



Guiding, Uniting and Promoting Success

Glenurquhart Primary

News/ Cuairt-litir

Issue 1 – Welcome

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A very warm welcome back to everyone and to our new P1s and new families. Also, welcome to Mr Andrew Haston who joins us as P5/6 teacher this year. We hope you have enjoyed a super summer. We were certainly lucky with the sunshine this year!

This newsletter is intended to give you the initial information required for the year. Apologies for the length but I felt it best to have it all in one place for you so that it can be kept safe for future reference. These newsletters are then issued at the end of each month providing information, dates and events for the coming month. As we continue to aim to be a sustainable school, these are emailed to parents using the most current email we have. This will therefore be the only paper copy issued. These are also published on our school website (address at the top of the page) where you will find our school handbook that has all information you require about our school, a calendar for the year and various information. To ensure that you receive all up to date information, dates, times and reminders we ask that all families follow our school News blog here; <https://202122gupsnews.wordpress.com/> **You need to complete this each year** by clicking on the Follow Blog Via Email at the side and then adding your email address. In this way you will receive email updates of new posts. Each class also has a class blog which is updated weekly with events and pictures (where permission is given.) These can be found in the main menu for the school website. You can also follow these in the same way by clicking follow on each relevant blog and adding your email address. If you require any support with this please get in touch with me on kerrie.laird@highland.gov.uk.

Article 42:

Knowledge of rights.

Children's Rights

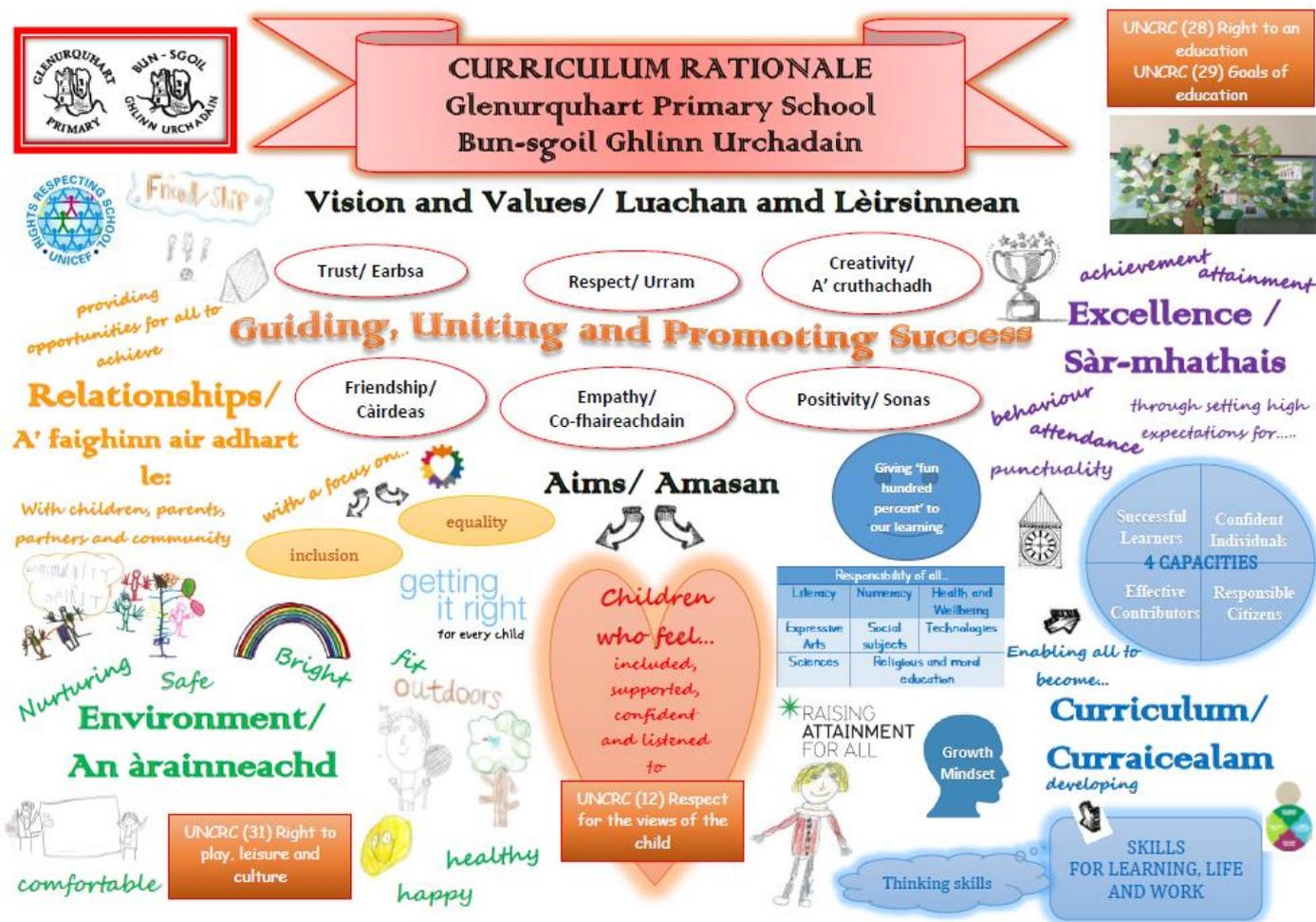
The speech bubbles throughout our newsletter refer to the United Nations Convention of the Rights of the Child and are there to help families and parents become more familiar with these. The children have helped to map these to our learning within the school. More information can be found here; <https://www.unicef.org.uk/what-we-do/un-convention-child-rights/> There is also further information on our Family Learning website, with weekly activities relating to a specific right. As a school, we are currently working towards our Gold Rights Respecting Schools Award. We encourage the children in Glenurquhart Primary to be **human rights defenders** and wish to support parents as **duty bearers** in understanding, respecting, protecting and fulfilling children and young people's rights.

