



Lochardil Primary School

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Newsletter 7 - February 2015

Dear Parents/Carers,

I can't believe this is February's newsletter already. The lighter nights are very welcome and everyone will be able to be a bit more active after school!

Mrs Miriam MacDonald
Acting Head Teacher

Accessing the newsletter online

Thank you to the very many of you who are able to support our move towards being a paper-less school by agreeing to access the newsletter on our website. This will help us maintain our high standards for our Eco status.

Clerical Support

Mrs Robb is a great asset to the school on a Thursday and Friday. Mrs L Balnave will be covering the office in the mornings only Mon-Wed from next week, which will be a wonderful bonus to us- you might actually be able to get into the school when you press the buzzer!

Parking - Our Responsibilities to Pupil and Residents

The situation with residents being inconvenienced has become very serious with one resident threatening to shame inconsiderate people, who park across his driveway, by contacting the media and the police. Please avoid bringing the name of your child's school into disrepute by parking with consideration.

Our sincere thanks to those of you who encourage your children to comply with our "Park and Stride" policy by parking further away and walking.

Adverse Weather

IN THE EVENT OF ADVERSE WEATHER PLEASE DO NOT PHONE THE SCHOOL, BUT USE THE BELOW OR LISTEN TO MFR FOR UPDATES.

Emergency closure 0800 564 2272

School pin number **04 2500**.

Although the weather may get milder, we need all pupils to bring appropriate clothing every day. If your child has a tendency to like to get themselves wet or muddy during their play, we would appreciate a change of clothes in their bag.

Parents Appointments

Thanks to those of you who gave us feedback on our recent Parent Appointments. Some of the comments made were:

"Very useful meeting. Teachers clearly had a good "handle" on how they were doing"

"It would be useful to know what the children are working on during term-time so that we can reinforce things at home"

"Thank you for all the opportunities to hear how my child is getting on. The Learning Journeys being sent home is a great idea."

"I have found the parent interviews really helpful. Also very grateful that interviews with different teachers have been coordinated so that they follow on from each other."

"Thank you to everyone for all your hard work to help our children learn"

"A little more notice would be helpful!"

"Would it be possible to use blogs more for instruction or homework?"

"Always good to hear how my children are getting on and have the chance to ask questions"

School Meals

Uptake of free school meals for P1-3 has been very high indeed. My thanks to the resilient canteen staff who have been solution-finding every day!

Gymnastics Team

"Spectacular results for Lochardil," says Mrs Finnigan team coach. Thanks to her, Sophie Douglas and Hazel Galbraith for all their hours, enthusiasm and hard work. Level 1 our teams came 5th and 16th out of 38 teams!!! Level 2 our teams came 1st and 5th out of 13 teams!!! Our Level 2 "A" team will compete in the finals in Perth ☺

Football Sevens

Many thanks to Laura Eaglesham and Peter Thompson and other parent helpers who have supported our teams in competing in this tournament. We really appreciate your time and dedication.

Parent Helpers

Very sincere thanks to all the parents who go out of their way to support the school in so many ways. Some are almost invisible in their support, but we appreciate every minute of your time! Whether it is supporting sports, accompanying us on trips, photocopying, laminating and cutting out resources, supporting the Parent Council, tidying the dreaded lost property, auditing our supply of changes of clothes for younger pupils, airing worries complaints in a discrete and sensitive manner, sending appreciative emails or simply taking time to say thank you to staff for all their hard work- we really couldn't deliver our service without you!

Gym Kit

As stated in the school prospectus the following dress code applies for PE lessons:

“Pupils are expected to have a change of clothes for PE comprising shorts, t-shirt non marking shoes for indoor use and appropriate footwear for outdoor activities. To maintain a high standard of appearance and to reduce the undue influence of fashion trends, it is recommended that designer sweatshirts, sports and football wear should not be worn to school.”

Class Trips

P4 and P4/5 enjoyed a visit to Pringles Woollen Mill this week as part of their class project studies. The staff at the Mill were very impressed by the conduct and interest showed by the pupils. Well done!

P5/6 P6 and P7 went to Holm School for a performance based on a World War 2 experience. Feedback has been that the performance was excellent and has furthered learning that was started earlier in the session.

Egg-citing Easter Opportunity (You'd be a “mug” to miss out!)

The Parent Council are running an unmissable opportunity to win BIG this Easter!

Buy a “Lochardil” mug for £4 and have the chance to win an Eggs-tremely big egg! The idea for this Eggs-traordinary opportunity was hatched at the recent Parent Council Meeting. (Sorry, I'll stop now.)

Watch school bags for further information from The Parent Council.

The draw for the Egg will take place at the Parent Council AGM. 7pm 25th March. Please come along and show your support for our Parent Council. It would be great to see some new faces come along.

Term Dates

February Break

I hope you all get to enjoy some time together during the forthcoming February break.

Everyone has 16th and 17th February off ☺
Pupils also have 18th February

During this day staff will be trained by Highland Council's Numeracy Development Officer on the introduction of the research-based New Zealand maths model which has proven to have made a dramatic improvement to long-lasting and deep maths learning in pupils.

Easter Holidays

Last day of school for the term is Thursday 2nd April.
Term 4 starts Monday 20th April.

Any concerns/ queries

Please be reminded that your first port of call if you have any queries or concerns regarding your child's education is to contact the class teacher. I can be contacted by email and will reply to arrange a mutually convenient time for a telephone chat or appointment.

Miriam MacDonald
Acting Head Teacher