##### Argyll and Bute Council





Comhairle Earra Ghàidheal agus Bhòid

**Community Services**

Shared Head Teacher – Mr Andrew Welch

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Keills Primary and Pre 5 Newsletter

September/October 2021

I can quite believe I am writing this newsletter and it’s the end of term next week. Where has the time gone? Please find below important information about the going on here at Keills Primary and Pre 5. We will continue to email this to you and pop it in children’s bags. Copies of the newsletter can also be found on our website.

Pre 5 staffing

Mrs Kirk will be leaving us next week. She has been with us for 6 years and over that time has built up strong relationships with our children and families. We will be sad to see her go and wish her all the best for her new job.

Miss McGurl will also be leaving us to begin a new post. Miss McGurl has been an asset to Keills since starting and has provided our children with a wealth of experiences over the years. We will all miss her and wish her luck in her new job.

Gillian McGregor, who started with us recently, will join us full time as our Childcare and Education Worker and Jenny Husthwaite, our classroom assistant will work with us full time. We will be advertising soon for a part time Pre 5 classroom assistant and I will keep you posted once I know what hours have been allocated to us.

I feel given the change in staffing to our Pre 5, that you should get to know our new staff. When I can, and am allowed with Covid restrictions, I will arrange a stay and play with inside or out. In the meantime, please feel free to have a chat at the gates during drop off and collections.

Halloween

One of our school priorities this session is to embrace Children’s Rights and high on that priority is Pupil Voice. This means our children will be involved in decision making such as fundraising opportunities and event organising. Our P7s are planning a Halloween event on **Friday 29th October**. More information will come your way via Seesaw but children will be able to dress up in costumes that day.

P4-7 lunch clubs In consultation with our older pupils, we have started lunch clubs. We currently have two clubs on the go at the moment (Art and ICT) with our P6 and P7 pupils taking the lead. We hope to extend these clubs to our P1-3 class soon.

COP26 (31st Oct – 12th Nov)

As a school, we will be engaging with events across the fortnight to raise awareness of climate change. We will look at Fairtrade, the role of WWF, Switch Off fortnight and bring virtual events into our classrooms. We recently held a ‘No power day’ to highlight our use of electricity across the school (with the exception of the kitchen and offices!) So expect some pressure for change coming your way at home that fortnight!

Shoebox Appeal

Leaflets have been issued for our yearly shoebox appeal. Boxes will be collected on **Friday 5th November**. This is one of our regular fundraising events. We hope to have further charity fundraisers lead by our children over the course of the year.

Cashless Catering For those of you who use our cashless catering service (P5-7) please continue to top up your account using this service. A school meal is priced at £2.30 daily.

Reporting absence

Please let the school know of any absences by calling the office. Alternatively you can email the enquiries address. **Please do not report absences using Seesaw**. If we do not hear from you by 10.15am, we will give you a call.

COVID Protocols

We continue to follow all current school guidance including distancing and increased cleaning and hygiene. **Please continue to give careful consideration to sending your child in if they are unwell for any other reason.**

COVID-19 TEST (Islay and Jura Protocol)

Main symptoms: New Continuous Cough/Fever or High temperature/a change in/or loss of taste or smell

Contact: Bowmore Hospital 01496 305 308

**Dates for your diary**

**Friday 8th Oct: School close-3.30pm**

**Monday 25th Oct: Pupils return**

**Wk 8th Nov: Parent Meetings (Virtual/call at moment)**

**Fri 12th Nov: Children in Need event**

**Wk 15th-21st Nov: Book Week Scotland**

**Monday 29th INSET day**

**Friday 10th Dec: Mid-session reports out**

**Wed 22nd Dec: School close- 2.30pm**

**\*\*Keep an eye on Seesaw for further class events!\*\***



I would like to thank all the children, staff and families for their hard work and support this term and I look forward to another exciting term ahead! My door is always open and please feel free to get in touch.

Yours sincerely,

Andy Welch

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