



# Community Connections

Issue 7/20, 25<sup>th</sup> November 2021

## Hello from Mrs Gillespie

We are almost at the end of this short series where I have taken the opportunity to share my vision for our nursery and school.

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 how we develop our children to become curious, creative, confident citizens – essentially, our curriculum.

If we are going to get it right for every child and achieve the above, we need to offer a bespoke curriculum that nurtures the skills that in turn unleash potential. We need to ensure that our children know *how* to learn with a focus on metacognition, consciously and intentionally planning for the development of skills as well as knowledge. This is essential in order to equip our children for life in an increasingly complex and interconnected world: we all need skills that cross national and cultural borders.

So how do we achieve this?

Increasingly skilled and effective pedagogy, application of learning in real life contexts and raising the level of pupil participation and leadership, are all part of our strategy. These approaches will help us to develop a strong, high quality, universal curriculum offer that will benefit our while learning community.

Take care and stay safe,

*Alison Gillespie*

## Get to know our staff...

Mrs Pamela Cassidy  
Support for Learning Teacher



### What I am grateful for

I am grateful for my family and friends.

### My Interests

I enjoy yoga, walking, cycling, cooking and baking.

### My Favourite Food

I love food from lots of different cuisines, but my husband's roast dinner is hard to beat!

### Places I would like to Visit

I have travelled to many far-flung places around the world but I am a home bird really. I've never been to Mull or Tiree and - I'd really like to go to those places.

### What I am learning

I am learning more about Dyslexia and how to support and enhance wellbeing.

### What I am reading and watching

My son and I are currently reading *The Christmasaurus* and *The Naughty List*, by Tom Fletcher. I am watching *I'm a Celebrity*.

### Something quirky about me

Before I came to Wemyss Bay Primary School, I lived in India for a year.

# 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 P4/5 feel about the importance of **respect** by looking at the document attached to this email. P4/5 have also made a short video – here is the link: [https://youtu.be/R1hTOz5T\\_bU](https://youtu.be/R1hTOz5T_bU)

## Road Safety

We continue to experience huge challenges in keeping our children safe, particularly at the end of the day, due to the volume of traffic and inconsiderately parked vehicles in the vicinity of the school, including actually on the crossing area on more than one occasion. As you will appreciate, this is impacting on visibility and causing children to take unnecessary risks by emerging to cross roads between parked cars. Concerns have been raised via the Parent Partnership and we are committed to improving this situation. We would once again ask you to carefully consider where you choose to park please, to ensure we are more confident in our abilities to safeguard our children and families in this regard. Thank you.

## Schools Travel Plan Project

As indicated in the previous newsletter, Inverclyde Council is currently 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/>

As you have read above, we know that this is an area of concern for many of our families so please take the opportunity to have your say and share your concerns about the safety of our children on the surrounding roads. Thank you.

## School Uniform

We currently have a blended approach to our school uniform. This includes the wearing of tracksuit bottoms, joggies and leggings on certain days. Please remember that these should be dark and self-coloured. Thank you.

## Christmas Update

One month today is Christmas Day! Details of our festive celebrations were issued last week, with a summary of key dates shared on Monday. This is a reminder that orders for Christmas Lunch should be received by tomorrow, as should P6 and P7 pupil consent forms for the Christmas Light switch on event. The cut off date for Christmas Enterprise orders is next Friday, 3<sup>rd</sup> December. Thank you to all who have already submitted these returns.

## Anti-bullying Policy

Inverclyde's new Anti-bullying Policy went live last week. You can access this via our website. We will be looking at this over the next few months and formulating our own policy in alignment with the authority one. We will be reaching out to you to help us with this is due course.

## Parent Partnership

The next scheduled meeting of our Parent Partnership will take place on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> February 2022

## Children In Need Day 19<sup>th</sup> November

Thank you for supporting this event. The amount raised was £175.00.

# 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 the final step: **give**.

Acts of giving and kindness towards others can improve our wellbeing by creating positive feelings and a sense of reward, giving us a feeling of purpose and self-worth and helping us connect with people around us. The acts of kindness can be big or small, all that matters is that we feel connected to the act and the person or people it helps.

Participation in social and community life has attracted a lot of attention in the field of wellbeing research. Individuals who report a greater interest in helping others are more likely to rate themselves as happy.

