

# Lochgoilhead Primary School

Lochgoilhead  
Argyll  
PA24 8AQ



Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2025

## February to April 2025 Newsletter

Dear Parents/Carers,

As always, we are delighted with our children's enthusiasm for learning and are thoroughly proud of how they embrace learning experiences which are so thoughtfully planned and delivered by all staff.

### ELC Staffing

We are delighted to share that Kirsty Perkins will be Acting Childcare and Education Worker from Monday 24<sup>th</sup> March until Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> July. We would like to congratulate Kirsty in her new role. Christine and Linda (occasionally) will be continuing as Class Teacher in the ELC from Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> March 2025 until next term when we recruit for a permanent CEW.

We are delighted that Melissa will continue to be full time with our team.

Kate Cowan will be joining our ELC team as Additional Support Needs assistant and Classroom Assistant from Monday 24<sup>th</sup> March 2025 to Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2025 on Mondays and Tuesdays. We would like to welcome Kate to our team.

Thank you to our staff, children and families for their hard work and dedication providing high quality teaching and learning experiences.

The permanent CEW post will be advertised next term, where we hope to fill this position.

### Primary Staffing

Mrs Walsh will be reducing her working week temporarily from Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> April to Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> July 2025 where she will be class teacher Monday and Tuesdays mainly. Briony Mair will be the class teacher on Wednesday and Thursday and me on Fridays. Staff will work closely together ensuring continuity of teaching and learning for the Wee Class.

### After-school Clubs

Clubs will begin from the week beginning Monday 28<sup>th</sup> April 2025.

Tuesday Art and Craft club (3-3.45pm) with Catherine

Thursday Gardening club (3-3.45pm) with Gail

Friday Football club (3-3.45pm) with Andrew Laviers

### School Attendance

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

### Lunches

#### iPay Pre order in advance

Please note that iPay choices can be completed 3 weeks in advance. Please ensure iPay accounts are updated before 9.30am on the day if you are not completing iPay choices in advance.

### Parent Council

Thank you to our Parent Council, for their ongoing support of the school, as well as all their hard work in fundraising which enables us to secure learning experiences for our children. The next

Parent Council meeting is Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> June 2025, 7pm via Zoom. We would actively encourage all parents and carers to attend where possible.

### **School uniforms**

The Education Committee recommend that "the adoption of a distinctive dress code chosen to enhance the ethos of the school should be encouraged by all schools". We appreciate your support with this in line with our recommendations below.

Please encourage your child/children wear school uniform daily.

For boys, we recommend navy/grey sweatshirt, navy/white polo shirt, and navy/grey/black trousers.

For girls, we recommend navy/grey sweatshirt, navy/white polo shirt and navy/grey/black skirt/trousers.

On outdoor learning days, children must come prepared with suitable clothing and footwear of their own choosing.

Please note children should not wear branded clothing or accessories as part of their school or PE uniform if this affiliates with any local and national sporting teams.

### **PE Uniform**

Please ensure that your child has a change of clothes on Tuesday and Thursday when they have PE.

Please encourage your child to wear our recommended kit: Plain navy/white t shirt with plain navy/grey/black shorts/jogging bottoms in keeping with our school colours.

Please let us know if you have any difficulties accessing uniform for your child so we can support you with this.

Please note that there will be a wider consultation of school and PE uniform in the summer term.

### **ELC Change of clothes/Authorised contacts**

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. Please ensure that they 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.

### **PEF Spending**

Please note that we largely funded both Ardroy Days and Forest Schools Learning through PEF.

### **School Funds**

Please note that we purchased prizes for Literacy Week and Comic Relief as well as funding towards enterprise projects in the Big Class and Easter eggs for all pupils.

### **Parent Council**

Thank you to the Parent Council who bought a speaker for the school which can be used at all events. Thank you to Scottish Book Trust who awarded the Live Literature grant and the Parent Council who part paid for our Live Author visit. Thank you for organising the payments of funds for transport through the Gail Trust Grant. Lastly, thank you for your ongoing support of learning and events in the ELC and Primary.



