



Community Connections

Issue 6/20, 11th November 2021

Hello from Mrs Gillespie

Welcome to November! Time is marching on apace and we are already thinking ahead to Christmas. Plans are taking shape and we will share these with you very soon, though there is a snippet in this newsletter. In the meantime, I would like to continue with this little series on vision.

Here is a reminder:

My vision is that Wemyss Bay Primary School and Nursery Class will be the heartbeat of the community, where all are welcomed, nurtured, supported and challenged to achieve their potential, and become curious, creative, confident citizens, through irresistible learning experiences.

This week, I would like to explore the words nurtured, supported and challenged. These three concepts are encompassed within the broader sphere of wellbeing. Wellbeing has always been important but in some ways, never more important than now. I believe we are only just beginning to understand the impact of the last 18 months on our children. This underlines the importance of a renewed focus on our health and wellbeing curriculum, with an emphasis on emotional and mental health. This message has come through loud and clear from many members of our school community, including parents, and we welcome your thoughts on this. We have already begun to engage with partners to explore how we can develop this aspect of our provision the staff team have undertaken professional learning to develop our understanding of mental health in schools, trauma and the resultant nurture that is required. This is all a work in progress but we are on the way.

We are committed to supporting our children. As we work through this period of recovery, the time is right to re-examine our approaches to support – and this includes challenge.

Prioritising wellbeing in its most holistic and child centred form is essential to creating a positive caring culture within which all can fulfil their potential.

Take care and stay safe, *Alison Gillespie*

Get to know our staff...

Mrs Amy Gillan, Early Years Support Assistant



What I am grateful for

Family and friends and have an amazing group to work with.

My Interests

I love all things Disney and taking my dog for a walk at the weekend.

My Favourite Food

I enjoy Mexican food.

Places I would like to Visit

I would love to visit to France to see Disneyland Paris.

What I am learning

I am looking to take up courses on how to train myself for an EYECO role in the future.

What I am reading and watching

I am reading books about childcare and always watching Disney films.

Whole School Matters...

Spotlight on our Values

As part of our focus on the school and nursery values, each class is doing a 'deep dive' into one of the values and providing an insight into what they learn and agree as being important.

Please check out what P5 feel about the importance of **commitment** by looking at the document attached to this email. P5 have also made a short video – here is the link: https://youtu.be/oCah6RAfL_c

School and Nursery Staffing

We are delighted to confirm that Catriona Campbell is our newly appointed teacher (0.5). Catriona started with us on Wednesday 10th November. We extend a warm welcome to Catriona and look forward to all that she will bring to our school.

Mobile Phones

Please remember that pupils should not bring their phones to school unless this is absolutely necessary for reasons of personal safety. If this is the case, then the phone should be off and left either in school bags or with the Head Teacher, until the end of the day. If you need to make contact with your child - or they with you – then this should be through the main school office. Thank you.

Christmas

As current guidance stands, we are still unable to invite families into school to share in Christmas celebrations, but we will ensure that you can share in other ways. This will include our filmed Nativity, our Christmas Service and our enterprise project. The children will also share in parties and Christmas Jumper Day. We will also share with our community by collecting items for the Inverclyde Foodbank. This is just a flavour of events – we will share more details with you next week.

Outdoor Clothing

Please ensure that all children have a change of socks / tights on outdoor learning days. Feet get wet regardless of age, and we want to ensure that children are comfortable when they return for a soggy walk in the woods! Thank you.

Parent Partnership

The next scheduled meeting of our Parent Partnership will take place on 23rd November 2021.

Learning Matters...

Book Week Scotland 15th - 19th November

Developing our reading culture is a priority for us this session and in keeping with this, we will be marking this special week in a variety of ways, celebrating reading.

Reading Nooks are being created in all classrooms and exciting new reading displays are beginning to adorn our walls and corridors. The week will include the presentation of Book Bug bags to our P1 – P3 pulls.

We are also attempting to refresh our class libraries – and we need your help! If you have any books in good condition that your children no longer read but that could provide an opportunity for someone else to enjoy, please send them in to us during this week. We are particularly keen to procure books by the following authors:

Dick King Smith

Alan Durant

Terry Deary

Steve Cole

J.K. Rowling

Judy Blume

Andrew Cope

Dav Pilkey

David Walliams

Lauren Child

Anne Fine

Tommy Donbavand

Francesca Simon

Adam Blade

C. S. Lewis

Rose Impey

Eoan Colfer

Jeremy Strong

Bernard Ashley

Lari Don

Please don't think this means that other authors aren't required – the more the merrier! Thank you.

Anti Bullying Week 15th - 19th November

This same week is also Anti Bullying Week. Inverclyde Council will be launching their new policy during this week and we will be sharing it with you thereafter via our website – please take a look some time next week. Children will be exploring anti bullying themes in school throughout the week.

