

Park Primary School

October Bulletin

In response to your request for improved communication, we are delighted to inform you that we will be sending out monthly bulletins around the first of every month, as well as termly learning newsletters. We want to express our sincere gratitude for your ongoing support and trust in us to provide the best learning experience for your child/children. It's an exciting time at Park Primary School, and we have a lot of important updates, news, and events to share with you.

Assemblies

Every Friday, our school hosts assemblies with important aims. We use these assemblies to share important messages and expectations with the entire school community. They are also a chance for community members, like the fire service, to share valuable information. Additionally, classes get to show what they've been learning. We also celebrate pupils' achievements outside of school in our High5 book. If your child achieves something outside of school, please encourage them write it in the High5 book so we can celebrate together.

Pupil Voice

Clan Leaders

We are delighted to announce that Clan elections have been conducted, and the following pupils have been chosen by both our staff and fellow pupils to play a key role in moving forward our school:

Iona – Captains - Abi & Finn, Vice Captains – Addison & Caley

Kerrera – Captains – Charles & Lucy – Vice Captains Iona & Charlotte

Lismore – Captains - Blythe & Harrison Vice Captains Calum J & Lois

Pupil Council

We are pleased to share the latest news about our Park Pupil Council, an essential part of our school community. Our Council members for the 2023-2024 session are Ruby R P7, Gracie M P6, Zoe M P5, Callum B P7, Avah M P7, Amy I P7, Ally M P7, Charlotte M P7 Jamie R P4 and Chloe S P4.

The Council's main aim is to give our pupils a platform to influence how our school is run and promote positive changes. The Council will work to develop an action plan that it will share in the next parent bulletin.

Sports Committee

The Sports Committee, with Mrs. Gunn's support, is persistently working towards attaining the SportsScotland Gold award. As part of their efforts, they have implemented the 'PE Participant of the Week' initiative. If your child receives this certificate, it signifies that our PE teacher has recognised them for displaying excellent sportsmanship, attentive behaviour, and a commitment to learning during PE sessions.

Mobile Phones/Watches

As a result of the growing usage, we find it necessary to provide clarity regarding our school's stance on mobile phones and smartwatches. The SLT will work to develop an updated policy regarding the use of mobile phones and smartwatches by pupils. If you have any comments or thoughts on this matter, please don't hesitate to share them with us via our enquiries email -

Attendance

We would like to express our gratitude to all our Park parents for helping us achieve a 94% attendance rate. Our target is to reach a 95% attendance rate by the end of the 2023-2024 session. To aid in this effort, we will be sending attendance information letters to all pupils with attendance below 95% every term. We want to assure you that we understand that there may be reasons, such as illness, family events, or authorised absences due to exceptional circumstances, for attendance being below 95%. Therefore, please rest assured that the information we send is for your awareness. However, we would encourage you to contact us if you have any concerns about your child's attendance. By doing so, we can work together to implement support strategies and provide wellbeing assistance.

Nut Free School

We want to take a moment to explain why our school is a nut-free environment and why this policy is important for the safety and wellbeing of all our pupils.

The primary reason for maintaining a nut-free school is to ensure the safety of pupils with severe nut allergies. Nut allergies can be life-threatening, and even trace amounts of nuts or nut products can trigger severe allergic reactions in some individuals. By maintaining a nut-free policy, we can create a safe and inclusive environment where all pupils can attend school without the fear of exposure to allergens that could jeopardise their health. By eliminating nuts and nut products from our school premises, we reduce the risk of accidental exposure and create a more supportive and protective environment for all pupils. We appreciate your cooperation in adhering to our nut-free guidelines. We take the health and safety of every pupil seriously, and your support in maintaining a nut-free school is vital in achieving this aim.

Staffing Update

It is with a heavy heart that we announce the departure of our dedicated and long-standing janitor Ronnie Guthrie, who is taking on a new role within the Council. Ronnie is loved by both pupils and staff, and his absence will be deeply felt. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to him for his unwavering dedication, commitment, and invaluable contributions to the wellbeing of Park children over his 15 years of service. Ronnie's infectious sense of fun and his role as a cherished friend to many will leave a lasting mark on our school community. We are sure that you all join us in expressing how much we will all miss Ronnie, and wholeheartedly wish him the very best in his new role.

We will welcome two PGDE students next term. Rebekah Bryan will join P4, while Holly Haig will join P3/2.

Nicola Lane and Lyndsey Buchanan will return November/December and Ashleigh Kerr will return to the ELC in February.

