



Bun-Sgoil Ghàidhlig Loch Abar

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Our youngsters learning at the heart of our language, culture and community.

Ceannard na Sgoile: Mr John Joseph MacNeil

CUAIRT-LITIR SHEACHDAINEACH/WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

03.03.17

AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS

All after-school clubs will run as normal next week.

SCHOOL CÈILIDH

Date for the diary - our next School Cèilidh will take place on Thursday 30th March at 7pm. Artists will include Robert Nairn on the box, Lochaber Pipe Band and our children - more acts to be confirmed.

FUTURE ME SCOT

This is an opportunity for families with children in P1 - P3 to see that their role in learning together is useful and purposeful, supporting their child in their hopes and dreams. Check out the Future Me Scot video which can be found at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u1yCtZulrGs>.

Future Me Scot aims to get families talking with their children about their dreams and sharing these dreams with others across the country on their website. Check out some of the dreams that children have started to share across Scotland on: <http://futureme.readwritecount.scot/>.

FAMILY LEARNING WEEKEND

This weekend will take place on Saturday 25th and Sunday 26th March. The purpose of the weekend is to help parents/guardians, family members and the whole community of the school to learn Gaelic. Two highly experienced tutors - Alec (Valtos) MacDonald and Peter Murray will be tutoring Gaelic. There will be a class for complete beginners as well as a class for those with some level of Gaelic. Activities for the children will include a crèche, sports and music session.

We are looking for volunteers to run a community café. Parents/guardians who are interested in helping with the café should email or contact the school as soon as possible. This will allow us to see if this is viable. We still need more volunteers.

READ WRITE COUNT/LEUGH SGRIOBH CUNNTAIS

Read Write Count is a great way to help support your child at home to develop reading, writing and counting. There are lots of ideas for you to use that are simple and you can fit into day to day routine. Lots of videos are available as well as information on how to support Gaelic learning. The website can be accessed by going to <http://www.readwritecount.scot/>.

PARENTZONE

Lots of information for parents and families can be found at <https://education.gov.scot/parentzone>.



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SKIING

Abair seachdain airson sgìtheadh! Tha e air còrdadh glan ris na sgoilearan agus abair gu bheil iad air sgilean gu leòr ionnsachadh. What an amazing week skiing for our C5-7 children! The weather has been perfect! They have developed many new skills. Thank you so much to all our staff members and parent volunteers for all their help! You can see plenty photos on our website and on social media pages. We have had numerous messages from other school staff and Nevis Range staff about the fantastic manners and team work displayed by C5-7. Children were rewarded with an extra playtime this morning! Math a rinn sibh uile!

RED NOSE DAY / WORLD BOOK DAY

As our C5-7 children have been skiing, we will be celebrating World Book Day as part of our Red Nose Day celebrations on Friday 24th March! We are asking all children to dress up as their favourite book characters and bring along their favourite book to school. We will be having a very special parade during morning assembly. We would ask families to donate a £1 towards Comic Relief who make such a huge difference. There will be other activities and games happening - more information next week.

SURVEY WEEK

Next week we will be issuing questionnaires to children, staff, families and the local community. The information we gather from these questionnaires, along with continued feedback from all stakeholders, will be used to shape our new School Improvement Plan. More information on the new School Improvement Plan and the Quality and Standards Report will be issued to families very soon. ***Questionnaires should take under ten minutes to complete. We would ask that all families complete these as your contribution to our improvement agenda is so important. Ceud taing.***

LOCHABER MUSIC FESTIVAL

Please continue supporting learning of poems and songs at home. We are still awaiting a final programme.

ACHIEVEMENTS

Well done to all our children who received 'sàr-sgoilearan' this week. A reminder to all families that all 'sàr-sgoilearan' are posted on our website and social media pages weekly. Well done to Aiyanna (C3) and Skye (C5) who are raising money by donating some of their hair to Little Princess Trust - an amazing achievement. Well done also to C1-4 who were awarded extra playtime for using Gaelic throughout the school. Huge congratulations again to our C4/5 Shinty team who came 3rd in the whole of Scotland and won the award for fair play - tha sinn cho moiteil!

