



Guiding, Uniting and Promoting Success

Glenurquhart Primary

News/ Cuairet-litir

Issue 4 – end Nov' 20

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As we head into December, the children and staff continue to show their positivity and resilience in these every-changing times. New risk mitigations have been put in place following changes to procedures since October and our risk assessment has been updated and added to our news page. We would like to thank parents for their continued support and understanding in following these too.

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

CHRISTMAS ACTIVITIES:

We have already completed Christmas cards through our fundraising ~ these were distributed this week and raised just over £100 for school funds. Thank you to all who ordered.



- *Shoogalie online pantomime* – All classes will have the opportunity to view this pantomime 'Jack and the Beanstalk' at some point the week beginning 1st December. Shoogalie have performed pantomimes in our school for the last 3 years and the children have always loved them.
- *Christmas lunch* - 17th December (please order on Monday, 14th December)

All classes will also:

- Complete a *Christmas craft* enterprise piece that will run through the class blogs.
- Create *Christmas cards* to be shared with the Care Centre.
- *Record a poem/Christmas piece* to be filmed and shared with parents through class blogs (we will be aware of permissions for this.) We are still not allowed to sing. P1 will record them acting out a nativity with a line or two each and very basic costumes (we don't have access to the normal costumes or the help to get children changed etc.) This will be filmed and shared with parents.
- P1s will give *Advent messages* each day in 2s as they normally would for advent angels ~ filmed and link shared with classes.
- *Festive Fridays* – returning each Friday in December. Children can wear anything Christmassy as well as for the Christmas dinner on the 17th.
- *Christmas afternoon* – After discussion at Parent Council, we agreed that instead of class parties this year, we would have a Christmas afternoon in each class. Each class will vote for a Christmas film, children can wear their pyjamas and we will have individual portions of popcorn and hot chocolate or haribo and hot juice (dependent on dietary needs.) We felt this would be a little bit of fun for the children and resolve issues with class parties and regulations around sharing and dancing partners. Dates to follow.



CHRISTMAS CARDS – Please can we ask that if children wish to give cards to their class mates, they hand one for the whole class to the teacher that can be read out rather than for each individual child. Our guidance would be that cards coming into school need to be quarantined for 72 hours before handing out and we can't have our normal P7 posties going round the classes. Thank you.

MFR CHRISTMAS

Every year we make a confidential nomination to MFR Cash for Kids Mission Christmas for any families living in difficult circumstances. The criteria is clear that we are looking to support children that may wake up on Christmas morning to nothing.

[Article 25: Social security](#)

I am aware that due to current circumstances around Covid, we may be unaware of individual families current situations. If you are in this position, please can I ask you to contact me directly so we can arrange support – either through kerrie.laird@highland.gov.uk or on the school phone number 01456 450458 and asking for Kerrie Laird. I assure you that all contact will be kept confidential between us and hope that we are able to help some families.

HOMEWORK

<https://sites.google.com/glenurquharthigh.org.uk/family-learning-gups/home>

Our last activity for reading homework will be published next week. For the remainder of December children will have their class performance poems/lines to try to remember and can practise presenting these clearly at home to families. More information on this will be posted on the site above.

December home learning focus: **Talking and Listening**

If you have any trouble with the site, please email the Head Teacher; kerrie.laird@highland.gov.uk

MODULAR UNITS AND GAELIC NURSERY

The modular units are now complete. We are just awaiting pupil and teacher chairs and installation of the Cleverboards for both class areas. P5/6 and P6/7 will move into these hopefully before Christmas. P3/4 will then move into the current P5/6 classroom, giving them much more space. This will then give us a General Purpose room (the old P6/7 classroom) which we have been short of for some time. This will also hopefully allow music tutors a space to complete their lessons in school too.

This then leaves the previous P3/4 classroom free and this will be converted as a space for the Gaelic Nursery. This will also convert the senior boys toilets for nursery, with current girls toilets being utilised for both boys and girls with designated cubicles. Plans have been finalised for this but, there is work to complete and it is sitting with planners and Highland Council property people at the moment. I am pushing to have it operational by Easter but, this may not be realistic with Covid restrictions etc. I am doing all that I can though. Registration to Care Inspectorate for the service in the school will hopefully go in in the next few weeks.

SCHOOL HANDBOOK

Our school handbook has been updated for session 2021-22 and added to the website. Any feedback or ideas to include in this going forward are always welcome.



**No
parking**

PARKING

A reminder went out this week on the News blog about parking or, dropping off on St. Drostan's. This is not permitted as it blocks residents access to their houses. At both sides of the school, parking is a problem and causes dangerous situations for the children. Parking for all parents should be at the park and walk up. Children have also been asked to walk out of the gates and walk bikes to the nearest pavements to help ensure safety in these pick up areas.

OUTDOOR CLOTHING

We continue to ask parents to consider sending children with waterproof jackets (and trousers if necessary) and wellies if possible, dependent on the weather. Due to the amount of mud on the grass areas over the last week, we are going to trial having two classes use the tarmac areas at the front of the school for break times instead of the grass areas.

PARENT COUNCIL/ COMHAIRLE NAM PARANT

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

We had our Parent Council meeting last night and agreed various items, particularly what our plans for Christmas should be. I'd like to thank parents for coming together to share ideas for this and supporting the school.

Our next meeting Parent Council meeting will take place online on **Thursday, 11th February at 6.45pm.** Minutes for previous meetings and upcoming agendas 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 our Chairperson, Jenny Neill through the email: glenurquhartprimarypc@gmail.com

[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.

P2 HEALTH CHECKS

Due to the lockdown closures, last year's P1 children did not have their P1 Health Checks. The nursing team will join us on the morning of Monday, 30th November to complete these for the children that are now in P2. They will follow all guidelines and safety precautions related to Covid 19.

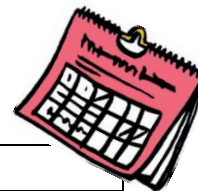
SCHOOL CLOSURES/ SGOIL A' DUNADH

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/>



Week beginning 30 th November	Shoogalie Online Pantomime
Monday, 30 th November	P2 Health Checks
Friday, 4 th December	Festive Friday Dress Down/Up
Friday, 11 th December	Festive Friday Dress Down/Up
Thursday, 17 th December	School Christmas lunch and Christmas dress down/up
Friday, 18 th December	Festive Friday Dress Down/Up
Tuesday, 22 nd December	School closes for all at normal times
Wednesday, 6 th January	School opens for all at normal times

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

Open	Close
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