

Lochgoilhead Primary School

Lochgoilhead
Argyll
PA24 8AQ



Friday 19th December 2025

December 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

What a busy term filled with festive fun and cheer enthusiastically embraced by our learners and staff. Thank you to all stakeholders and wider community partners for working so tirelessly together, providing and engaging with a variety of learning opportunities.

Staffing

We are delighted to share that after being successful at interview last week, Melissa Connor has been appointed as Acting PT for Lochgoilhead Primary and ELC.

We are delighted to share that Mrs Mair will be working an extra half day weekly leading PEF interventions across both classes.

We are delighted that Garrick Collier will be working as an ASN assistant in the Wee Class on a Monday and the Big Class on a Wednesday.

We are delighted that Christine Hamilton will be working half a day a week in the ELC to cover management time for Melissa as our Acting PT.

We look forward to seeing more of the wonderful staff we have and valuing the impact of their work which makes a marked difference supporting and leading learning in all settings.

PEF (2024-2025- £4320)- We will share letters in the New Year for those children who will be working with Mrs Mair as part of PEF intervention groups.

Afterschool Clubs

We will update you with afterschool clubs for the next term after Christmas.

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 having 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 29th January 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. Please ensure that your child is dressed appropriately for the weather.

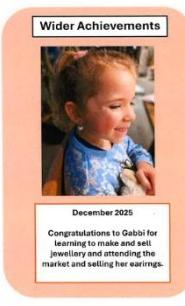
ELC Authorised contacts

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 wellies for accessing the outdoors.

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. This links to Article 29 Aims of education celebrating personalities, talents and abilities.



abilities.

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 Citizen and Effective Contributors. These capacities reflect and recognise the lifelong nature of education and learning. This links to Article 29 Aims of education celebrating personalities, talents and abilities.





We are truly proud of Kirsty for her recent personal academic success of successfully achieving SCQF Level 7 Childcare qualification. Kirsty has worked tirelessly over the last 18 months completing this qualification part time whilst working full time, showing absolute commitment and dedication which is to be highly commended. Kirsty has utilised knowledge of this course to enhance skills in our setting, embedded in her practice, making such a massive difference to children, families and staff. Very well-done Kirsty!

Going for GOLD Our Children Their Nurturing Education (OCTNE)

We are delighted to share that we have been accredited with the GOLD award for 'Our Children Their Nurturing Education'. This award is an absolute credit to all children, staff and families involved and can only be achieved with embedded Nurture Principles threaded in the ethos and culture of our setting. Very well deserved!



STEM Nations Awards

The STEM Nation Award has been developed by Education Scotland to celebrate, promote and build on effective practice in STEM education within and across sectors.



We have been accredited by Education Scotland for successfully achieving two of the five elements of the STEM Nations Award: Leadership in STEM and STEM Family Learning. The Leadership in STEM element celebrates effective leadership at all levels including children and young people leading learning. Wider stakeholders contributed to the planning for and delivery of excellence and inspiration in STEM learning.

The STEM family learning element recognises practice and commitment to family learning within early learning and childcare settings and schools. Settings applying for this element will be using STEM to make connections with the local community. This work helped to deliver equity in STEM by building STEM capital to support all learners and their families.



Pupil Focus Groups

Pupil Focus Groups have made a real a difference in our local community and beyond. Thank you to Gail, Amanda and Briony for leading learning and promoting pupil voice. We thoroughly enjoyed the Christmas GRAB Trust workshops organised by Jacqui and Gail. The Rights Groups have led a kindness campaign through the school awarding kindness heart to those who showed acts of kindness at school. All children have created a Christmas Star of kindness considering how we can share an act of kindness making a

real difference in the world. All Road Safety posters are displayed in the medical centre, village hall and the local shop to remind our community of keeping safe, especially when passing the school. The Pupil Council have evaluated aspects of learning and nurture where they shared their invaluable views on how Nurture Principles are lived in our setting daily helping us to make improvements where needed. This learning links to UNCRC Article 12 and 13 where children have the right to share their voice where this is shared and Article 15 where children can join or set up groups or organisations, meeting with others. The learning links to Nurture Principle 2- Classroom offer a safe base and Nurture Principles 4- Language as a vital means of communication.

Our Children Their Future (OCTF)

Thank you for sharing your views online, in person and at community events to share how you believe we embrace and demonstrate OCTF at Lochgoilhead. It is great how the shared vision and values of our settings align with OCTF and is lived in our setting. Once all the information and evidence has been collated, we will share and celebrate this in the next newsletter. This learning links to UNCRC Article 12 and 13 where children have the right to share their voice where this is heard. The learning links to Nurture Principle 2- Classroom offer a safe base and Nurture Principles 4- Language as a vital means of communication.



