

# Park Primary School

## January 2024 Bulletin

Welcome to our January newsletters. We want to begin by thanking you for your fantastic attendance at our end-of-year performance. We are proud of the confidence and enthusiasm our children showed, and I am sure you will all agree that it was a lovely event. As we begin the new term and New Year, we extend a warm welcome back. We have a lot of important information to pass on in this newsletter, and we thank you for taking the time to read it through carefully.

### Pupil Events

#### World of Work Fair

P3/2, P3/4, and P4 will be attending an in-school World of Work Fair on January 29th. This event has been organised by teachers to introduce pupils to local businesses as part of their Curriculum for Excellence, 'People in Society, Economy, and Business' social studies topic.

#### Athletics

We are pleased to announce that we have three teams from P4/5 participating in the Active Schools Athletics Competition. Further details will be provided soon.

#### Theatre in School Scotland

Theatre in Schools Scotland will be visiting our school again on February 9th to perform a show for our P5-7 pupils. The performance, 'Going for Gold: Me and Linford Christie,' is a solo show about one girl's journey to Olympic success. Thank you again to our Parent Council for helping to fund this event.

#### School Clubs Update

Our Whole School Shinty Club and P5-7 Girls' Football Club have now resumed. Shinty is open to all pupils and takes place every Wednesday from 5 pm to 5:45 pm. The club are in desperate need of volunteer coaches to support training and tournaments. If you can help then please contact us directly, thank you.

Our P5-7 Girls' Football Club also convenes on Wednesdays, running from 3:15 pm to 4:15 pm.

Our in-school Art Club, led by P7 pupils, will resume shortly, and we are in the process of organising a Chess Club based on interest from pupils.

If you have a talent or skill you'd like to share through an after-school club, please get in touch with us. These clubs provide excellent opportunities for all pupils to access and develop new skills and knowledge

## Staffing Updates

Miss MacInnes will be commencing Adoption leave at the end of February, and we are confident that you will all join us in sending our heartfelt best wishes to her as her family expands and she embarks on exciting new family adventures. Mrs. Buchanan, an experienced teacher, will join Miss Black in a job-sharing arrangement to ensure a seamless and continuous learning experience for our P6 class.

The recently advertised ASN position has been filled by Miss Eilidh Hunter, who has quickly become an invaluable member of our team.

We are also pleased to announce the successful appointment of Miss Carol Mason as our new janitor. With her wealth of experience and familiarity with our school, she will undoubtedly be a valuable addition to our school team.

Additionally, we look forward to welcoming two new students: Gary Carswell, who will commence his placement in P7 on January 29<sup>th</sup>, and Koni Gray, is set to start her placement in P3/2 on February 5<sup>th</sup>.

## Dress for the Weather =)

Winter weather is well and truly upon us, therefore, we would like to remind you about the importance of ensuring your child is dressed appropriately for the colder conditions. Please make sure they are equipped with warm layers, a waterproof coat, gloves, a hat, and suitable footwear. This will ensure their comfort and wellbeing during the chilly months.

## Service Bus Travel

West Coast Motors has requested a polite reminder be sent out to say that pupils must have a bus pass to travel on Service buses free of charge. If a child does not have a bus pass, they should carry the fare money. If you require assistance in obtaining a bus pass for your child, please contact us directly.

## A Positive Approach to Promoting School Attendance

Our goal is to provide comprehensive support to all our families, ensuring that every pupil enjoys their right to education. We recognise that factors such as frequent illness can affect a child's learning, and it is our responsibility to take all necessary measures to assist parents when attendance issues are having an impact on academic progress.

Please refer to the table below for an illustration of how poor attendance can impact academic progress.

### EVERY SCHOOL DAY COUNTS

Attendance percentages can be misleading.