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PROFILING AND REPORTING

As you will be aware, we have been using a variety of tools to ensure that you are involved in your child's learning. These include:

Reporting activities for individual learners	Reporting activities for group/class/school/setting
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Learning conversations with staff, other pupils and parents- Learning snapshots which are issued on a termly basis- Achievements walls in our classrooms- Open Afternoons for families- Home Learning- End of year report- On-going class feedback- Child's plan / Review Meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Open days- School concerts/events/ceilidhs- Sporting events/coffee mornings- Achievement walls- Termly plans- School weekly newsletter- Website/social media pages- Parent Council Meetings- Curriculum workshops- 'Soft start' and 'Play' sessions in Sgoil-àraich- Range of pupil committees to ensure pupil voice is centrally to our improvement

All Highland Council schools are currently looking at a continuous profiling and reporting approach rather than the traditional end of year report. The majority of families feel this is too late to support learning and intervene at home. Therefore, we are working with the local authority at the moment to issue a more condensed report at the end of the year. This is still to be confirmed. This shorter report will summarise your child's learning across the year and summarise next steps which have featured in their learning snapshots. *If there are any families who would not be happy with a more condensed report or would like to find out more information, please contact Mr MacNeil directly. A sample will also be sent home to families as soon as we have confirmation.*

Profiling and reporting will also be part of our School Improvement Plan for next session and we hope to extend the ways which we report and work with families. One method that we will be trialling from now until the end of June is Class Dojo.

CLASS DOJO

You will be aware that we currently use Class Dojo in some of the classes to celebrate positive behaviour. A number of schools have been trialling Class Dojo as a way to share learning with families. The feedback has been very positive. We have decided that we will trial this system until June and will then ask families for feedback.



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CLASS DOJO

How do I access Class Dojo?

- You can simply access Class Dojo by downloading the 'app' onto your phone or/and by accessing the website. You will receive a code home very shortly to allow you access.

What information will be shared?

- You will first see the class story. This will be a collection of photos and videos from the learning in the classroom. This will only be seen by nominated parents within the classroom.
- You will then have the option to see the student story. This is totally confidential and only nominated parents, class teachers and Mr MacNeil can see individual stories. On this we will share pieces of work, assessment information, good news stories, individual pictures and videos for families. You have the option to comment as well as ask questions. Learning snapshots will also be shared on individual student stories.
- Children/staff will also share wider achievements in and out of school.

What other benefits will this provide?

- Instant engagement for families with the learning in the classroom.
- This will help reduce teacher workload. Currently teachers are required to photocopy and scan all learning that goes home which is a huge task. Teachers are also required to take pictures of learning to put into jotters. This will all now be on Class Dojo.

Is this safe?

- Yes, this has been trialled across a number of Highland schools.

What if I do not have internet?

- You will continue to receive snapshots in the traditional manner. We would also encourage families to come into school to have a look at Class Dojo.

How do the points work?

- Children are awarded points for demonstrating a particular skill e.g. team work. Once children have received 20 points, they get to choose a reward e.g. additional time with computer programming, additional time reading etc. This is very much about promotion of positive behaviour linked into developing essential skills for life, learning and work.



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27 th February - 10 th March	Fairtrade Fortnight
6 th March - 10 th March	Survey Week for Pupils, Families, Staff and Community Members
9 th March	Fairtrade Football Match with St Columba's
20 th - 23 rd March	Lochaber Music Festival / After-school Clubs finish
24 th March	Red Nose Day/World Book Day
25 th & 26 th March	Family Learning Weekend
27 th March	Fete Meeting
30 th March	School Cèilidh
5 th April	Easter Service - 10am
6 th April - 21 st April	Easter Holidays
24 th April - 19 th May	Short Topic Focus - Year of History, Heritage & Archeology
24 th April	Comhairle nam Pàrant (Parent Council) Meeting - 7.30pm
26 th April	Cuach na Cloinne (Football Tournament)
1 st May	May Day Holiday - School Closed
4 th May	In-service Training
15 th - 19 th May	Digital Learning Week / Walk to School Week - Big Whole School Walk
18 th May	School Fete
22 nd May - 26 th May	Short Topic Focus - Food Week
22 nd May	Open Afternoon for all families
24 th May	UNICEF Day for Change
26 th May	Reports home to Parents/Guardians
29 th May - 9 th June	Short Topic Focus - Career Fortnight / Career Afternoon (5 th June)
30 th & 31 st May	Pupil Progress Evenings/Book Fair
2 nd & 3 rd June	Oban Local Mod
8 th June	Wateraid Pipeline Challenge
9 th June & 10 th June	Lochaber Local Mod
12 th June - 16 th June	Transition Week for C7 at LHS / Cycling Proficiency Week C6
13 th June	Moving on Morning / New P1 Transition Visit - 9.30am - 12.30pm Parent Information Presentation for New P1's - 9.30am - 10.30am
14 th June	Parent Information Evening for Sgoil-àraich families - 6.00pm
15 th June	Sgoil-àraich Trip
16 th June	End of Term Ceilidh
19 th June	Whole School Trip
20 th & 21 st June	C7 Residential Trip to Skye
22 nd June	Induction Day in Sgoil-àraich - 10am
23 rd June	Sports Day - 1pm
27 th June	House Netball, Shinty & Football Tournaments
28 th June	Moving on Afternoon/New P1 Visit - 1.30pm
29 th June	Leavers' Assembly - 10am
30 th June	School Closes for Holiday at 12pm

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