

# Lochgoilhead Primary School

Lochgoilhead  
Argyll  
PA24 8AQ



Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2026

## February-March 2026

Dear Parents/Carers,

It has been another busy fun filled term. We are, as always proud of everyone for working and trying their best. Thank you to all staff for all their hard work with engaging and motivating our learners to thrive. Thank you to all families for their ongoing support which is always appreciated.

### Staffing

We would like to sincerely thank Briony for leading learning as PEF Teacher proving vital intervention support for our children.

We are delighted to share that Melissa has been appointed as our permanent Principal Teacher. Her passion for teaching, her reflective practice, and her natural leadership will continue to strengthen and inspire our whole school community.

We are sorry to share that Garrick, who has been ASN assistant in the Primary since August 2026, will be leaving Lochgoilhead on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2026 as he has secured ASN hours closer to home. We would like to thank Garrick for his care and support as well as the joy he brings through his warm, cheerful disposition making it easy for children and staff to build strong and trusting connections with him. We wish him every success and happiness in his new ASN Assistant role.

We will advertising temporary CA and ASN hours through MJS over the next couple of weeks. More details will be shared when we know these.

### Afterschool Clubs

We will provide an update of afterschool clubs early into next term.

### 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 on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2026 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

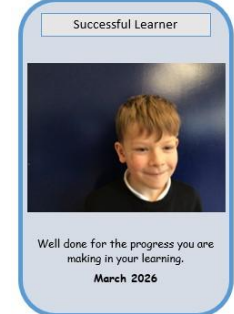
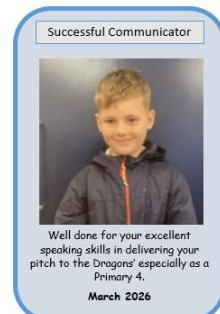
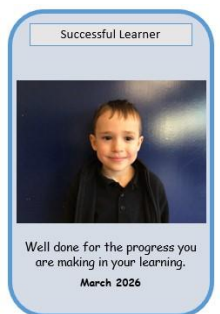
Thank you to all parents for updating their contact details of those who are authorised to collect your child. If this information changes, it is your responsibility to inform the ELC. It is only those who you have shared on this form that will be allowed to collect your child.

## ELC Change of clothes

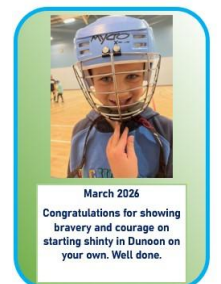
Please ensure that they have a spare change of clothes and extra socks daily. Please ensure that they have indoor shoes or trainers. They should have warm wellies for accessing the outdoors.



**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 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.



## **GOLD certificates**

Congratulations to Kayleigh and Christiaan for achieving their gold certificates. These have been achieved through their dedication to learning, the kindness and support they show to others and the excellent behaviour they show daily.



## **The Great Food Challenge**

Well done to Joshua, Zoe, Shelby, Sophie and Alex for achieving their Bronze Certificate in the Great Food Challenge. They have achieved this by trying new foods during lunch, through excellent behaviour as well as lovely manners.

Tanya very kindly also presents a gift to the children when they have achieved their targets.



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**

We had a fantastic afternoon at Drimsynie Estate for Badminton practise. The children showed great skill, fantastic teamwork and were a credit to themselves and the school. Unfortunately, the tournament was cancelled. We are looking to arrange a competition with another school next term.



## **Benmore Weekend**

Kayleigh and Christiaan enjoyed a fantastic weekend with the local cluster schools as part of their ongoing DGS transition. This was a great opportunity to get to know other P7s and DGS staff whilst engaging in a spirit of adventure.

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.



### Parents supporting learning in the class

Thank you to Dave MacLeod for visiting the Big Class to discuss our environment in Lochgoilhead and the history of the Scout Centre. It was amazing to hear how the Scout Centre developed and the response of visitors to seeing the beautiful landscape we live in.



