



# Glenurquhart Primary

## News/ Cuairt-litir

Guiding, Uniting and Promoting Success

Issue 5 – end Nov' 21

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This year seems to be flying by already! We've got lots planned as we head towards the end of term and while we've tried to detail dates etc, please keep an eye on the school news blog in case of last minute changes. Christmas activities are detailed below and all classes will also be looking at skills related with the World of Work. This year our focus is on opportunities using Gaelic language and we will be looking towards achieving Employability and Languages award.

### Staffing

Following successful interviews, we are delighted to welcome Karlijn Prinsen and Alison Menzies as Pupil Support Assistants to our staff team. Ms Prinsen will complete work with all stages supporting closing the achievement gap and will start with us next week, 6<sup>th</sup> December. Mrs Menzies will work to support children with additional needs and with certain curricular areas and has started already.

Ms Lauren Nicolson also joins us one day a week to support Gaelic language acquisition, working between the Childcare Centre, the Gaelic class and in supporting the set up of the Gaelic nursery. Adverts for the Gaelic nursery will be posted shortly on myjobscotland and I will post these on the school blog when they are.

### Class Events/ Tachartasan

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

**Christmas cards** – These have now been delivered and distributed to classes. We raised £156.50 towards school funds for this and thank you for your support and Mrs MacKintosh for organising all the orders and money.



Children are permitted if they wish to take in cards for their friends to school. Please can these be given to the class teacher who will hand them out when possible.

**Christmas activities** - *Festive Fridays* – returning each Friday in December. Children can wear anything Christmassy as well as for the Christmas dinner on the 16<sup>th</sup>. No money is required for this and it is optional.

**Christmas Lunch** – This will take place on Thursday, 16<sup>th</sup> December. Orders will be collected for this the week before.

**Christmas parties** – In discussion with the Parent Council, it was agreed to allow the children to decide how we will celebrate this year. At Pupil Council on Friday, the children voted to have a Christmas afternoon like last year. Children can come dressed in pyjamas with a bear, Christmas outfits or jumpers or just dress down. They will then have an afternoon of activities in their class with a Christmas film, popcorn and hot chocolate. All classes will also do a decoration for the school Christmas tree at some point the week before also. This will take place on the afternoon of Tuesday, 21<sup>st</sup> December.



**Advent angels** – P1 and P2 children will record advent messages each day in December to share with the school. These will be filmed and the link shared with classes each day and on the News blog.

**Christmas Performances** – All classes will record a Christmas performance that will be posted on their class blogs. This will be a song this year as we are now allowed to sing in school. P1/2 will also record a Nativity that will be shared in the final week of term.

**Pantomime** – We hope to hear from Highland Council shortly about arrangements for an online pantomime performance.

### **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.

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](mailto: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.



### **Pupil Profiles/ Próifil nan Sgoiltearan**

Our pupil profiles will again be issued for parents to see and contribute to in the second last week of term.

We hope you enjoy looking through these and sharing the learning with the children.



### **Road Safety**

We have had concerns raised that some of the children walking to school are very difficult to see in the darker mornings. Please could you encourage your child to wear reflectors/ bright colours if they are walking or cycling to school. Many thanks.

### **School Handbook**

Each year we have to update our school handbook prior to enrolment in the New Year. Our updated handbook for session 2022-23 has been added to the website. Any feedback of ideas to include in this going forward are always welcome.

### **Lateness**

We continue to have a number of children late in the mornings and we would encourage parents to let us know if there are any supports that could be put in place to help. 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/>

Areas for improvement this term were highlighted in the previous newsletter. We hope to hear about our assessment for **Gold Rights Respecting Schools** very shortly and will look



forward to celebrating this.

The Digital Leaders will also present our **Digital Strategy** at assembly this week and this will be shared with parents at the next Parent Council meeting and on the school website.

As we go into next term, we will again have our **Health and Wellbeing** week in January. The staff will therefore be reviewing the curricular progressions and teaching and learning for these subject areas.

The Pupil Learning Council have also begun looking at our **relationships policy** including anti-bullying and behaviour. This will be shared with parents shortly also.

All staff will also be completing **peer observations** over the coming weeks to support ongoing moderation of teaching and learning.

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



### **Family Learning/Homework / Obair Dachaigh**

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

For December, home learning activities will have a focus on listening and talking as the children look towards Christmas performances. There are various activities signposts along with some fun games to support this in the Family Learning site above.



### **Gaelic Nursery/ Sgoil-àraich**

The Gaelic nursery building work is now very nearly complete. We are delighted to welcome Lauren Nicolson back to support Gaelic language acquisition and assist in preparing for an official opening of the nursery in the New Year. Ms Nicolson will work with us on a Thursday each week. She will support with the nursery children intending to follow Gaelic Medium in the morning then in the Gaelic class after break. She will then have time in the afternoons to support the set-up and planning of the nursery.

Adverts for Early Years Practitioner posts for the Gaelic nursery should also be posted shortly and we would appreciate families help in spreading the word to raise interest in applications for these posts.

### **Gaelic Catchment Consultation**

Letters were sent home with pupils on Monday with details of a proposal to establish a Gaelic Medium catchment for Glenurquhart Primary. Please check pupil bags for these. The consultation will close on 4<sup>th</sup> February 2022 and there will be a public meeting online in relation to this on 8<sup>th</sup> December at 6.30pm. A link for this will be sent when it is received and also added to the school calendar on our website.

### **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, 25<sup>th</sup> January at 6.45pm**. Video call link: <https://meet.google.com/shx-hfka-xkk> 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.

## Head Lice

We have had a few outbreaks of head lice recently in different classes. Head Lice are a common problem in school aged children. They can't 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.

## 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. Parents are also reminded that the household should isolate until results of the PCR come through if someone in the household displays symptoms. 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

Updated details on school closures were issued last week. 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

We will be doing the Festive Friday Christmas jumpers this month instead of Dress Down Day.

## 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, 3 <sup>rd</sup> December	Festive Friday
Wednesday, 8 <sup>th</sup> December	Public Consultation Meeting for Gaelic catchment 6.30-8pm (online link to follow)
Friday, 10 <sup>th</sup> December	Festive Friday
Thursday, 16 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Dinner
Friday, 17 <sup>th</sup> December	Festive Friday
Tuesday, 21 <sup>st</sup> December	Class Christmas party afternoon
Wednesday, 22 <sup>nd</sup> December	School closes at normal times for Christmas break
Thursday, 6 <sup>th</sup> January	School opens for all at normal times

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

<b>Open</b>	<b>Close</b>
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

Wednesday, 23<sup>rd</sup> February, Thursday, 5<sup>th</sup> May

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