Kalm Kids with Joni Prescott

Thank you to Joni who led Kalm Kids yoga sessions with all settings. Joni has shown the settings some strategies, breathing techniques and yoga poses to help self-regulate or co-regulate when the children may be feeling overwhelmed. This learning links to UNCRC Article 12. This learning would be link to Nurture Principle 1- Children's learning is understood developmentally, Nurture Principle 2- Classroom as a safe base and Nurture Principle 4- Language as a vital means of communication.

Shinty by Doreen

Thank you to Doreen for leading shinty sessions this term. As always, we have loved having Doreen with us. We have learned the key skills and rules of shinty, gained an understanding of fair play in sport, demonstrated leadership skills and effective communication skills. Well done everyone! This learning links to Article 29 Aims of education promoting personalities, talents and abilities and Article 31 Rest, Play culture and Arts. This learning links to Nurture Principle 3 The Importance of nurture for the development of wellbeing.

GRAB Trust

Thank to Jacqui for delivering the Waste Free Christmas and Where do all the toys go? workshops helping the children to consider how to reduce, reuse and recycle our waste especially at this time of year where much waste is created. We looked at how we could mend broken toys and become more resourceful and economical. Thank you to Lindsay from Climate Action who shared some valuable input linking nicely to the impact of waste on our environment promoting

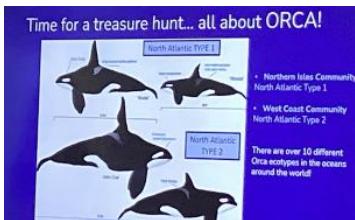
The GRAB Trust
GROUP FOR RECYCLING IN ARGYLL & BUTE

responsible citizenship. This learning links to UNCRC Article 12 and 13 where children have the right to share their voice where this is heard.

Robopreneurs Workshop for the Big Class



A huge 'thank you' to Maya from the Scottish Association for Marine Science (SAMS) for being with us for the day. Helping us to learn about 'Our World from Space' and to think about how we can protect our environment and the animals within it. We considered how animals adapt to survive in their environment and the global conveyor belt, moving water around the globe. We then created a Question-and-Answer game with Mrs McCorquodale to revise our learning. Thank you to Mrs McCorquodale for engaging in pre course training for this event to facilitate teaching and learning. As part of this staff training and children's workshop, we have been presented with a school drone to support future learning. This learning links to UNCRC Article 12 and 13 where children have the right to share their voice where this is heard, Article 17 Access to information and Article 28 Access to education.



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Christmas STEM

The children chose between carol singing and STEM on a Monday afternoon. The class were learning about the power of circuits and making a light go on. They then used this learning to create a light up Christmas card. This learning links to Nurture Principle 3 The Importance of nurture for the development of wellbeing.



Decorating the Christmas Tree

Thank you to Lynne Williams for organising and creating Christmas ornaments for the children to decorate and place on the village Christmas tree before the lights switch on in the evening.



Christmas Light Switch on

What a lovely evening of entertainment provided by our lovely singers sharing some Christmas cheer for all to hear.



Christmas singing at the Medical Centre



We were delighted to entertain our community by singing outside the medical centre. Our singing cheer spread where cars passed by to listen and we noticed some community members opening their windows and doors.

We raised £42 for Social Bite who support homeless people and more specifically at this time of year ensure they have a hot Christmas meal.



Christmas Coffee Afternoon



We had a fabulous coffee morning in the school with lovely singing and a very successful raffle. Thanks to all who attended and well done to the children for hosting and singing so beautifully. Thank you to Nikki for coordinating raffle prizes as well as wider preparation and organisation before, during and after this event. Thank you, to Catherine who led Arts and Craft club afterschool as part of our Christmas enterprise, where our children's creativity was beautifully demonstrated. Well done to all our raffle winners. We raised £255.70 and donating at least 10%, £30 to MacMillan, making a difference to those living with or have been affected by cancer.



Christmas Disco

Thank you to Kirsty and Marcus for all their hard work preparing and coordinating events during the Christmas disco. Well done to the Maritz family and to the Peddie family for winning the Christmas hampers at the raffle. £250 was raised during this event which will be used to benefit all children in future events. This event links to Article 31 Rest, Play, Culture and Arts.



Christmas Lunch



Thank you so much to Tanya and Gillian for such a fabulous Christmas lunch. We have a full turkey dinner with all the trimmings followed by profiteroles and a selection of fruit.



Christmas Presents

Thank you to Nikki for thoughtfully selecting and wrapping all our children's Christmas presents. Thank you to all staff for your contributions towards these. We hope our children love their special gift.



