

# Lochgoilhead Primary School

Lochgoilhead  
Argyll  
PA24 8AQ



Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> March 2024

Dear Parents/Carers,

Yet again, it has been another busy term, filled with lots of learning opportunities which our pupils have enjoyed being a part of. We would like to thank the Parent Council and families for their ongoing support. As always, please refer to Seesaw and Facebook where we share snapshots of learning opportunities.

## Staffing

Our Education and Childcare Worker posts in the ELC are advertised through My Job Scotland. Both posts close on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> April 2024.

Our 20-hour temporary ASN post in our ELC is advertised through My Job Scotland. This post closes on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> April 2024.

If you have the skills and qualification for either of these posts, we will welcome your application.

## A fond farewell to Helen Jackson

We would like to extend our gratitude for over 8 years of service which Helen has provided. Helen has made the biggest difference to children, families and staff, enabling them to have the best start in Education. Her warm and nurturing personality as well as her happy disposition and encouragement has created a solid foundation for our children. It goes without saying that Helen will be sincerely missed at Lochgoilhead Primary and ELC. We wish Helen all the very best in her future career with the NHS. We know they have an absolute star coming their way.

## Afterschool Clubs (April to June 2024)

Please find a list of afterschool clubs from April to June 2024. Our afterschool clubs will begin from Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2024 to the week beginning Monday 17<sup>th</sup> June 2024.

Monday	Homework club with Mrs Blair (3-3.30pm)
Tuesday	No club
Wednesday	Gardening club with Mrs McCorquodale (3-3.45pm)
Thursday	P5-P7 STEM club with Mrs Walsh( 3-3.45pm)
Friday	No club

We would like to thank all staff and volunteers for their delivery of afterschool clubs where children access a variety of learning opportunities to further enhance their skills in something they enjoy. If any parents/carers would like to deliver an afterschool club this term on Tuesday and Fridays, please speak with Mrs Blair.

## School and ELC Attendance

Please inform the school of your child's absence in advance or by 9.10am on the day of their absence.

## Home lunches

Please continue to notify the school office if your child is a home lunch either by phoning the school or speaking to your child's teacher before 9.30am. We are unable to send your child home without this confirmation.

## IPayimpact

Please continue to pre-order meals on iPayimpact. Please note that meals will be selected for your child if these are not pre-ordered.

## Parent Council

Thank you to the Parent Council for their ongoing work. Thank you to parents and carers who attended our most recent meeting. We encourage all parents and carers to be part of our Parent Council meetings. The next Parent Council meeting is Thursday 23rd May 2024, 7pm via Zoom. Joining details will be shared nearer the time.

## School uniforms

Please can you ensure that your child/children wear school uniform daily and ensure that your child has a change of clothes on the day they have PE. Please ensure that you have spare socks as these can get wet if children are wearing shoes/trainers that are not waterproof.

## ELC Change of clothes/Authorised contacts

Please ensure that you have a spare change of clothes and extra socks daily. Please ensure that they have indoor shoes or trainers and wellies for accessing the outdoors.

Please ensure that we have the correct contact details for those who are authorised to collect your child. If this information changes, it is your responsibility to inform the ELC. It is only those who you have shared on this form that will be allowed to collect your child.

## Parent Voice Groups

Parent Voice Groups take place once a month. We would encourage you to attend these meetings where you can, as this gives you the opportunity to meet with other parents/carers providing you with the opportunity to share your views which we use to help inform and shape school improvements.

The focus of the Parent Voice group in December 2023 and January 2024 was collating views about refreshing the Council's vision 'Our Children Their Future' (OCTF).

Thank you TO staff, children and families who completed OCTF surveys and took part in discussions. It is important that our views are shared as part of the Council's refreshed vision.

The next Parent Voice Group is Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> May from 2.15-3pm at school.

## The School Improvement Plan priorities for 2023-2024 are:

1. To develop the curriculum to raise attainment and ensure achievement for all through STEM and Outdoor Learning
2. To develop languages across the school which include British Sign Language and French.
3. To raise attainment in Writing by continuing to share and implement effective practices in teaching Writing with colleagues in school and Cluster colleagues.

