

# Lochdonhead Primary School Newsletter

## Autumn Term 2018

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### DEAR PARENTS

I hope you have had a wonderful, relaxing summer holiday. It's great to see the pupils back after their break. It certainly seems that the weather is turning autumnal now that we are back to school.

I look forward to another busy, productive year and I am extremely fortunate to have such committed and dedicated staff working in our school. This, coupled with the pupils' enthusiasm and hard work, will ensure on-going success.

Let us not forget, of course the enormous support that you, as parents and carers provide to the school - we are indeed very fortunate.

Do not hesitate to contact the school if you want to chat over any areas of concern. Also be assured that no matter which school I am in, I can be contacted at any time.

For point of reference, the telephone number for Ulva Primary School is - 01688 500 246 and my mobile number is 079029 44626/07786685227.



Susie Carmichael,  
Acting Head Teacher

### STAFFING

Claire Bidwell has taken up a seconded post as Teacher at Tobermory High School Primary Department. Kate Grierson will be covering her Principal and Class teacher post.

The staffing arrangements for this year are -

Acting Head Teacher - Susie Carmichael. I shall be in school for half the week. The days will be dependent on the needs of each school.

Kate Grierson, Principal and Class Teacher will be in school each day.

Jack Degnan, Class Teacher 0.16 FTE  
Claire Purfitt, clerical & classroom assistant.

Anna Smereczniak, cleaner and janitor.

Helen Ramage, catering manager.

### PUPILS

We are delighted to welcome Joseph and Nouille to Lochdonhead. They have started off the term with great enthusiasm and I am sure they will be great assets to the school.



### TRANSPORT

Helen provides our school transport. If for any reason there should be an alteration to the pick up/drop off for your child can you please contact Helen directly? Her mobile number is - 07837444641 and her home number is - 01680812175. If there is any absence, please follow our procedures and phone the school before 9.15am as well as letting Helen know as soon as possible in the morning.

School starts at 9.15am and finishes at 3.30pm and we want to support Helen to ensure the pupils arrive to school in good time and leave promptly to ensure health and safety for our pupils.

Thank you for your support with this.

### ABSENCE AND ILLNESS

As we move into autumn, we feel it is a good time to remind everyone about NHS advice on children's attendance at school when they are feeling poorly. For bouts of sickness or upset stomach children should be kept at home for 48 hours after the last bout of sickness. If your child shows signs of being unwell, please keep them at home until they are well enough to return to school. Please refer to the "Advice on Illness" page on our school blog <https://lochdonprimaryschool.wordpress.com> for advice relating to the

exclusion period following various ailments or you can request a paper copy from the office. Thank you for your co-operation and partnership in helping us to maintain a happy, healthy school.

#### Absence

If your child is absent from school it is important that the office is contacted on the morning of absence before 9:15am if possible. This procedure is in place for the safety and security of pupils. You will receive a telephone call or text message if no call is received. Please inform the school office as soon as possible if your mobile telephone number changes. Thank you.

#### ONLINE PAYMENTS FOR LUNCH

This is just a gentle reminder to highlight the online system for paying for lunches. We will have to be very rigid about issuing reminders as we do not have any facility to provide credit. Please pay for your child's lunch on a Monday morning for the week ahead.

#### LAST TERM

#### GENERATION SCIENCE - POWER FROM THE PEOPLE

On the 14<sup>th</sup> of May the P4- P7's joined Dervaig and Ulva schools at the Dervaig Village Hall for a fun, extremely interesting and engaging morning with the Generation Science Team from Edinburgh University.



#### I-CYCLE SUCCESS

We were delighted that all the pupils from primary 7 successfully completed their i-cycle training. This training was developed by the road safety units of Argyll and Bute Council and covers everything from safety on the road, bike maintenance and Highway Code. As well as passing a written assessment on road signs, the pupils must show that they can safely and competently ride a bike on a road. Well done to you both!

I would also like to thank Kate Grierson for completing the i-cycle training and taking the pupils through their training.

#### PEBBLE PRESENTATIONS

We were so pleased to welcome so many of you to the school to see the pupils Pebble Projects. The pupils had worked so very hard on these Personal Based Learning projects and I'm sure you were as impressed as I was with their presentations. The skills for life and work that the pupils learned and evidenced that day were numerous.

#### FOREST SCHOOLS

We are delighted that Helen Ramage's sister, Mrs Rowley, came to lead a Forest School session with us last term. Mrs Rowley is a Level 3 Forest School Leader and the children learned so much with her. The children enjoyed learning outdoors including team building games - these activities helped to develop their creativity, organisation, leadership, teamwork, resilience and sense of adventure, exploration and fun. Thank you so much Mrs Rowley and Helen. We hope you visit again soon!

#### P6 / P7 MATHS DAY

On 24<sup>th</sup> May, pupils from P6 & P7 from across the cluster schools gathered at Garmony for a Maths Day. The pupils were split into mixed groups and the activities were led by S1 pupils from Tobermory High School. All the activities were aimed at challenging the children's maths abilities but more importantly they were fun!

