



Glenurquhart Primary

News/ Cuairt-litir

Guiding, Uniting and Promoting Success

Issue 4 – end Oct' 21

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A warm welcome back to all families following what we hope was an enjoyable October break. The Covid measures were reviewed by government over the break and it was decided that the measures we currently have in place would remain. These are detailed in our risk assessment that was shared on the school News website last term and include staff continuing to wear face coverings, increased cleaning, hand washing and ventilation. We are also still not allowed visitors into school or large gatherings. This has implications for Christmas performances that I will discuss with the pupils and Parent Council. We will look to replicate what we did last year instead with the recorded performances. However, if you have ideas for these, please pass on to me by email or phone. It also means that our planned open afternoon for parents this session will not be able to go ahead. We were very much looking forward to inviting parents into our school again and I will be discussing with pupils and staff how we can provide an alternative.

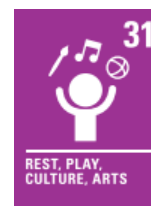
Class Events/ Tachartasan

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, 29th October.

Swimming – P7 swimming session continue with the last session being Thursday, 4th 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 29th 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, 29th October.

Kodaly – These music sessions will run again for P2/3 on Mondays for 3 sessions, starting Monday, 8th November.



Children in Need – The Pupil Council discussed their ideas for how we can support the Children in Need appeal on Friday, 19th November (*apologies for previous wrong date) and have agreed to;

- Dress up in yellow/dots for £1 donation
- Create a Pudsey Parkour (obstacle course) in the hall for fun
- Design a t-shirt competition in classes

Anti-bullying Week – 15th November-19th November. This year the theme from respectme Scotland's anti-bullying service is 'One Kind Word' looking at how kindness fuels kindness. The Pupil Council again discussed how we could consider this in school and have agreed five days of kindness with a different group of people to focus on each day and ending with our Children in Need support. They will now consider activities that can support this for each group.



Gold Rights Respecting Schools

We are delighted to be in a position to have our assessment for our Gold Rights Respecting Schools award next Tuesday, 2nd November. This will bring the work that the children, staff and families have completed together to present our journey which will continue on. The visit will focus on;

1. **Teaching and Learning about rights:** for the whole school community through training, curriculum, assemblies, topics, focus days/weeks, displays.
2. **Teaching and Learning through rights:** by modelling rights respecting language and attitudes and making strategic decisions that involve students.
3. **Being ambassadors for the rights of others:** developing as rights respecting citizens.

In class, children have been learning about the knowledge of rights and considering how they can make everyone aware of them and work to claim their rights. We'd encourage families to discuss this with the children using the resources in our Family Learning site - <https://sites.google.com/glenurquharthigh.org.uk/familylearninggups2122/rights-of-the-child?authuser=0> If you would like to be part of the assessment on Tuesday, please also let me know.



Pupil Profiles/ Próifil nan Sgoillean

Thank you to those who have returned the pupil profiles that were sent home at the end of last term. We hope you have found these informative. Please can we ask that if you have yet to send these back in, you do so as soon as possible so that we can continue to add to them this term.



Lateness

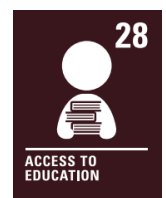
We have increasing numbers of children late into school in the morning. A reminder that even though we have no bells and a soft start for the children, lateness needs to be recorded and school figures are reported. This disrupts the morning learning significantly and we would ask all families to support 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.

School Improvement/ Plana Leasachaidh na Sgoil

<http://www.glenurquhartprimary.org.uk/our-school/improvement-plan/>

As we continue our work for school improvement this term, we have planned to focus on;

- Work towards Rights Respecting Schools with our assessment for Gold taking place next Tuesday, 2nd November.
- Continued work to embed our digital strategy.
- Review of Health and Wellbeing progressions with staff.
- Review of moderation of assessment decisions with Primary colleagues across our Associated Schools Group (with Balnain and Cannich Bridge.)
- Review of assessment and skills development including, key assessment tasks.
- Work to look at skills for work and Developing the Young Workforce
- Continued review of our relationships strategy with focus on anti-bullying for anti-bullying week 15th November.
- Peer observations between teachers in class to support learning and teaching.





Family Learning/Homework / Obair Dachaigh

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

Home learning for November will continue to focus on the curricular area of mathematics, utilising the resources in the maths packs which were given to new families at the end of last term.

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

The building work continues to progress well to form a Gaelic nursery unit within the school as detailed in previous newsletters. Over the course of this term, we hope to start recruitment for the Gaelic nursery and will be working with Gaelic nursery parents to discuss arrangements for when this opens.

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, 9th November at 6.45pm**. Video call link: Parent Council meeting <https://meet.google.com/arq-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



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, 26th November**.

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/>



Friday, 29 th 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.
Thursday, 4 th November	P7 Swimming
Friday, 5 th November	Feis Rois for P3/4/5 and P5/6
Saturday, 6 th November	Community Bonfire and Fireworks starting 6.30pm at Blairbeg Park (apologies for the initial error)
Monday, 8 th November	Kodaly for P2/3
Tuesday, 9 th November	Parent Council meeting 6:45 – 8:00pm Google Meet joining info Video call link: https://meet.google.com/arq-ijes-mpq
Friday, 12 th November	Feis Rois for P3/4/5 and P5/6
Week beginning Monday, 15 th November	Anti-bullying week 'One Kind Word'
Friday, 19 th November	Feis Rois for P3/4/5 and P5/6 Children in Need – wear spotty/yellow
Monday, 22 nd November	Kodaly for P2/3
Friday, 26 th November	Dress Down Day Feis Rois for P3/4/5 and P5/6
Monday, 29 th November	Kodaly for P2/3

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

Open	Close
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

Wednesday, 23rd February, Thursday, 5th May

May Day Holiday – Monday, 2nd May