



**Telephone:** 01851 820230  
**Website:** [www.sgoilabhac.org.uk](http://www.sgoilabhac.org.uk)  
**e-mail:** [backschool@gnes.net](mailto:backschool@gnes.net)  
**Writer:** Kirsteen J. Maclean  
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## TO ALL PARENTS

Dear Parents,

Already in the first couple of weeks of term it has been incredibly busy for us here at Sgoil a' Bhac, and there is more to come between now and the Christmas Holidays.

### BLYTHSWOOD SHOEBOX APPEAL

We would just like to express our grateful thanks to all those who contributed to, or donated a Shoebox to Blythwood's Shoebox Appeal at the start of the term. In total 1900 shoeboxes left the island to head for Eastern Europe and of those the superb number of 88 shoeboxes came from families connected to our school community. We would just like to acknowledge the generosity of so many of you who give to this worthy cause each year. It really is very much appreciated, particularly by those in receipt of shoeboxes when they arrive at their destinations in Eastern Europe and beyond.

### WORLD HOSPICE DAY – WEAR IT YELLOW FOR BETHESDA

We were also filled with gratitude when we counted up the donations from our parent body to discover that £143 had been raised with pupils and staff wearing yellow for Bethesda Care Home and Hospice. This money will be forwarded on to the General Manager at Bethesda Care Home and Hospice and will go towards the needs of Bethesda .

### SGOIL A' BHAC PARENT COUNCIL

**The next meeting of the Sgoil a' Bhac Parent Council will be held on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> November 2024.** Please note that this meeting of the Parent Council will be online. We look forward to meeting with the Parent Council at their first meeting since the AGM. The link for the meeting can be found below:

[https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3amVhe-321S9o4V5X8ZXjeC3HPJOs4bv\\_ZKoolz-izfeY1%40thread.tacv2/1731323294044?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%22ccd32ca3-16ce-428f-9541-372d6b051929%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%2266700d66-06e7-4f05-9076-f183aa8e1a42%22%7d](https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3amVhe-321S9o4V5X8ZXjeC3HPJOs4bv_ZKoolz-izfeY1%40thread.tacv2/1731323294044?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%22ccd32ca3-16ce-428f-9541-372d6b051929%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%2266700d66-06e7-4f05-9076-f183aa8e1a42%22%7d)

### CHILDREN IN NEED DAY

We will be supporting Children in Need Day on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> November 2024 as we do each year. The Pupil Council have already been busy making plans and we are looking forward to the various activities which they have organised on the day. Donations will be taken that day for Children in Need and all the activities which the Pupil Council put on, will be freely enjoyed by the children thereafter.

### BOOK WEEK SCOTLAND

To celebrate Book Week Scotland, we wondered if our parents would take a photo of their children in their favourite location to read a book and send it in to school where we hope to make a collage of all our favourite places to read. We might expect to see pictures of our pupils reading in front of a cosy fire, or up a tree or sitting on a rock at the beach. We hope that the staff will join in too and that we will receive photographs of them reading in a favourite location. Book Week Scotland begins week beginning Monday 18<sup>th</sup> November. We would be really grateful if parents would send in pictures of their children on their seesaw profiles by the end of the school day on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> November 2024. School staff will be able to pick them up from there. Mrs Campbell in GL1-2 is hoping to build a collage using all the photographs which are sent in by pupils and staff. There may even be prizes involved!



### CHRISTMAS LIGHTS SWITCH ON

It has become our practice over the last few years to switch on the Christmas lights at the school on the 1<sup>st</sup> December each year. This year the 1<sup>st</sup> December falls on a Sunday and so we have decided to switch on the Christmas lights on the afternoon of Friday 29<sup>th</sup> November 2024. The Switching on ceremony will take place at the end of the school at 3pm, and we would encourage parents and family members to join with us on that afternoon to see Sgoil a' Bhac light up.

### PARENT COUNCIL CRAFT FAIR

To tie in with the switching on of the Christmas lights at the school, the Parent Council will be hosting a Craft Fair on the afternoon and into the evening of Friday 29<sup>th</sup> November 2024. This event will run from 3pm till 7pm and will be held in the Sgoil a' Bhac Assembly Hall. A number of craft businesses have already booked their tables and the Parent Council are awaiting confirmation from a few other businesses. It is hoped that the Feis Ceilidh Band will also be in attendance for part of that afternoon to provide music in the background for any or all who attend. Further information will be issued by the Parent Council in due course, but please do save that date in your calendar.

### STUART MORRISON PANTOMIME

We wish to give parents plenty notice that we have booked the school in to the Stuart Morrison Pantomime on **Friday 17<sup>th</sup> January 2025**. This year's performance will be Cinderella. Tickets have been booked for pupils in Primary 1-7 and also for Pre-School children within Sgoil Araich Loch a' Tuath. We hope that by giving early notification to parents this may save them some money, as the school is able to purchase all its tickets at a concessionary rate of £10.50. We will be in touch next term with further details of the expected parental, school and Parent Council contributions for this trip.

### BREAK TIMES

Our Support for Learning staff and our School Janitor supervise the children in the playgrounds around the school at break times. At this time of the year though, we have to ask our pupils to refrain from going onto the school pitch as it gets incredibly wet and muddy and if the children slip and fall, so do they! We do not ask our pupils to go out in heavy rain or expect them to play outside when it is wet. Each of the corridors have social areas for the pupils and we also allow pupils to stay in and engage in various activities when it is wet. I would like to inform parents that when possible, if it is dry, we do encourage our pupils to don their jackets and play outside for their morning break and also their break at lunch time. We would welcome your support in encouraging the children to be responsive to the instructions of the adults around the school in respect of wet and dry break times.