We will be distributing School Improvement shortly. We would encourage you to complete this as your views will help to inform and shape our school improvements.

## Pupils Focus Groups 2023-2024

**Pupil Council-** Thank you to our Pupil Council for organising the Comic Relief/Sport's Relief. Children have enjoyed participating in various sports. Thank you to all instructors for leading sports and to those who have donated toward our sponsored health week.

**Rights Respecting Group-** Thank you to the Rights Respecting Group for preparing for our GOLD Rights Respecting validation visit on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March 2024.

**Eco Group-** Thank you to Jacqui from GRAB Trust for leading 'Reduce your waste' workshops and for coordinating the Beach Clean at our local beach. Thank you to our pupils for their enthusiasm and participation as always.



## ELC Stay and Play

We thank you for coming along to our Stay and Play as this is a great way to share your child's learning and meet other families. We are delighted to share the next dates for Stay and Play are:

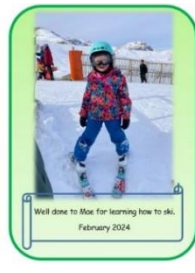
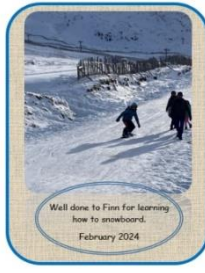
Please do get in touch with Kylie or Louise if you would like to lead any future Stay and Play sessions. This is a great way to share your skills and invaluable experience with our younger children.

Friday 26<sup>th</sup> April 2024 2.30-3pm  
Friday 10<sup>th</sup> May 2024 2.30-3pm  
Friday 24<sup>th</sup> May 2024 2.30-3pm  
Friday 7<sup>th</sup> June 2024 2.30-3pm  
Friday 21<sup>st</sup> June 2024 2.30-3pm

## Wider Achievements (February-March 2024)



A special thank you to Anka for sharing wider achievement photos via Seesaw and our wider achievement board. We are delighted to continue to celebrate and share so many wider achievements this term. Our assemblies will be Friday afternoons next term. Please encourage your child to share their achievements at assembly. You are very welcome to e-mail me photos which we can use for our wider achievements board.



## PE and Star of the Week awards

It is great to see other awards in school such as awards for PE and Star of the Week in the Wee Class. Lots of enthusiasm displayed with developing your rugby skills. Congratulations to all of you.



## WE PROMISE (February 2024)

Staff have successfully completed the WE PROMISE training and have now received the WE PROMISE accreditation for the WE PROMISE Award. The promise encompasses commitments around education to promote inclusion and improve outcomes for Scotland's care experienced children and young people. Strachur and Lochgoilhead Primary and ELC are the first establishments in the cluster to gain this award and as such we extend our congratulations to Strachur.



## Playground equipment

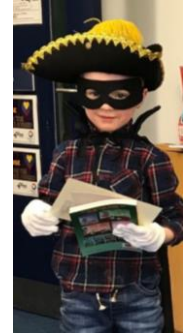
As previously shared Toward and Lochgoilhead won the playground leaders competition across the Cluster before Christmas. Lindsay Mitchell, our Active Schools Coordinator, has delivered our prize of free playground equipment which our pupils have gratefully received.





### Literacy Focus Week (Monday 4<sup>th</sup>- Friday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2024)

We celebrated World Book Day and the joys of reading across a range of literacy activities including book hunts, book quizzes, dressing as our favourite characters from a book or a film, designing front covers and writing our very own comics. We enjoyed being part of various competitions. A special thank you to Anka for creating the literacy week certificates. Congratulations to our winners.



### Adam Murphy (Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2024)

We were absolutely delighted to welcome Adam Murphy, the creator of the comic series CorpseTalk, to our school. Adam and his wife Lisa are an award-winning comics-making team. They bring history and folklore to life for readers of all ages through humour, extensive research and an ongoing curiosity of what makes pupils tick.

Adam created a 4-part comic strip right in front of us, using the classes ideas and then the pupils had an opportunity to create their own. Adam gave our pupils some valuable tips on writing and drawing comics. You will not be surprised to hear; our talented pupils designed some amazing comics. Adam also very kindly gave the school some signed copies of his books for everyone to enjoy and personally signed copies that some of our pupils purchased.