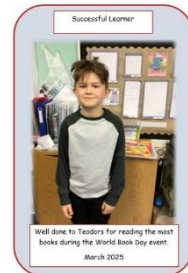
### Wider Achievements

We thoroughly enjoy celebrating the wider achievements of our pupils. Thank you for sharing your children's achievements with us.

Please return any shields and trophies from the End of Year Prize giving after the Easter holidays.



**Curriculum For Excellence Awards (February and March 2025)** Curriculum for Excellence places learners at the heart of education with the four capacities at its centre. The four capacities are aimed at helping children to become: Successful Learners, Confident individuals, Responsible Citizens and Effective Contributors. These capacities reflect and recognise the lifelong nature of education and learning.



### Pancake Tuesday, February 2025

The Big Class celebrated Pancake Tuesday by utilising their culinary skills, working very well together in their groups. They were delicious!



### STEM Day at Ardroy (February 2025)

Thank you to Ardroy staff for planning such an engaging day celebrating all things STEM! Each group was given some spending money (Ardroy Pounds!), which they could use to purchase activities of their choice. Every activity included a team-building task, with successful completion earning the team additional funds. The more funds



they raised, the more challenging activities they could afford, such as Minefield, Tower of Hanoi or an Escape Room.

Children were split into three groups comprised of a mix of all primaries and worked as teams to solve many interesting tasks and puzzles. It was a great team building day where children showed creative thinking, problem solving and decision making skills.







### Live Author Visit- Paul Murdoch (March 2025)

A huge thank you to Paul Murdoch, author, musician, and presenter, for visiting our school in March 2025 as part of our Literacy Focus Week celebration, bringing joy to our children. In the Wee Class, children learned about wildlife and enjoyed listening to Paul's stories first hand. Paul's workshop was highly interactive, incorporating games, counting, catching and puppets. Paul captured their



imagination by helping them to create their own unique characters starting from a simple squiggle. With the Big Class, Paul led an interactive workshop where he detailed the process of writing his books and where he derived his inspiration from, the children designed their very own mythical creatures.



Well done to Alex and Joshua for winning our World Book day dress up competition. It was great to see our children inventively embrace the magic of dressing up as a favourite character from a book or a film.



### Cluster Badminton Competition

Well done to our big class pupils who took part in the badminton competition in Lochgilphead. As always, they took part enthusiastically and were ambassadors for our school.



### Sport's Relief

Many thanks to Doreen for delivering Shinty for all settings. As always, children demonstrated focus, competition, support and team building skills. We hope that Doreen can deliver more shinty sessions next term.



**STEM in the Big Class** The Big Class created their very own stop motion mini movie. Each pupil designed their own set, moulded their own main characters and directed their mini movie, which celebrated their creativity and individuality.







### Forest Schools with Mrs Leyland (Big Class)

The Big Class continued to develop their problem solving skills, resilience and confidence as well as developing strong, positive relationships with others within their natural surroundings. They practise knot tying which they accessed to make tents and hammocks. They extended and celebrated their learning by making a fire and baking pizzas.



### Forest Schools with Mrs Leyland (Wee Class)

The children learnt how to tie a knot around a tree and built shelters using ropes and tarpaulins. They also played some new games. There was also tree climbing, swinging on buoys and plenty of sunshine! They learned about the fire safety when trying to light a flint safely.



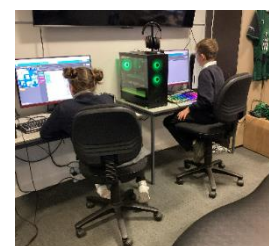
There are so many life learning skills that children develop such as problem solving, confidence, self-esteem and team building which are integral to learning with Mrs Leyland. This learning experience supports UNCRC Article 6 Life, Survival and Development, Article 17 Access to Information, Article 12 Respect for the Children's views and Article 14 Sharing thoughts freely.



