



# Glenurquhart Primary

## News/ Cuairt-litir

Guiding, Uniting and Promoting Success

Issue 3 – end Sept' 21

Head Teacher: Kerrie Laird, Glenurquhart Primary School, St. Drostan, Drumnadrochit IV63 6UT  
Tel: (01456) 450458 E-Mail: [glenurquhart.primary@highland.gov.uk](mailto:glenurquhart.primary@highland.gov.uk) Website: <http://www.glenurquhartprimary.org.uk/>

Well this term seems to have gone faster than any before but, it has been wonderful seeing the children mixing again, supporting each other and really demonstrating our school vision of 'Guiding, Uniting and Promoting Success.' The citizenship groups and skills academies are up and running again enabling children from all stages to come together and have their views heard as well as, lead on areas of school improvement. In school, we have been using the UNCRC child-friendly version of the rights from Unicef and each of these groups focusses on different rights. This includes the pictures shown here which we will use in the newsletters from now on instead of the previous speech bubbles. If you click on the picture it will take you to a more detailed explanation of each right when you scroll under the picture poster. Minutes from meetings and activities are shared on our school website in the Citizenship Groups section.



It was also great to have the opportunity to speak with parents at our parent meetings last week and we hope that you found this early update beneficial in sharing your child's learning with them.

### Pupil Profiles/ Próifil nan Sgoillean

These will be issued at the end of this week for P1-5 and are available online for P6-7 to enable the children to share their targets and learning with you from this term. We hope you enjoy looking through them and discussing them with your child. Further information on these and questions to share these with your children can be found in our Family Learning site

<https://sites.google.com/glenurquharthigh.org.uk/familylearninggups2122/profiling?authuser=0>

Key Assessment tasks will be added from next term. Within the end of term reviews parents can add their comments and share achievements from outside school. We look forward to reading these. **Please could the P1-5 profiles be returned before the end of term so we can start again after the break.**



### Lateness

We have increasing numbers of children late into school in the morning. A reminder that even though we have no bells and a soft start for the children, lateness needs to be recorded and school figures are reported. This disrupts the morning learning significantly and we would ask all families to support the school by trying to be here on time. P4-7 starts at 8.55am and P1-3 at 9am. All children can access the building at 8.50am. Gates are closed following this and children who are late can use the buzzer on the new gate to gain access.

### Class Events/ Tachartasan

Please follow the class blogs and our News page on the school website for more information and regular updates.





**Feis Rois** - P3/4/5 and P5/6 will have a further block of four Feis Rois sessions after the October break, commencing Friday, 29<sup>th</sup> October.



**Swimming** – P7 swimming session continue with the last session being Thursday, 4<sup>th</sup> November.

**Halloween** – A Halloween Party will go ahead for the children run by the Community Council with fancy dress and lots of fun in the public hall on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> October! Further details and a poster will follow. P1-P3 - 6pm - 7pm and P4,5,6 & P7 - 7.30pm - 8.30pm. In school, children are welcome to dress up/down on Friday, 29<sup>th</sup> October.

### School Improvement/ Plana Leasachaidh na Sgoil

Our Standards and Quality Report for session 2020-21 and our following School Improvement Plan for this session have now been published on our school website; <http://www.glenurquhartprimary.org.uk/our-school/improvement-plan/>



These focus on the three areas detailed previously and we will discuss with the children and with Parent Council how we can work together to lead areas forward within this.

During the Inset days this month the following activities were completed;

- All staff completed training on supporting children for whom English is an additional language
- Teaching staff reviewed our curriculum and curriculum design considering how we teach interdisciplinary learning and support children to apply their skills in different contexts.
- Support staff completed training on various neurodevelopmental areas and updated intimate care training where required.
- Teaching staff looked at our new Digital Learning strategy that we will share with the children and then parents over the course of this year to adapt as necessary prior to full adoption.
- On the Thursday, 14<sup>th</sup> all staff came together to bring together our positive relationships approaches. We hope to create a new policy from this again with pupil and parental input first.



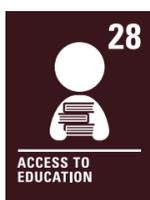
October home learning focus: **Numeracy**

### Family Learning/Homework / Obair Dachaigh

<https://sites.google.com/glenurquharthigh.org.uk/familylearninggups2122/home>

Home learning for October will now move to focus on the curricular area of mathematics. New families to the school will be issued with their maths home learning packs before the holidays. These are supplied, one to each family, through our Pupil Equity Funding to support family learning. They can be kept at home for the duration of the children's time in the school.

For Family Learning this month, each week we will share a new game from our maths packs to enjoy at home while also developing your maths skills. Home learning activities will be placed on the Family Learning site with the week's activities also shared each Monday on our school News blog.



### Building Work

Over the October break work will commence on the Gaelic nursery following nesting bats moving on. We are delighted that this is finally commencing. This is mainly internal work to the old P3/4 classroom. The nursery will also encompass and develop the current boys toilets (used mostly by P2/3 and P3/4/5 currently.)

The six cubicle girls toilets will be adapted over the October break to include 2 boys cubicles, a gender neutral cubicle and 2 girls cubicles. Following consultation with Parent Council, 1 of the boys cubicles will

be used for standing for the toilet and 1 for sitting for the toilet. This will be fully explained to the children on their return.

Part of the playground will also be used for welfare units and then a smaller area fenced off for the nursery use. The children have been shown these changes already.

Furthermore, following discussion with the central Highland Council team, we hope to be able to provide Gaelic nursery input from an Early Years Worker one day a week. I am in final discussions as to how we will work this and will update you in future newsletters. Adverts will also be issued to get staff in place as soon as possible for Gaelic nursery.

### **Parent Council/ Comhairle nam Parant**

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

Our next Parent Council meeting takes place through Google Meet on **Tuesday, 9<sup>th</sup> November**

**at 6.45pm.** Video call link: Parent Council meeting <https://meet.google.com/arg-ijes-mpq>

This can also be accessed through our Google calendar on the school website. We hope that more people will be able to join us and support the school. 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 Kath Fraser, our Parent Council chairperson, through the email: [Glenurquhart.Primary@HighlandPC.co.uk](mailto:Glenurquhart.Primary@HighlandPC.co.uk)



### **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**

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 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.

### **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.

### **Dress Down Day / Latha as aonais aodach sgoile**

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, 29<sup>th</sup> October**.

## 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/>



Thursday, 7 <sup>th</sup> October	P7 swimming
Saturday, 9 <sup>th</sup> October – Sunday, 24 <sup>th</sup> October	Holidays
Monday, 25 <sup>th</sup> October	All return to school at normal times
Thursday, 28 <sup>th</sup> October	P7 swimming
Friday, 29 <sup>th</sup> October	P3/4/5 and P5/6 Feis Rois Halloween Dress down/up day Community Council parties at public hall P1-P3 - 6pm - 7pm and P4,5,6 & P7 - 7.30pm - 8.30pm.

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

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

### **Inset Days** – Staff training

Monday 13<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday, 14<sup>th</sup> September,  
Wednesday, 23<sup>rd</sup> February,  
Thursday, 5<sup>th</sup> May

### **May Day Holiday** – Monday, 2<sup>nd</sup> May