## Forest Schools with Mrs Leyland

The Big Class have consolidated tying tricky knots such as a clove knot and sheer lashing. They have been cooperating well with others to design their own shelters, used sheer lashing to try and make a large tarp tipi. They have learned how to erect a tent, take it down and pack it away. They have been developing their knife skills to make precision cuts to make a bow and arrow.



The Wee Class have continued to practise their listening skills by learning some new games. They have used a fire steel to make some sparks. Richard and Luka have managed to use the sparks to light a piece of cotton wool. Children have cooked damper bread on a fire safely. They have been cutting toasting forks using secateurs and peeling bark from the toasting fork with a potato peeler. They have been learning how to tie with an overhand knot, to wrap a stick with wool, work with their partners to make friendship bracelets and thread a wood cookie with wool. They have worked in group to make a tarp shelter.



## Salmon talk (Roger Brook and Tim King)

A huge 'Thank You' to Roger Brook and Tim King for visiting the school to discuss Wild Atlantic Salmon. We found it very informative and really enjoyed hearing about the lifecycle of the salmon and about the salmon in Loch Goil. We even tried to do some fishing of our own!



## Deaf Awareness Week (Monday 11<sup>th</sup> March- Friday 15<sup>th</sup> March 2024)

We are very proud of Teodors who shared his own personal understanding and journey as part of Deaf Awareness Week. We learned about how the cochlear implant works, learned about key figures such as Helen Keller and their achievements and carried out research about deafness.







### Cluster badminton championships (Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> March 2024)

We were delighted that our P5-P7 pupils were able to participate in the cluster badminton championships held at Lochgilhead. As always, they tried hard and gave their best. You are all stars! We were proud of how they represented the school at this event. Thank you to the Parent Council for paying for the transport.



### STEM/Climate lesson (Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> March 2024)

We had a fantastic morning with Ranger Rob Trevis-Smith developing our understanding of how to protect and expand our woodlands and create wildlife corridors throughout the National Park. We considered which animals would live in which habitats and then discussed the changes that affect each habitat and the impact this has on our wildlife.



### Beach Clean (Friday 15<sup>th</sup> March 2025)

Thank you to Jacqui Willis from the GRAB Trust for coordinating our Beach Clean in Lochgoilhead. We were surprised to see how much litter has gathered on our shore. We carried out a litter survey about the types of litter we found. We are delighted to share that we collected 15kgs of waste. We participated in 'Reduce your waste' workshops where we raised our awareness of what we can do to reduce waste in our homes and in our community.







### British Science/STEM week (Monday 11<sup>th</sup>-Friday 15<sup>th</sup> March 2024)

We held a STEM week to celebrate all things STEM. This is in line with British Science Week. We took part in some Rubbish STEM challenges. These have included: a beach clean, a litter survey, 'Reduce your waste' workshops, design your own bins and litter posters. We hope the 'Rubbish STEM challenges' help our children to continue to become citizen scientists learning how waste impacts their local and wider environments as well as empowering our children and the community to act and lead change with this.



### STEMgineerers in the Big Class

The Big Class have been completing many STEM challenges including creating the tallest tower using three sheets of A4 paper. They have enjoyed using their 'make do' kits to become designers and builders.



The Big Class has been enjoying using "make do" kits to create, plan, build and design their own bridges as well as their own STEM products. They have used their collective creativity and resilience to make these products.





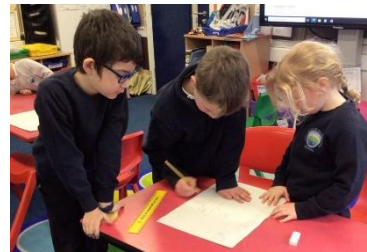
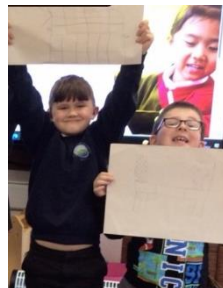
### STEMginneers in the Wee Class

Both classes continue to enjoy STEMginneers as their topic. In Wee Class highlights of learning include creating a design brief where children showed good listening skills and consideration of materials and tools needed for the task. Children demonstrated creativity and resilience when producing their final product.



