

September Update

I'd like to begin by extending my thanks to the Parent Council and wider parent community for the lovely welcome I received on my first day. It was incredibly thoughtful and very much appreciated. As I absolutely love my plants, the beautiful gift has a special place in my office!

At each Parent Council meeting, I will provide an update on relevant information around staffing and budgeting, as well as sharing some of the key developments and areas of work taking place across the school.

Staffing

A big well done to Claire Higgins, who was successful at interview last week. Claire will join Leeann and take on a number of clerical duties within Early Years, providing additional support to the team.

We have also welcomed Miss Khan and Mrs Thomas to our support team. Miss Khan has been supporting our Primary 1 pupils, while Mrs Thomas has been working across the middle and upper stages of the school. We are delighted to have them as part of the Cross Arthurlie team.

Follow Through

Many of you will remember that our school was inspected by HMIE in June 2024. The outcome of the inspection can be viewed on our school website. It was a very successful visit and, as is usual following an inspection, the team identified some areas for continued development.

As part of the local authority's quality improvement processes, a follow-through visit has been arranged to review the progress we have made since the inspection. The visiting team will include central education staff and head teachers from other East Renfrewshire schools. During their visit, they will speak with staff and pupils and spend time visiting classrooms and our nursery environment.

The team will be visiting Cross Arthurlie Primary School and Nursery on Tuesday 15th and Wednesday 16th September. Staff have been working hard to ensure that we can clearly demonstrate the progress we have made and the positive developments taking place across the school.

School Improvement

One of our key priorities this session is developing our approaches to the teaching of reading and writing.

As many of you will be aware, we have recently purchased a new reading scheme, Big Cat, which will support the teaching of reading from P2–P7. We have also invested in PM Writing to further strengthen our approaches to writing.

This session, all staff will be involved in a working party focused on developing reading and writing across the school. This work has already begun in our Primary 2 classes, who have been exploring approaches to Daily Literacy Learning (DLL).

We are also keen to encourage all children to read regularly and develop positive reading habits, including choosing books simply for enjoyment. Children will have access to the wide range of books in their class libraries and our school library, allowing them to choose books that interest and engage them.

Clubs

We are very grateful to all the staff who are volunteering to run additional clubs this term. We really appreciate the time and commitment they are giving to provide these additional opportunities for our children.

The following clubs are currently planned for this term:

- Football Club: P3 and P4
- Tennis Club: P4
- Dance Club: P5–P7
- Choir Club: P5–P7
- Mindfulness Club: P1 and P2
- Euro Club: P6
- Fantasy Football Club: P7
- Running Club: P6 and P7
- Music Club: Details to follow

Calendar of Events

We have shared our planned calendar of school events with families. We appreciate that dates can sometimes need to change as the session progresses, but we will do our best to stick to the proposed dates wherever possible.

We hope that having these dates available in advance is helpful to families and supports you in planning for the year ahead.

