



# Ulva Primary School Newsletter

## Spring Term 2016

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 2016.

*Pauline*

Telephone numbers -

Ulva Primary School - 01688500 246.

Lochdonhead Primary School - 01680812473

Mobile 07891637018/07786685227

Home 01688302375

In an emergency, if you are unable to contact me, Susie's mobile number is - 079 029 44626

Please be aware that reception on the mobiles is patchy.



### TRANSPORT

Roger 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 Roger directly? His mobile number is - 07786938057 and his home phone number is - 01688500229. If there is any absence, please follow our procedures and phone the school before 9.30am as well as letting Roger know as soon as possible in the morning.

If due to poor weather, Roger 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 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 Roger to transport the pupils down to Lochdon for the day.

Thank you for your support with this.

### SERVICE CHOICES

The Authority have now removed the additional pupil support staffing from budget cuts this year, however there are still proposed cuts for clerical staff, classroom assistants and janitors/cleaners. The final decisions regarding cuts will be made by Elected Members at a Council Meeting in February 2016.

### BEACH SCHOOLS

The pupils really enjoy these sessions and it provides us with a



wonderful platform for learning about sustainability, ecology, science and teamwork.

## TASTE OF TOURISM

The older pupils really enjoyed this exciting event, representing the school with a map created by the pupils in the North Mull Cluster. This map showed food producers on the Island. We received great feedback from the organisers who were very impressed with the pupils.

So much so, a spin off has been an offer from Anne Mitchell, Cal-mac sales manager for a chef to work with the pupils to create a meal. A competition was set before Christmas and Helen Swinbanks judged the entries. The following recipes have been sent to Anne - Bruce's recipe for Isle of Mull haggis bubble 'n' squeak with poached egg; Matilda's recipe for crab balls and the Merritt's recipe for smoked salmon terrine.

I am not sure if the Calmac chef will cook all three or whether he will select one. When I hear back from Anne, I shall let you know.



## FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Mari will be going to Inveraray to undertake a food handling course. We shall then be taking forward our cooking initiative. The pupils will select recipes for soups and be involved, with Susie and Mari, in making the soup to eat once a week. They will still need some bits and pieces in their packed lunches but I am sure they will enjoy and benefit from all the teaching and learning which will be undertaken around food

and nutrition and well as health and safety.

## CHILDREN IN NEED

In November the children organised a sale to raise money for Children in Need. We ran a raffle, tombola and bric-a-brac sale alongside tea, coffee and cake. We raised a total of £121.00. Thanks to all who donated items!



## POPPY APPEAL

The children and parents of Ulva Primary raised a total of £84.20 for the 2015 Poppy Appeal. We would like to thank all those who collected and gave so generously.

## SUMDOG

We took part, again in the Authority's Sumdog Competition which is available to all Primary Schools in Argyll and Bute. Lochdon were winners again and the prize, which is a year's free subscription, will commence after Easter 2016, when the current prize subscription ends. Ulva, as a partner school benefits from sharing this subscription.

The pupils really enjoy many aspects of this and we shared their thoughts with Sumdog. They were so delighted they started a blog - <http://blog.sumdog.com/2015/12/03/these-students-love-sumdog/>

Please click on the link and read what the pupils think about this programme. In these days of cuts and limited finance it is fabulous that we have these exciting

opportunities to challenge ourselves against other pupils in the Authority.

## CHILD HEALTHY WEIGHT ACTIVE PLAYGROUND PROJECT

We put a bid in for funding from this group and were delighted to hear that funds were given to us for £800 towards our playground. All monies received have been banked into the Parent Fund and we will now be able to take this project forward.

Susie and the pupils chose to build a shed in the playground for the storage of bikes. If you remember, Babs Whyte had success with funding last session and has bought bikes for both Lochdon and Ulva to share.

It is necessary for any work which is undertaken in school to go through authorized builders. I have asked Norman MacDonald if he will assist us with this project.

## HOUR OF CODING

The pupils really enjoyed taking part in the international initiative, hour of coding. This initiative was launched in 2013 in America. Code.org is a non-profit organization dedicated to expanding access to computer science. The pupils really enjoyed taking part in the games, style approach and they learned a great deal about computer programming.

We know that information technology has an ever increasing importance in our digital world and we want to provide the pupils with every opportunity to develop and hone their excellent skills.

Please let us know if you would be interested in the pupils demonstrating their skills to you in a workshop.

## SCOTTISH ENGINEERING SPECIAL LEADERS AWARD

Susie was asked to provide a teacher's perspective regarding the recent involvement we had with this award. She provided a short film which can be viewed on this link -

<https://vimeo.com/150880499>

Please take time to have a look as two of the pupils projects are discussed and praised by engineer students.

It is great that the pupils get this recognition for their hard work.

## CHRISTMAS SHOW

The Christmas Show, The Real St. Nick, was a huge success. It always surprises me how so few pupils can provide such outstanding singing and acting. Susie, Beccy and Rachel provided tremendous support for this and I am so grateful for all their talents.



## HANDWRITING COMPETITION

The pupils at both Lochdonhead and Ulva worked towards an inter-school handwriting competition. The finished pieces from each pupil were shared and assessed on the last day of term when Ulva pupils joined us for the day.

The results for Ulva were -  
Class A (6 years and under) – Matilda  
Class B (7-8 years) - Ashley  
Class C (9-10 years) - Arwen

The effort and achievement from all pupils was very high.

