

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 article throughout October:

- **Article 24** - You have the right to nutritious food
- **Article 15**: You have the right to meet together

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...

What a quick term this has been.... time certainly flies when you're having fun! Our pupils have given really positive feedback about our new learner quality awards and we are hoping to add a positive phone call home for pupils 'going above and beyond'. Thank you for your continued support and please remember that our door is always open.

As we move into the Autumn term can I please remind pupils to wear appropriate clothing as we like to make the most of outdoor play (even with a spot of rain!).

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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 motivated and hardworking ... I want to do my best

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'.

Breakfast Club

Please note that, due to the renovation works, pupils coming to Breakfast Club will enter **via the senior entrance at the top of the playground**. Our breakfast club runs on a

- Tuesday
- Wednesday
- Thursday

from **8.00am - 8.45am**. The cost of breakfast club is £1 per pupil per day unless you have been awarded the free meals and clothing grant. Pupils coming to our club and not eating anything will still be charged. Why not come along and enjoy breakie and a blether! A great way to start the day...

Abigail P7

My favourite thing has been caring for my new P1 Buddy. I love when we spend time together as she really listens to me and this makes me feel good.

Cameron P1

I just love learning new letters. My favourite letter so far is 'a' because it's the easiest one to say.

Holly P3

I loved my art lesson with Miss McArthur because we got our fingers all sticky and messy. I love seeing my picture up outside the classroom for everyone to see.

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

Findlay P6/5

I loved doing my piece of persuasive writing for our first assessment. My topic was 'Should we make a civilisation on Mars?'

Daisy P3/2

I've loved all our problem solving activities as there is always a bunch of different ways to find the answer to the problem when you think hard enough.

Samantha P2/1

I've enjoyed playing spelling games. Doing a word search helps me remember my words and so does using my magnetic letter board.

Charlotte P6

I've loved learning about the rainforests. We have been using different sources to find out new information and my note taking has got much better.

Oscar P4

I've loved learning about the 'Vikings' as they are fascinating. The way they lived is so different from what you'd imagine. I've learned so many different facts.

JRSO

Our JRSO pupils attended the new session training meeting on Thursday 5th September. This was a wonderful chance to meet other JRSO pupils from across Inverclyde and share ideas.



Absence from school



If your child is absent from school please ensure that you contact the school office on **01475 715824** before 9am if possible to ensure your child's safety.

If the school has not received a telephone call by this time, we will telephone you. Please ensure that your child returns from an absence with a note so that the absence can be recorded as authorised.

If you require an extended period of absence from school please email/write to Mrs Nicolson. A copy of the 'Attendance Matters' leaflet is on the school website. If a child's attendance falls below 90% an attendance letter will be issued. Thank you.

School Uniform Clothing Bank

Recycle, Reuse, reduce

We are keen to start a termly school uniform bank/swap shop run by our Eco committee. This is a perfect opportunity to drop off any uniform items that your child has outgrown and allow another family to make use. A great way to play our part for the environment and also reduce the cost of the school day.

We are appealing for donations to be dropped off at any point this term to the school office area where we will leave a donation box. We will hopefully have our first event in October. All clothing should be freshly laundered. If you have a lot of items to donate, it would really help us if it was sorted and bagged by size and gender.



P.E.

All children **must bring** appropriate clothing for P.E. on days allocated. It is **vitaly important** they all participate in this curricular area. Healthy bodies, healthy minds!

Inverclyde Council's Policy is that no jewellery is worn during P.E. lessons. Your child will not be permitted to participate in the gym lessons if their jewellery cannot be removed.

School Fund

We are conscious of finding ways to reduce the 'cost of the school day'. However, we have had numerous requests to donate and have therefore decided to add a tab to ParentPay specifically for School Fund from **Monday 30th September**.

This is on a voluntary basis and parents are under **no obligation to donate**. We had previously requested 50p a week (some parents preferred to give a lump sum rather than weekly). We will happily accept **any** donations that people feel able to give.

School fund money pays for additional 'treats' such as visiting theatre groups together with coach hire for curricular activities/events. We are extremely grateful for the support that we receive from our parent community.



Macmillan Coffee Morning

We will add photos of our coffee morning to the next newsletter. A huge thanks to our P5 pupils and Mrs Workman for organising such a worthy event. Thanks to everyone who came along to support.

P1 parent workshops

Thanks to all the parents who managed along to our Literacy and Numeracy workshops this term. Feedback was very positive and parents went home with lots of practical ideas to support their children. We are grateful to staff from the Attainment Challenge team who led these sessions.



Parents Evening

Our parents evening is on **Wednesday 9th of October**. This is an informal event with no appointments. Parents and children may pop into class at any time between **3.30pm and 7pm**.

This is an opportunity for pupils to discuss their learning and have a brief chat with the teacher. Mr McPate will also be available to discuss any additional support needs.

