8 November 2016

Dear Parent/Carer

As we race towards that special time of the year which we don’t mention until December I cannot believe how quickly the time is flying - however am assured that it is not just an age-thing! With November’s ‘In-service’ day next week and the opportunity to meet with you at up-coming Parents’ Evenings this term is always a most enjoyable although extremely busy one. As always I commend our pupils for their hard work, outstanding behaviour and tremendous respect shown at all times so much appreciated by staff and very much embedded in whole school life. A warm welcome goes to the Brown, MacIntyre and Shaw families who joined us after the October holiday and a huge ‘thank you’ to our five new boys for settling in to their new school so quickly. I hope they will find being part of Dunbeg Primary to be a rich and rewarding experience.

What’s been ..................

Stramash

Primary 5/4 and Primary 7/6 pupils enjoyed last term’s outdoors days organised by Stramash and providing a variety of outdoor pursuits including canoeing, hiking, shelter-building etc

Porridge Breakfast/Mary’s Meals Porridge Pot

Our ‘Porridge Breakfast’ proved to be a great success with all pupils including our Nursery children sitting down to a plate of porridge with fruit kindly donated by Aldi. Raising awareness of the work of ‘Mary’s Meals’ resulted in the wonderful sum of £167.76 in small coins being donated from filling our porridge pot! Well done to two of our pupils who also donated over £80 to Mary’s Meals in place of birthday presents.

Cycling Proficiency

Congratulations goes to all of our P7 pupils for not only gaining their Cycling Proficiency awards at the end of last term but also for the extremely high standard of their results in both the practical and the theory assessments. The MacInnes Family Shield was presented by June Graham, Road Safety Officer, in recognition of the level of improvement and progress made during training.
Personal Learning Plans

Following the introduction of ‘Class Dojo’ now across all classes from Primary 1 to Primary 5 and as a result of the enthusiasm shown by pupils and the very positive feedback received from parents this very practical and personal online resource will now replace any paper profiles previously created. Individual ‘Learning Logs’ will continue in class to enable pupils to keep a record of their learning. The teachers have greatly appreciated your involvement and comments. Primary 6 and 7 pupils will continue to record their learning on ‘Didbook’ in preparation and as part of their transition for Oban High School.

Hallowe’en Disco

A huge thanks to our Parent Council, their helpers and the pupils themselves for making our Hallowe’en disco such a good night. The effort put in to costumes and the atmosphere enjoyed throughout the evening, not to mention the rather wet ‘dookers’ along with the music provided by our ‘home-grown’ DJ’s, Lorraine and John, helped to make it such a huge success.

Daily Mile

Following success and the benefits gained through the Daily Mile initiative last session this practice continues this session across all classes and is actively encouraged by Education Scotland.

Wayne Dixon and Koda Visit

A surprise visit from Wayne Dixon and his dog Koda who is in the process of walking the coast of the UK with 3 more years to go made us all think about the importance and seriousness of dropping litter so much so that one of our pupils spent last Sunday afternoon cleaning up in the village.
Green Flag

Following last year’s work on monitoring energy as part of our Eco Programme we are now able to celebrate gaining our 6th Green Flag. What an achievement and a huge thanks to Miss Fraser and her committed Eco Committee for driving this initiative.

And what’s still to come………..

Interdisciplinary Studies

This term’s very popular ‘Space’ topic will continue until the end of November. Rockets have been designed, built and set off, power points have been created and presented, homework challenges have been appreciated by staff, classroom displays demonstrate pupils’ learning and much research has been ongoing taking into account pupils’ prior knowledge. As our celebration of this topic we look forward to hosting a visit from ‘The Scottish Dark Skies Planetarium’ on Wednesday 30 November. Our thanks to the Parent Council for financing this visit. There will be an opportunity for parents to visit on the day. More details to follow.

‘Rising Stars’ – Information from Miss Bichard

This term, we have adopted a new programme called ‘Rising Stars’ to encourage healthier eating at lunch time. The idea has been piloted by Highland Council and is based on the five food groups of the Eat Well Plate. Children earn points for every portion of wholegrain carbohydrate, fruit, veg, protein and dairy that they eat for lunch. A point is deducted for any items in the sugary/fatty foods category. Points are also awarded for milk and water. We have already noticed lots more fruit and veg on the lunch trays after week one!