### Shrove Tuesday

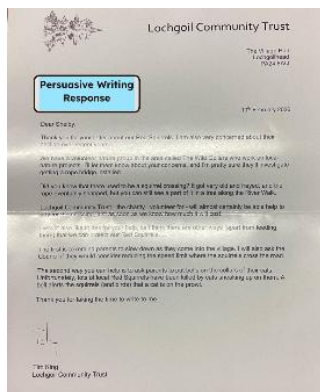
The class used their numeracy skills to calculate the correct weight of the ingredients they needed to make pancakes for Shrove Tuesday to signify the start of Lent. They then enjoyed eating their pancakes



with a choice of toppings.

### Exp visit Lochgoilhead- The Story of Joseph continues.

Grace and her Exp team shared the next part of the story of Joseph which was a testament to God's faithfulness and the fulfilment of his promises. This story reminds us of faith we should have in God's promises and the hope of future redemption. We would like to thank Exp for bringing important Bible stories alive sharing their enactment of the story with us giving children the opportunity to be an active part of this enactment.



### Big Class Writing

The Big Class have been focusing on the skills of persuasive writing this term. Developing a clear point of view and supporting it with compelling evidence. Within this writing they have included alliteration, repetition, rhetorical questions as well as facts and their opinions. Each pupil then wrote a persuasive letter on a topic of their choice. Shelby chose to request a squirrel crossing in the village and sent her letter to the Lochgoil Community Trust who she received a reply from today. Well done to Shelby for writing such a strong persuasive letter and thank you to the Lochgoil Community Trust for

their reply. 🐿️ 🐿️ Thank you also to Isla for reading out the letter to the class. 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.

## Robopreneurs



The Big Class have been considering the similarities and differences between being a business owner and an entrepreneur. They have investigated a variety of problems and worked collaboratively to create effective solutions. They will continue to develop their ideas further into real life solutions.

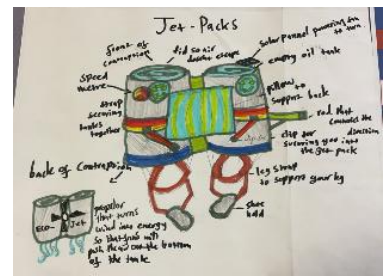
They investigated a range of products and considered how much they cost. They collaborated on several discussions on cost, value, profit and expenses. They focused on their own product and how much it would cost to make.



Thank you to Mrs McCorquodale, Catherine and the Big Class for sharing their designs which created practical solutions to real world problems. They created fantastic prototypes and shared their amazing presentations for the products they had developed.

developed.

Congratulations to the Eco-Jet team for reaching the final of the Robopreneurs Dragons Den competition. They gave a fabulous presentation and were excellent at answering questions from the Dragons. They should be very proud of their achievement.



### Below is the feedback received from the Dragons:

#### Mia:

You identified a big real-world problem and came up with a creative solar-powered Jetpack idea.

Constructive feedback: You have a fun and creative idea! But what might help in a business challenge like this is to understand the feasibility of translating creative ideas into real life products is it realistic?

Be proud of: You were confident, enthusiastic, had a prototype to show and you worked well as a team.

#### Richard:

A strong, environmentally conscious idea that clearly identifies both a problem and a market need. The team pitched confidently, demonstrating excellent teamwork and communication. It was particularly impressive to see additional safety considerations built into the concept. The idea is highly inventive, though it may require further research and development before becoming a fully tested product. There was also very thoughtful consideration given to costing and how the business would generate profit.



## Literacy Week

We enjoyed Literacy week with the opportunity to read in a variety of places and sharing some of our favourite stories with each other. We enjoyed a live lesson this morning, focusing on our favourite book genres, how we feel when we read books and where our favourite place to read is.

We enjoyed a variety of activities to celebrate World Book Day. From dressing as a character from a book to a book hunt, book quiz and a book swap at the end of the day. Well done everyone for your amazing costumes and all the enthusiasm you showed throughout the day.



World Book Day Best Costume



Congratulations to Si for the best World Book Day costume.



Congratulations to Alex for being in the most unusual place reading whilst sitting on her horse.



