



Community Connections

Issue 18/20, 10th June 2021

Hello from Mrs Gillespie

You may notice that this is issue 18 / 20....

Now this has piqued my interest: issue 20 is due on 23rd June so we seem to have 'lost' an issue somewhere along the line! I have gone back through the last two terms and I cannot see how this happened – it will remain one of life's great mysteries!

Fortunately, this doesn't have a huge impact on our nursery or school – thank goodness! But it did get me thinking about 'lost' opportunities. We are almost at the end of our academic year and we have tried to embrace the opportunities that have presented themselves along the way in what has been a year of crisis for many.

You may know that the word crisis in Japanese is Kiki and it looks like this: 危機. The first character means dangerous while the second means opportunity.

That is what a crisis is after all. Yes, it can be dangerous and scary but it also represents an opportunity - a chance for a change.

There is no turning back in a crisis. What happened, happened. Whilst we perhaps wish we could have avoided the crisis of 2020, we couldn't – not one of us. Now we have to move on and find a way to create a better future – to learn, to improve and to do better.

I was so thrilled to be successful in the interviews for the role of Head Teacher here in Wemyss Bay. I see this a wonderful opportunity to reflect and learn about where we are and then, with the help and involvement of you, your children and our staff team, to build a strong and positive centre of learning for our community.

It's an opportunity not to be missed!

Alison Gillespie

Get to know our staff....

Mrs Helen Canata, Classroom Assistant



What I am grateful for

I'm grateful for my family and friends

Interests

Walking – especially around the lovely local countryside

Favourite Food

I love pizza with brie, red onion and rocket!

Places to Visit

I like visiting our family in Italy and Inverness

What I'm learning

I'm learning to appreciate life more after the events of this last year

What I'm watching

I love watching documentaries and thriller type dramas

Something quirky about me

I was the last person I know to get a mobile phone! I finally gave in about six years ago!

Learning Matters...

Pupil Reports

Thank you for your feedback on pupil reports. This has been mainly positive. We have missed the opportunity to talk through the reports in the context of a Parents Evening due to timings, and we know that some of you have too. Please remember that if there is anything you wish to clarify, your child's teacher will happily speak with you.

We are completing end of session assessments this week and if they reveal further information about your child's progress, we will contact you.

Transitions

All prospective P1 parents will have visited our school by the end of today and by Wednesday next week, all Primary 7 pupils will have had the opportunity to visit their high secondary school. Although different, these visits will still have added value to the transition experience.

Primary 7 pupils will be enjoying a week of special activities from 14th – 18th June and we will hold a Valedictory Celebration on Monday 21st June. Further details have been sent to Primary 7 pupils today.

Pupils in all other classes will have the opportunity to complete an electronic passport for their new teacher next week.

Class structure for session 2021/22

We have almost finalised our class structure for next session – we are now simply waiting for confirmation of a staffing query and we will then be able to share this information with you.

Health and Wellbeing Matters...

Mrs Cushnahan

Prioritising Wellbeing in school

Over the course of their education, children spend over 7,800 hours at school. With such a huge amount of time spent in the classroom, schools provide an ideal environment for promoting positive emotional wellbeing and identifying early behaviour changes and signs of distress. The social and emotional skills, knowledge and behaviours that young people learn in the classroom can help them to build resilience and set the pattern for how they will manage their mental health throughout their lives.

Evidence shows that mental health initiatives in schools can lead to significant improvements in children's mental health, social and emotional skills, and reductions in classroom misbehaviour and levels of anxiety. Overall, 'whole school approaches' are most effective in promoting wellbeing and good mental health. These approaches can improve staff and pupil wellbeing, and have a positive impact on the prevention and reduction of mental health problems across a whole school.

Children need to learn about emotions in order to recognise how they are feeling and how to cope with these feelings. As a school, we realise that children need to be 'ready to learn' and open to new concepts and knowledge before this will happen effectively. This is very much part of the learning process and the strong relationships the children and staff have is paramount to the learning that occurs across the curriculum.

Due to the changes we have all experienced in the last year, we will continue to prioritise wellbeing in our school. Working in partnership with families and health providers, we aim to support all staff and pupils in the next part of the recovery journey.

School Matters...

Parent Partnership

We have been given the go ahead to paint outdoor games in our playground. We will be speaking to the children about this to get their views. Our Parent Partnership are looking for volunteers to help with the painting – if you have ideas, skills and expertise in this area, please let Mrs Beth MacLeod know or contact us here at the school. Please remember that you are all members of the Parent Forum; if you would like to be more involved in school and nursery life, please let us know!

