

Lochgoilhead Primary School

Lochgoilhead
Argyll
PA24 8AQ



Friday 3rd October 2025

August to September 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

What a great start to the year! Our children make us very proud with how they enthusiastically and effectively engage with learning opportunities and events as well as their achievements both inside and outside school.

Staffing

We are delighted to share that we have recruited Angela as ASN assistant in the ELC and Gillian as ASN assistant in the Primary. We were unable to recruit for the Classroom Assistant in the Primary. We will continue to cover this role on a supply basis.

We would like to sincerely thank Garrick Collier and Iona Gove for covering the ASN and CA roles on a temporary basis. We are delighted to share that both Garrick and Iona will be back with us on a temporary basis to cover the ASN role in the Primary until Gillian is in post as well as the outstanding vacancy of CA.

Afterschool Clubs

Thank you to Andrew for leading football club and Gail for leading Lego club this term.

Thank you for all staff and volunteers who provide afterschool opportunities. We appreciate you taking the time to provide extracurricular activities to the children. We are delighted to share that shinty may be coming soon as an afterschool club.

We will update you with clubs for the next term during the first week when we return after the October holidays.

School Attendance

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

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. Please continue to order lunches through iPay Impact in advance.

Parent Council

Thank you to our Parent Council, for all their hard work. The next Parent Council meeting is Thursday 6th November 2025 at 7pm via Zoom. We encourage all parents and carers to attend where possible.

School uniforms

Please can you ensure that your child/children wear school uniform daily. Please ensure that your child has a change of clothes on Tuesday and Thursday when they have PE. On outdoor learning days, they must come prepared with suitable clothing and footwear. Please ensure that you have spare socks in their bag as these can get wet during daily mile. As we are in Autumn with winter approaching, please ensure that your child is dressed appropriately for the weather.

ELC Authorised contacts

Thank you to all parent for updating their contact details of 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.

ELC Change of clothes

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

Scouts Outdoor Day (July 2025)

'We fantastic day on the loch zooming around in ribs. We spotted seals, sea birds and crabs and sea squirts. Children in the Wee Class were excellent at performing doughnuts when driving the ribs. The Big Class thoroughly enjoyed their kayaking trip. Thank you to the Scots Centre for keeping us safe.'

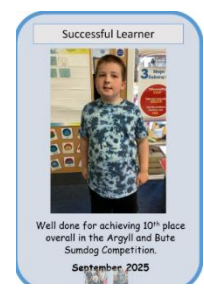
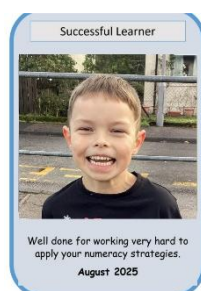


Welcome Primary 1s

We are delighted to welcome our new P1s to the Wee Class. Thank you to our children for helping them to settle in and looking after them.



CfE Awards 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.





Wider Achievements- We thoroughly enjoy celebrating the wider achievements of our pupils. We are very proud of all children. Thank you for sharing your children's achievements with us.



Sumdog Competition

Thank you to all children who took part in the Argyll and Bute Sumbdog Competition. Well done to those children who came first, second and third in our school. Congratulations to our pupil who came 10th overall across all Cluster schools.



Highland games sessions- Many thanks to Ruth Lambert, who volunteers for the Highland Games, for visiting the school to let our children learn more about the history of the Cowal Gathering. She also very kindly gave each child a free ticket for this year's event. The child loved seeing the swords that are used in Highland dancing and a variety of shields which Ruth has been maintaining.



ExP performance of Joseph, the dreamer- As always, children enjoyed joining with the the performance of Joseph's Technicolour Dream Coat. Well done to all involved. We look forward to seeing everyone back in October 2025.



Skulls Workshop- Thank you to Will Tibbitts for delivering an interesting workshop on skulls. Children enjoyed seeing different types of teeth and how they helped us work out the diet of an animal. They also learned about details of skull research such as position of eyes, spinal cord, shapes and other features. The children enjoyed handling the unique artefacts.



