



Glenurquhart Primary

News/ Cuairt-litir

Guiding, Uniting and Promoting Success

Issue 2 – end Sept' 20

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Everything has been going really well in Glenurquhart Primary. Over this week, I have been discussing with the children what they have liked about the changes and what they would like to change, coming up with some ideas for going forward. I have posted a picture of our discussions on the school News blog. The FAQ sheets, no bells, an adult at the gate, rotating areas in the playground and P1 entry through the garden have all been positives highlighted by

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

[Article 42](#): Knowledge of Rights

parents, staff and children. We will use these along with feedback from the surveys completed with Parent Council to help us plan our way forward. 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.

Our school communication was discussed at our recent Parent Council meeting and I have outlined this below with links.

- School newsletters - <http://www.glenurquhartprimary.org.uk/for-parents/newsletters/> emailed at the end of each month and aim to provide you with all important information and dates for the month ahead. This is also posted online on the News page and at the school front gate. We are looking to get a noticeboard for the other gate also.
- Schools News page – <https://202021gupsnews.wordpress.com/> this is updated with information as it comes in. We advise all parents to sign up to get email alerts for this if you have not already done so. This can be done by clicking on the 'Follow this page' button in the blog.
- Live Calendar - <http://www.glenurquhartprimary.org.uk/calendar/> Included in the main school website is also a Calendar where you can see what is happening each day.
- Class blogs – which can be accessed from the menu in main school website <http://www.glenurquhartprimary.org.uk/> You can sign up for email alerts for these in the same way as the News blog. We aim to update these weekly with class specific information, photos and events.
- Family Learning site– <https://sites.google.com/glenurquharthigh.org.uk/family-learning-gups/home> This is used to provide home learning opportunities for all children. We plan to issue weekly work, with a monthly curricular focus, on this again following the October break. This also provided learning resources during our recent lockdown and digital safety and links.

We recognise that it is a difficult time for both parents and staff at the moment especially in Primary when we would have had open mornings/afternoons and parent meetings by now. I'd like to reiterate that **email** is the best way of getting in touch with teachers at the moment due to the restrictions on adults on school premises. The school email can be found at the top of this newsletter.

Profiles Pupil profiles will be sent home either Friday or Monday along with information on them. These will come home termly and detail learning and achievements.

Parent meetings have been timetabled for Tuesday, 17th November and Wednesday, 18th November. We hope to use a new online system being developed with Highland Council for this. More information will follow the October break.

BUILDING WORKS

The building works are progressing very well with the new portacabin classrooms now on site. As explained in last month's newsletter, these will provide two extra classrooms for the school. It is also the start of works to bring the Gaelic nursery to our school building. Work will continue to prepare the inside of these for the next month. You can follow progress and updates for this on our school news page.



CLASS EVENTS/ TACHARTASAN

[Article 24](#): Health and health services

We continue to follow Government guidelines on keeping classes in bubbles and having no visitors within the school building. This is constantly reviewed and we will work with Highland Council to ensure we are kept up to date of any changes.

Walk to School Week *Week beginning 5th October* - The P6/7 JRSO's did a fabulous presentation to the school as part of our online assembly today. All the children have been encouraged to walk, cycle or scoot to school either from home or the park drop off area. Those taking part will receive a certificate at the end of next week.

OUTDOOR CLOTHING

We will continue to complete lessons outdoors weekly in all weathers and would reiterate the need for children to come appropriately dressed and always with a waterproof jacket and suitable shoes/wellies. They will go out at break and lunch no matter the weather. Through PEF, we have ordered waterproof tops and bottoms for the P1 class to ensure equity for their outdoor garden which they have access to at all times. We have also ordered 20 spare sets for older children in case they are required in school. We are looking to order wellies too.

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT/ PLANA LEASACHAIDH NA SGOILE

Our improvement foci for this session continue to be:

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

We hope to publish our School Improvement Plan for this session in more detail next term.

PARENT COUNCIL/ COMHAIRLE NAM PARANT

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

Our Parent Council AGM took place at the start of September with our office bearers being appointed:

Chairperson: **Jenny Neill**

Vice Chairperson: **Vacant**

Treasurer: **Kath Jones and Fiona MacKenzie**

Secretary: **Suzanne Haviland**

We have since had our first Parent Council meeting and minutes for these and agenda for future meetings can be found on the link above. 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 Jenny Neill through the email:

glenurquhartprimarypc@gmail.com Our next meeting will take place online on **Tuesday, 24th November** at 6.45pm.

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

[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 OR 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.

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, 30th October**.

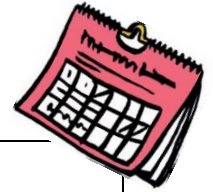
SCHOOL CLOSURES/ SGOIL A' DUNADH

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, 5th October – Friday, 9th October	Walk to School Week
Monday, 12th October – Friday, 23rd October	October break
Monday, 26th October	School opens at normal times for all
Friday, 30th October	Dress Down Day

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

Wednesday, 17th February 2021

Thursday, 6th May 2021

MAY DAY HOLIDAY –

Monday, 3rd May 2021