-start our mixed stage Skills Academies.

Next week all staff and P7 children will vote for four Primary 7 **prefects**. They will form our **Pupil Council** and work closely with Mrs Laird to ensure we are gathering all children’s views and supporting our school improvement targets.

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT/ PLANA LEASACHAIDH NA SGOILE

Improvement this session has yet to be finalised however our main focus will be on:



Recovery from Covid-19 School Closures:

- 1) Health and wellbeing – continuing the work started last year using Emotion Works as well as, continued work towards Rights Respecting Schools Gold award.
- 2) Recovery of learning, teaching and assessment
- 3) Attainment in session 20/21 (focusing on identifying new or widened gaps caused by the Covid-19 situation)

[Article 29:](#)

Goals of Education

Learning through Play:

- 1) Developing learning through play experiences in the Early stage (initially.)

Inset Days (14th and 15th September) The September Inset training days for staff will include all staff in completing Child Protection training and then we will work collegiately to consider and develop further the improvement targets above.

PARENT COUNCIL/ COMHAIRLE NAM PARANT

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

Our next Parent Council AGM takes place through Google Meet on **Wednesday, 2nd September at 6.30pm**. We have always had a very supportive Parent Council that works in close partnership with the school team. Meetings are normally held once a term and will be online for this session. We require at least three elected members from the AGM in order for the Council to continue to represent the wider

[Article 5:](#) The rights and responsibilities of parents and carers.

parent forum, share ideas and opinions, ask questions and support fundraising. If you would like to attend, 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

HELP TOWARDS SCHOOL MEALS AND CLOTHING and PUPIL EQUITY FUNDING

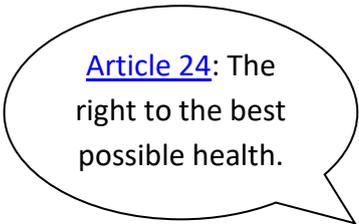
We would like to encourage any families who are entitled to support with meals and clothing to apply for this. We are aware that there may be a number of families who are unaware that they are entitled to this support, especially for those who are in Primary 1-3 who already and will continue to receive 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 provided Dramabox workshops and training, Emotion Works workshops and training, STEM home learning packs, free break time snacks for those receiving free school meals, Live N Learn resilience workshops and continued to enhance our outdoor learning resources.

Further information and the application process can be found here: [Highland Council - Free School Meal and Assistance with Clothing](#)

PIRATES OF THE CURRY BEAN

We were so disappointed to not be able to perform Pirates of the Curry Bean at the end of last session. The children had put so much work into learning their parts, songs and actions so a huge well done to all! With continued restrictions and the older children with main parts now moved on to the High School we will not be able to go ahead with this. If you wish your ticket money returned then please contact the school office otherwise, this will be added to school fund to support future events.



[Article 24](#): The right to the best possible health.

ILLNESS/ TINNEAS

It is important that you contact the school by 9.15 each morning to inform us if your child will not be attending. We also need to record a reason for this.

COVID-19

Various information has been added to the school News page to support parents and keep them up to date with any changes. This also included

Frequently Asked Question which I know many have found supportive. Advice can be sought from NHS Inform on 111.

SICKNESS OF DIARRHOEA

Children experiencing sickness or diarrhoea should be kept at home and remain off school until 48 hours from the last case of vomiting or diarrhoea.

HEAD LICE

Head Lice are a common problem in school aged children. They can't be prevented, but regular checking ensures early detection and treatment if necessary. Parents and carers should check their children's head once a week during hair washing. You need your usual shampoo, conditioner, and a detection comb – ask your local pharmacist to recommend a suitable one. Remember that you are looking for living moving lice, the only evidence that your child is infected. If you find a living louse, ask your local pharmacist, school nurse, health visitor or GP for advice regarding treatment.

DRESS DOWN DAY The last Friday of each month we normally do a 'dress down' day. Pupils wishing to 'dress down' pay £1 towards school funds and can come in to school in casual clothes. We continue to ask that no team colours/kits are worn as part of this and also remind parents that this is **optional**. The next dress down date will be **Friday, 25th September**.

SCHOOL CLOSURES/ SGOIL A' DUNADH

To check for information on school closures or other details you can contact the schools information number for a 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/ LEABHAR-LATHA

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

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



Monday, 31st August – Friday, 4th September	Maths Week Scotland
Wednesday, 2nd September	6.30pm Parent Council online
Monday, 14th September and Tuesday, 15th September	Staff Inset training – school closed for pupils
Friday, 25th September	Dress Down Day
Monday, 28th September – Friday, 2nd October	Northern Alliance Promoting Equity Week

Term Dates 2020/21 A downloadable calendar can be found here:- [Downloadable Calendar](#)

Open	Close
Staggered start w.b. 10 th August	Friday, 9 th October
Monday, 26 th October – for all	Tuesday, 22 nd December
Wednesday, 6 th January – for all	Friday, 12 th February
Wednesday, 17 th February – staff only	Thursday, 1 st April
Thursday 18 th February – for all	
Monday, 19 th April – for all	Friday, 25 th June

INSET DAYS – Staff training

- Tuesday, 11th August
- Monday 14th and Tuesday, 15th September 2020
- Wednesday, 17th February 2021
- Thursday, 6th May 2021

MAY DAY HOLIDAY –

- Monday, 3rd May 2021