Forest Schools with Mrs Leyland- Children in the Big Class enjoyed revising the names of a variety of trees and matching the leaves to the trees they had fallen from. Children created dens using the knot tying skills they had been practicing recently.

They worked in groups, developing communication skills as well as displaying resilience and creativity. While working collaboratively in teams the children learned how to create a lean-to with two rope loops around each tree and with guy ropes at 45°, held in with wooden pegs sourced from the surroundings. Well done everyone



Primary Sport's Leader training in school- Thank you to Lindsay for delivering this session to P6 and P7 children. The children learned a variety of games and how to organise the equipment, teach the games to others and adapt the games in a few ways to meet the needs of the children who are involved. The children all had a great time and worked well as a team. Playground games will be taken forward starting over the next few weeks at break and lunch. This opportunity will help P6s and

P7s develop leadership qualities as well as promoting being active and healthy for all who choose to take part.



Live Art Fridays- The Big Class were involved in an online art lesson by the Edinburgh National Art Gallery. The focus in this session was work by Andrew Goldsworthy. Goldsworthy is internationally recognised for his work with natural

materials such as clay, stones, reeds, branches, leaves, snow and ice. The class initially collected a range of natural resources from around the school grounds and then created a group piece of natural art. I'm sure you'll agree the results are stunning. The Andrew Goldsworthy exhibition at the Royal Scottish Academy is now open until 2nd November and definitely worth a visit, if you get the chance.





ECO schools- The Big Class got to plant and harvest potatoes as well as tomatoes recently. The class are excited to watch the growth of their plants and are learning how to look after the plants by watering regularly, allowing them to be in sunlight and using bamboo canes to help support them.



Luke Winter's Storytelling visit -Children in both classes visited the Magic Story Wagon with Luke Winters. The Big Class thoroughly enjoyed a story about a boy who climbed a very tall tree. The Wee Class enjoyed a story about dragons and rainforests. All children loved the environment of being a real live wagon in the arboretum. What a magical way to bring Literacy stories alive!



Viking Long ships- The Big Class have been learning about Vikings and have been given the challenge to create a Viking longship. They are working in groups to create a design, source the relevant materials and then construct. We will then label the different parts of the longship and write about what it would have been like travelling on them.



Business Enterprise Talk

A big thank you to Neil from the Boatshed Cafe for visiting the Wee class and discussing running a business with the pupils. They had lots of questions for him, and he gave a lot of great advice. The Wee Class put this into action when they successfully ran the Happy Café for their Share the Learning event.



After-school Lego club- Lots of creativity demonstrated by our children and fun had by all with Mrs McCorquodale. Lovely examples of teamwork across the ages.



NSPCC Speak Out Stay Safe Assembly

The NSPCC online assembly has been delivered to both settings. Children engaged thoughtfully with our annual 'Speak Out Stay Safe' designed to educate children about abuse, emphasizing that they have the right to be safe. This programme reminds children that they can reach out to Childline if they are worried about themselves or a friend.

Please note that NSPCC Talking Pants Assembly will be delivered next term in the ELC and Wee Class.





Fiddle Lessons with Abigail Pryde

We are delighted that Abigail is back with us this term delivering the fiddle to the Big Class. It is great to see how children can pick up where they left off, therefore already strengthening their musical skills from last year.



Share the Learning (Big Class) –

Mrs McCorquodale shared a variety of maths games to celebrate Maths Week Scotland. It was great to see children and families working together.



Share the Learning (Wee Class)



The Wee Class opened their own business enterprise called 'The Happy Café'. They took onboard the expert advice from Neil at the Boatshed Café. They worked hard preparing a tasty menu to welcome their families to their Share the Learning event. This was a great enterprise project, where children learned about healthy eating and chose healthy snacks which they then carefully prepared. The all had a role to play in running their own business in real life. I am sure you will agree, this was a massive success!



Thank you to Kiran's Trust

Kiran's Trust have provided the finance for all settings to be part of the Kalm Kids programme led by Joni Prescott. This programme is based on the 'Zones of Regulation' Joni uses yoga and therapeutic movement to explore emotional literacy with children from 3-11 years.