Children In Need Day 19th November

This incredibly busy week ends with Children in Need Day. We will combine this with our reading focus and hold a Bookie Breakfast. Children and staff are invited to come to school in their pyjamas or onesies, with one small soft toy if they wish. At 9.45, we will have toast and cereal whilst listening to stories. We would suggest a donation of £1 please. Thank you.

Other Learning Events in November

P4/5 families - watch out for a digital insight into Health and Wellbeing. The link will be shared on 24th November. Enjoy!

Health and Wellbeing Matters...

Mrs Cushnahan

Our Health and Wellbeing Matters continues to focus on the **Five Ways to Wellbeing**.

Evidence suggests there are five steps you can take to help improve your mental health and wellbeing.

These are

- connect
- be active
- take notice
- keep learning
- give



This issue focuses on **keep learning**.

Learning new skills can be useful, but it can also positively affect our mental wellbeing. We are proud to say that we have several members of staff engaged in formal learning at degree and masters level, to develop themselves and their professional practice. It does not have, however, to mean getting more qualifications. There are many ways to bring learning into your life.

Many of us associate learning with childhood. As adults, it can seem as though we have less time or need to learn new things. Evidence shows that continuing to learn throughout life can help improve and maintain our mental wellbeing. Mental wellbeing means feeling good – about yourself and the world around you.

Learning can boost self-confidence and self-esteem, help build a sense of purpose, and help us connect with others.

Some suggestions might be to learn a musical instrument or a new language or learning a new DIY skill or craft. Even cooking something different for dinner or solving a puzzle are all ways to keep us learning and give us a sense of achievement.

Do not be afraid to try something new, rediscover an old hobby or sign up for a course. Whatever our age, we can take on a different responsibility, fix a bike, learn to bake bread or cook our favourite food. The secret is to set a challenge we will enjoy.

Learning new things will make you more confident, as well as being fun to do. So give it a go!

Nursery Matters...

Mrs Milligan

Hello!

We are delighted to welcome our new Senior EYECO Ms Sharon Thomson. Mrs Thomson will be the keyworker for the orange group and is a welcomed edition to our fabulous staff team.

Voluntary contributions

We would like to thank everyone for the voluntary contributions over the last few weeks and let you know what the monies we have collected so far has been spent on Halloween decorations, socks, and plants.

Transitions

We know and value the importance of transition and communicating with our parents. Before Covid we would have been able to invite all new children and families into the nursery for a visit and to meet the keyworker. Unfortunately, due to Covid guidance, we have been unable to do this. However, we have been busy creating a sway document which has all relevant transition information, photographs of all the staff and the nursery environment, general information, and links to various documents. We will be sending this out to all parents next week to all parents. We hope that this will be helpful and informative. If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Outdoor Play

Our last section on the benefits of outdoor play is puddles!

A puddle teaches children how to move their bodies. Puddles are meant to be splashed in. To do that, children need to jump! Jumping develops balance, strength, and agility in little legs and has the benefit of coming in many different styles: big jumps, little hops, run and jump, jumping stars (jacks), arms up or down, jumping with two feet and one-legged hops. Puddles can also be kicked, stirred, and tapped, which are more great movement skills.

A puddle teaches children about the natural world. Water is such a unique substance on its own, but a small pool of water in nature is an opportunity to learn about evaporation, density, and buoyancy.

A puddle invites a child to play. While we can use puddles to help our children learn about movement and science, there is value in allowing a child to play in a puddle without interruption. Play is a powerful form of learning because children must use their creativity and problem-solving skills without adult help.

Our children absolutely love playing outdoor. For some children this is their preferred play environment and will spend more time outdoors than in. **Therefore, we stress the importance of having suitable clothing please.** This includes an outdoor wetsuit, wellies, and a few changes of clothes in their bags (especially socks).

Thank you.

Family Matters...

Schools Travel Plan Project

Inverclyde Council is currently working on school travel plans, with the aim of exploring how sustainable travel can be enhanced and promoted in the most effective way. As part of this exercise, site visits will be carried out in order to actively investigate the existing situation around schools and other relevant data will be collected and collated including accident statistics and photographic evidence.

The council are seeking your help through the completion of a short online questionnaire. Here is the link: <https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/SchoolTravelPlanParents/>

We know that this is an area of concern for many of our families so please take the opportunity to have your say. Thank you.

Coming Up

11.11.2021	Remembrance Day
11.11.2021	Community Connections Issue 6
12.11.2021	Homework due in
15.11.2021	Homework issued to school classes Start of Book Week Scotland and Anti Bullying Week
19.11.2021	Children in Need Day
24.11.2021	A digital insight into Health and Wellbeing for P4/5 families
25.11.2021	Community Connections Issue 7
29.11.2021	Homework due in

Outgoing Correspondence

29.10.21	Spotlight on Equality by Primary 6 - Oct 2021	email
01.11.21	Nursery: Reminder re: spare clothing	email
04.11.21	Primary 7: Inverclyde Academy zoom meeting	email
08.11.21	Class Bulletins Nov 2021	email

Thank you all for your ongoing support - we couldn't do it without you!