



# Port Charlotte Primary & Pre 5 Newsletter

## August 2025

### School Improvement

As a result of our consultation with pupils, parents and staff last term we have chosen the following main priorities for our school improvement plan:

Ethos of the school: we plan to look at the new Argyll and Bute Vision 'Thriving together' and work out the ways in which this vision aligns with our aims here at Port Charlotte, we will be sharing this work with you throughout this school year.

Learning, Teaching and Assessment:

Teachers and Childcare workers will be looking at the ways in which we support and guide our pupils to learn, we will be delving into research and refining our techniques to enable every child to 'Be the Best they can Be'...

Interdisciplinary Learning: Teachers and pupils will be looking at our projects and ensuring that they are delivering high-quality interdisciplinary projects. These projects will draw together different disciplines, enable pupils to draw on prior learning and skills, to learn new knowledge and skills and to transfer and apply that knowledge to new problems or other areas of learning.

Parent and Community Involvement: This target is a priority for our pre5 unit this session, our first event for this is a workshop run by Pathways through Play on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> September which parents are very welcome to attend to join in alongside their child.

The full school improvement plan is available from the school and on our Blog for anyone who would like a copy:

<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/ab/pcps/>

Also attached to this email is a 'you said/we did' document which is written by staff in response to your feedback in the June parent survey.

### Staffing

We were sad to say goodbye to our ASN support Assistant Mrs O'Brien just before the holidays. Last week we also bade farewell to Mr Mackie who has now retired from his janitor post after 20 years in the job! We would like to thank both of them for all their hard work and support for the school and wish them all the best in the future. Mr

Mackie will be carrying on in his role as bus driver and this week we have welcomed our new janitor Mr Alan McNicol.

### Data Check Forms and Flu forms

Many thanks to everyone who has already returned their annual data check forms, it is very important that we have up to date medical and contact details for each pupil. Forms have also been sent out for flu vaccination. Please complete and return if you have not already done so.

### New School Year

All the children have settled well into their new classes and everyone is working hard:



Nursery: As always in nursery, we follow the children's lead in thinking about what to learn next, we are starting off with thinking about the story 'The Tiger Who Came to Tea'. We have been learning all about tea parties and have had our own tea party and invited the Tiger to come too! Now we are learning all about tigers, what they look like, what they eat and what they do. This topic has helped us learn about patterns and healthy and unhealthy foods too.



P1-3: We have started the year with lots of work on our emotions, we have been thinking about how we all feel starting a new term at school. We are also involved with an investigation into electricity and have been all around the school looking at things which run on electricity. Next we will look at Materials and find out which materials are used to make a range of everyday objects.

P4-7: In Science we are going to be covering the biodiversity and adaptations of plants and animals and also learning about food chains and food webs. Our main topic this term is going to be a country comparison and the class have picked Kenya. The pupils are also keen to do their own mini-projects on their

own country of interest too! For their ICC projects they will be choosing a particular job that they are interested in and researching and creating a presentation on this. PE will be Netball and Rugby this term and we will also be looking at discrimination through our health topic.



### PE Kits

Please ensure your child comes to school in clothes suitable for outdoor PE activities, eg joggers and trainers along with their polo shirt and school jumper. Classes do PE on the following days:  
P4-7 Mondays and Wednesdays  
P1-3 Thursdays and Fridays  
All children p1-7 also take part in the Daily Run.

### Seesaw

Our new classes are now set up on the Seesaw app. You will be able to follow highlights of what goes on at school & nursery using the app. Please contact the school if you have any issues with this.

### Homework

Reading Homework It is very beneficial for younger pupils to regularly practice the words they bring home as well as reading their reading book; older pupils have their Reading Journals to complete alongside their books to read.



### Children's Rights

After receiving our Rights Respecting Schools Silver award we are continuing on our journey this session and aiming for Gold! Each Clan will take a turn to lead this initiative for one term, starting this term with Claddach.

### Reading Info Evening P1 parents

Mrs Wiggins will lead an informal information session for P1 parents about reading on Monday 15th at 3.15pm.

### Islay Book Festival

We had a lovely time with the real-life authors who visited us at school on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> August with Catherine Rayner for nursery to P3,



Martin Stewart for P3/4 and Elle McNicol for p5/6/7.

### PATCH visit

Emily from PATCH will be visiting us again in October. She will be holding workshops for our p5-7 pupils on online friendships and gender stereotypes and with just our p7 pupils on managing difficult emotions. If you would like any further information about these workshops please contact the school.

### Bruichladdich Community Day

We are delighted that once again we have been supported by Bruichladdich distillery through their community day activities. Staff from the distillery worked incredibly hard through both pouring rain and clouds of midges to transform our school grounds. Many thanks to everyone!



### St Phoenix

The indie-pop band St Phoenix are once again coming to Islay- thanks to Emma Crawford and Bruichladdich distillery- and we look forward to a workshop on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> September for our p6 pupils.



### Water Bottles

Please ensure your child has a filled water bottle with them every day. These can be purchased from the school office for £1.20. Bottles should preferably be filled with water rather than juice.

### Snacks

Please can you provide your child with a snack for the morning break. We encourage healthy snacks such as fruit and raw vegetables as these are a healthy choice for us.

### Parents' Night

Our first parents' evening for P1-7 pupils will be held on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> November. All parents will also be able to keep in touch with their children's learning through Seesaw. Of course, if you have any queries at all about your child or their learning please don't hesitate to get in touch by phone or email and we speak with you as soon as we can.



## School Dinners

**As part of the Scottish Government roll-out, school dinners are free of charge for all nursery and P1-5 pupils.**

For P6 and p7 pupils dinner money should be paid online using the IPayImpact website.  
School dinners can be pre-ordered for all P1-7 pupils. Parents should have details for this at home, any issues please contact the school.

## Dates for this term

**Monday 8th September:** Smoke-free Me workshop Islay High p7

**Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> September:** Under 3s group 9.30-11am- all under 3s and carers welcome!

**Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> September:** Pathways through Play, pre5. Parents welcome- see email for more info.

**Monday 15<sup>th</sup> September @ 3.15pm:** P1 parent Reading Info Meeting

**Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> September: P6/7** teambuilding with Keills and Jura pupils at Port Mòr

**Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> September:** St Phoenix workshops for p6 pupils in Islay High

**Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> September:** Science workshop for p6 & p7 in Islay High

**Week of Monday 29<sup>th</sup> September:** Emily PATCH workshops P4-7

## School Holidays

We break up for the October holidays on

**Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> October at 3pm and return on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> at 9am.**

2025-26 school holidays can be found here:

[School holidays 2025 - 2026 | Argyll and Bute Council](#)

## Open Door Policy

We have an Open Door policy at Port Charlotte. Please don't hesitate to contact the school on [enquiries-](mailto:enquiries-portcharlotte@argyll-bute.gov.uk)

[portcharlotte@argyll-bute.gov.uk](mailto:portcharlotte@argyll-bute.gov.uk) or by phone 01496

850327; our office is not manned every day so if you leave a message we will get back to you as soon as we can.