Congratulations to Christian for winning the Book Quiz.



World Book Day Book Quiz Winner



World Book Day Reading In Unusual Places



World Book Day Book Hunt Winner

## Art Fridays

The class enjoyed an online art session, focusing on colour combinations, which inspired the children to create their own colourful pictures using tissue paper and glue.



## World Maths Day

We enjoyed a wide range of activities to choose from during World Maths Day. This included writing maths poems, creating pictures and reading stories that included numbers and maths concepts. World Maths Day is an international celebration of mathematics. It is celebrated every year to make mathematics exciting and engaging for all school-aged children all over the world. This year's theme is United By Numbers - celebrating the belief that everyone can learn and excel at mathematics when given the right support. World Maths Day is where learners of every level discover what they're truly capable of.



### Working with shapes and tessellation

The Wee Class have been learning about shapes and making tessellations. They have been learning about fractions. They shared some fantastic creativity and cracking ideas from the Wee Class during STEM lesson. Great focus on the design process and very individual inventions.



### Science outdoors



The Big Class took advantage of the nicer weather today and went to the arboretum for a science experiment. The class worked in groups to investigate the speed of a range of objects of their choice down a hill or ramp. They needed to consider the force used, the variables involved and how to measure the results fairly and accurately.



### Flying Drones

Mrs McCorquodale has recently obtained her drone license and has been showing the class how to fly our school drone, which has been so much fun. We also had an online Science Talk about how drones are being used in a



variety of beneficial ways. We have recently been creating a 3D map of Lochgoilhead and hope to utilise the drone to help us.



### GRAB Trust

Thank you to Jacqui of the GRAB Trust for leading a whole school beach clean. We managed to collect over 10kg of rubbish. The Big Class were then involved in a microplastic workshop which they found very informative and interesting.



### Bird Nest Challenge

The Big Class rose to the challenge of creating a bird nest using only tweezers (their beaks) to show the challenge birds face in building their homes. The class considered the different materials that are used and how the nests are held together, even though our windy and rainy weather. They also had to think about where the best place for the nest was to be situated and how to protect the birds inside.

### Planting in the polytunnel



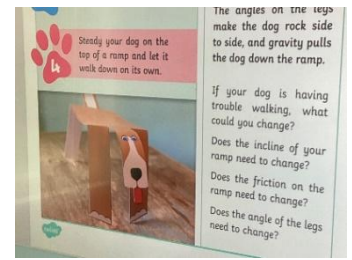
Thank you to everyone involved in recovering and tidying the poly tunnel. The Big Class worked in small groups to follow instructions on how to plant a selection of vegetables and will continue to water and care for them during



the next few months. We should hopefully have a wonderful harvest of radishes, lettuce, peas, carrots, tomatoes, and potatoes.

## STEM

The Big Class worked independently to create a paper dog that could walk down a ramp. To solve this challenge, they needed to consider the type of ramp they used, (thinking about friction) the angle of the ramp and to think about the angle of the dog's legs to allow it to move down the ramp. The class showed great problem-solving skills. 🐕 🐕



## Deaf Awareness Week

Thank you to Teodors for teaching the Big Class BSL numbers 1 to 20. Teodors planned and organised the resources and for teaching the lesson, including a number bingo game which Finn and Alex won. Sign Language Week is celebrated to raise awareness of the barriers faced by Deaf people in everyday life, whether that's at school or work. By championing BSL and encouraging people to learn about the richness of Deaf culture, the awareness week challenges misconceptions and promotes inclusion.

## Forest Schools



We were practising fire lighting today with cotton wool and fire starters. The children showed great resilience and teamwork, they were also active in assessing the risks and keeping themselves and those around them safe. The children enjoyed a hot chocolate before they worked in teams to create a series of dens that were then used in some woodland games. They created stick men using natural materials.



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.

## Show Racism the Red Card

As a school we have been involved in several activities to teach children to show respect towards themselves and others. This has included 'Show Racism The Red Card', to empower people to challenge racist attitudes and champion anti racism by raising awareness about the importance of role models in communities, workplaces and sport and physical activity organisations.