PC Gus

PC Gus will be visiting all our classes throughout the year. This term he is working with our P6/5 pupils. They learned about the work our Community Police Officers do and enjoyed getting to know PC Gus.



Committee Groups:

Our new committee groups are up and running and we have lots of exciting ideas/action plans being formed for the year ahead.

This allows for pupil voice to be at the heart of our decision making. The new groups are as follows:

- Rights Respecting Schools
- GIRFEC & Community Partnerships
- Healthy Minds & Bodies
- Gardening
- Eco
- Fairtrade
- Leadership

Phoenix Cycle contest

We are so proud of our P6 & P7 pupils who went along to the Phoenix cycle contest. They had a lovely morning and were delighted to go home with a bag of goodies!



Parent Council Dates for the Diary

We are looking forward to our Christmas fete on **Saturday 30th November**....save the date.



House Points

Our pupils are striving to earn as many house points as they can before we announce the winning house this term. The house treat will be on **Friday 11th October**. We are hoping to give out lots of points for our learner quality focus:

I am motivated and hardworking ... I want to do my best

Walking bus

'Walk on Wednesdays' continues but we will be restricting our numbers to ensure a 1:10 adult/child ratio for safety purposes. Each week we will take 10 pupil volunteers from breakfast club, leaving plenty of room for pupils to join us along the way. We will only have **one** starting point this session at the corner of King Street/Broomberry Drive. Departure time is 8.40 prompt. Please feel free to join us as this is not only a healthier way to travel to school but is an enjoyable social event.

Gourock School & Churches Together (GSCT)

Our school choir will be singing at the following events:

Community Concert: Tuesday 26th November
1.45pm

Joint Christmas Service: Sunday 8th
December 6pm

School Website

As we update our school website and twitter account on a daily basis, please view and find out what's happening.

<http://gourock-pri.inverclyde.sch.uk>

Do you know you can now access our website by scanning our QR Code below into your phone?



Halloween Parties

Our Halloween parties will take place on **Thursday 31st of October in the afternoon**. Pupils are welcome to come dressed in a costume or with their costume in a bag to get changed into at lunch time or indeed some pupils may also prefer to be a home lunch that day.

We request that costumes are appropriate for a school setting and not too scary for our younger pupils. If wearing a mask, pupils will be asked to refrain from wearing this until the actual parties in the afternoon.



October/November Class Assemblies

Assemblies this month are;

- **Harvest assembly:** Friday 4th October (P2/1, P3 and P6/5)
- **1st November:** Primary 7 class assembly
- **8th November:** Primary 6 class assembly (Remembrance)
- **15th November:** Awards assembly
- **29th November:** P6/5 class assembly (St Andrew's day focus)

Assemblies will start at 9.30am and finish at approx. 10am. Parents are welcome to stay for a cuppa and a blether afterwards.



Cross Country Running

A huge well done to our cross country runners who came along to the second race event on Saturday 14th September. We are so proud of our pupils who competed with a smile despite the weather and mud. Thanks to our parents who came along (and for washing the muddy kit!!). Next race Saturday 28th September.



Choir

We are extremely privileged to have Mrs Hunter who has volunteered to run our choir group again this year. Choir will be on a Friday afternoon 2.30-3.10 for our P5-7 pupils.



School Extension/Parking

Our school extension is coming along and there has been much excitement on seeing the progression with the steel frame. The project is currently behind schedule but we are hoping that we will be nearing completion towards Spring/Eastertime. However, this is only an approximation at the moment.



Harvest Assembly

Please note our Harvest Assembly will now take place in Old Gourrock and Ashton Church at 9:30am on Friday, 4th October. Our P2/1, P3 and P6/5 classes will be performing an item. A decision was made to change the venue to allow our family and friends to join us in this celebration.

We are looking for donations of dried foods/tins on that day which our ECO committee will then make into harvest parcels and distribute to the senior members of our community.

School Parking

We urge parents to park sensibly when dropping off and picking up children. Congestion is at an all-time high due to cars double parking along Davidson Drive. This endangers our pupils and makes the area outside our school unsafe.

I have contacted our Road Safety Officer who will ensure that we have regular spot checks from our Community Wardens and police. We have added another sign to remind drivers that parking irresponsibly endangers the safety of our pupils.

We are also awaiting delivery of some child friendly cones that will be placed along key areas of the road to discourage parking during busy drop off and pick up times.

After School Clubs

We are in the process of organising and liaising with our Active Schools Coordinator (Lynne Cooper) re after school clubs. Some letters have been issued and more to come. So far we have ...

- P6/7 Football: 3.15-4.15pm 5 weeks from Thurs 12th Sept
- Athletics: day and time to be confirmed
- P4 Hockey: 3.15-4.15pm 4 weeks from w/b 21st Oct - day to be confirmed

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 and Numeracy games
- STEM 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.



Celebrating Success

At Gourack 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 engaged...I stay on task'. Well done everyone! We have had many children receiving positive praise notes home as well for 'going above and beyond'.

