

# Park Primary School

## February 2024 Bulletin

We anticipate sharing lots of news and photographs through our end-of-term SWAY next month. In the meantime, we hope you enjoy our monthly bulletin:

### Class News

#### MathsFest

Six of our P7 pupils showcased their mathematical skills at this year's MathsFest at OHS. This annual transition event not only allowed them to engage in friendly competition but also provided an opportunity to collaborate with S1 pupils. The S1 pupils offered valuable guidance and support to our P7s during the competition, and their familiar faces will be a source of reassurance as our P7s navigate the transition to secondary school. The event also gave our P7s the opportunity to interact with other P7 pupils, fostering the building of new connections and friendships before entering secondary school.

#### Fire Service Winter Water Safety Assembly

A big thank to Oban Fire Service for their engaging and enjoyable presentation, aimed at raising awareness of Winter Water Safety. Ruairidh delivered an excellent session, reinforcing important safety measures around water during the winter. The boys and girls particularly enjoyed the Clan 'Who can get on a fire kit the quickest' race! Congratulations to Jenni Pyper for winning this race for Kerrera.

#### World of Work Fair

Primaries 2, 3 and 4 recently attended a fantastic World of Work Fair organised by their teachers to support the children's learning with regard to the world of work.

The children got the opportunity to meet and interview people who work in our local area. The children enjoyed finding out about all the different professions and the skills that were required to carry out the various types of work.

A huge thank you to all the mums, dads and different local organisations that attended. These included Glensanda Quarry, RNLI, a diving company, SAMS, Scottish Sea Farms, Atlantis Leisure, the NHS, Piazza and Police Scotland.

#### Theatre in Schools Scotland

Our P6 and P7 thoroughly enjoyed our final performance from Theatre in Schools Scotland, GOING FOR GOLD: ME AND LINFORD CHRISTIE, arranged by one of our Parent Council members, Fee Shaw.

We look forward to sharing photographs from all three performances presented by Theatre in Schools Scotland with all classes in our March SWAY.

## **Dance Show**

P4-7 had a thoroughly enjoyable experience at the Oban High School Dance Show held at the Corran Halls. A heartfelt thank you to all our Parent Helpers who played a crucial role in making it possible for us to attend this show.

## **Class Learning Assemblies**

The entire school had a wonderful experience during P4's Chinese New Year Assembly led by Mrs Danks. The boys and girls enjoyed an engaging presentation that concluded with a beautifully sung song. A special thank you to Primary 4 pupils and Mrs. Danks for helping to grow our understanding of Chinese traditions in such a wonderful and engaging manner.

## **Inter-School Athletics**

Mrs. Gunn and her Athletics athletes had a fantastic day at Atlantis Leisure Centre for the Inter-school Athletics heats. We are immensely proud of each of our competitors; they displayed great effort and demonstrated amazing sportsmanship towards each other and teams from other schools. Thank you to all our Parent Helpers who supported us to attend this event.

We look forward to letting you know how our qualifying teams get on in the finals in March.

## **Stay and Play**

We are delighted to be able to offer more stay and play sessions this term and next term for P1 and P2/1. Please look out for Miss MacKinnon's newsletter.

## **ELC**

Exciting news! ELC will be resuming their visits to North Argyll House – details to follow

Just like sunflowers, every child grows and blooms uniquely. Our ELC boys and girls will be planting their own sunflowers on March 1st, eagerly watching them grow and celebrating the journey of their sunflowers on World Down Syndrome Day, March 21st.

The whole school will be joining the ELC in supporting World Down Syndrome Day by wearing odd socks to school.

## **Thank You!**

We would like to extend a special thank you to Fee Shaw and her family for dedicating their time to tidy up our outdoor area during the February break. The effort has much improved our outdoor space, much to the delight of our boys and girls upon their return.

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Huge thank you to Witchwood House and Ainsley Smith and Co who have both very generously sponsored the Girls Football Club with training top and jackets! This support is hugely appreciated and the girls are all delighted with their new kit.

## Textile Recycling

Don't forget to use the outdoor metal Rag Bag bank for recycling the following items:

Wearable Clothing

Paired Shoes

Handbags

Belts

The school earns up to £300 for every tonne collected!

Thank you from the

Eco Committee



## Our Children, Their Future

Argyll and Bute Council want to gather your views about what education in Argyll and Bute means to you. These views will help us refresh our Vision and Strategy so that we can build on our achievements and move forward to continue to ensure the best possible outcomes for all our children and young people. Please take a short time to complete the short Survey below to ensure the voices and views of as many stakeholders are captured.

[Education Vision and Strategy consultation - tell us your views](#)

## Pupil Voice

### Clan Leaders

The Clan leaders have been working with Mrs. Blainey to brainstorm and create whole-school 'Four Capacities Challenges'. More details to follow!

What are the four capacities?

The Curriculum for Excellence is a way of looking at the curriculum that builds on best existing practices in Scottish education.