The children have been learning about the five different food groups and how they can increase their scores at lunch time. We encourage pupils to talk about Rising Stars at home, so please ask them to tell you all about it. Lunch scores are recorded on a daily basis by our table leaders. The table with the highest score at the end of term will be rewarded. If you have any questions or would like to discuss this further please do not hesitate to contact us. Many thanks for your support with this,

Internet Safety

With the importance of keeping our children safe when using the internet/social media Primary 6 and 7 pupils received a thought provoking presentation by our new Police Scotland Youth Officer yesterday (Monday).

School Photographs – Wednesday 9 November

The Tempest school photographer will be in school this Wednesday to take individual, family and class photographs. Mrs Clark will notify you of times for family photos which include children not yet in school.

Remembrance Service

All pupils will attend our annual Remembrance Service in the church on Monday 14 November at 11am followed by the planting of their poppies.

Playground Buddy Training

P 7/6 pupils will undertake Playground Buddy Training which will be led by Gillian Walker, Active Schools Coordinator on Wednesday 16 November. This further enhances playground activities and relationships.

Parent Council Meeting

Our next Parent Council Meeting, to which all are invited, will be held in Dunbeg Primary School on Wednesday 16 November at 7.00pm.
Children In Need

Miss Fraser and the Eco Committee have organised an order of Children in Need items for the school. Pudsey ears and teddies priced at £2.50 plus bands at £1 will be on sale at intervals on Monday, Wednesday and Friday during this week and next.

Flu Immunisations

The NHS Flu immunisation programme for all pupils across Scotland will be carried out by Child Health on Thursday 17 November.

In-service day - Friday 18 November

School closed for pupils due to staff in-service day.

Parent’s Evenings – Tuesday 22 and Tuesday 29 November and Book Fair

Please note details of our Parent’s Evenings have been issued previously and times as close as possible to those requested will be issued shortly. At the suggestion of staff we are offering earlier appointments on one of the evenings in the hope of making it convenient for everyone. Teachers greatly appreciate the opportunity to discuss your child/children’s progress with you and there is a chance to browse schemes of work and resources used across all stages. Please remember, however, that you are more than welcome to discuss your child’s progress at any point throughout the session should you wish it. Members of the Parent Council will be running the Scholastic Book Fair on both evenings.

Lochgoilhead Outdoor Week

P7 pupils look forward to your support with their fundraising for their forthcoming activity-filled week at Lochgoilhead Outdoor Centre which is very much the highlight of their final year in Primary. Fliers will be issued to inform you of events as they arise should you wish to support them.

Shoe Box Appeal

Thank you to those who have already delivered their shoeboxes for such a good cause. Shoe boxes are available at the school for filling should you wish one and the final day for delivery will be Friday 25 November.

Holiday List

Holiday dates for Session 2017/18 have not as yet been confirmed however recent consultation did not show too much of a change other than a longer break in February. Dates will be issued as soon as they are confirmed.

After-School Clubs

After-school clubs continue to be very well attended with the addition of Rugby for P4-7 on a Thursday organised by our Rugby Development Officer and Active Schools. Pupils attending are asked to wear warm clothes and strong footwear as it is being held outside. Lego Club is having a wee break for this session. After-school clubs will finish for this term week beginning Monday 5 December.

Christmas Activities

Post Box

The school Post Box when pupils have the opportunity to share Christmas cards with each other will start on Monday 5 December with the last date for posting being Friday 16 December.

Christmas Choir

As always our pupils provide much appreciated entertainment for the wider community at this time of year especially at the Rotary Carol Concert in the Corran Halls on Sunday 18 December. This is open to all P4-7 pupils to attend if they wish. I have included dates below and would be grateful if children could let me know if they are able to attend as I fully appreciate this is a very busy and tiring time. Permission to attend will be covered by blanket permission forms.

Wednesday 7 December  Benderloch Friendship Club St Modan’s Church  2.00-2.45pm
Sunday 18 December  Corran Halls – Rotary Carol Concert  3.00pm
Malcolm Sargent Carol Concert

This year’s Carol Concert in aid of the Malcolm Sargent Cancer Fund for Children or CLIC Sargent as it is now known will be held on Tuesday 20 December at 7.00pm and will include a whole-school performance of ‘Superstar’ along with carols from our choir/recorder group. Two tickets for each family, priced £2.00, will be issued with any extras being available from the school office. **Tickets should be paid for prior to the event.** It would be appreciated if all pupils wearing costumes could be in school for 6.30pm that evening to allow time for dressing up.