Consider the following:

<b>100% Attendance</b>	0 Days Missed	Excellent	Gives your child the best chance of success and gets them off to a flying start.
<b>95% Attendance</b>	9 Days of Absence 1 week and 4 Days of Learning Missed	Satisfactory	
<b>90% Attendance</b>	19 Days of Absence 3 Weeks and 4 Days of Learning Missed	Poor	Less chance of success. Makes it harder to progress.
<b>85% Attendance</b>	27 Days of Absence 5 Weeks and 3 Days of Learning Missed Almost half a term missed	Very Poor	Serious implications on learning and progress.
<b>80% Attendance</b>	36 Days of Absence 7 Weeks and 3 Days of Learning Missed Half a term missed	Unacceptable	
<b>75% Attendance</b>	45 Days of Absence 9 Weeks and 1 Day of Learning Missed Almost 1 whole term missed	Unacceptable	



If your child has 90% attendance they will have the equivalent of:

- ½ a day off per week,
- 19 days off per year
- 247 days off over their school career of 13 academic years, equivalent to over 1 year of lost education.

Consider what this means for 80% or even 75% attendance

We are legally obligated to provide support, irrespective of the reason for attendance dropping below 95%. Hence, we will be sending letters to parents of children with attendance below 95% in the coming weeks to extend our support.

## Refreshed Vision, Values & Aims Update

Thank you to everyone who contributed to our updated Vision, Values & Aims consultation. All feedback from parents and pupils has been gathered and a draft has been revised by our Pupil Council. Our P7 pupils will review this draft to ensure it aligns with the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC). The final draft will be shared with parents and the Parent Council, followed by a whole-school art competition to visually represent our refreshed Vision, Values, and Aims. Entries will be showcased at a Community Art Exhibition, where the winning design will be chosen. The winning design will be displayed throughout our school as a reminder of the shared Vision, Values, and Aims that will guide everything we do and strive to achieve.

## Reporting to Parents Update

As you are aware, we are currently reviewing the way in which we report on pupil progress.

Appreciation goes out to the 25% of our parents/carers who have already responded. The greater the response, the more confidently we can rely on a majority perspective. If you haven't already, kindly spare a moment to complete our brief survey. Your input is valuable to us.

<https://forms.gle/MmmMbHbtsykgk6R89>

## Website/Facebook Shout out

<https://www.park.argyll-bute.sch.uk/>

Our school website contains a wealth of valuable information. Please take a moment to visit if you wish to explore topics such as our behaviour policy, school handbook, school holidays, newsletters, and other useful information. Consider our website as a window into our school. You can also access our Facebook page through our website for regular updates and shares. Be sure to check out our Facebook page for the latest news and updates.

## February Break/In Service Reminder

February Week	Close	Friday 9th February 2024 <b>Monday 19th February 2024 – Teacher In-service Day</b>
	Open	Tuesday 20th February 2024

# Dates for the Diary

JANUARY				
Monday 22nd	Tuesday 23rd	Wednesday 24th	Thursday 25th	Friday 26th
		Girls Football Shinty		Eco Committee – Big Bird Watch
Monday 29 <sup>th</sup>	Tuesday 30th	Wednesday 31 <sup>st</sup>		
World of Work Fair		Girls Football Shinty		
FEBRUARY				
Thursday 1 <sup>st</sup>	Friday 2 <sup>nd</sup>			
	P7 Mathsfest OHS			
Monday 5 <sup>th</sup>	Tuesday 6 <sup>th</sup>	Wednesday 7 <sup>th</sup>	Thursday 8 <sup>th</sup>	Friday 9 <sup>th</sup>
		Girls Football Shinty	P4/7 OHS Dance Show Corran Halls	P5/7 Theatre Scotland
Monday 12 <sup>th</sup>	Tuesday 13 <sup>th</sup>	Wednesday 14 <sup>th</sup>	Thursday 15 <sup>th</sup>	Friday 16 <sup>th</sup>
February Break				
Monday 19 <sup>th</sup>	Tuesday 20 <sup>th</sup>	Wednesday 21 <sup>st</sup>	Thursday 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup>
Teacher In- service Day	Pupils Return	Girls Football Shinty		