

Lochgoilhead Primary School

Lochgoilhead
Argyll
PA24 8AQ



Friday 6th February 2026

January to February 2026

Dear Parents/Carers,

What a great start to 2026! As always, your children work hard and try their best. They are a real credit to you. Thank you to all staff for all your hard work with engaging and motivating our learners to thrive.

Staffing

We are delighted that Melissa is Acting PT of both the ELC and Primary setting and that Christine is with us on Wednesdays to cover Melissa's management time.

We are also delighted that Garrick Collier is in the Wee Class on Mondays and now in the Big Class on Wednesdays and that Briony is working with individuals and small groups of children providing additional input for learning.

Afterschool Clubs

Children are welcome to attend drawing club on Mondays with Mrs Walsh from 3-4pm and Homework club on Thursday with Mrs Blair from 3.30pm.

If you have a particular skill or would like to run an afterschool club, please do speak with me. We can organise for PVG checks to be completed.

We will update you with any changes to afterschool clubs from February to April after the February break.

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 last Parent Council meeting was on Thursday 29th January 2025 via Zoom. We encourage all parents and carers to attend meetings 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.

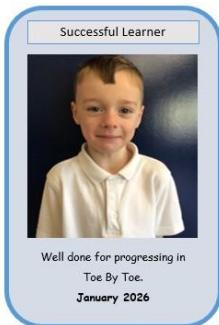
ELC Authorised contacts

Thank you to all parents 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.

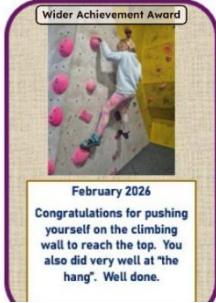
ELC Change of clothes

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.

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.



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.





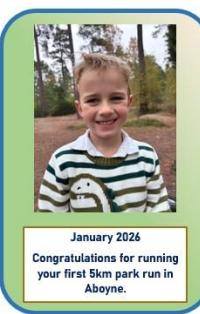
January 2026
Congratulations for independently and enthusiastically embracing cooking – baking from a new cookery book.



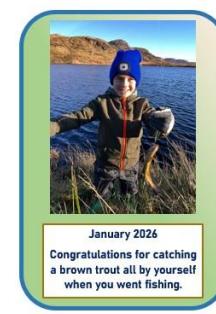
January 2026
Congratulations for writing seven chapters of your fantastic first book.



January 2026
Congratulations for baking a chocolate cake for your dad's birthday.



January 2026
Congratulations for running your first 5km park run in Aboyne.

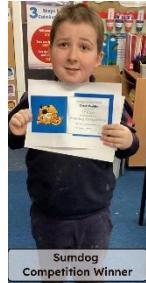


January 2026
Congratulations for catching a brown trout all by yourself when you went fishing.



February 2026
Congratulations for playing in a shiny tournament for the Dunoon team. You both played brilliantly and both scored. Very well done.

We are also delighted to share so many other academic achievements in school.



A very well-deserved congratulations to Tyler for winning 1st place in the whole of Argyll and Bute in the recent Sumdog competition.



Congratulations to Sophie for having read over two million words in our Accelerated Reader scheme. The joy Sophie gets from reading is clear and is inspirational to all around her. Finn's love of reading also shines through and is inspirational. He has now surpassed reading two million words.

Congratulations to Zoe for earning her Silver Certificate through her hard work and commitment to learning. We are very proud of Finn and Shelby for attaining their GOLD effort certificate. These are great achievements, showing continued commitment to learning and setting a great example for others.



Well done to Wee Class for sharing their winning best posters for our Safety around Electricity competition.



Congratulations to Zoe and Joshua for achieving 5 stickers during lunch time. These stickers can be earned for trying new foods, eating well and following instructions. This links to UNCRC Article 24 Children have the right to the best possible healthcare.



Well done to Mae and Sophie for winning the Rookie Rockstars poster design competition.



Thank you to Teodors for the confidence he is showing and commitment to teaching the class to finger spell in BSL, concentrating on vowels this week.

These capacities reflect and recognise the lifelong nature of education and learning. This learning links to UNCRC Article 29 Aims of education celebrating personalities, talents and abilities and Nurture Principle 3 The importance of nurture for the development of wellbeing.



Badminton with the Big Class

The Big Class have been excited to start playing Badminton during P.E. this term. With many of the pupils choosing to also play badminton during morning and lunch break as well. We look forward to the championships in Lochgilphead in March. More information to follow. This learning links to UNCRC Article 29 Aims of education celebrating personalities, talents and abilities and Nurture Principle 3 The importance of nurture for the development of wellbeing.



Rookie Rockstars

We were delighted to welcome Lisa from Rookie Rockstars back with us once again. Lisa taught us many anti bullying songs with the key message we must remember now and in the future.

