

Lochardil Primary School

Lochardil Road, Inverness, IV2 4LB
Tel. 01463 230250 Fax 01463 710682

Head Teacher: Mrs A. Kellacher

www.lochardilprimary.org.uk

Emergency closure 0800 5642272

School pin number 04 2500.



Dear Parents/ Carers,

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your support this school session and always. It is highly valued and much appreciated! I am finally able to share a staffing update and changes that are occurring here at Lochardil Primary School for our new session 2021-2022, and also other general information -

ELC

- Clare MacKenzie, our fulltime Childcare Manager (CCM), will no longer be in post based at our school officially from Monday 16th August 2021. We were informed after Easter that there is a new strategic model being implemented within Highland Council and as part of this plan the role of the Childcare Manager would change. This will directly have a significant impact on our school and ELC provision. There will be a reduction in number of CCM's in post across Highland, and instead of being based at a base school and providing support to other ELC settings, they will move to a peripatetic role based centrally within the area team and provide support to a larger number of ELCs within the South area. The details of what this will look like is still being mapped out by the central team, and we will provide an update in the new session when we have further information. We have been allocated 2 days per week additional management time to manage the day to day management of the ELC, with support of peripatetic CCMs going forward. Our Principal Teacher Jilly Munro will cover this role for the 2 days per week next session. Clare will continue to work on Lochardil based tasks over summer, and may be around at points during our first week back in the new term as we make this huge transition. She has continued to work very closely with our Depute Head Teacher Olivia Melville, and since this announcement from the local authority team, has been working very closely with Jilly to ensure there is as minimal disruption to our service as possible and that we can continue to aim for the level of provision we currently offer.

A 'What this means for our Lochardil ELC setting' will be shared on our Blog during the summer to help prepare you as parents/carers for any changes to the delivery of our provision including Breakfast and Out of School Care e.g. booking system protocol etc. This has already been communicated to date but will be available as a reminder and document to collate all the info when known.

I would like to take this opportunity to give our heartfelt thanks and appreciation to Clare, who has made such an incredible impact on our school and community as a whole over the past 5 years, and has led and worked with our fantastic team within the ELC to move from good to great and beyond! She will be very much missed by all our children, staff, parents/carers, and myself in particular as a super asset to our team. We continue to remind Clare, her heart will forever have the colour purple, and the kettle will always be on to welcome her back at any opportunity! Good luck for the future ahead.

- Kelly Gorman, Early Years Practitioner, has successfully completed her studies to become a Primary Teacher and we are very proud of her for being passionate and determined to follow and achieve her dreams. We are very thankful for all she has given to her role while with us here at Lochardil and the positive difference she has made on the lives of our children and their learning. We wish Kelly all the very best with her probationary year next session at Cauldeen Primary, and for her continued future ahead in her new role within education.
- New members/ changes to staff
 - We are delighted to welcome Rachel Sutherland to our team for next session. Miss Sutherland has a wealth of teaching experience ranging over many years, and many countries across the globe. She has recently been covering Miss MacLean's maternity leave in P7B. Next session she will be covering management time, CCR and probationer

cover working within our P7 classes, P6/5, P3B, and provide a day CCR cover where she will work with a range of classes from P4-P7.

- We would like to welcome Coleen Macleod to our school for our next session. Miss Macleod will be relocating to the Highlands from the island of Lewis to commence her probationer year with us and we are very much looking forward to having her. She will be teaching P3B 4 days per week, and Miss Rachel Sutherland will cover the 5th day as probationer cover. Mrs Paula MacIver will be Miss Macleod's mentor for the year.
- It is also wonderful to share Gemma Munro will continue with us for another year but will increase to 2 ½ days next session, and the other 2 ½ days Miss Munro will teach at Holm Primary School. Miss Munro will teach Mrs MacIver's P1 class 1 day per week to cover her Principal Teacher management time and mentor cover.
- Laura McLean and Sarah Paterson will be continuing to enjoy maternity leave next session. We will update everyone when they plan to return.

Thank you all for your support, trust and confidence again shown to us this year. It has been the quickest, yet also longest year ever! Every single one of us are looking forward to a well-earned summer holiday to rest, recharge, and reset, ready for session 2021-2022 and all the fun and excitement it holds for us.

We will continue to aim for the quality and high standards of education we strive for, and to provide such a wealth of learning experiences and opportunities for our young people, within our welcoming and safe environment. As ever, our shared purpose and reason for being, our children, remain at the heart of all we do. We value our partnerships with parents/carers and our community to ensure we work together to help our pupils be the best they can be, and continue to be active citizens truly having a positive impact and making a difference in our world.

Despite the many additional challenges and pressures we have faced here at Lochardil, particularly given the pandemic and all the challenges that ensued due to such, our team has gone from strength to strength and achieved more than we could have hoped for given such circumstances. I am so grateful for our hardworking, dedicated, resilient staff team that continue to go above and beyond regularly for our school and community, and view every challenge with a solution focused approach where we work together to achieve a positive outcome for all.

