



# Ulva Primary School Newsletter

## Spring Term 2017

Website: [www.ulva.argyll-bute.sch.uk](http://www.ulva.argyll-bute.sch.uk)  
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### DEAR PARENTS

Welcome back to the Spring Term. I hope you all had a fun filled break - it certainly sounds as though you all did, listening to the pupils' news!

This term is often challenging regarding the weather. If transport is affected due to poor road conditions, we will endeavour to let you know by phone. Can you please read the following section regarding transport and take note of the guidance provided. We had a very busy term before the break and I shall provide highlights before looking forward to all that is happening this term.

May I wish you all a prosperous and healthy 2017.

*Susie*

Telephone numbers -

Ulva Primary School - 01688 500246.  
Lochdonhead Primary School - 01680 812473

Mobile 07902944626

Home 01688 302244

In an emergency, if you are unable to contact me, Mairi's mobile number is - 07789 704881



### TRANSPORT

Maureen 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 Maureen directly by 8.30am? Her home phone number is - 01688 500229 and her mobile number is - 07733707017. If there is any absence, please follow our procedures and phone the school before 9.30am as well as letting Maureen know as soon as possible in the morning.

If due to poor weather, Maureen is unable to drive to school, school staff will still endeavour to get to school, if it is safe to do so. Providing we can get to the school, it will be open. It would then be necessary for you to make individual arrangements regarding transporting your child to and from the school. I do hope this does not happen but it is better to have a plan, just in case.

Additionally, should we have a power cut which is likely to last for a period of time, our plan would be for Maureen to transport the pupils down to Lochdonhead for the day.

Thank you for your support with this.

### PROJECT TRUST

Jordan Wilson, the Education Coordinator at Project Trust, came to talk to the children on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> November at Lochdonhead School. She provided the children with a very interesting workshop on Global Citizenship and Child Poverty. The children all contributed very valuable thoughts and created their own personalised Tree of Life.



### HANDLING FOOD TRAINING

Maureen received her Elementary Food Hygiene Certificate on 15<sup>th</sup> November. This is wonderful as it means that we can now get back to offering the pupils a homemade bowl of soup once a week.



## WORLD BOOK DAY

For the World Book Day competition, the pupils were asked to design a display that answered the question "What makes us a child of books?". The pupils chose their favourite books and wrote book reviews on them. Then Mrs Nicolson read George's Marvelous Medicine which the pupils all loved.



## PANTO TRIP

In December, P5-P7 from Ulva and Lochdonhead visited Glasgow with Tobermory School for a Panto Trip. Firstly we visited Kelvingrove Museum where there was so much to see and do, it was wonderful. Then we were entertained by Elfie's Magical Adventure at the Pavilion Theatre. The following day we had the 'Hampden Experience' where even the most reluctant football fan found something to join in with - the speed of some of the goal kicks was brilliant! It was a pleasure to take them on this trip and they were wonderful ambassadors for their school.



## CHILDREN IN NEED

In November the children organised a Community Café and part of the money raised was for Children in Need. A total of £21.15 was donated.

## POPPY APPEAL

The children and parents of Ulva Primary raised a total of £74.43 for the 2016 Poppy Appeal. We would especially like to thank Sally Greenfield and Jeanette Cutlack who rattled the tins around Ulva Ferry for us.

## CHRISTMAS SHOW



The Christmas Show, It's a Miracle, was a huge success. It always amazes me how so few pupils can provide such outstanding singing and acting. Mairi, Beccy, Rachel and Maureen provided tremendous support for this and I am so grateful for all their talents. Thank you also to Rebecca and Katja for coming and creating such spectacular backdrops and all parents for contributing to props and stunning costumes.

After the show, the children enjoyed a Christmas Party and it was made even more special because Santa came to visit and give out wonderful gifts.



## CASTLE CHALLENGE

As the pupils have been working on the topic of Mary Queen of Scots, who, over her life, would have spent time in many grand castles, the children were set the homework challenge of creating their own castles using any materials they wished.

The results were fantastic, with towers, turrets, moats, draw-bridges and even indoor lighting. The children made a huge effort and were presented with certificates in recognition of this.



## ROAD SAFETY COMPETITION

All the pupils designed very creative and eye catching entries for the 2017 Argyll and Bute Road Safety Calendar Competition in October. We were delighted to hear that Ajay Merritt's design had been highly commended by the judges. Well done Ajay!



## VISIT TO LOCHDONHEAD

On the last day of term, we planned to visit Lochdonhead for the Carol service, but unfortunately the forecast was so bad that we had to cancel these plans.

I know everyone was very disappointed not to go (especially missing the Christmas dinner!), but

Caitlin has kindly agreed to provide a delicious meal for us the next time we go across for the day.

### EVIDENCE FOR LEARNING APP

Our reports this term included work from the pupils Evidence for Learning App. In general, the feedback from parents was very positive, however we will continue to send home the teachers comment sheet with each report.



### THE TERM AHEAD

#### TAG RUGBY

Babs has provided us with dates for the Tag Rugby Competitions. These are: 29<sup>th</sup> January, 5<sup>th</sup> March, 23<sup>rd</sup> April and 20<sup>th</sup> May.

#### SPORTS CLUBS

The children are really keen to start up some lunchtime clubs. This term they hope to run a skipping and table tennis club. Babs Whyte has agreed to provide help in setting these up eg provide resources, advice on rules etc.

