



# Ulva Primary School Newsletter

## Autumn Term 2015

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### DEAR PARENTS AND CARERS

Although the sun has been a fickle friend this summer, I hope you all had a good break. It is wonderful to see the pupils back and I am convinced they have all sprouted since I saw them last! We are looking forward to another busy, productive year ahead and the joint school arrangement will continue to enhance all aspects of our school. We are extremely fortunate to have such hard working and dedicated staff working in our schools and this, coupled with the pupils' very good work ethic will ensure on-going success. Let us not forget, of course the enormous support that you, as parents provide to the school - we are indeed very fortunate. Please remember that Mrs Carmichael, as Principal Teacher, is at school to support the pupils and yourselves, which she does to a very high standard. 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 Lochdonhead Primary School is - 01680 812 473.



### STAFFING

The staffing arrangements for this year are -

Susie Carmichael, Principal and Class Teacher will be in school each day.

Beccy Roth, Music Teacher will be with us on Monday afternoons and will also help support in class on a Tuesday.

Babs Whyte, Class Teacher, will be in on Thursday afternoons.

Tricia Evans, Support for Learning Teacher, will be in every Friday for half a day.

Mari will continue as our clerical assistant.

We will be very sad to say goodbye to Karen, her happy, smiley face and very helpful nature will be sorely missed.

Rachel French has joined us and shall be in school Monday to Friday supporting pupils. We all warmly welcome Rachel and we hope she enjoys working in the school.

I shall be in school for half the week, planning to be in Ulva on Wednesdays and Thursdays and each alternate Friday. However this arrangement is subject to change depending on the needs of each school.

Hopefully Anne, our cleaner/janitor will be returning next week and I am

delighted to share that she is feeling better.

### PUPILS

We are delighted to welcome Bruce and Matilda to our school. They have joined the P1 class and their quiet confidence is a real credit.



### TOBERMORY FLOWER SHOW

The pupils created lovely art work for the Flower Show which was on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> in Tobermory. I am delighted to report that Ajay won 3<sup>rd</sup> Prize in the P1-3 category. Well done, Ajay.



## PE

Our grateful thanks to Babs for, again offering to provide this wonderful experience for the pupils. PE will start on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> August.

## PE KIT



N.B. Please name all your child's clothing.

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? Unfortunately, crocs do not provide adequate support for PE.

## TAG RUGBY FESTIVAL

Lochdonhead and Ulva are usually asked to host the first tag rugby meeting. I have not been given dates as yet but just want to give you all the heads up. We greatly appreciate your support with this. Last year the pupils had a fantastically successful year which is a great credit to the pupils and parents.



## PIPING AND CHANTER



Callum MacLean will be visiting soon to talk about chanter tuition.

## PLAYGROUND BUDDY TRAINING

Babs will be doing joint school buddy training with the P4-7s on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> September. The pupils from Lochdon will be transported over for the day and the younger pupils will work together in the classroom with Mrs Carmichael and Ms Bidwell.

## LITERACY

On Friday, Susie will attend a Phonics Workshop. We shall use her developing expertise to enhance our literacy curriculum. If you wish to find out more, please use this link - <http://www.thelearningzoo.co.uk/phonics-forever/>

## MATHS AND NUMERACY

This session, we shall be working closely with Amy MacDonald, the Maths teacher at Tobermory High School. This will ensure that we have a shared understanding of assessment and moderation in maths across the Cluster.

## WORLD OF WORK

Our first topic of the session is World of Work. This will provide the pupils with an understanding of job options in the area, preparation for employment, possible future careers, consideration of skills, training, experience, and links between skills, education and jobs. This will also develop economic wellbeing and dispel gender views.

If you would like to contribute to this project and share your working experience, please let us know. .

## FOOD FOR THOUGHT

We have been awarded £3000 for our Food for Thought bid. We have now got a double sink in the classroom upstairs (cost of £1000) and the bottom classroom painted which were both aspects of the bid. I shall be putting in an order for the remaining items very soon.

## GRAB

We received a fantastic cheque from The Grab Trust for £380 for our recent beach clean which is fantastic. This brings our grand total for 2015 to £549,33.

## BEACH SCHOOL

This term we are hoping to continue our Beach School on a Tuesday afternoon. As you are aware, a great deal of importance is placed on high quality outdoor learning and we want to ensure that we provide the pupils with an excellent outdoor learning programme.



## MOD

The local Mod will be taking place on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> September in Tobermory. In Mrs Carmichael's absence, Becca and I shall be taking the pupils up for the action song. If your child wishes to perform in a solo, could you please be the accompanying adult. The school will be transported up for the action song then returning to school for the remainder of the day.

### CONTINUED PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Mrs Carmichael has been accepted for an Into Headship qualification, run by Scottish College of Education Leadership. The work will be a mixture of theory and practical /research action. The school will benefit from all the skills which will be developed.

### SKILLSBOOK

The pupils will be starting to create a learning journal using the online facility of Skillsbook. The pupils of Lochdon, most of who are now experts, will be coming across to Ulva Primary School to teach the pupils there how to use this programme on Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> August. Later this term, we shall invite parents in and the pupils will run a workshop on Skillsbook. At that point we shall issue the passwords to allow you to access from home.

### REPORTING

We have discussed how to effectively provide termly reports. This term we shall be sending home reports on the current working in Literacy and Numeracy. These reports will reflect the learning outcomes shared in the class newsletter, which will wing its way to you within the next couple of weeks. Please let us know what you think about these reports and whether they give a good insight into your child's progress, or what we can improve.

Parental consultations will take place this term on Monday 28<sup>th</sup> September in the afternoon. Times will be issued closer to this date.

### VISIT FROM EDUCATIONAL OFFICER

Jay Helbert, our Education Officer will be meeting with me on 9<sup>th</sup> September. The purpose of this meeting is to discuss our School Improvement Plan.

### INSET

This term will finish on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> October and there will be an Inset on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> October.

### ARGYLL COLLECTION

Each year Argyll and Bute set a Literacy competition, based around works of art. We intend to enter this stimulating Authority competition this term. More details will follow.

### NATIONAL POETRY DAY

This is on 8<sup>th</sup> October, our last day of term for the pupils. We will have a joint school celebration of poetry and if anyone would like to be involved either by providing favourite poems or coming in to read/recite poems, please let us know.

### SWIMMING

We shall have swimming sessions next term **and** after February.

### PARENT COUNCIL

It would be good to set a date for a meeting where we can discuss fund raising and school matters. There have been changes to the appropriate management of the school fund and I shall share that at the first meeting.

### 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 (we have our beach school as on-going projects), wish to help in class in any way, please let us know. We would really welcome your help.

### DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES

19.8.15 - School starts  
22.8.15 - Tobermory Horticultural Show  
27.8.15 - Skillsbook training in Ulva with Lochdonhead  
3.9.15 - Playground buddy training at Ulva with Lochdonhead  
9.9.15 - Visit from Jay Helbert  
11.9.15 - Mod  
28.9.15 - Parental Consultations  
8.10.14 - National Poetry Day, End of term  
9.10.15 - Inset

