##### Argyll and Bute Council





Comhairle Earra Ghàidheal agus Bhòid

**Community Services**

Acting Executive Director: Ann Marie Knowles

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02/02/18

Dear Parent/Carer,

Now that we are approaching our half term break, it’s a good time to provide an update of what has been happening in school so far this term.

We ended the Christmas term on a high after our very successful panto and nativity. Thank you to all who supported the pantomime which raised £1,055 for school funds.

Rolls Royce

Staff and children are working hard for our Rolls Royce Engineering project. P4/5 and P6/7 had very successful trips to the Wind Turbine accompanied by George Dean from Islay Energy Trust. All classes from across Islay will be participating in engineering workshops later in March. We expect a visit in April from Neil Chattle our Rolls Royce Mentor. Mr Chattle will be visiting the School to see how we are progressing with our project and he is also excited to see a bit more of Islay

Gaelic Choir

Gaelic Choir has started again with a healthy number of children participating. We have started one of our new songs and performed at Monday’s WW1 commemorative service held at the War Graves, Kilnaughton.

We will continue to practice every Thursday in preparation for the local Mod to be held in June this year. Some of the choir are also involved in the Joint School Choir which takes place on Mondays.

Stay and Play

Stay and Play sessions began again last month. This initiative has been a great success and we are delighted with the amount of positive feedback received from parents, carers, grandparents etc. These sessions are held every Monday from 1.30pm and will continue until June.

Swimming P5-7 and Swimming Gala

Our weekly swimming programme for P5-7 has started and will run every Thursday until Thursday 1st March, our swimming gala will be held on Monday 5th March. More details to follow.

Parent Council AGM

The parent council AGM was held on Thursday 18th January.

We would like to welcome Mrs Maria Heads as our new treasurer after Mrs Sally Campbell stood down. We would all like to thank Mrs Campbell for her hard work and excellent book keeping. We are always looking for new members and welcome all parents to be part of the council membership. If you are interested please contact any of our board members –

Chairperson - Mary Swanson

Secretary - Bonnie Wood

Treasurer - Maria Heads

Staff Member - Kate Brown

WW1 Preparations

As you are aware there are a number of high profile events happening in the coming months in Port Ellen to mark 100years since World War 1, in particular the sinking of the ship the Tuscania. Pupils and staff have been working with South Islay Development to help us with our contribution to these events.

We have cut the turf on the front green to read WW100 and have planted bulbs. Hopefully this will be in full bloom for the big event in May.

We have had visitors Jenni Minto and Stuart Graham into school to speak to the children about WW1 and Islay. The children were extremely interested and engaged in the presentation.

On the week back after the February break, each class will visit Islay Museum so look out for consent forms in bags. These visit dates are;

P6/7 Wednesday 21st February

P1-3 Thursday 22nd February

P4/5 Friday 23rd February

Clay Figures WW1

Jane Taylor will visit P1-5 on Tuesday 27th February and P6/7 on Friday 2nd March to help children make a clay figure each representing a fallen soldier. Every primary school child across Islay & Jura will participate in this activity and the figures produced will be part of the overall WW1 display.

WW1 Poetry

Ryan Van Winkle will visit P6/7 this Thursday 8th February to work with the children to create poetry associated with their WW1 topic. All the poems produced from children on Islay will form part of a book.

Burns Celebration

Thank you to all parents, carers and friends who attended the annual Burns Ceilidh on Friday 26th January.

Thank you to our judges, Mrs Dorothy Carmichael, Mr Angus Morrison and Mr John Findlay. This year was the 10th anniversary of the Burn’s Ceilidhs and as always it was a fun and relaxed afternoon of entertainment, dancing and poetry.

Well done to all children who learned their poem and to the winners.

Thank you to all children who performed and to Mr Nigel Morris for giving us a toe tapping medley on the pipes.

The hall looked fantastic and the Burn’s lunch tasted equally good. We look forward to next year.

Feis Oigridh

Thank you to the Feis tutors who inspired our children with their musical talent on Thursday 25th January.

Hopefully most children will participate in this year’s Feis Oigridh and Feis Bheag during the February break – a reminder that the dates of this year’s Feis is Tuesday 13th – Thursday 15th February.

Parent’s Afternoon/Evening – Interim Reporting

We will hold an interim reporting Parent’s Afternoon and Evening on Thursday 22nd February.

Appointment slips will be issued on Monday 19th February and should be returned to school as soon as possible.

February Break

School will close at 3.30pm on Friday 9th February and reopen on Monday 19th February.

The staff and pupils wish everybody a good holiday.

Yours sincerely,



MAUREEN MACDONALD

Head Teacher