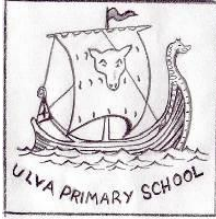


Ulva Primary School Newsletter

Winter Term 2020

website: www.ulva.argyll-bute.sch.uk
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We are so happy to be together again!

DEAR PARENTS

I hope you all enjoyed your October break. Even if we didn't manage to get off the island, we do live in a wonderful part of the world to enjoy a holiday!

Due to continuing COVID-19 restrictions we have not been able to enjoy our normal school trips nor have we been able to welcome visitors to the school, however we have been busy learning lots of new things in school and within our school grounds.

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 812473 and my mobile number is 079029 44626/07786685227.



Susie Carmichael,
Head Teacher



ABSENCE AND ILLNESS

Individuals should not attend school if they feel unwell.

The main symptoms of Coronavirus (Covid-19) are a high temperature, a new, continuous cough and a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste.

As we move into winter, we feel it is a good time to remind everyone about NHS advice on children's attendance at school when they are feeling poorly. For bouts of sickness or upset stomach children should be kept at home for 48 hours after the last bout of sickness. If your child shows signs of being unwell, please keep them at home until they are well enough to return to school.

Thank you for your co-operation and partnership in helping us to maintain a happy, healthy school.

If your child is absent from school it is important that the office is contacted on the morning of absence before 9:30am if possible. This procedure is in place for the safety and security of pupils. You will receive a telephone call or text message if no call is received.

PICK UP / DROP OFF

Parents / carers should avoid coming into the school grounds unless it is essential. Can you please drop your child off at the school gate no earlier than 9.25am for a 9.30am start. We would ask that parents

maintain the 2m distance between families while waiting at the school gate for your child at 3.30pm.

LAST TERM

WILD TEDDIES

This was a wonderful topic to help us settle into being back at school, focusing on spending lots of valuable time together outside and covering lots of different areas, including Science and Art. Each child had a teddy of their own that they had found in the wild and they came to live with them. Through exploring how the teddies survived on their own in our school grounds the children learned about the secret of PAWS. Plants that are edible and poisonous. Air, how lichens and other plants produce the air we breathe. Water, how the water cycle provides us with fresh water and finally shelter, looking around the grounds to find where the teddies could have been sheltering. The teddies also provided an excellent stimulus for a creative story about their adventures.





Tommy - I liked exploring with my teddy

Leo - I liked being surprised when we got the teddies

Aoife - I liked it when we took pictures of the teddies in different places around the playground.

Chayce - I liked identifying the berries

Ross - I liked making my Wild Teddies jotter

Matilda - I liked writing the story about the teddies.

Bruce - I like making the smells with natural things we found in the playground

Eilidh - I liked making the scarves for our teddies

ART

To celebrate coming back together the children produced a wonderful wall collage of themselves. It is full of colour and reflects our happiness at being back at school.



They have also spent time planning and beginning to paint a new mural on the large exterior wall of the main classroom. This is going to be a truly unique piece of work as every single element is being designed and drawn by the children, reflecting their individual personalities. We have not included any photos as the work is ongoing and we want to reveal it as one finished piece.

Leo - I'm looking forward to seeing our mural when it is finished

Chayce and Aoife - I liked it when we actually got to paint on the wall.

Matilda - I enjoyed designing our pictures first and then making them bigger for the wall.

Bruce - I enjoyed making my self-portrait for Our Together Again collage.

SCIENCE

In Science the children have been learning about changes of state. There was much excitement as they watched a salt and water solution and a baking powder and water solution evaporated to leave crystals.



Chayce - I enjoyed finding out if we could dissolve stuff

Eilidh - I liked to keep on checking on the salt and baking powder crystals

TECHNOLOGY

Last term the children were learning about computer programming. They used special coding programmes on the i-pads to create coding which would control Lego robots they had built themselves and special ozbots.



Bruce - I custom built a truck from Lego and programmed it to roll

Ross and Matilda - We liked building the Lego robots, they were fun

Chayce - I think the ozbots were fun

RME

The pupils were exploring the moral values and beliefs that people can hold out with religion. They gave examples of values such as kindness, honesty, respect, patience, love, courage, caring and cooperation.

Bruce - I enjoyed doing the charades about feelings.

HEALTH & WELLBEING

Health has been focussed on the transition back to school and the children's emotional and mental wellbeing. We have been working through the SHANARRI wellbeing indicators and the children have produced posters showing when they feel Safe, Healthy, Achieving, Nurtured, with Active, Respected, Responsible and Included to be revisited next term. The children have also set themselves personal targets in maths, literacy and something from another area of

home, for motivation and to foster a sense of achievement.



Chayce, Bruce, Ross and Aoife - We enjoyed creating our posters.
Tommy, Eilidh and Matilda - We liked thinking of our personal targets.
Leo - I loved all of it.

PE

We have been thoroughly enjoying getting active outside for our PE sessions, whatever the weather! The children have been amazingly resilient and are happy to work up a sweat in the rain, without any grumbles. They have worked hard to develop their skills in basketball and Unihoc and the progress made by everyone has been very impressive. The children were able to put their skills into practice with some very exciting Unihoc matches, with the scores being very close. The new basketball hoop was put to very good use and as each child had their own ball with their name on it, it was great to see them practicing at playtimes too.



Aoife and Eilidh - We liked shooting at the hoop.
Leo - I liked practising dribbling with the ball.
Tommy - I like doing stretches at PE.