### DGS Digital Sessions for P5, P6 and P7

Thank you to Mr. Gallanagh at DGS for delivering digital sessions for our children. Students explored and built with Minecraft, using creativity and problem-solving skills to design

underwater worlds with code as well as playing other digital games.



### Comic Relief 2025

A huge thank you to everyone that donated items for our jumble sale and baked delicious cakes to raise money for Comic Relief. Thank you Mrs Walsh and the pupil council for organising the event. Messy Art was a highlight with our children, where they showed the creativity of artistic talents. We raised £251.86.

Congratulations to Sophie and Gabriela for winning the Comic Relief baking competition 2025. This learning shows support of UNCRC Article 12

Respect for children's views, Article 13 Sharing thoughts freely and Article 31 Rest, Play, Culture, Arts.



### Joni's Health and Wellbeing Yoga Sessions 2025

Thank you to Joni who has been leading Health and Wellbeing Yoga sessions with both classes. Children have been learning how to regulate overwhelming and difficult emotions using the Zones of Regulation, Trauma-Informed Yoga and Therapeutic Movement. This learning shows support of UNCRC Article 13 Sharing thoughts freely and Article 31 Rest, Play, Culture, Arts.





### Climate Ready Classroom (March 2025)

Congratulations to the Mrs McCorquodale and the Big Class for achieving their Climate Ready certificate for completing a variety of workshops and then collaboratively creating an action plan for the school. During the workshops the class developed an understanding of climate change, biodiversity and

climate justice. They identified opportunities to take action, facilitating active citizenship. The workshops also support attainment for sustainability targets.

This learning experience supports UNCRC Article 12 Respect for children's views, Article 13 Sharing thought freely, Article 17 Access to information and Article 24 Health, Water, Food and the Environment.



### Young Carer's Action Day (March 2025)

Young Carers Action Day provides a call to action for better support for Young Carers which helps to bring about change. Leading learning about Young Carers recognises the hard work, dedication and responsibility young carers have and to offer support and our sincere appreciation for all that the Young Carers do. With 1 in 5 children in a class in Scotland having caring responsibilities, empathy, understanding and support helps those children who are caring for another

person, whether it's a parent, step parent, sibling or grandparents.

We consulted children as to what we could do as a school and in agreement with the children's voice they wore odd socks, wrote reflective poems, considered what qualities and skills a Young Carer has and what we could actively do to show our love and support.



help others move be resourceful  
emotionally connected

use initiative practical task give medicines  
manage budget physical care  
personal care

We raised awareness of Young Carers more widely with families through an online Parent Voice Meeting and via Messenger.

We are very proud of our children's engagement they displayed through Literacy

and Art as well as the compassion, empathy, respect and dignity they displayed through group interactions and discussions.

We have been working towards achieving the Young Carer's

Challenge where staff have

completed all Education Scotland modules as part of their professional learning recently. I would like to thank everyone for being part of this as well as their valuable contributions. We are now

reliability  
patience supportive  
use initiative compassionate  
resourceful kind helpful  
sincere

friend  
neighbour  
uncle  
animals  
dog  
grandad  
mum  
sister  
brother  
dad  
teacher  
granny  
auntie

on the Young Carer's Scotland map!

This learning shows support of UNCRC Article 3 Best Interests of the Child, Article 12

Respect for children's views, Article 13 Sharing thoughts freely and Article 31 Rest, Play, Culture, Arts.







### Hedgehogs Habitats

The Big Class researched hedgehogs in the UK and the kind of habitats hedgehogs live in. They created homes for them, using natural resources. We hope that this might attract some hedgehogs to visit our school grounds. This learning shows UNCRC Article 24 Health, Water, Food and

the Environment.



### Ardroy Fun (March 2025)

Thank you to Ardroy staff for another great day of learning where children displayed enthusiasm and confidence when doing Archery and navigating the Labyrinth. They showed great support of others especially those who were taking part in these activities for the first time.

This learning shows support of UNCRC Article 3 Best Interests of the Child, Article 12 Respect for children's views, Article 13 Sharing thoughts freely and Article 31 Rest, Play, Culture, Arts.



