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## TO ALL PARENTS

Dear Parents,

### WELCOME BACK

As a staff, we would like to welcome all our pupils back to the start of a new session. We hope that they enjoyed a relaxing and refreshing break over the summer period. We also hope that as we progress through the term they will work hard and do their very best to achieve and attain both in and out of school. We look forward to working with all our parents this session and engaging with you about your child's learning.

We also welcome to the school our Primary 1 pupils. It is our hope that all the children who are starting at school for the first time will, along with their parents feel part of the school community very quickly.

### STAFFING

We welcome back to the school, following their respective maternity leaves Mrs Rebecca Wilson and Mrs Hayley Graham. In addition, we welcome back Miss Jayne Macaskill who last year was with us for much of the session on a supply basis. We are also pleased to welcome Miss Lisa Russell as a new member of staff. Miss Russell will be taking charge of the Rainbow Room this session.

Mr Iain Macmillan was appointed to the post of Support for Learning Assistant and started with us at Sgoil a' Bhac last week. We have two other SfLA posts which still require to be filled but we are thankful to have supply staff who are well known to the staff and to the pupils covering these vacant posts at the present time.

### NURSERY STAFFING

Following a number of changes in staffing in the Nursery last session, I am pleased to say that we are starting the session with a full team. Heather Ann McLeod, Jessica Montgomery, Stephanie Maciver-Mackenzie and Freya Mackay will be working out of the English playroom, whilst Dawn Maclennan, Peggy Macleod and Alana Martin will be working out of the Sgoil Araich.

We would encourage any parent with children under 3, who may want childcare, to enrol their children as soon as possible as places for this session are already filling up.

### STRUCTURE OF THE INTERNAL DAY

For the benefit of new families to the school, the structure of the school day in Sgoil a' Bhac is as follows:

School Starts	8:40am
Morning Break	10.20am – 10.40am
Lunch	12.20pm – 1.20pm
School Closes	3:00pm



## ABSENCES

We would ask parents whose children are absent from school, due to ill health to ensure that they notify the school each morning of their child's absence by 9:00am. Other absences e.g. medical appointments should be notified to the school in writing or by telephone prior to the appointment day. I would also ask parents to ensure that at least one week before an absence has been planned for, they request a "Notification of Short Term Withdrawal of Children from School" form from the school office. This greatly aids teaching staff in ensuring they can plan appropriately for children being off.

## PUPIL ANNUAL DATA CHECK

Pupils are being issued with Annual Data Check Forms later today that list the personal and contact information we hold about your child. It is very important that the school holds up-to-date information, especially in relation to medical details, addresses, telephone numbers, e-mail addresses and emergency contacts.

If you do not have an e-mail address registered with us, we would encourage you to provide one to allow us to circulate school correspondence directly to you by e-mail/Groupcall.

If your circumstances or any personal details change at any point during the school session, you are obliged to notify the school office at your earliest convenience. Annual Pupil Data Check Forms should be returned to the school office by Wednesday 28th August 2024.

## ACCEPTABLE USE AGREEMENTS

As in previous years, we are also sending out our Acceptable Use Agreements to all parents. Digital safety continues to be hugely important to us and this is an important aspect of that work. Class teachers will go over the Acceptable Use Agreements with pupils in school and these will go home after that to be countersigned by parents. In addition, all staff members also complete these agreements. We would encourage all parents to discuss the Acceptable Use Agreements with pupils. Acceptable Use Agreements from parents should be returned to the school office by Friday 30th August 2024.

## PARENT COUNCIL

**The next meeting of the Sgoil a' Bhac Parent Council will be the Annual General Meeting and will be held on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> September 2024.** Please note that at the last meeting of the Parent Council it was decided that this meeting would be an in-person meeting. **The meeting will be held in the Sgoil a' Bhac Library at 7:30pm.** We look forward to seeing as many parents as possible in attendance.

## SCHOOL UNIFORM

At Sgoil a' Bhac, we place a strong emphasis on the wearing of school uniform. This is strongly supported by our Parent Council who were for many years instrumental in organising the ordering of uniform, and who also purchase school ties for every pre-school pupil coming in to Primary 1. Our school uniform suppliers – Leonard Hudson run an online shop for items of school uniform which parents are able to order from at any time of the year with orders being delivered directly to home addresses. The link for the online shop can be found below:

[https://www.leonardhudson.co.uk/parents/uniform/Back\\_School\\_HS2\\_OLB](https://www.leonardhudson.co.uk/parents/uniform/Back_School_HS2_OLB)

We would like to remind parents that the wearing of uniform is encouraged and that non-uniform items of clothing should only be worn on dress down days, which usually occur the last Friday in the month. We would also remind all parents that the wearing of any football tops is not allowed at school, and that children can instead wear their blue sports tops which are a designated part of the uniform of the school. Sports trousers should only be worn on a day when pupils have PE.



## CANTEEN MENU

The canteen menu commences with Week One today, on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> August 2024. For the benefit of all our new pupils, menus will be sent out electronically to parents via Microsoft Forms on a Friday and closes the following Thursday for the menu choices of the next week again. This allows the school cook to prepare for the following week in canteen.

Rachel also sends out a Groupcall on a Thursday morning to remind parents that the menu choice form will close that night. **We would ask parents not to contact the school and ask for the form to be reopened if they have forgotten to do it.** Once the form closes the data is passed on to the school cook.