It is a continuing process to encourage more learning through experiences to best ensure that children and young people are prepared for the complex world they will be living in when they leave school.

Children and young people are at the centre of learning provision. Our aspiration is that they should all develop the four capacities to become:

- Successful Learners
- Confident Individuals
- Responsible Citizens
- Effective Contributors

### **Pupil Council**

The Pupil Council are busy planning after-school movie afternoons to raise funds for playground equipment. More details to follow!

### **Eco Committee**

In spite of the rain, the Eco Committee participated in the Big Garden Bird Watch 2024. Throughout their dedicated hour of observations, they could only spot a solitary robin. Undeterred, they are determined to take measures to attract more birds to our outdoor environment.

A special thanks to Eco members, Willow, Jessie and Nuala for their dedicated efforts in maintaining the cleanliness of our environment through daily litter picking and for their efforts to promote a clean environment through their informative Assembly updates.

### **Reading Leaders**

You can look forward to an exciting newsletter from our Reader Leaders, providing the latest updates on how we promote reading in school and highlighting upcoming events, including World Book Day on Thursday, March 7th. A big thank you to Mrs. Clarke and Mrs. Lane for their invaluable support to this group, contributing to our success as a Reading School

## **Attendance Matters**

### **Maximising Attendance – Argyll & Bute Information for Parents**

We wrote to you at the start of this school session regarding the work that staff from the Central Education Team are undertaking in collaboration with other services which support children and young people to attend school regularly. We asked for parents, carers and young people to complete a short survey to help us understand their views and experiences and to inform effective approaches and supports to help children and young people attend school and make the most of their education. We have received a number of responses and are currently analysing the parent/carers survey. Many responses from this survey requested that the Central Education Team provide information to help parents/carers to understand the importance of school attendance and also requested support and advice for parents/carers of young people who are worried about attending school. We hope that the Maximising Attendance information leaflet attached provides useful information.

## Argyll and Bute Council Maximising Attendance – A Guide for Parents/Carers

Regular attendance enables your child to:

- o Develop important life skills.
- o Form and maintain relationships with peers and adults in school.
- o Feel connected to their school community.
- o Develop positive health and wellbeing.
- o Learn through a wide and varied curriculum.
- o Fulfil their potential.
- o Prepare for adult life and the world of work.

What can I do to help my child attend school?

- o Ensure your child attends school every day and arrives on time.
- o Maintain good morning and bedtime routines – sleep is very important.
- o Talk with your child about the importance and benefits of good attendance.
- o Be involved with your child's education – talk to them about how they are getting on at school.
- o Arrange non-urgent appointments outside of school hours.
- o Avoid family holidays during the school term.
- o Discuss any problems or difficulties with school – we are here to help.

The impact of poor attendance

Attendance Percentage	Number of school days missed in an academic year
100%	0 days of absence No missed learning
95%	9 days of absence 1 week + 4 days missed learning
90%	19 days of absence 3 weeks + 4 days missed learning
85%	27 days of absence 5 weeks + 3 days missed learning
80%	36 days of absence 7 weeks + 3 days missed learning
75%	45 days of absence 9 weeks + 1 day missed learning

*Research shows that pupils who regularly miss school are more likely to become isolated from their friends, underachieve in examinations and/or become involved in anti-social behaviour.*

What happens if my child does not attend school regularly?

Your child's school will contact you and offer support if your child's attendance **falls below 90%**.

The school will continue to work with you until your child's attendance improves.

The school may identify further support and seek advice from other professionals to ensure your child's needs are met.



What should I do if my child is anxious or worried about attending school?

We want to make sure that you get the advice and help that you need to support your child to go to school.

Contact your child's school who can help.

Other resources are also available here:

[Argyll and Bute Educational Psychology Service - Attendance \(google.com\)](#)

Reporting Absence

**If your child is unable to attend school, please contact us by phone before 9am.**

If your child continues to be unable to attend school then parents/carers must contact the school every day (this applies to all absences other than a holiday where contact only needs to be made in advance).

Council policy is that school will make contact if a child is absent and there has been no communication from home.

Thank you for your support.

In alignment with Argyll and Bute Council's updated Maximising Attendance Policy, we will be implementing changes to how we gather attendance data and support parents to ensure high attendance. Starting immediately, attendance will be taken at 9 am, and latecomers will be recorded. Additionally, parents will be asked to sign children out for appointments. Parents of children with attendance below 94% will be contacted directly to offer support. Depending on circumstances, attendance letters will be sent out. Please note that the letter format has been standardised across all schools, and these letters will be shared with the Parent Council.

While we are required to adhere to the procedures outlined in the refreshed Maximising Policy, our primary concern is the wellbeing of our children. Please remember that we are here to support families facing any challenges.

## School Day Reminder

End of school day arrangements - P1/4 walkers will depart from the school between 3:10 and 3:15 pm. P5/7 pupils will begin their walk at 3:15 pm.