### UNIFORM SWAP SHOP

Just a reminder to parents that the Uniform Swap Shop rails are pretty full. If any parent requires more uniform for their child, there are lots of good quality items on the rail in the porch. The Parent Council team who manage the Swap Shop have been busy in recent days adding Christmas jumpers to the Swap Shop rails. If your child's Christmas jumper has got too small for them, why not swap it in for one of a larger size and help us practice sustainability in our school community. Why not take a look at the rail when you come in for your Parent-Teacher appointments during November and see if there is anything which would meet your needs?

### DONATIONS OF CLOTHING

Earlier this term, we had a stock of winter clothing, gloves, socks, hats, Oodie's etc donated to us from the Hebridean Housing Partnership. Should any parent be in need of any of these kinds of items, please do contact the school office and we would be more than happy to provide you with the items which you may need.

### FREE SCHOOL MEALS AND CLOTHING GRANTS

All parents will be aware that since January 2022 there has been a universal entitlement for Free School Meals for pupils in Primary 1-5. Once again, **I would encourage any parent from P1-7 who meet the criteria for Free School Meals or the School Clothing Grant to submit an application to the Education Department as soon as they can.** Those parents who are eligible should know that they will also receive payments from the Local Authority to cover the school holidays and school closure days. This bridging payment is not an insignificant amount of money and it is paid out per child and could make a real difference to some of our families at the current time. I would encourage all parents to look at the online form to see if they might be eligible. The form can be found in the following location. (Hard copies can also be obtained from the School Office or the Education Department).

[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. Applications can be submitted directly to the Education, Skills and Children's Services Department.

Leis gach durachd,



Kirsteen J. Maclean  
Head Teacher

#### **DATES FOR THE DIARY**

Friday 25<sup>th</sup> October 2024 – Dress Down Day (Wear it Yellow for Bethesda – Donations will be taken)  
Monday 28<sup>th</sup> October 2024 - Faclan Author Visit (Catriona Lexy Campbell to visit GM1-3 pupils)  
Monday 28<sup>th</sup> October 2024 - Faclan Author Visit (June Graham to visit GM4-7 pupils)  
Monday 28<sup>th</sup> October 2024 and every Monday thereafter until Monday 16<sup>th</sup> December 2024 – Swimming for P5 Pupils  
Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> October 2024 – Disney Diner Day  
Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> October 2024 – Faclan Author Visit (Victoria Williamson to visit GL4-7 pupils)  
Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> October 2024 – Faclan Author Visit (Louisa MacDougall to visit GL1-3pupils)  
Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> November 2024 – Remembrance Service (9am in Sgoil a' Bhac Assembly Hall)  
Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> November 2024 – Tolsta Pupils laying a wreath at Tolsta War Memorial Service  
Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> November 2024 – Back Pupils laying a wreath at Back War Memorial Service  
Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> November 2024 – Là na Gaidhlig  
Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> November 2024 – Splaoid aig Tuath Gaelic Van visiting Sgoil Àraich Loch a' Tuath  
Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> November 2024 – Parent Council Meeting (Online)  
Friday 15<sup>th</sup> November 2024 – Children in Need Day (Pupil Council run events – Donations will be taken that day) Also Dress Down Day (Wear it yellow or dress in spots)  
Monday 18<sup>th</sup>- Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2024 – Book Week Scotland  
Monday 18<sup>th</sup> November 2024 – Parent Night Appointments  
Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> November 2024 – Parent Night Appointments  
Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> November 2024 – P1 Health Screening and Flu Vaccinations for those who previously missed out  
Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> November 2024 – Parent Night Appointments  
Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> November – GL3-5 Pupil Led Assembly  
Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> – Monday 25<sup>th</sup> November 2024 – Local Holiday (School Closed)  
Friday 29<sup>th</sup> November 2024 – Dress Down Day (No Donations Taken)  
Friday 29<sup>th</sup> November 2024 – Christmas Lights Switch On (3pm)  
Friday 29<sup>th</sup> November 2024 – Parent Council organised Craft Fair (3pm-7pm)  
Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> December 2024 – P7 Transition Event with Active Schools  
Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> December 2024 – Christmas Lunch in Canteen  
Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> December 2024 – Christmas Jumper Day (Donations taken for Save the Children)  
Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> December 2024 – Christmas Concert (1pm-Matinee, 7pm-Evening Performances)  
Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> December 2024 – P1-2 Christmas Party (1:20-3:00pm)  
Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> December 2024 – Nursery Christmas Party (10:00am-12:00pm)  
Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> December 2024 – P3-5 Christmas Party (1:20-3:00pm)  
Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> December 2024 – P6-7 Christmas Party (7:00-9:00pm)  
Monday 16<sup>th</sup>-Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December – Dress Down Week for Christmas (Christmas Jumpers all week)  
Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December 2024 – Christmas Service (9am in Sgoil a' Bhac Assembly Hall)  
Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December 2024 – School closes for Christmas holidays  
Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2025 – School reopens after the Christmas Holidays  
Friday 17<sup>th</sup> January 2025 – School Trip to Stuart Morrison Pantomime (Cinderella)

