

# Gourock Primary School

GPS SCHOOL VALUES: Respect, Honesty, Tolerance, Care & Resilience

## Love Learning.....



Developing skills for learning,  
life and work

## Rights Respecting School

We will be focusing on the following  
UNCRC articles throughout December:

- **Article 15** - you have the right to meet together.
- **Article 14** - You have the right to practice your own religion & culture.

We are proud to be a RRS and will continue to encourage and embed all the articles explored throughout the year.

## A busy term ahead....

It's the season of glitter and tinsel!! We are looking forward to a busy December term with lots of lovely events such as our Infant Nativity. If you have had a chance to look at our new website, we hope you found it was useful and informative. We are committed to keeping it up-to-date and welcome any suggestions/feedback.

As always our door is always open, any questions or queries just pop into the office to see us.

Kindest regards,

Mrs Una Nicolson  
(Acting) Head Teacher  
[ingourock@glowscotland.onmicrosoft.com](mailto:ingourock@glowscotland.onmicrosoft.com)  
Tel: 01475 715824

## Making Learning Visible



At GPS we believe a good learner should **persevere** and be:

- ❖ **Engaged, motivated, reflective, creative and responsible.**

This month our focus is: **I am creative...I have my own ideas and try different things**

We will present our new 'Learner Qualities' certificates at the awards assembly which will be held every 4 weeks. Children can then select a 'goody' from our awards box to recognise that they have gone 'above and beyond'.



## Gardening Group

Our gardening group have been working hard preparing bulbs ready for spring. The worms from their wormery have been put to good use!

I'd like to thank Mr Sinclair who has worked tirelessly clearing all the autumn leaves to keep our playground safe... we are lucky to have such a dedicated team at GPS.

**Grace P7**

I am enjoying learning about World War 2 as I find this topic really interesting.

**Alicja & Layla P1**

I love playing in the kitchen area...I love doing the dishes.

I love all the activities we do at free play time.

**Robert P3**

I love to play tig in the gym hall. We do tunnel tig and toilet tig. But disco tig is fun too!



**Here's what our pupils have loved about their learning this month...**

**Cameron P6/5**

I'm loving the rehearsals for our assembly. It's about St Andrew's day and is helping develop my drama skills.

**Maysie P3/2**

I like learning how to tell the time ... we are looking at how to use a digital clock and it's something new.

**Isla P2/1**

I love playing maths bingo and get so excited when we get to shout Bingo!

**John P6**

I love learning about time...I enjoy it, it's useful to my everyday life and I'm good at it.

**Lola P4**

I enjoy doing my best and fun things with Miss McMath like poetry.

## Infant Nativity

The boys and girls of P1 & P2 will be performing 'The Sleepy Shepherd' on **Wednesday, 11<sup>th</sup> December**. There will be two performances - one in the morning (**9.45am**) and one in the afternoon (**2pm**).

Tickets are selling fast..... All seats are numbered. We have decided not to limit tickets this year (as we had plenty of space last year to accommodate numbers).

The children of P4 and P6 will perform at our Christmas Service on **Thursday, 19<sup>th</sup> December** at **1:45pm** in Old Gourock and Ashton Church.



## Playmakers Training

Thanks to Lynne Cooper our Active Schools Coordinator who delivered a number of sessions to our P7 pupils to develop their leadership skills. The children learned a number of skills that will help them develop skills for learning, life and work.



They also enjoyed a workshop from Mr Connolly from Clydeview Academy Maths department.

## Nut Free Zone

We would like to remind you that there are a few pupils in Gourock Primary who have severe nut allergies. Please ensure that you **do not** provide snacks or anything for your child's snack or packed lunch which may contain nuts e.g. Nutella / Nutella products / Kinder Bueno / Kinder Hippo etc.



## Christmas fete

A huge thanks to our Parent Council/volunteers who have worked so hard with the planning & organising to ensure that our Christmas Fete is a huge success.

We are looking forward to seeing as many people there as possible. **Please enter through the staff door** (just opposite the school gate on Davidson Drive).

We will then be using the 4 classrooms to the right and also the gym hall. It is going to be such a fun event. We need your support - let's see if we can make this the best and busiest yet! Excited to see everyone there this **Saturday (10am-12pm) 30<sup>th</sup> November**.