Here are some suggestions to help you 'give' to others - and yourself:

- Allocate time in your week to check in with someone who lives alone or is struggling.
- Offer your skills or advice to someone who needs help with a project.
- Share what is working well in your home, with your job or with your children with others that may need support.
- Check out your local volunteering service to offer your time to help others.
- Raise money or awareness with your family and close friends for a specific charity or awareness event.
- Do something nice for a friend or stranger via random acts of kindness.
- Donate unwanted clutter to a Charity Shop.
- Smile – this opens conversations and connects you to others.
- Thank someone – we all like to be appreciated.
- Join a community group that helps others.

Research into actions for promoting happiness has shown that committing an act of kindness once a week over a six-week period is associated with an increase in wellbeing – so it must be a good thing!

[Health and Wellbeing Census - Primary 5, 6 and 7 pupils](#)

Over the next few months, Inverclyde Council is planning to ask all pupils in P5 to S6 to take part in a survey about their health and wellbeing. The findings will help our local authority to understand the needs, strengths and possible concerns of children and young people, which will help plan future improvements to local services. Please look out for a letter in the coming weeks that will provide you with more detailed information about the Census, and will also provide you with the opportunity to let us know if you don't wish your child to take part. Thank you.

# Nursery Matters...

Mrs Milligan

## Hello!

We are quickly moving towards the end of term and the children are already getting excited for the big day in just a month's time. There is still a lot to do, however and we are very busy in the nursery.

## Keeping in Touch: Learning Profiles, Doodle Books and phone calls

On Friday 26th November your child will come home with their learning profile folder and a Doodle book in a bag. All information is detailed in a separate letter and within the book itself. Please look over everything, sign and make comments. We really appreciate your feedback and ask that you return them on Monday 29th November in the same bag. We are also planning to make keyworker calls the week beginning 6th December. This is usually done after 3pm however, if this does not suit please arrange a time with your child's keyworker.

## Lunchtime in the Nursery

We have moved to the canteen for lunch this week, and so far, it is going well. This is a great way to help with school transitions, allowing the children to become familiar with school settings and meeting the catering staff. Please continue to consider how much food is in your child's packed lunch (we promise they won't go hungry!), and remember too, that we are a healthy eating school and so ask that you limit - or even refrain - from sweets and juice, and of course, anything with nuts. Thank you.

## Christmas

The children have decided to make calendars and hot chocolate cones this year for the Christmas Cracker enterprise. Order forms have already been issued – please return them with the appropriate monies, and by Friday 3rd December. We have also been practising our songs and have been choosing our costumes for the Nativity – great fun! The children are excited to be decorating the nursery and in the spirit of being eco friendly, we are asking if you have any old decorations that you may not be using, spare wrapping paper or cardboard boxes. If so, please hand them in to your child's keyworker. Thank you.

## General Reminders

We have a collection of water bottles with no names on them. If you have lost a bottle then speak to your child's keyworker and we will see if we can identify it. Please remember to label all bottles. Thank you.

Remember to join our Twitter page, if you haven't already, to see all the learning that happens at nursery: @WemyssBayNC

Wetsuits are usually sent home on a Friday and we have no bags to put them in. Can you please send in a spare bag on a Friday to accommodate this. Thank you.

Children sometimes require a change of clothes and we have a stock of clothing in the nursery to help with this. Our stock, however, is a bit depleted! If you have any items, please return them to us. Thank you.

# Family Matters...

Although Christmas is a lovely time, it can also bring hardship for families. Please do not struggle alone. Come and speak to us, asking for Mrs Gillespie, Mrs Cushnahan or Mrs Milligan and we will support you in any way we can.

## Coming Up

26.11.2021	Homework due in Orders for Christmas Lunch and P6/7 consent forms due
03.12.2021	Closing date for Christmas Enterprise orders Christmas Light Switch On
08.12.2021	Christmas Lunch
09.1.20201	Community Connections Issue 8
10.12.2021	Christmas Jumper Day
13.12.2021	Christmas Family Learning Challenge Nursery Party
14.12.2021	P1 – P3 Party
15.12.2021	P4 - P5 Party
16.12.2021	P6 – P7 Party
17.12.2021	Christmas Enterprise Goods issued to families
22.12.2021	School and Nursery Closes at 2,30pom

## Outgoing Correspondence

18.11.21	WBPS and NC Christmas 2021	email
19.11.21	Survey of Parents linked to early years	email
19.11.21	Welcome to Wemyss Bay Nursery Class	email
22.11.21	School Travel Plan Project	email
22.11.21	Christmas Lunch Order Form	paper copy
22.11.21	An Overview of Christmas 2021	paper copy
22.11.21	P6 & 7 Christmas Light Switch On	paper copy
23.11.21	WBPS Nursery Christmas Cracker Enterprise Project 2021	email
24.11.21	WBPS P4-5 Curriculum Event HWB November 2021	email

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