We are also looking to start an after school club if possible. Would you, or anyone you know, be able to give 45 minutes of your time to provide a club for the pupils at the school? It doesn't need to be for the whole year, just a term would be wonderful. We don't have a lot of space here but we are very good at making use of the space we have! If you can help in any way please get in touch with me. Thank you.



### SWIMMING



Swimming will start again on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> February and will run until Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> March.

### CYCLING

Davie Graham will be visiting the school this term to give the pupils some cycle coaching and Gus Whyte will also be visiting for a day to provide cycle maintenance training.



### HEALTH DAY

We shall be having a Comic Relief Health Day this term on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> March. This will be at Salen school for P2-P6 and Tobermory High School for P7. This will give the opportunity for the pupils to work with other children who attend schools in our Cluster.

A limited number of red noses are now available at the school office for £1.



### PLANTING AND GROWING

It is lovely to start thinking about spring again. The pupils will be putting their thinking caps on to consider what to grow. In the past we have been very fortunate to have Maureen help us. If anyone else is interested in helping us, please get in touch.



### COMMUNITY CAFE

Last term the 3 Community Cafés raised £332.99 for school funds which is absolutely amazing!

We will be holding a Burns Themed Community Café on Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> January, 2-3pm at the school. It would be wonderful if you could donate a plate of Scottish nibbles for everyone to enjoy.



Future café dates-

28<sup>th</sup> February - World Book Day Theme

28<sup>th</sup> March

25<sup>th</sup> April

30<sup>th</sup> May

Thank you very much for your continued support with this.

### COMMON GROUND PROJECT

Rhea Lewis, the producer of the Common Ground Project, is organizing a Common Ground live event at An Tobar in Tobermory on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> February. This will be a one off event and will feature the final episode of the Ulva podcast created by the children. The children will travel by school transport to the event but it is hoped that parents and the community will also come along. I will send out further details when I have them.



## BEACH CLEAN

We plan to run our annual beach clean on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> May. This is poling day and the school is closed so we have found, in the past, that this is an ideal time to do the beach clean - normally we are lucky with the weather and lack of midges! We start at Killiechronan beach and work our way back toward the school.

Usually we receive a very generous cheque from the GRAB trust for helping to keep our environment clean and tidy and this really helps our school funds.

We would welcome any help as we have definitely found that many hands make light work. If you can come along and help, can you please let us know, thank you.

## STEM INTERDISCIPLINARY LEARNING

This term, the pupils will be focusing their interdisciplinary learning on a STEM challenge (science, technology, engineering and maths) and they will once again be entering the Scottish Engineering Special Leaders Award. This is a widely recognized competition and Kate won her age category when we entered last.

To kick off their STEM topic, John Nicolson, the regional construction manager for TSL will be coming in to talk to the pupils about his experiences in civil engineering. John will be sharing his expertise and showing them how to turn ideas into reality.

We would really like to get as many aspects of engineer in as possible, so if you know of any engineer who would be willing to come in and talk to the pupils, please let us know.



## NUMERACY

As part of my role as numeracy coordinator for the authority, I will be attending a 2 day seminar by Lynda Keith at Inveraray. Lynda is a highly respected educational consultant in numeracy and I expect to bring back many new ideas and initiatives to both schools to help raise attainment in numeracy.

## PROFESSIONAL VISITS

Laurie Black, the Area PT for Pupils Support/ASN will be visiting on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> January to discuss pupil support needs.

Clare Bryden, Area PT for Literacy, will be visiting on 25<sup>th</sup> January to discuss our current literacy schemes and approaches to all things literacy.

## P1 REGISTRATION

The week for registering new P1s to the school is 16<sup>th</sup> January 2017. I would be grateful if you could please let any interested parents know.

## 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.

## PARENT COUNCIL

Rebecca Munro, Chair of the Parent Council, has emailed out a link to a survey monkey to find out which date you would prefer for our next Parent Council meeting. I would be grateful if you could take the time to respond to this.

## FEBRUARY BREAK

This will be February 10<sup>th</sup> to Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> for pupils. Staff will have an inservice on Friday 10<sup>th</sup>.

## EASTER

School will close on the afternoon of Friday 31<sup>st</sup> March and will re-open on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> April.

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES

9.1.17 - School starts  
16.1.17 - Week of P1 registration  
20.1.17 - Parent Council Meeting  
24.1.17 - Laurie Black PT Pupil Support visiting  
25.1.17 - Clare Bryden Area PT for Literacy visiting  
29.1.17 - Tag rugby  
31.1.17 - Community Cafe  
9.2.17 - School closes for February break  
10.2.17 - In-service  
16.2.17 - School re-opens  
22.2.17 - Swimming starts.  
24.2.17 - Common Ground live event at An Tobar  
28.2.17 - Community Cafe  
1.3.17 - Swimming  
5.3.17 - Tag rugby  
8.3.17 - Swimming  
15.3.17 - Swimming  
22.3.17 - Swimming  
24.3.17 - Health Day / Comic Relief Day  
28.3.17 - Community Cafe  
29.3.17 - Swimming  
31.3.17 - School closes for Easter break  
18.4.17 - School re-opens  
25.4.17 - Community Cafe  
28.4.17 - School closes for May break  
2.5.17 - School re-opens  
4.5.17 - Beach Clean  
29.5.17 - 2.6.17 - P6/7 residential trip  
9.6.17 - Sports Day  
12.6.17 - 16.6.17 - P7 induction week  
30.6.17 - School closes