## Christmas Lights Switch-on

The switch-on of the Christmas lights will take place on Friday, 29<sup>th</sup> November, 6:00pm at Gourock Pierhead Gardens. Some of our children, together with children from Moorfoot Primary and St. Ninian's Primary, will be singing Christmas songs in the hope that a special visitor may arrive?



## Lego Club

Thanks to everyone who donated Lego for our new lunch time club. The pupils have loved creating, inventing and building creations. The club is pupil led and has been a huge success. Our senior pupils are so enthusiastic about leading learning ...watch this space for more clubs popping up!



(We have a Rubik's club in the pipeline. We would be so grateful if anyone had any old Rubik's cubes they'd like to donate ... if we get enough we will be able to start our next pop-up club!)

## Head Lice

We have recently been informed of a few new cases and ask that you be vigilant in checking your child's hair. If necessary, you can buy the appropriate treatment from a local chemist and treat as soon as possible.

## Flu Immunisations

The immunisations were cancelled due to a vaccine shortage. The new date confirmed as:

**Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> December at 2-3pm.**

We realise that this is our Christmas lunch day but this was the only available date to us. We were advised that if we did not take this slot our families would be in a position where they would need to individually make an appointment for the vaccine with their own GP. Therefore, we will go ahead with this date.

## Bubble Gum and Fluff

The boys and girls in P5 will attend Old Gourrock & Ashton Church on Tuesday, 3<sup>rd</sup> December to participate in activities organised by "Bubble Gum and Fluff".

They will be singing, playing games and participating in a quiz. During this time they will learn all about the Christmas Story in a fun and enjoyable way. Many thanks to David for organising this event.

## P6 & P7 Diodes Science Visit

A huge thanks to Mrs Cannie who helped organise a STEM visit to the Diodes site for our P6 and P7 pupils. They had a wonderful time and learned so much. The visit encouraged our pupils to connect their learning with real life skills and inspired some scientists of the future.....developing skills for learning, life and work.



## Remembrance Day

Our pupils were privileged to lay a wreath at the community service to honour veterans and soldiers who serve our country. P6 also presented a heartfelt assembly sharing why we wear our poppies with pride.



## Committee Groups:

Our Healthy Bodies and Minds Committee group presented to our parent Council.... Alan Sugar watch out!

The group was asking for funds to purchase more outdoor play equipment...fingers crossed.



## P1-4 Pedestrian Training

Thanks to the Road Safety Team who visited on Wednesday, 20<sup>th</sup> November to remind our younger pupils about how to stay safe when crossing the road.

Please help to keep our pupils safe by driving and parking responsibly around our school. We are still noting some drivers are continuing to put pupil safety at risk..... this is a collective responsibility!

## Parent Council Dates for the Diary

We are so lucky to have such a supportive parent Council. Dates for our next meetings are:

- Monday 20<sup>th</sup> January 7pm
- Monday 9<sup>th</sup> March 7pm
- Monday 11<sup>th</sup> May 7pm
- Monday 8<sup>th</sup> June 7pm

If you'd like to get involved then please contact Mrs Lyndsey Keenan (Chairperson) or the school for more information.

## Head of Education visit

We loved having Mr Michael Roach for a visit to look around the 'Wee Round School'. Mr Roach was impressed by our welcoming atmosphere, confident pupils and he even managed a cartwheel with Primary 5!

## RagBag

Thank you to everyone who sent in a donation for RagBag ... we made £68.80. Our Eco Committee will decide how to best use this money to support our action plan.



## Christmas Jumper Day

Pupils may wear their Christmas jumper on **Friday, 13<sup>th</sup> December**. We would welcome a small donation to support 'Save the Children'. Please note that normal school trouser/skirt should be worn. The pupils will then be treated to a performance of Mother Goose in the afternoon.



Please note that we will try to support as many charities as possible, but this will be on a rolling programme to ensure we are being equitable.

## Hopscotch Theatre

We are looking forward to a visit from Hopscotch Theatre Group on **Friday, 13<sup>th</sup> December** who will be performing 'Mother Goose' to the whole school.

## Late-Coming

Please ensure your child is in school before the bell rings at 9 o'clock. This gives them the opportunity to play with their peers, line up with their peers and be ready for the day ahead. **It is important all pupils are in school for 9 o'clock start!**

Please also remember on very wet days pupil entrances will be unlocked at approx. **8:45am** to allow them into school where they will be monitored by SMT and the janitor.