We enjoyed the bottle flip competition, lip sync competition and crazy time. We were very proud of our children throughout the week and especially at the concert in Strachur where they performed the rock songs live with Strachur Primary. This learning links to UNCRC Article 29 Aims of education celebrating personalities, talents and abilities and UNCRC Article 13 Children have the right to share their views as well as Nurture Principle 3 The importance of nurture for the development of wellbeing, Nurture Principle 4 Language is communication and Nurture Principle 5 All behaviour is communication.



STEM in the Big Class

The Big Class had an exciting day working in teams to design, build and test three different gliders using a variety of materials and lots of ideas and creativity. As young engineers, they gained an understanding of the forces that help gliders fly. They also discovered how engineers solve problems and improve their ideas by evaluating and reflecting on their designs. They had lots of fun exploring the science of flight. This learning links to UNCRC Article 29 Aims of education celebrating personalities, talents and abilities and Nurture Principle 3 The importance of nurture for the development of wellbeing.



Pneumatics with the Primary Science Trust

The Wee Class learned about the Scottish inventor of the pneumatic wheel John Dunlop. They carried out experiments to test which materials in various balls bounced further in differing conditions. This learning links to UNCRC Article 29 Aims of education celebrating personalities, talents and abilities and Nurture Principle 3 The importance of nurture for the development of wellbeing.





STEM Gift

Thank you to Paul Malcolm, who very kindly visited the Big Class on Friday to deliver a prize they had won from the STEM projects that the pupils were involved in last term. The class will have great fun using the new tools.



Big Class Topic learning We are working in small teams to create a 3D slice of a map of Lochgoilhead. We will then bring these together to form a completed 3D model of the area. We will be using a drone and our local knowledge to support our learning. We have had to consider the most appropriate materials for the design, the scale and detail that needs to be included as well as deepening our team working skills. This learning links to UNCRC Article 29 Aims of education celebrating personalities, talents and abilities and UNCRC Article 24 Access to an education as well as Nurture Principle 3 The importance of nurture for the development of wellbeing and Nurture Principle 2 The Classroom offers a safe base.



Pupil Voice Groups



Our pupils come together each week to talk with their teachers and each other as a Pupil Council, Eco Committee and Rights Respecting Schools group. During these sessions the children discuss their ideas that lead to actioned activities and changes that are of significant benefit to the school, locally and globally. This ensures that our pupils voices are heard through all that is done and each pupil has the confidence and space to share their thoughts, knowing that their views will be respected, listened to and heard. This learning links to UNCRC Article 29 Aims of education celebrating personalities, talents and abilities and UNCRC Article 12 and 13 Children have the right to share their views and for this be heard as well as Nurture Principle 2 The Classroom offers a safe base.



Nurture Principles

As you know, we were proud to be accredited with GOLD Our Children Their Nurturing Education (OCTNE) in December 2025. We are now working toward Platinum accreditation for 2026--2027.

We continue to work hard understanding and sharing children and staff view of Nurture principles and how this is demonstrated in our school. Thank you to Catherine, for creating this display and sharing real life example through photo and creating word clouds to share our thoughts. This learning links to all Nurture Principles as well as UNCRC Article 12 and 13 Children have the right to share their views and for this to be heard as well as Article 27 Access to an education.



Heartstart

Thank you to Catherine, who displayed the Heartstart learning from the Big Class so beautifully in the hall. Important life skills that may help save someone's life one day.



This learning links to UNCRC Article 29 Aims of education celebrating personalities, talents and abilities and Nurture Principle 3 The importance of nurture for the development of wellbeing and Nurture Principle 2 The classroom offers a safe base.

Forest School



We were lucky with the weather for our Forest School afternoon. This session the children worked in teams to create and label a tree using any of the natural resources surrounding them.



This learning links to UNCRC Article 29 Aims of education celebrating personalities, talents and abilities and UNCRC Article 27 Access to education as well as Nurture Principle 3 The importance of nurture for the development of wellbeing.



PEF (2025-2025- £4320)- We have utilised PEF to provide intervention support for targeted learners in both classes to provide additional smaller group or individual ASN support. Mrs Mair is enjoying working with individuals and smaller groups from both classes.

Scottish Celebration 2026



What a special occasion this was for friends and families of our community. We were delighted that so many of you could join us. Congrats to all pupils for their Scottish poetry recitals and Scottish Art entries. As always, these were hard competitions to judge. A special thank you to our Scottish poetry winners, Albie and Kayleigh. A special thank you to our Scottish Art winners- Alannah-Rose, Crawford and Alex.



Thank you to Dean our Piper. Thank you to Nikki for creating and laminating all certificates and for helping to set up in the hall. Thank you for Catherine and Kylie for presenting all work. Thank you to teaching staff, support staff and families for practising poems and songs at home. Thank you to Ian for organising the hall for our event. Thank you to staff and families who helped to

clear away everything at the end of the celebration.