Book Fair

Thank you to all of you who have ordered books online. We will get your chosen books to you. Please note that the last day for sending copies of your order forms to school is Tuesday 15th June.

Family Matters...

Website

If you haven't had a look yet, then please do! <https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/in/wemyssbayps/>

We welcome your feedback so please let us know if you think of anything else that would enrich this resource. Thank you.

Summer Reading Challenge

The Reading Agency and Inverclyde Libraries are excited to introduce the Summer Reading Challenge 2021 - Wild World Heroes. This challenge runs from 19th June until 28th August.

This year, the Challenge takes place in the fictional town of Wilderville, where the heroes live. Wilderville is a pretty cool place but the heroes have been noticing some problems - helped by their trusted animal companions, they're ready to take action to save the natural world.

This year's themes are:

- The Natural World
- Action for the Environment
- Fun with Friends
- Young Heroes
- Adventure

It's so easy to take part! From the 19th June, children can visit the library to sign up. They will be encouraged to read 6 books to complete the challenge.

As they read books for the Challenge, their stickers will fix the environmental problem in each area and make Wilderville a better home for everyone.

You can request a Connect & Collect Pack by phoning the local library. A pack of 6 books, stickers and the fold-out map of Wilderville will be prepared which you then collect from the library. Please check with your local branch or on the website for details of current opening hours and for contact details to request a Connect & Collect pack www.inverclyde.gov.uk/libraries

Or Children can take part online at www.wildworldheroes.org.uk where children sign up to the easy-to-use website and create their own profile and record their progress.

Children choose what books they want to read – whether it's fiction, non-fiction, joke books or comics. All children who complete the Summer Reading Challenge will be awarded with a Certificate and Medal. What is important is that we get reading!

Remember too that Inverclyde Libraries offers free access to eBooks and eAudio via Borrowbox. For more information about how to access the eBook and eAudio collection please visit <https://bit.ly/BorrowBoxInfo>.

Further information will be issued to children next week.

Nursery Matters...

Mrs Milligan

Hello!

Nursery Celebration Day 16th June and Sports Day 18th June

The staff and children have been very busy preparing for this year's end of term events. The staff have been chatting to the children about what they would like to happen on these days. On the Celebration of Learning Day, we have decided on a party themed day with balloons, dancing, party games and cake making. The children will be presented with a gift from their keyworker and have their photo taken. They can wear party clothes if they wish. For the Sports Day, the children will be taking part in some races then having some ice cream.

As we are still bound by restrictions, we will be making a video which will showcase children's comments, our sports day, and the Celebration Day and this will be sent out as a link on the last week of term.

The changes to guidance, pace and decisions on restrictions can be confusing and we thought it would be useful to share the key message from Scottish Government in the hope that this brings some clarity to the situation:

Message from Scottish Government:

We know moving from nursery to school is a big step and it's important that these transitions are acknowledged and celebrated with our children. This year, we'll need to do that while remembering the COVID guidance that's in place to keep staff and children safe at nursery.

This means that settings aren't able to invite groups of parents to celebration events, even if outdoors. This may feel different from other areas where restrictions are being eased but we must remember how important it is to keep our children in nursery and our staff safe.

Transitions

All our children have been to visit their schools and had a great time exploring their new environment and meeting their new teachers. Our primary 1 teacher Mrs Carswell has organised a WebEx on the Tuesday 15th June at 9.30am for a Q&A session for our parents and invites will follow.

Friday 11th and Wednesday 23rd June

We are having a dressing up/costume day this Friday 11th June and have lots of spare costumes at nursery, so you do not have to go out and buy one.

The last day of term is 23rd June and we close at 1pm and again the children can come dressed up for our superhero and princess party day. The Yellow and Orange groups will leave from the main school entrance.

Lost property!!!

If your child has lost any clothing, please speak to their keyworker so that we can get items returned to their rightful owners before the end of the session. Thank you.

A few other things....

Football

You may be aware that there is a special event in the football calendar on Monday 14th June. Now we firmly believe that marking a significant national achievement is a good thing! Therefore we are offering the opportunity for children to wear something blue and / or tartan on Monday. We will be engaging in Scotland themed activities in the afternoon with regular updates on the match as it progresses.

Sports Day

This will take place on Friday 18th June. We are unable to invite you to share in this but will release some highlights in due course. All children should have outdoor PE kit on that day. All children will be provided with an ice cream in the afternoon – thanks again to our Parent Partnership for organising this.

Outgoing Correspondence

03.06.2021	Head Teacher appointment letter	emailed
07.06.2021	Book Fair information	emailed

Thank you all for your ongoing support.