### The Wee Class Recycle Bin Designs

The Wee Class entered an Engineer design competition. Pupils in their groups or individually had to explore, plan, create & improve their bin designs. They researched existent bin designs and materials. They discussed ideas, possibilities, sketched their ideas. They picked the best idea and drew a design with notes. Then they built a prototype or model and gave each other some feedback. Like our pupils, we were truly proud they were of their designs.



### Share the STEM Learning in the Wee Class

Thank you to Mrs Walsh for leading STEM learning providing inspiration and to Catherine for helping children to develop their creative skills. It was a pleasure to see and hear the engagement of families in the Wee Class. It was clear how delighted your children were to share some of the things they have learned.





### Big Class STEM Assembly and Share the Learning event

Thank you to the Big Class for showcasing their STEM learning through their class assembly and their workshop. We are delighted with how you have embraced STEMginneers as a topic. Thank you to Mrs Hamilton and Mrs McCorquodale for leading this topic providing inspiration for our children. Thank you to Anka for creating our STEM powerpoint and STEM displays as well. It was great to see and hear lots of healthy competition during the workshop and the Kahoot quiz. Thank you to all children and families for engaging with this and to our winners of both competitions.



Thank you to Paul Malcolm, our Cluster STEM lead, who has been working tirelessly all year round to provide training for staff, create and share planners for staff and model lessons with staff. We are truly appreciative of his support during the course of this year.



Thank you to Amanda who is our STEM lead, she is leading STEM within her class, P5-P7 afterschool STEM club and collating evidence for the STEM Nations Award.

### P7s Benmore Weekend

Well done to our P7s who spent last weekend at Benmore Outdoor Centre. Our pupils experienced a variety of activities such as mountain biking, rock climbing, high ropes, caving and much more. We were very proud of them for embracing the experience. A sincere thank you for DGS and Mrs McCorquodale for leading learning across the weekend.



### Bookpoint Book Fayre

Thank you to Dana from Bookpoint for setting up a Book Fayre in school. We hope your child enjoyed reading their complimentary World Book Day book. Thank you to families who purchased books during this event.

### Comic Relief

Thank you to the Pupil Council for coordinating activities to support those in need. Thank you to Christiaan and Luka for making key chains and clay flags and to all who bought these. We raised approximately £40 from the school collection and donations after the Easter service.









### Easter Service led by the Wee Class

I am sure you will agree that the Wee Class created an amazing performance of the Easter story. They worked so hard rehearsing their words, songs and actions. Thank you to Mrs Walsh who coordinated the service and to Catherine for creating the Easter Order of Service, made props and helped children to prepare for this.



### ELC Highlights

Children have enjoyed playing Literacy and Numeracy games where they are also developing their social skills of listening, taking turns and playing fairly. Children enjoy reading books together or enjoy sharing a story or two. It was great to see so many of our children dressing up for World Book Day and taking part in book hunts.



Children have been learning about the benefit of exercise and embraced active challenges such as using the bench and our new climbing frame.



Children enjoy sharing their learning with their families. It really is so lovely to see and hear the joy of families engaging with learning in our environment.



The ELC children have joined in with Autism Awareness activities such as fuzzy friend, spreading kindness and decorating butterflies to show the beauty in diversity.



We are keen for parents/carers to support children's learning at Lochgoilhead Primary and ELC. If you have skills or experience which would help further enhance learning and teaching in any of our settings, please do get in touch with me.

Once again, we would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank all staff, parents/carers, community and our wider partners for continuing to work hard to provide and enhance teaching and learning opportunities for all children. We are already looking forward to further events planned for this term and beyond.

Please note that our school and ELC closes on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March 2024 at 2.30pm and reopens on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> April 2024.

We hope that all our children, staff and families have a great Easter break.

A list of important dates will follow at the beginning of next term.

Kind regards,

Louise Blair  
Head Teacher