We can proudly share we have also managed to achieve a number of accolades this year including our –

- Eco Schools 6th Green Flag award!
- Digital Schools Award
- CRIS (Cyber Resilience Internet Safety) Award – only the 2nd school in Highland to achieve this.

Such outstanding awards, highly regarded across Scotland, U.K. and worldwide are a credit to us. We are very humble at the feedback we received for each of the awards, and this was only achievable with the participation and engagement from our pupils, staff, parents/carers and community.

Our main goal this session has been managing to get all our learners back to the campus safely, and continue their learning to not 'Catch Up' but 'Rise Up'. This long term goal to ensure our learners continue to achieve and attain, while placing value on all the other aspects of learning they have experienced, remains our priority. Everyone's health and wellbeing continues to be our priority.

I would also like to take the opportunity to publicly thank our P7 parents on our Parent Council who will be leaving us as their children move on to secondary school. In particular, a special thanks to Ian Soden, our outgoing Parent Council Chair, who has truly gone the extra mile, to actively support us to great lengths. His interest in school matters and how to offer support; determination; and perseverance to effect change along with the support of the fellow parent council members; has truly effected positive change for us all. So thank you! Also, a huge thanks to Pauline Fox, a long standing member of the Parent Council and treasurer, and also joint founder of the Facebook group. Thank you Pauline for being a wonderful asset to our Parent Council. Her extensive business knowledge and meticulous handling of the accounts, allowed our children to benefit from 'extras' to enhance their learning in class, and also improvements to various areas of the school including playground equipment or learning outdoors resources and much more. Pauline has spent endless hours monitoring and contributing to the Facebook group set up to improve communication between school and home, and help us all connect. Thank you both for all your hard work and dedication, and thanks to every Parent Council member for working with us to help us to be the best we can be!

Key points –

- Follow Scottish Government guidance on Covid-19 particularly with reference to restrictions, any changes in the local and national data on Covid-19, and any impact of such.
- Scottish Government have shared 'keeping schools open is a priority'. This is reassuring especially during times when there are conversations circulating about a 'Circuit breaker', 'Firewall', or other potential strategies to reduce positive cases of Covid-19 in Scotland. Please be reassured we have risk assessments in place and contingency plans ready as an authority, a school, and individual classes, should new information or restrictions arise.
- Check Highland Council website during the summer holidays for any updates/ latest on schools and education.
- Any specific new information for our school will be shared on the Blog.
- No staff will be in the school building, monitoring the telephone, or checking emails during the holidays.
- Keep following Scot Gov. F.A.C.T.S. & local page on social media 'Safe Hands, Saves Lives', to continue to keep our community as safe and well as possible.

Updates -

- School dinner meal options at Lochardil will be as advertised per Highland summer menus. School dinners and packed lunches will use the dining hall and gym hall to eat lunch.
- ELC-P4 will be entitled to free school meals from August, with P5-P7 being included at staggered intervals over the session, in accordance with Scottish Government commitments. Please ensure any debts are cleared by the end of term, and P5-P7 have new funds added to their accounts if required for the new session.
- Ensure all children come prepared for the weather conditions, and of course learning.
- Further communication will be blogged with regards to any changes to our ELC/ OoSC provision i.e. ensuring bookings are made in advance, numbers, staffing etc.
- All Covid-19 mitigations in place will continue for next session e.g. drop off/ pick-ups, entrance and exits, limited visitors on the school campus, year group bubbles, handwashing and sanitising, classroom environment organisation, communication channels, learning and teaching etc. These will be reviewed regularly in line with Scot. Gov advice.
- Still no school lets available at present.
- A copy of all Head Teacher Termly Reports to share at Parent Council are available on the parent Council area of our Blog.
- Our School Improvement and Report Plan (SIRP) will be available from September 2021 where details of our evaluation from last session, and identified priorities for focus for next term will be shared.
- We miss seeing you all in person! We will continue to work on more virtual opportunities for next session.
- Please join us on our Parent Council. The team are such a vital part of our school and this is an opportunity to not only make decisions to shape the future of our school, but also connect with each other through having children at the school and sharing the common goal of working together to improve outcomes for our children!
- Finally – if shopping online during the holidays, remember you can be supporting us to raise funds for our school using our Easy Fundraising link, without paying an extra penny! Click here for info - <https://lochardilprimary.org.uk/easy-fundraising-2/>

Thank you for doing what you do, being who you are, and continuing to work with us to not only do our job but to truly make a positive difference to lives of all our young people! The children teach us so much every day, and it is so rewarding to have the privilege of spending our days educating our future generation!

Have a fabulous summer holiday, stay safe, and enjoy all the memories waiting to be made! We look forward to seeing you again on Tuesday 17th August 2021.



Audrey Kellacher
Head Teacher