Enrolment Padlet

At the end of last year, we created a padlet with all school information for new Primary 1s and families to the school. This has lots of links within it and may be of interest to all families. The link can be found here; <https://padlet.com/kerrielaire/84r5gylm3mtve6d8>

Vision, values and aims

The poster below shows our school's vision, values and aims which we promote highly and all aim to demonstrate within our school community. These can be found in more detail in our school handbook on the school website.



Understanding the Curriculum

To help with understanding Curriculum for Excellence which all schools in Scotland follow, more information can be found in our Family Learning site and within Parentzone Scotland here; <https://education.gov.scot/parentzone/>

School Improvement/ Plana Leasachaidh na Sgoil

Our School Improvement Plan for this session along with our Standards and Quality Report for last session will be published on our school website in September. Improvement this session will focus on;

[Article 29:](#)
Goals of Education



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, reviewing positive relationships and behaviour charters and our Health and wellbeing programmes.
- 2) Recovery of learning, teaching and assessment – continued work to embed 'playful learning', increased focus on global citizenship, reviewing Interdisciplinary learning and parental engagement.
- 3) Attainment in session 20/21 - focusing on identifying new or widened gaps caused by the Covid-19 situation and continued support for all children to achieve.



Online Support from Highland – Chromebooks

Highland Council have set up a site to support parents with all digital access. This can be found here;

<https://sites.google.com/millburnacademy.org.uk/highlanddigitalschoolshub/home>

Highland Council provide a Chromebook for all P6 and P7 pupils. These have been allocated and children in P6 will be able to take them home once relevant lessons on safety and our acceptable use policy have been completed with them.

Family Learning/Homework

We have a Family Learning site which will be updated with information on homework. In session 2019/20 we adopted a move away from set homework with a focus toward Family Learning. This was led by recent work producing maths packs for the school and workshops around this which were received very positively. Furthermore, recent articles related to the stress homework can cause and research has shown that the benefits of set homework for Primary school children are limited. Parental engagement and family learning have been shown to have much better impacts.

At each stage, pupils will be encouraged to continue their learning at home through various means. Parents can help by talking with your child about their day, their learning and homework, reading with their child, discussing the passage, providing materials to support homework, playing games shown in school and checking spellings and tables. To support parents, we set up a website with various home learning opportunities;-



<https://sites.google.com/glenurquharhigh.org.uk/familylearninggups2122/home> Each month a new focus is provided for parents on this website with games and activities to encourage learning in this curricular areas. Furthermore, the school provides each family with a maths learning resource pack containing ideas and resources and STEM packs with various investigations, experiments, games and activities go home to each stage at one point throughout the year.

To support this, the school also offers open sessions and workshops termly where we demonstrate learning approaches and support parents to share experiences with their children.

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

Skills Academies and Citizenship Groups

With the reduced restrictions around Covid-19 we are thrilled that we can now resume skills academies and citizenship groups with mixed groups across the stages P1-7. Over the coming weeks children will vote for citizenship groups and skills academies. These will then alternate

week about on a Wednesday afternoon to develop various skills in the children with each teacher taking a lead to support a specific area.

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 **Tuesday, 31st August at 6.45pm.** 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 parent forum, share ideas and opinions, ask questions and support fundraising. If you would like to attend, have any questions or would like to

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

find out more about what is involved, please get in touch with our current chairperson, Jenny Neill through the email: Glenurquhart.Primary@HighlandPC.co.uk (*Please note this a new email address*) The Video call link for this meeting is: <https://meet.google.com/cyj-hoxj-usp> This can also be accessed through the Google Calendar on the school website.