### Heather McGee visits our Big Class

Heather McGee discussed composting and shared information about the stages of growth for potatoes. She gave the class information about the RHET potato growing competition to find the school with the largest harvest of potatoes and also which schools has the best recipe for using the potatoes that are grown. Good luck everyone. I am sure we can do very well with this competition. Challenge accepted!

This learning shows UNCRC Article 24 Health, Water, Food and the Environment.



### Euro Quiz (March 2025)

Congratulations to Kayleigh and Christiaan for representing our school so well in the Euroquiz this week. The Euroquiz is an annual project open to all Primary 6 pupils across Scotland, which sees teams working together to broaden their knowledge of Europe and the wider world. Subjects covered include languages, history, geography, culture and European affairs. This learning shows support of UNCRC 17 Access to information.



### Open the Book with ExP

Thank you to Grace Martin and her team from ExP for bringing Bible stories alive and sharing important life learning messages about how we treat others with kindness at all times. For the 'Open the Book' visit they shared the story of The Good Samaritan where the

Wee Class helped to perform the story for their peers and the ELC. This learning shows support of UNCRC Article 3 Best Interests of the Child, Article 12 Respect for children's views, Article 13 Sharing thoughts freely and Article 31 Rest, Play, Culture, Arts.





### Easter Service 2025

Thank you to Mrs Walsh, Anka and Kylie and especially the Wee Class for putting together such a wonderful service. Thank you to our Parents and Carers who helped the children at home and joined us in celebrating this week. It was also

lovely to see the confidence growing and children being supportive of each other. What a great Easter bonnet parade as well. You were all fantastic! This learning shows support of UNCRC Article 12 Respect for children's views, Article 13 Sharing thoughts freely and Article 31 Rest, Play, Culture, Arts.



### ELC Highlights (February to April 2025)



This term the children have been exploring the season of Spring. We have taken part in nature walks to look for signs of Spring and the children used a checklist to collect data and discovered, daffodils, buds, lambs and insects. They created their own daffodil art and caterpillars. A child in our ELC has a beautiful cherry blossom tree in their garden and we visited the tree to look for any changes. The children are going to follow the season by continuing to monitor the tree.



This term we have focussed on our ELC values, Happiness, Respect and Ambition. The children were able to explain what makes them happy and how we show respect to others. The children demonstrated their awareness of how to be kind and enjoyed sharing their ambitions in life. We continue to support the children to keep their bodies healthy through exercise and drinking water.



In literacy, the children continue to develop their writing skills by creating maps, roads and drawings. The children created their very own books using 'That's not my Robot' for inspiration and were able to read their stories to each other. The children have been enjoying role play to develop their storytelling skills.







In Numeracy and Maths, the children have been exploring capacity by filling and pouring. They have created patterns using their fine motor skills and continue to explore number through our weekly learning.



We have undertaken a lot of work to regenerate our outdoor space and a big thank you to everyone who helped with repairs and donations. The children have loved exploring the new learning areas and using their imagination to create games and stories in their play. They have enjoyed using their maths skills to create potions and recipes in the mud kitchen.



We continue to focus on developing our STEM skills in the ELC. The children have created models that have movement and have used their skills outdoors to create obstacle courses that support the development of their gross motor skills.



The children continue to celebrate being part of the wider community by taking part in activities with the primary school and in the village. They created messy art to support Comic Relief, participated in Shinty lessons with Doreen and celebrated World Book Day. Bookbug continues to visit the ELC to support the development of literacy skills and the children used their singing skills to participate in the Easter service.



Overall their learning shows support of UNCRC Article 12 Respect for children's views, Article 13 Sharing thoughts freely, Article 31 Rest, Play, Culture, Arts and Article 24 Health, Water, Food and the Environment.

Dates for next term will be given out later in April 2025.

We would like to sincerely thank our children, staff, Parent Council as well as families for their hard work and dedication across the term.

Kind regards,

Louise