## Please refrain from parking in the school grounds.

I am writing to remind you, with utmost consideration, not to park in the staff car park or the drop-off zone.

We understand the parking challenges surrounding the school premises, but ensuring the safety of our boys and girls is our top priority. We genuinely appreciate your care and consideration in helping us maintain a safe environment for all.



## Staffing Update

We welcome Eilidh Hunter to our ELC team. Eilidh was the successful applicant for the recently advertised CCEW post. Eilidh is already an established member of staff in our ELC and a valuable member of our close working team.

We would like to express our gratitude to our student teachers, Gary Carswell and Koni Gray, for their dedication and hard work in P7 and P3/2. They have quickly become valuable members of our team, and have worked hard to support the learning and teaching experiences of our boys and girls. Friday was Mr Carswell's last day. We wish him well for the future and wish him all the best with future adventures.

A warm welcome goes to our new janitor, Carol Mason, who has quickly become an integral part of Park School. Carol has not only settled into her role but has also given the janitor room a stunning makeover! She shares her joy in the new position and extends heartfelt thanks to everyone for the warm welcome she has received.

## Parent Meetings

Parent Meeting will take place the end of March, details to follow.

## Parent Council

The next Parent Council meeting will be on Monday, March 11th, at 6pm at Park School. All are welcome.

## 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

If you have a passion, skill, or interest that you'd like to share with our boys and girls, 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
- Knitting Club

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

# 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 are delighted to announce the completion of the consultation phase for our Values, Vision, and Aims refresh. Thank you for your support during this important process.

Our refreshed VVA statements will now be handed over to our pupils, who will create artwork depicting them. The artwork will be showcased at a community exhibition where we invite you to join us. Your input will play a crucial role in helping us choose how we will visualise our new VVA, which will underpin everything we do, ensuring the best outcomes for our boys and girls.

## World Book Day

**World Book Day Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March 2024**

### Book Swap

As part of our celebrations for World Book day, the School's Eco Committee have organised a free book swap in the school on the days leading up to World Book Day. This is a fantastic way to give the children access to a wide range of books, as well as reusing books that the children no longer read. A stall will be available from Monday 4<sup>th</sup> March where the books can be exchanged up until Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> March.

### World Book Day

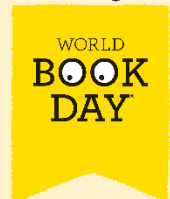
World Book Day takes place on Thursday, 7 March this year, and we'll be celebrating this across the school.

Dressing up or bringing books into school can be a big part of World Book Day. This year we are aware that the cost of living crisis might make this difficult for some families, so we are doing things a bit differently!

Instead of coming to school in costume, we will:

1. Be creating some of the children's favourite characters in class. We will be using a range of approaches: junk modelling, arts and craft resources, Lego, technology. We can't wait to see what the children's creativity unleashes and to meet their characters.
2. Invite children to wear their pyjamas and bring in a teddy or a cosy blanket or pillow. We would also love if they could bring in their favourite books from home, to share with their peers.
3. The whole school will Drop Everything and Read. Each class will gather in the hall on Thursday afternoon and have the opportunity to pair up with whoever they choose, regardless of stage. We will be raiding our library areas and taking all the pillows and beanbags into the hall. There will be relaxing music playing and everyone will have the chance to get cosy and enjoy reading, including the adults!
4. Take part in online activities organised by Scottish Book Trust.

Celebrating with



## Dates for the Diary

February 2024				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
26 P1 Health Checks  ELC Incredible Years Group Introduction to parents - 2.30pm	27	28 Girls Football Boys Football taster session 3.15 – 4.30pm  P1-7 Shinty 5 – 5.45pm	29	
March 2024				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
				1 ELC begin visits to North Argyll House
4 World Book Day Eco Swap	5 World Book Day Eco Swap	6 World Book Day Eco Swap Girls Football 3.15 – 4.15pm Boys Football 4.15 – 5pm P1-7 Shinty 5 – 5.45pm	7 World Book Day – Pyjama Day & bring your favourite book!	8
11	12 Start of Fluoride Varnishing for ELC - P4 pupils  Parents Night	13 Girls Football 3.15 – 4.15pm Boys Football 4.15 – 5pm P1-7 Shinty 5 – 5.45pm	14 TBC – Pupil Council P5/7 Movie Afternoon – 3.30pm until 5pm £3	15 Red Nose Day Wear something red and bring a silver donation.
18 TBC – Pupil Council P1/4 Movie Afternoon – 3.30pm until 5pm £3	19	20 Girls Football 3.15 – 4.15pm P1-7 Shinty 5 – 5.45pm	21 World Down Syndrome Day – Wear odd socks to school Athletics Final Parents Night	22
25	26 P1 & P2/1 Trip – see newsletter	27	28 Last day of term 2.30pm finish	

\*Easter Activity Dates will be sent out separately.

\*School opens Monday 15<sup>th</sup> April.