Sgoil a' Bhac operates a cashless catering system. Parents of pupils new to the school will have received information from the Resources Section in the Council about the setting up of their Cashless Catering Accounts and parents can deposit funds in that from home. All P1-5 pupils receive Free School Meals. However, we would like to ask parents of children in P6-7 to ensure that cashless catering accounts are maintained in credit.

## PLAYGROUND SNACKS & PACKED LUNCHES

Due to the medical status of some of our pupils we would ask parents to avoid giving snacks which contain nuts to pupils, either as playground snacks or as part of their packed lunches. This includes items that some may not always associate as having nut content e.g. Nutella Bars. We appreciate parents want to provide pupils with healthy snacks, but would encourage parents to look for other options. Anaphylaxis is a severe response to an allergic reaction and though staff are trained to deal with it, our risk assessments for the children concerned are such that we have had to declare the school a 'Nut Free Zone.' As such we would ask parents to support us in maintaining this environment. Notices declaring the school to be a Nut Free Zone have been placed at the main entrance and nursery entrance. We would also encourage parents to talk to their children about eating their own snacks at break times and not sharing with one another as such an action could have a negative impact on another child. We hope that parents will be understanding of the need for this requirement.

## PUPIL VOICE

Each session, the Pupil Council, the Eco Committee and the Rights Respecting School Steering Group play an important role in school life, organising events and making suggestions for improvement across the school. Elections onto each of these groups will be held shortly. The first of these, the election for pupils who wish to be on the Pupil Council will be held on Friday 30<sup>th</sup> August 2024.

Children who wish to stand for election to the Pupil Council are expected to speak to their classes about why they would make a good class representative and then children will vote for their class representatives on that day.

Information about the Eco Committee and the Rights Respecting Schools Steering Group will be given to classes shortly. We would encourage you to discuss these three Pupil voice groups with your children and to support them in preparing their speeches this week around why they wish to stand for these committees and what they think they could do to help make improvements across the school.

## INTERDISCIPLINARY LEARNING WEEK – FOCUS ON GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP

As a school we have opted to have a whole term focus on Global Citizenship as many of the regular activities of Term 1 would fit appropriately within this theme e.g. Macmillan Coffee Morning. A global citizen is someone who is aware of and understands the wider world – and their place in it. They are a citizen of the world. They take an active role in their community and work with others to make our planet more peaceful, sustainable and fairer. Each of the classes will cover short focus topics across the term which relate to this wider theme of Global Citizenship. More information will be contained within the Curricular Newsletters which will be sent out later in the term.

We hope to have our next Interdisciplinary Learning week in the last week of this term - Week beginning Monday 7<sup>th</sup> October 2024. The focus for this particular week will also be around Global Citizenship. Teaching staff have yet



to plan the specific themes we will cover during this week, but we also hope that the work we do this term will also aid us when the time comes to go through accreditation as a Rights Respecting School in March 2025.

### **SOCIAL MEDIA AND SEESAW**

Please do keep up to date with all that is going on in the school by making use of our social media communications systems.

The address for the school website is [bit.ly/sgoilabhac](http://bit.ly/sgoilabhac)  
Sgoil a' Bhac can also be found on Facebook and on Twitter.

Class Teachers will also supply all families with a QR code to access pupils learning journals on Seesaw. The QR code can also be shared with other family members that parents choose to give access to.

As in previous years, we would ask our parent body to communicate with staff via the home-school diaries, by sending a message on Seesaw or by contacting the school office. Please note that staff members will respond to these queries during working hours only.

### **FREE SCHOOL MEALS AND CLOTHING GRANTS**

All parents should be aware that there is now a universal entitlement for Free School Meals for all pupils in Primary 1-5. Parents of primary 6-7 pupils who require free school meals should complete the online application form which can be found at:

[https://forms.cne-siar.gov.uk/form/vof\\_ecs\\_grants?dform\\_title=Free%20School%20Meals%20/%20Clothing%20Grant%20Application%20Form](https://forms.cne-siar.gov.uk/form/vof_ecs_grants?dform_title=Free%20School%20Meals%20/%20Clothing%20Grant%20Application%20Form)

This form also covers anyone wishing to apply for the clothing grant. We would encourage any parent who meet the eligibility criteria to apply for these grants. Applications can be submitted directly to the Education, Skills and Children's Services Department.

Finally, if you have any concerns about your child or any aspect of their education, please do not hesitate to contact us here at the school. Staff are happy to meet with parents to share work, listen to concerns and to plan for children's needs. We look forward to working with you all over the course of the coming session.

Leis gach durachd,



Kirsteen J. Maclean  
Head Teacher



## **DIARY DATES (so far)**

I am hugely conscious that it is helpful to parent to have as much notice as possible for events which are happening in school. Already, Term 1 is filling up with dates and so I am sending out to parents the diary dates we currently have arranged.

Monday 12<sup>th</sup> August 2024 – Teaching staff returned to school

Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> August 2024 – Pupils returned to school

Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> August 2024 – Kenny John Mackenzie (God Is Good Africa) to visit school at Assembly

Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> August 2024 – School Chaplain Assembly – Rev Colin Macleod

Friday 30<sup>th</sup> August 2024 – Pupil Council Elections

Friday 6<sup>th</sup> September 2024 – Whole School Sponsored Bog Slog (more details to follow)

Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> September 2024 – Flu Immunisations

Friday 27<sup>th</sup> September 2024 – Macmillan Coffee Morning (more details to follow)

Monday 7<sup>th</sup> – Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> October 2024 – Interdisciplinary Learning Week with focus on Global Citizenship