Help towards school meals and clothing as well as, 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 1-4 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. In previous years this has provided 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 enhancement of our outdoor learning resources and experiences as well as, additional staff to support maths and literacy attainment.

Further information and the application process can be found here: <https://www.highland.gov.uk/info/899/schools-grants-and-benefits/10/free-school-meals-and-assistance-with-clothing>

Parking/Parcadh

Every year we have issues with parking at the school gates. We continue to ask parents to consider the safety of all the children and park away from the main gate. Parents are encouraged to park at the play park and walk the short distance to collect their children from school.



[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 – 01456 450458. 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. Advice can be sought from NHS Inform <https://www.nhsinform.scot/> or on 111. No one should attend school if they have any COVID-19 symptoms. These are: a new continuous cough; fever/high temperature; a change in/or loss of taste or smell. Risk assessments to support safe practices within the school have been posted on the News page. The main changes for the school for the initial first six weeks are that we no longer require 'bubbles' and we are now allowed to sing. All other restrictions remain in place including the wearing of face coverings, distancing of adults (now 1m) and hand washing. Parents are also reminded that wearing face coverings and keeping distanced when collecting children remains the advice.

Sickness or Diahorrea

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 cannot 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.

Teacher Contacts

Parents have requested email contacts for class teachers. Please find these below. We ask that you are aware that these are not always checked in the morning before or during class and teachers have ten days to respond, as per Highland Council guidelines. Please therefore, ensure any time sensitive details or concerns are sent directly to the school office Glenurquhart.primary@highland.gov.uk or the Head Teacher kerrie.laird@highland.gov.uk All absences should be phoned into the school – 01456 450458 as detailed above.

Primary 1/2- Mr Macleod - adrian.macleod@highland.gov.uk

Primary 2/3 – Mrs James - lisa.james@highland.gov.uk

Primary 3/4/5 – Miss MacDonald - louise.macdonald2@highland.gov.uk

Primary 5/6 – Mr Haston - Andrew.Haston@highland.gov.uk

Primary 6/7 – Miss Mullin - kirstine.mullin@highland.gov.uk

Mrs Maclean cover P2/3 on a Monday, P6/7 on a Tuesday and P5/6 on a Wednesday - Alyson.McLean@highland.gov.uk

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.

Building Works Update

During the Summer holidays we were due to have the Gaelic nursery building works started. However, these have been delayed due to restrictions posed following the discovery of a maternal bat roost. These are hoped to commence in the October break now.

The school security systems were updated through the break though, with all doors to outside area now alarmed, new fob entry systems installed, fencing gaps removed and a new entrance gate installed. A camera and entrance system will also be installed at the front gate once parts are received.

Furthermore, all internal lights were updated within the school during the break.

Nuts

A reminder that as per the note sent home to all families yesterday, we are a NUT FREE school. We have a number of children with severe nut allergies so thank parents for your support and understanding with this.

Dress Down Day

The last Friday of each month we normally do a 'dress down' day. Pupils wishing to 'dress down' are asked to contribute £1 towards school funds where possible 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, 27th August**.



Glenurquhart Safer Schools Online Safety Presentation

The Highland Council Digital Schools development officer, Robert Quigley is holding a parent information evening on online safety which all parents and to introduce an app which the school has recently signed up to provide advice and updates on cyber safety – Safer Schools.

All families are invited to attend on Monday, 30th August at 6pm online <https://meet.google.com/qwf-airi-wfz>

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, 23 rd August	Kodaly singing and music session in school for all P3s
Friday, 27 th August	Dress Down Day
Monday, 30 th August	Glenurquhart Safer Schools Online Safety Presentation 6-7pm; https://meet.google.com/qwf-airi-wfz
Tuesday, 31 st August	Parent Council AGM online 6-7pm https://meet.google.com/cyj-hoxi-usp

Term Dates 2021/22 A downloadable calendar can be found here:- [Downloadable Calendar](#)

Open	Close
Monday, 16 th August (staff only)	Friday, 8 th October
Tuesday, 17 th August – for all	
Monday, 25 th October – for all	Wednesday, 22 nd December
Thursday, 6 th January – for all	Friday, 18 th February
Wednesday, 23 rd February – staff only	Friday, 1 st April
Thursday 24 th February – for all	
Tuesday, 19 th April – for all	Thursday, 30 th June

Inset Days – Staff training

Monday, 16th August,
Monday 13th and Tuesday, 14th September,
Wednesday, 23rd February,
Thursday, 5th May

May Day Holiday – Monday, 2nd May