## THE TERM AHEAD

### BBC2

It was a mad rush towards the end of term when we were contacted by BBC2 with regard to the possibility of filming an after school club. In order to provide this opportunity for the pupils in Ulva, Susie is offering to run an ornithology club at lunchtime. I have sent details by email regarding how to register your child and there is still time to apply if you and your child wish to be involved. If you do not have internet connection and still want to take part, please let me know and I can let the casting director know. The paperwork attached to the email would need to be completed by yourselves, however. Please note that, I believe, part of the filming would take place at the child's home. The producer and director are visiting Skye and Mull this week to make decisions regarding the show.

We would like to discuss the possibility of an after school club starting at the next Parent council meeting.

## WAKE UP SHAKE UP

There are a number of good programmes which schools put in place to energise learners. One initiative is, Wake Up Shake Up. This provides pupils with a very easy way to introduce daily activity into our school for the first five minutes of the school day.

It engages children in a fun and lively way, as they learn easy routines to music and have a great time! Pupils are then ready to approach their class work re-energised and in a 'state of readiness to learn'.

## SWIMMING



Swimming will start again on Thursday 25th February and will run until Thursday 31st March.

## TAG RUGBY

Dates for this term - 13<sup>th</sup> February and 5<sup>th</sup> March.

## HANDLING FOOD TRAINING

Mari will be attending handling food training on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> January in Inveraray.

## BURNS LUNCH

Susie and Babs are organising a Burns lunch at the school on 25<sup>th</sup> January 2016. All family members are warmly invited. More information regarding how you could help will be sent soon.

The afternoon promises to be very exciting indeed, including singing, dancing and Gaelic food bingo!

## HEALTH CHECKS

Health checks for all P1 and P7 pupils in Lochdon and Ulva will take place on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> March.

## WATER CHECK

As part of a routine inspection, Robert McCluskey will be visiting the school on the week of 11th January to inspect our water service.

## VISIT FROM EDUCATIONAL OFFICER

The meeting with Jay Helbert did not happen as scheduled due to ferry disruption. Jay will be visiting the school on 4<sup>th</sup> February to discuss the school improvement plan.

## PARENT COUNCIL

Please let me know a convenient date for our next Parent Council Meeting.

## HEALTH DAY

We shall be having a health day this term on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> February, just before the February break. This will give the opportunity for the pupils to work with other children who attend schools in our Cluster.

The focus will be on safety with workshops from Police, NSPCC and Fire to name but a few.

## FEBRUARY BREAK

This will be February 19<sup>th</sup> and Monday 22<sup>nd</sup>. All staff will be attending an inset on ELLI (Effective Lifelong Learning Inventory) at Tobermory High School. This will allow staff to develop emotional literacy with the pupils.

## COMMUNITY CAFE

We will be holding our first community café on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> January, 2-3pm at the school. This will give the community an opportunity to meet and continue to build relationships within the community. It will also provide a wonderful platform for the pupils to share their learning.

We are having some additional special visitors to this café. Moray Finch will be coming with some members of Education Scotland. They are very interested to learn about this initiative.

Susie is undertaking Into Headship training and is taking control and ownership of the cafe, leading the pupils through an enterprising project. The community café allows the pupils to learn, in a meaningful way about commerce and running a business - necessary skills for life.

The success of this venture rests on support from parents as well as community. Maureen has very kindly offered to bake for this café and will be coming in to help. If anyone can help for future cafes we would really appreciate it.

Future dates-  
23<sup>rd</sup> February  
29<sup>th</sup> March

Please contact Susie if you can help in any way.

## P1 REGISTRATION

The week for registering new P1s to the school is 18<sup>th</sup> February. Can you please let any interested candidates know please?

## KODAMBA

We are very fortunate to be given the opportunity of having the expertise of Laura and Kirsten to work with the pupils and Beccy on Kodamba this term. Our block will start on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> February and will run for 6 weeks. Beccy will change her day working at the school from the Monday afternoon to the Tuesday to accommodate this initiative.

## 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 and we sincerely hope she can help us again. If anyone else is interested in helping us, please get in touch.

## PROFESSIONAL VISITS

There will be a planned round of visits between the education sectors on the Island, where practitioners will be released to make a scheduled

visit to a neighbouring educational provision. Karen Durie the PT at Tobermory High School will be coming to Ulva Primary School on the morning of Friday 26<sup>th</sup> February. This allows colleagues to share practice and learn from each other.

Susie will also arrange a reciprocal visit where she can observe and participate in the early year's sector in Tobermory.

This moderation of practice is very important as it develops relationships within the teaching community and allows expertise and passion to flourish. We, at Ulva, have a lot of successful initiatives which we are very happy and willing to share to all who are interested.

## EASTER

School will close on the afternoon of Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> March for the Easter weekend and will re-open on Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> March.

The school spring holidays start on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> April.

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES

6.1.16 - school starts  
13.1.16 - Mari on food handling training  
18.1.16 - week of P1 registration  
25.1.16 - Burns Lunch  
26.1.16 - Community Café  
30.1.16 - USCA Burn's Lunch held at school  
4.2.16 - visit from Jay Helbert  
13.2.16 - tag rugby  
18.2.16 - Health Day in Salen Primary School  
19.2.16 - February break  
23.2.16 - kodamba starts  
25.2.16 - swimming starts.  
26.2.16 - Karen Durie to visit in the morning  
24.3.16 - close for Easter weekend  
29.3.16 - school re-opens  
1.4.16 - school closes for spring break