Tuesday 31st School Halloween Celebrations

Pupils are welcome to come to school dressed up for our Halloween parade. We kindly request that no props be brought to school, but feel free to bring props to the Halloween Disco.

Parent Council

The Parent Council hope all the Primary ones settled in and enjoyed their first term at school.

Thank you for everyone who donated their old Halloween costumes to allow other children to have the pleasure of wearing them this year.

Happy October Holidays!!

Parent Council Halloween Disco Poster



Winter Clothing

We understand the importance of outdoor play and fresh air during colder seasons, and we want to ensure that all our pupils can enjoy these activities safely.

Children are encouraged to arrive at school each day equipped with a waterproof jacket and waterproof shoes. Additionally, they should bring a hat, scarf, and gloves if necessary.

Thank you for your cooperation in keeping our pupils warm and well-prepared for the cold and wet months ahead.

After School Clubs

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
P2 Football 3.15 – 4.15	P4/7 Shinty 3.15 – 4.15	Girls Football 3.15 – 4.15 P1/3 Shinty 5 – 5.45		

If you have a passion, skill, or interest that you'd like to share, please consider running an after school club. Possible ideas include:

- Art and Craft Club
- Coding Club
- Chess Club
- Music and Choir
- Book Club
- Drama/Dance Club

If any of these options interest you or if you have other club ideas in mind, please get in touch.

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School Priorities Update

Priority 1 - Review and refresh the vision, values, and aims of Park Primary, ensuring alignment with a culture of high expectations and a commitment to the UNCRC principles.

We have begun consultations with pupils, gathering their insights into school vision, values and aims, and they have responded to the following questions:

- What are the most important things about our school?
- How should we treat each other?
- What should our school stand for?
- How does/can our school help us become Successful Learning?
- How does/can our school help us become Confident Individuals?

We have also begun the consultation with parents/wider community through a questionnaire to gather their perspectives on the school's vision, values and aims.

Priority 2 - Review the procedures for identifying, supporting and tracking interventions for children who require additional support with learning.

Update to follow

Priority 3 - Promote excellence and equity in education by developing clear strategies, refining the curriculum, and ensuring progression pathways for all learners, with a focus on enhancing teacher planning to support effective implementation

Update to follow

Priority 4 - Raise writing attainment by enhancing teachers' proficiency in writing pedagogy

Update to follow

Priority 5 - Improve attainment in Early Level through critical inquiry-driven development of play pedagogy.

Update to follow

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Theatre in Schools Scotland

Fee Shaw has arranged a visit from Theatre in Schools Scotland, featuring a selection of shows and suggested stages. We will discuss and confirm which classes will attend each show. There will be both morning and afternoon performances for each show.

The Last Forecast - Thursday 26 October

THE LAST FORECAST (Bridie Gane/Catherine Wheels) is a dance theatre production for younger audiences about Gail, a gecko-like creature who lives alone on an island. When a stranger arrives to set up home the forecast is for rising water levels, and soon there won't be space for either of them.

Cloud Man – Tuesday 7th November

CLOUD MAN (Constellation Points/Scottish Theatre Producers) is a cleverly staged show with puppets, storytelling and lots of clouds. The show encourages a school audience to notice the beauty and wonder found in everyday life.

Going for Gold - Tuesday 6th February

GOING FOR GOLD: ME AND LINFORD CHRISTIE (Victoria Beesley/Catherine Wheels) is a show about one girl's journey to Olympic success. Inspired by Victoria Beesley's childhood obsession with athletics this is a story about loving failure and dreaming big.

October				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
23 P4 & P3/2 STUDENT PLACEMENTS BEGIN	24 National Theatre - The Last Forecast	25 P5-7 Girls Football	26 P6/5 OHS Sports Leaders Theatre in Scotland - The Last Forecast	27 Whole School - Fire Service - Bonfire Safety
30 Swimming for P6	31 Dress Up for Halloween (optional)			

November				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
		1 P5-7 Girls Football	2 P6/5 OHS Sports Leaders (Pitch) Halloween Discos	3
6 Pupil Flu Vaccinations Swimming for P6	7	8 P5-7 Girls Football	9 School Photographs	10
13 Swimming for P6 Deirdre Grogan – Play Pedagogy Enquiry	14	15 P5-7 Girls Football	16	17
20	21	22 P5-7 Girls Football	23	24
27 In-Service	28	29 P5-7 Trip to Glasgow Science Centre P5-7 Girls Football	30	