## P5 and P6/5 College Visits

Our pupils thoroughly enjoyed their workshops at West College Scotland. They took part in a variety of experiments and activities. They even got to make some soap!! What an amazing experience...the pupils were inspired about STEM and how science plays such a big part in skills for learning, life and work.



## December dates for the diary:

- **Friday 29<sup>th</sup> November: Christmas Light switch 6pm (P7 group singing)**
- **Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> November: Christmas Fete (10am - 12pm)**
- **Friday 6<sup>th</sup> December: Awards assembly (pupils only)**
- **Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> December: Ecumenical Joint Service (6pm - Old Gourock & Ashton Church)**
- **Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> December: Infant Nativity (9.45am & 2pm)**
- **Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> December: Christmas Lunch**
- **Friday 13<sup>th</sup> December: Christmas Jumper day/Pantomime in the afternoon**
- **Monday 16<sup>th</sup> December: P5 & P4 party**
- **Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> December: P7 & P6 party**
- **Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> December: P 1, P2 & P3 party**
- **Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> December: Christmas Service (1.45pm at Old Gourock & Ashton church)**
- **Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December: school closes 2.30pm**

## Eco Group food parcels

Our Eco Group delivered a variety of food parcels to members of our local community. They received a warm welcome and thoroughly enjoyed spending time and hearing all the wonderful stories shared.



## Inverclyde Music Festival

Some classes will be participating in the Inverclyde Music Festival in January. The dates that have been issued for your diary are:

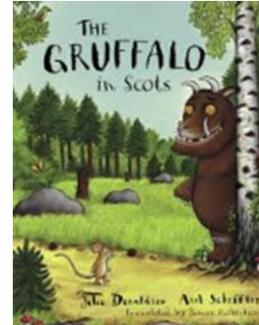
- **Friday 17<sup>th</sup> January: P1 (9.45am) Singing Games, P2 (1.15pm) Singing games & P3 (1.15pm) Action Song**
- **Monday 20<sup>th</sup> January: P5 (9.40am) Action song & P4 (11.30am) Dramatised song**
- **Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> January: School Choir (9.45am)**
- **Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> January: P6 (10.15am) group Verse & P7 (11.30am) Scots poetry**

Classes will perform in Greenock Town Hall. If you can't make those dates then come along to our Festival Celebration Concert in school on **Thursday, 6<sup>th</sup> February (pm)**



## Book Week Scotland

Our classes have all been busy with lots of interesting literacy activities linked to Book Week. We continue to encourage a reading culture at GPS..... the children loved participating in an Authors Live event on 'The Gruffalo'. The book had been translated into Scots language....a great read!



## Christmas Lunch

Our Christmas lunch will be on **Thursday, 12<sup>th</sup> of December**. We are looking forward to Jill and the team serving a delicious Christmas lunch. If your child is not keen on Christmas dinner with all the trimmings then please provide a packed lunch on that day. Pupils should wear school uniform but may accessorise with tinsel/badges/head bands etc.

(Please note: Christmas jumper day is the following day!)



## After School Clubs

We are regularly liaising with our Active Schools Coordinators (Lynne Cooper and Craig Mullan) re. after school clubs. This month we have:

- **P5-7 Basketball Mon 2<sup>nd</sup> Dec (final one!)**
- **P3-4 Dance Thurs 5<sup>th</sup> Dec (final one!)**

As well as Active Schools clubs, we also rely on our staff giving up their personal time to run any after school club. Coming soon we have...

- **Creative Drumming**
- **Reading/Maths Games**
- **STEM**
- **Code Club**

We had a number of parents who supported our after school events... if anyone has an interest or skill that they would be willing to share with our pupils as an after school club then please do not hesitate to contact our DHT, Mrs McKellar, who coordinates the clubs.

## P7 Health Checks

Our P7 health checks will take place on **Monday 9<sup>th</sup> December**.



# Celebrating Success

At Gourock Primary celebrating success and wider achievement is really valued. If you would like to share any recent successes outwith school then please remember to return the Celebrating Success form and we will share any successes submitted in the next newsletter.



## ★ Celebrating Success ★

We had lots of award winners this month for our learner quality - 'I am motivated and hardworking.... I want to do my best'. Well done everyone! We have also had many children receiving positive praise notes home for 'going above and beyond'.