Matilda, Ross, Chayce and Bruce - We all loved playing the proper games of Unihoc.

SHOW RACISM THE RED CARD

The Children learned to Show Racism the Red Card. To show their support they created their own red cards.



MATHS WEEK

From 28th September until the 2nd October, we participated in Maths Week Scotland, recognising and celebrating the importance of maths and the impact it has on our everyday lives, whether we realise it or not! The children were hugely enthusiastic throughout and by the end of the week they had an understanding that no one is born as either a 'maths person' or not, but that we all have the ability to learn any mathematical concept through hard work and practice! Even more importantly the children had a massive amount of fun while engaging with all the different maths activities. The activities ranged from a marshmallow and spaghetti tower building challenge, a times tables treasure hunt, personalised numbers of the day, maths mysteries to solve and lots of mental agility practice. All pupils were presented with a certificate to acknowledge their hard work and enthusiastic participation.



PUPIL COUNCIL

The Pupil Council was very active last term, with Bruce and Matilda as joint presidents. At meetings the pupils have been able to raise issues and make requests about things they would like to get for the class and playground or for things they would like to do in school, many of which have already been actioned. Such as a rota for the bouncy hoppers, more plants for the classroom and individualised sticker charts.



Bruce - I liked gathering all the ideas from the others to take to the Pupil Council meetings.

Ross and Tommy - We like watching the birds eating at the feeders, there were loads there yesterday!

Leo and Eilidh - We liked getting the plant cutting and looking after them at our tables.

Aoife - I like watching the birds at the feeders.

Chayce - I like playing with the jumbo chalks that we ordered.

THIS TERM

PE KIT

We will be having PE mainly outside. Please provide your child with warm PE clothes for this.

REMEMBRANCE DAY

We will be recognising Remembrance Day at 11am on 11th November with a 2 minute silence. We have poppies available at the school if you wish to send in a donation to the Poppy Appeal.



GOLD AWARD

In October we were delighted to be awarded our gold award by the Woodland Trust.

To achieve this award, we have planted new trees on the Isle of Ulva; visited local woods and completed woodland workshops with Countryside Ranger Jan Dunlop; recycled; created tree champions to be a voice for woods and trees; held an assembly based on the uplifting story of The Man Who Planted Trees whilst also discussing climate change and the importance of trees to us all; explored the traditions of tree

dressing around the world and held our own tree dressing ceremony with Christmas wishes for the future and homemade fat balls for the birds, explored the natural world from different perspectives, created artwork using natural materials and joined in various other Woodland Trust activities.

We now have our sights set on continuing our learning through the Platinum Award!



SHOEBOX APPEAL

Thank you so much for your kind donations to the Blythswood Shoebox Appeal. Never have these gifts been appreciated more than now. To have been able to collect 9 boxes from such a small school is simply wonderful - THANK YOU ALL!



HALLOWE'EN

We plan to recognise Hallowe'en at the school in the afternoon of Friday 30th October. This will not be like the parties that we have had before

but we plan for the children to enjoy some Hallowe'en activities and crafts.

DRAMA

We are delighted that Andi Stevens will be joining us for Drama sessions at the school this term. These sessions will be outside in the playground in line with COVID guidance.

Andi will be working on a theme of Peak, Pit and Ponder to explore creativity in the light of the children's experiences over the past few months. 'We will be storytelling and learning to be the SUPER in us!'

CHILDREN IN NEED

Children In Need is on Friday 13th November. The children at Ulva are keen to recognise this in some way and are thinking as to what they would like to do. Further details will be sent home nearer the time.



CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY

Christmas Jumper Day 2020 is on Friday 11th December. The children are welcome to wear Christmas jumpers to school that day and, if they wish, bring a donation to Save the Children.



CHRISTMAS SHOW

This year's Christmas Show will look a little different. The children would like to create a puppet show and this will be recorded and shared with you all online. I will send more information as to how this can be accessed in December.

TOOTHBRUSHING

Highly monitored tooth brushing has resumed in school where we will be following strict COVID guidance.

PARENT COUNCIL

The post holders for the Parent Council are:

Rebecca Munro - Chair

Sam Wright - Secretary

Lucie Howard - Treasurer

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. Unfortunately, at present, we have been advised against non-essential visitors to the school. We will therefore be getting in touch with you online for your thoughts and views. I am happy to organise a Google Meet for the next Parent Council meeting.

For more information, and many more photos, please visit our blog on <https://ulvaschoolprimary.wordpress.com/>

REPORTING TO PARENTS

The pupils are keen that we continue with WOW slips to celebrate achievements at home. Can you please return these slips to school to share.

We will be continuing with 'Seesaw' as a reporting tool. If you need any assistance with this please let us know.

We will send out an interim report in December and a full written report in May.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES

19.10.20 - Schools open

11.11.20 - Remembrance Day

13.11.20 - Children in Need

26.11.20 - Schools close

27.11.20 - In-service

30.11.20 - In-service

1.12.20 - Schools open

11.12.20 - Christmas Jumper Day

23.12.20 - Schools close

7.1.21 - Schools open

5.2.21 - Schools close

15.2.21 - In-service

16.2.21 - Schools open

1.4.21 - Schools close

19.4.21 - Schools open

27.5.21 - Schools close

28.5.21 - In-service

31.5.21 - Holiday

1.6.21 - Schools open

30.6.21 - Schools close