What joyous memories celebrating all things Scottish! So much to be truly proud of-seeing our children perform and share their musical and artistic talents.



This learning links to UNCRC Article 7 I have the right to belong to a country and UNCRC Article 29 Aims of education celebrating personalities, talents and abilities and Nurture Principle 3 The importance of nurture for the development of wellbeing.

GRAB Trust- Fashion Green (Big Class) and Reduce your waste workshops (Wee Class)



Many thanks to Jacqui from the Grab Trust who delivered a very informative and thought-provoking session today in the Wee Class on all the marine creatures we have in our waters (the Clyde specifically) and the impact that plastics have on our marine environment and those animals who live there.

Thank you also to Jacqui Willis from the GRAB Trust for visiting the Big Class today for a very interesting and thought-provoking session on clothing and the fashion

industry. The children investigated where their clothes were made, the materials used and explored the journey their clothes may have made and the impact this has had on the environment. Lots of ideas were also generated of how we can Reduce, Reuse and Recycle. This learning links to UNCRC Health, Water Food and the environment and Nurture Principle 3 The Importance of Nurture for the development of wellbeing.



ELC Highlights



This term, the children have been learning about Scotland. They are showing so much interest in the beautiful country we live in. The children read the story Maggie's Monsters and learned about Scottish Wildlife and created their own binoculars to spot them.



They created beautiful black line drawings of their favourite animal, and this sparked an interest in Scottish birds. The children used their maths skills to create tally charts of the birds they could see out of the ELC window and on community walks.



The children continued their Scottish adventures by reading, 'Maggie's Magical Islands'. The children explored the map of Scotland and marked where they live. They went for a community walk around the village to take pictures of what they see and used this to create their own maps. They discovered lots of flags on the back of the atlas book and used this as inspiration to create their own flags. This book contains an image of the magical Northern lights, and the children explored images of the lights that were visible from Lochgoilhead in January. They used their mark making skills to create their own northern lights to decorate the ELC.



The children used their measuring skills to learn how to decorate cakes and used those skills at stay and play to teach their parents how much icing, water and sprinkles to use.



The ELC have been learning Scottish songs and creating Scottish Art to take part in the Community Scottish celebration. Well done everyone.



The children have been learning about colour mixing. They painted their hands 2 different colours and mixed them together to discover what colours they can create. The children then wanted to create rainbow rice for the sensory tray. This learning links to UNCRC Article 31 the right to play, UNCRC Article 27 Access to an education and UNCRC Article 29 Aims of education celebrating personalities, talents and abilities and links to Nurture Principle 3 The importance of Nurture for the development of wellbeing.

Wider Whole School and ELC Achievements

Going for GOLD Our Children Their Nurturing Education (OCTNE)

We have started working towards our Platinum Action Plan for OCTNE, due to be verified by the Nurture Team 2026-2027. Thank you to the Rights and Nurture Group for leading this.

Rights Respecting Schools (RRS)- Sustaining GOLD

We continue to work towards our RRS Sustaining GOLD accreditation due to be verified by RRS Scotland in May 2027. Thank you to the Rights and Nurture Group for leading this.

STEM Nations Award

We are currently working towards accreditation for STEM Nations Award elements- STEM curriculum and learner pathways as well as Employability and STEM partnership working. Thank you to Mrs Walsh, for leading this along with children from both classes.

ECO Schools Award

We are working toward our sixth Green Flag. Thank you to Mrs McCorquodale for leading this along with children from both classes.

GRAB Trust Award

We continue to work towards the GRAB Trust award which enhances our learning for sustainability.

Play is Curriculum

Children in the Wee Class have been working hard integrating play as part of their learning. Thank you to Mrs Mair for leading play with this class.

Inclusion and Communication

Thank you to Melissa for leading Inclusion and communication across the school, which continues to promote inclusion further within our settings.

Council Review

We have a Council Review for both ELC and School where Education managers will be in school from Tuesday 24th February to Thursday 26th February 2026.

We have already shared Review questionnaires, please complete these, as your feedback is used to make improvements.

We look forward to welcoming this team for both ELC and Primary, where we will celebrate successes and continue to make improvement based on collated evidence and feedback.

We would like to ask a some of our parents to be part of a focus group where the team would like to have your input. I will be in touch who would like to be part of this team. Your support is greatly appreciated.

Important Dates

Friday 6th February School closes for the February break

Monday 16th February 2026 Staff In Service Day- School and ELC closed to pupils

Tuesday 17th February 2026 School and ELC open to pupils

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

More dates will be shared earlier after the February break.

Have a great February break spending quality time with friends and families. We look forward to seeing you on Tuesday 17th February 2026.

Kind regards,
Louise and Melissa