ELC Highlights



The children in the ELC have been reading 'The Colour Monster' and learning to talk about their emotions. They created colours of their own by mixing paint and making their own colour monster.



The children have been learning 'All about me' to develop self-awareness, confidence and social skills by exploring their identity, family and interests. The children created self-portraits to explore their own identity, thoughts and emotions through art. They drew pictures of people who live we live with, and we put them on our ELC family tree. This helps the children appreciate both their unique qualities and their friends.



The children have been learning about 'Under the sea' habitats and marine life. We made mermaid headbands using fine motor skills cutting and sticking. The children took a



walk to the beach, we collected stones, shells and sticks and used their numeracy skills to sort and count.



The children have been reading 'Norman, the slug with a silly shell'. They decorated doughnuts to sell in their doughnut shop and explored money. They used their measuring and pouring skills to make delicious icing to go on top of their real doughnuts and enjoyed a tasty treat.



The children have been learning about people who help us in our community. The children designed their own fire, ambulance and police vehicles. The children have also been enjoying being vets and we have many cats around the ECL WATCH OUT!! We watched a video about people who help us to learn what should we do in an emergency and what different services do for us. We used our talking and listening skills to speak about people in our community who help us. The children had their very own emergency response office to take phone calls and send out help.



To celebrate Maths Week Scotland, the children explored maths in nature. They recorded information on a weather chart and explored numbers and measuring outdoors.

Our ELC children have had a very busy term 1, we look forward to seeing them all after the October break.



Vision, Values and guiding principles

We are currently refreshing our vision, values and guiding principles. Please complete the Nurture survey and the Values survey recently shared as this will help to shape improvements. It has been agreed by staff, children and parents to change one of our values from Happiness to Nurture. Respect and Ambition remain as our other two values. Thank you for sharing your views through Forms and in person at our Share the Learning event in the Primary as well as drop off and pick up times. A special thank you to Catherine for capturing the views of all stakeholders and displaying this so beautifully in our foyer.

Important Dates

22nd October Flu Immunisation

Pre Inspection for ELC only- 21st November only

School and ELC Council Review- Week beginning 23rd February 2026

This will be a joint inspection carried out by managers from Argyll and Bute Council in line with the new joint inspections that will be carried out by Care Inspectorate and HMIE from

January 2026. Shared inspections are currently being piloted from September 2025-January 2026.

Going for GOLD Our Children Their Nurturing Education (OCTNE)

Staff have completed CPD from OCTNE on six Nurture Principles and have embedded these well. Children are also learning about the same Nurture Principles, and they are considering how these are lived in our school.

Please complete the Nurture surveys for families as we value your feedback and use this to make improvements.

Pupil Focus Groups

Pupil Focus Groups (ECO- Led by Gail, Rights- Led by Louise and Pupil Council- Led by Amanda and Briony) have begun and meetings will be held monthly. These groups give children the opportunity to share their ideas which can be taken forward to make and shape improvements. Children have been part of a three yearly cycle, so they get access to be part of all groups every three years.

STEM Nations Awards- We are awaiting accreditation of our STEM evidence by Education Scotland. Thank you to Amanda for leading this. Further information to be shared.

Tea towels- Thank you to the Parent Council for organising the sale of our lovely annual tea towels. Order forms have been distributed, and we look forward to seeing these soon.

Library Books for the school- Thank you to the Parent Council for the donation of £400 to refresh our library. Children will be consulted, and books of their choosing will be ordered.

PEF (2025-2025- £4320)- We have purchase targeted Literacy and Numeracy intervention resources, non-fiction books, and will purchase play resources for younger learners.

Future dates will be shared early next term.

Thank you

We are already looking forward to events planned and yet to be planned for next term. It continues to be a pleasure working with children, staff and families. I would like to thank children for their tireless enthusiasm and to staff, families and PC for their hard work and dedication who make a difference to our children every day.

Have a great October break. We look forward to welcoming children, staff and families on Monday 20th October 2025 at 9am.

Kind regards,

Louise