Pupils will entertain older members of the community along with grandparents and friends to a morning performance at 10.00am followed by coffee and mince pies. If there is anyone that you would like to be included, especially for the new Primary 1s, or that we may have missed in our invitation list please just let Mrs Clark know at the office.

Christmas Parties

Christmas parties will be held on the following dates:

- Friday 16 December
- Monday 19 December
- Wednesday 21 December
- Thursday 22 December

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Teacher</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Friday 16 December</td>
<td>P 7/6</td>
<td>Miss Fraser</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 19 December</td>
<td>P 3</td>
<td>Miss Fleming</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 21 December</td>
<td>P 5/4</td>
<td>Miss MacMillan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 22 December</td>
<td>P 2/1</td>
<td>Miss MacVicar/Miss Bichard</td>
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Donations of ‘party-eats’ would be gratefully appreciated on the day of your child’s party. Parents of all P1 and P2 children are invited to come and see Santa at 2.45pm on Thursday 22 December.

Parent Council ‘Glitter Ball’

The Parent Council will hold a special Christmas Disco for all pupils on Thursday 15 December from **6.30-8.00pm** (please note earlier times).

Christmas Ceilidh

Mr Thomas MacCulloch, Specialist P.E teacher, will organise a Christmas Ceilidh for pupils during his P.E time on Friday 23 December. This was a huge success last year with Mr MacCulloch contributing to the programme himself on his pipes and the entire school, including Nursery children, participating whole-heartedly.

Christmas Lunch

Christmas lunch will be served in the school on Friday 23 December with P7 pupils serving as usual. In order to help with catering arrangements I would be most grateful if you would complete and return the attached tear-off slip stating whether or not your child/children will be taking Christmas Lunch or bringing a packed lunch. Mrs MacKechnie will be sending in her Christmas order timeously therefore I would ask that the tear-off slip be returned by Tuesday 29 November.

Christmas Service

Our Christmas Service, which will be conducted by Rev. George Cringles and to which all are invited, will be held in the church at 1.45pm on Friday 23 December.

School closes at 2.30pm on Friday 23 December and re-opens on Monday 9 January 2017 at 9.00am

As this is our last newsletter of 2016 I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your continued very positive support and encouragement at all times and I look forward to working together with you in the New Year. If you should require further information regarding any of these activities or have any concerns please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

*Sine C MacVicar*

Sine C MacVicar

**Head Teacher**
CHRISTMAS LUNCH

My child/children will be having a school lunch

My child/children will bring a packed lunch

Please delete as appropriate

Signed ..........................................................  Child/Children’s Name .........................................

November/December Calendar

Wednesday 9 November  School photographs
Monday 14 November    Remembrance Service 11.00am
Thursday 17 November   Flu Immunisations
Friday 18 November     School closed – In Service Day
Tuesday 22 November    Parent’s Evening
Tuesday 29 November    Parent’s Evening
Wednesday 30 November Planetarium Visit
Saturday 10 December   Craft Fair in aid of Lochgoilhead – Dunbeg Primary
Wednesday 7 November   Entertaining at Benderloch Friendship Club
Thursday 15 December   Glitter Ball 7.00pm
Friday 16 December     P 7/6 party
Sunday 18 December    Choir – Annual Rotary Concert, Corran Halls, 3.00pm
Monday 19 December    P3 party
Tuesday 20 December   Nativity & Christmas Entertainment – ‘Grandparents and elderly community friends 10.00am in Dunbeg School
                       Nativity & Christmas Entertainment 7.00pm in Dunbeg School
Wednesday 21 December P 5/4 party
Thursday 22 December  P 2/1 party + Santa at 2.45pm
Friday 23 December    Christmas Lunch
                       Christmas Service in Dunbeg Church at 1.45pm

School re-opens Monday 9 January 2017

Dates for next term

Saturday 28 January   Bag Packing Tesco – Fundraiser for Lochgoilhead week
Friday 3 February     Bingo Night   Victory Hall, Benderloch, Lochgoilhead Fundraiser
Tuesday 7 February    Information Evening re Lochgoilhead week at Dunbeg Primary 7.00pm
Wednesday 8 February 2017 P4-7 – Scottish Opera full day with performance at 2.30pm
Monday 13–Friday 17 March 2017 P7 – Lochgoilhead Outdoor Centre
A beautiful day out with Stramash

Preparing for our Porridge Breakfast