## COMIC Relief

The children enjoyed the sunshine while participating in the silent, messy art session to raise money for Comic Relief. It was so lovely seeing everyone enjoying being creative. Thank you to everyone that bought a raffle ticket to help raise funds for Comic Relief.



## World Down Syndrome

For World Down Syndrome Day the children either danced, walked or ran for 21 minutes, aiming to spread awareness and celebrate the abilities of individuals with Down syndrome. The 21 minutes is to symbolise the presence of an extra copy of Chromosome 21 which causes Down Syndrome.



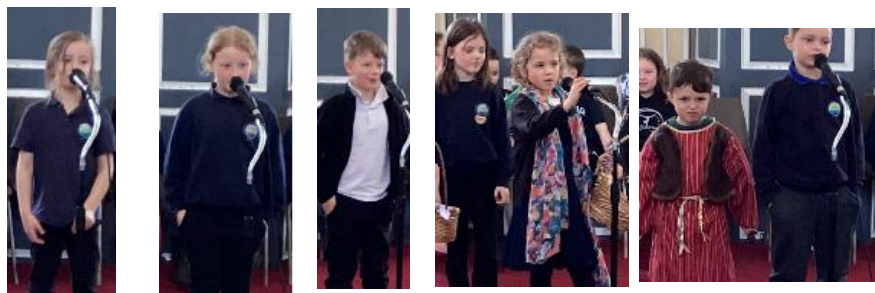
Many thanks to everyone who baked and donated cakes for the school Bake Sale raising money for World Down Syndrome Day. Thank you also to Kayleigh and Christiaan for all their hard work and excellent customer service in selling the cakes. We are pleased to share that we raised £58.76 for World Down Syndrome.



Our beautiful display raises awareness, promotes acceptance and celebrates the strengths of autistic individuals and people with Down Syndrome.

## Easter Service 2026

Thank you to Rev. Dorothy Wallace and the Wee Class for a wonderful Easter Service. We were very proud of them all. We enjoyed the beautiful singing celebrating the hope and joy of Easter. Wishing you all a happy and joyful Easter break.



## ELC Highlights



We have had another busy and exciting term in the ELC. With lots of opportunities for the children to explore, investigate and learn through meaning full experiences. At the start of term, we learned about Chinese New Year and explored chopsticks and Chinese writing.



The children have been exploring seasonal changes, including investigating ice on a cold day. They showed great curiosity as they touched and described and talked about how the ice felt. The children love exploring outdoors and we learned about how plants grow by planting our own seeds.



Through our work with the grab trust, the children have been learning about caring for our environment and looking after our friends in the sea. The children took park in the beach clean, showing great enthusiasm and responsibility, and later used the materials they collected to create imaginative "beach monsters", encouraging creativity. The children celebrated their love of reading on World Book Day and shared stories with each other and the big school.



Mysterious footprints appeared around the ELC sparking curiosity and excitement as the children worked together to investigate where they had come from and searched in the arboretum for clues. They searched for and counted the footprints they found, then recorded their footprints on graphs.



In role play the children have been enjoying looking after babies, showing kindness and care, as they feed, dress and comfort them, helping to develop their nurturing skills.

The children continue to develop their STEM skills and used their imaginations to create with boxes. We have a new fridge and washing machine in the home area.



The children learned how to make play dough and have been exploring using lights.

It's had been wonderful to see the children so engaged, building confidence, showing creativity and developing a sense of responsibility through all these experiences both inside and outside. Childsmile visited the ELC and were very impressed with how well the children brush their teeth.

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.

### **Important Dates**

Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April 2026 School and ELC reopens to children, staff and families

Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2026 Internet Safety and Safe Gaming (Rachael Wells, Police Scotland)  
10.45am-12.30pm

### **Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2026 Parent Council meeting (ZOOM) -Parents welcome to attend**

We will share an overview of dates for the final term late April 2026. Have a great Easter break spending quality time with friends and families. We look forward to seeing you on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April 2026.

Kind regards,

Louise and Melissa