Christmas Party 2025



Thank you to the Parent Council for funding the Christmas Party prizes. Lots of enthusiastic dancers and participation in party games. Well done to all our winners. Thank you to the Cooperative for providing food, drinks and many treats. Thank you to Santa for visiting and giving us such lovely gifts. Thank you to Lorna for visiting us and helping Santa.



Christmas Nativity

What an amazing performance by all pupils. The church was filled with stars retelling and enacting the Christmas story. We were thankful for the Christmas miracle of locating the baby Jesus. Thank you to Dorothy for leading the service so beautifully. Thank you to our parents and wider community for attending the service. We raised £74.86 for CHAS, which provide hospice services for children and young people with threatening life conditions. This learning links to Article 29 Aims of education to develop personalities talents and abilities and Article 30 to promote freedom of thought and religion. This learning links to Nurture Principle 3 Nurture for the development of wellbeing.



All Christmas events above linked to Article 15 setting up and joining groups, Article 29 Aims of Education to develop personalities, talents and abilities and Article 31 Rest, Play, Culture and Arts. This learning links to Nurture Principle 3 The Importance of nurture for the development of wellbeing.

ELC Highlights



The children have been enjoying the Winter weather this term and explored ice in the environment on a nature walk and investigated frost colours to create ice paintings. The children read the book, 'Pick a Pinecone' and explored pine tree branches with their senses.



They used their talking and listening skills to describe its texture and smell. They explored creating textures in paint to recreate the pine needles from the illustrations in the book.



The children went on a pine tree hunt and discovered some wonderful puddles to jump in. They worked together using their fine motor skills to create a collaborative piece of Christmas art and decorated the ELC door.



A little French elf is visiting the ELC and he is teaching the children French greetings and numbers. The children have been reading, 'Stick Man', and created their own stick man using STEM skills to add arms and legs. The googly eyes were used to decorate not just Stick Man but the children too. Lots of learning has been



happening in the home area. The children have been holding tea parties and cooking lots of delicious treats for the adults.



The children have been busy using their writing skills to create images to tell a story. They created a



collaborative drawing of the crocodiles that live under the ELC and created an animal drawing by following instructions in a book. The children have been creating vertical art on the windows using chalk pens. They have drawn images of their friends and things they observed outside.



In Maths, the children have been learning to create and continue patterns. They have used their fine motor skills to create paper chains and thread beads. They also used their digital skills to explore patterns. They children have been identifying numbers on our environmental walks and keeping a record of them. They continue to explore counting numbers and have been playing matching games.



In Health and Wellbeing, we continue to focus on developing the children's understanding of the ELC values and children's rights. We have been learning about the importance of kindness and the children created images of how we can show kindness to others.

The children have really enjoyed attending Kalm Kids with Joni and enjoyed our last session this week.

The children continue to develop their gross motor skills outdoors and explore the wonder of nature.



The children have been using lights to create in the ELC. They have used the light projector to bring their structure to life and had the clever idea to add a light to the oven. They have been using their STEM skills to build towers and solve problems outdoors. The sand tray supports the children to explore mathematical language and explore capacity.



The children have participated in community events over the last few weeks, and this helps to build their confidence and their feeling of belonging in the wider school community. They created crafts for the Christmas coffee morning and enjoyed singing with the big school. They practised the songs for the Nativity and put on a great show as little stars at the Church.



We continue to celebrate wider achievements in the ELC and encourage parents to share news from home. Congratulations to all for this term's achievements –

Paige – Writing her Christmas cards for pupils and staff.

Blythe – Writing numbers 1 – 14.

Evie – Putting her jacket on when asked.

Alannah-Rose – Helping Mum bake cakes.

Quinn – Singing all the words to Twinkle, Twinkle.

Novah – showing an increasing level of independence.

ELC Learning Experiences link to Article 12 and 13 where children will have their voice heard and shared, Article 28 where they have the right to an education, Article 29 where they have the right to develop their personalities, talents and abilities and Article 31 where they have the right to play. This learning links to all Nurture Principles.

Thank you

A massive thank all children for their tireless enthusiasm and to staff, families and PC for their hard work and dedication who make a difference for our children every day.

We are already looking forward to events planned and yet to be planned for next term. 2025 has been a pleasure working with children, staff and families. We are already looking forward to what 2026 brings!

Important Dates

Tel: 01301 703 338 Email: enquiries-lochgoilhead@argyll-bute.gov.uk

Monday 5th January 2026- School and ELC re-open to staff and pupils

Tuesday 24th-Thursday 26th February 2026- ELC and School Review

Future dates from January -February 2026 will be shared by mid-January 2026.

Happy Christmas and News Year

A very Merry Christmas to you and your families and a very Happy News Year. We wish you good health, lots of love and happiness for 2026!

Kind regards,

Louise and Melissa