#### THEATRE VISIT

On 6<sup>th</sup> June, pupils from Lochdonhead joined with other pupils from across the island to watch Mull Youth Theatre's performance of 'The Wild Wood Keeps on Growing' based on Wind in the Willows. This was a wonderful show and all pupils really enjoyed the experience of visiting Mull Theatre and seeing a live performance.

#### OBAN PUPILS VISIT

In June, we welcomed 33 pupils from Rockfield Primary School in Oban to Lochdonhead to visit our award winning Nature Trail. Our pupils were wonderful tour guides, sharing their expert knowledge of the local area and wildlife with our visitors. The visitors really enjoyed the trip saying "We learned so much" "You are so lucky to have this on your doorstep".

#### SPORTS DAY

All pupils put in a tremendous effort on Island Sports Day on 9<sup>th</sup> June. Congratulations to all pupils on their enthusiasm and commitment to fun sports. Their attitude towards the activities was outstanding and they can be proud of their positive, caring and respectful behaviour.

## P6/7 STRAMASH TRIP

As part of Primary 6 & 7 transition, all the pupils from the North of Mull cluster went to Stramash in Oban in May for their residential trip. The pupils enjoyed so many activities including: Coasteering, orienteering, canoeing, swimming, abseiling, castle walk and gorge walking. The children were amazing and really pushed themselves physically.

Residential trips are such a valuable learning experience and on top of that all our pupils were so kind and considerate to each other.

## CELEBRATION OF ACHIEVEMENT

Thank you so much for coming along to our Celebration of Achievement. The pupils performed a rousing Samba performance and were presented with their well-deserved awards. Well done to Ella and Lucy for performing their award winning play 'Sisters' which was much loved by all.

## THE TERM AHEAD

### PE KIT



Can pupils please ensure that they have a PE kit in school? They need a t-shirt, shorts, socks and trainers/gym shoes, all named. If your child has long hair, can they please have a band to tie it back? We would appreciate it if pupils could keep jewellery to a minimum on a PE day.

## SWIMMING

We shall have swimming sessions this term **and** after February. Please see dates in the section below.



### MOD

The local Mod will be taking place on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> September in Tobermory. We shall be taking the pupils up for a joint school action song with Ulva. The school will be transported up for the action song then returning to school for the remainder of the day.

### THE CHALLENGER BUS

On Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> September the Challenger Bus will be visiting the island. The Challenger teams have been visiting schools since 2008 - with over 150 primary and secondary schools visited around Scotland over the past 18 months. One of the key RME outcomes and experiences for early years is to become familiar with beliefs Christian people have about God and Jesus through Christian stories, images, music and poems. The older pupils will be exploring the lives and teachings of Jesus and other figures in Christianity, increasing knowledge and understanding of key Christian beliefs. The Ulva pupils will be visiting Lochdonhead for a joint school session here.



## ARCHAEOLOGY

Following a major archaeological excavation, we have been invited to visit the dig site at Kildavie on the 20<sup>th</sup> September. The pupils will be given the opportunity to have a tour around the trenches and a chance to talk to the archaeologists there.



### SMOKE FREE ME

The Smoke Free Me workshop will be returning to Salen on 3<sup>rd</sup> October for their workshop on Drugs and Smoking for the Primary 6 & 7 pupils.

### COMMUNITY CAFES

We would really like to continue to run our community cafés as they are well attended and really appreciated by the local residents and visitors' alike. We will issue dates then we have had a Parent Council meeting to discuss this.

### REPORTING

We will continue to be using the Evidence for Learning App to allow you to follow your child's progress through their online learning journal. If you need help with accessing this please let me know.

We will send out an interim report in December and a full written report in May.

### SCHOOL BLOG

We are really pleased with the feedback we are getting from you about our school blog. We would really love if all our parents could "follow" us as you will then

automatically receive notifications when new information is added.

We use the blog like an online newsletter and we update it as events, news and activities happen.

There are also dedicated information pages where we will post about classroom activities and share the curriculum overviews for each term. Our parent council will continue to run the school facebook page, there is a link to this on our blog page.

If you have any questions or suggestions about the information that is available on the blog, or information that you would like to see, please get in touch. If you are unable or have difficulties in accessing the internet and wish to receive updates in paper or email format please let us know.

The blog address is <https://lochdonprimaryschool.wordpress.com/>

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES

**10.8.18** - In-service  
**13.8.18** - In-service  
**14.8.18** - Schools open  
**27.8.18** - Swimming  
**3.9.18** - Swimming  
**7.9.18** - Local Mod in Tobermory  
**10.9.18** - Swimming  
**10.9.18 - 14.9.18** - Maths Week  
**13.9.18** - Challenger Education Bus  
- Ulva visiting Lochdonhead  
**14.9.18** - Great British Beach Clean at Lochbuie  
**17.9.18** - Swimming  
**20.9.18** - Archaeological visit  
**24.9.18** - Swimming  
**1.10.18** - Swimming  
**3.10.18** - P6/7 Smoke Free Me at Salen  
**5.10.18** - Schools close  
**22.10.18** - Schools open

## PARENT COUNCIL

Our first Parent Council of the term will be arranged soon.

## WORKING WITH PARENTS

As you know we are very keen indeed to involve you in any way we can in the working life of the school. If you would like to come in to share any skill, assist in any project, wish to help in class in any way, please let us know. We would really welcome your help.