**CUMBRAE PRIMARY & EARLY YEARS CLASS**

**HT Update November 2022**

Dear Parents and Families,

This month’s newsletter provides an update of school business and our planned dates for the future, including Christmas events!

**Term 1**

We had a very successful term 1 which saw a number of new pupils enrol in to our school. We hope all our new families feel settled and well supported.

Our Early Years room and parent room had new wooden floors installed during the holidays. This has given the rooms a fresh uplift and made them seem so much bigger and allows the EYC staff to plan areas more flexibly to enhance the children’s learning. We have also had a new Promethean board installed in the EYC which the children will be able to use interactively. Our next wish is to have the walls painted!

Digital technology has also been improved in the Primary School. We have used some of our Pupil Equity Fund to install a new Promethean board in the library. This will allow us to present at assemblies, family events and to work with small groups/ individuals to improve their school experience. We also received a number of new ipads and chromebooks which our children use daily to support and enhance their learning.

At the end of term 1, Primaries 1 to 7 had a day at Glasgow Science Centre. This was a very valuable trip and the children had experience of the Planetarium and many hands on activities. The children were exceptionally well behaved and we look forward to more trips in the future.

The Pupil Equity Fund has also been used to improve writing across the school. Although last year 2021/22 our attainment was very good, we decided that there should be more consistency in our teaching methods across the school, particularly with so many new staff and clearer focus on outcomes for children. With that in mind, we are introducing PM Writing which a number of schools in our cluster are also using this year. This will allow us the opportunity to compare our writing with cluster schools in order to raise our achievements even further.

Primary 1 to 3 visited the Field Studies Centre as part of their science learning – Under the Sea. Jack Lock from the FSC also visited P6/7 to talk about his career path and asked P6/7 children what they would like to investigate within the area of science. From this consultation, Jack and Mrs Joyce have developed a series of lessons for the children to experience in Term 3. These activities will involve the children in collecting plankton, using the microscopes, using data and analysing results.

Staff Professional Learning

Our staff are highly committed to continuing their own professional learning in order to provide the best outcomes for our children. We review the whole school needs at the beginning of the session and identify our areas of focus. Examples of staff training this year

* Steven Graham Writing training to complement introducing PM Writing
* A variety of workshops to improve knowledge and supporting strategies for children with Autism
* Training in digital technologies to ensure we are using our new Promethean Board and ipad applications to best support all learners
* Outdoor learning seminars
* Training from the Educational Psychological Services to better understand neurodiversity
* Developing a school garden!

On top of this our staff take on leadership roles within the school to further aid improvement eg. Literacy and Numeracy coordinator, Modern Languages coordinator, Rights Respecting School lead, Digital Teachnologies lead and Learning for Sustainability lead.

School Experiences beyond the Classroom

As we are an island school we strive to ensure our children have the same opportunities for school experiences as their mainland peers. Later this year, we are planning more off island trips and further outdoor learning experiences as our garden and outdoor classroom develop. We have also booked ‘Generation Science’ and ‘Glasgow Science Centre’ to visit the school in March and May to deliver inhouse science workshops across the school.

Leadership Groups

Our pupil leadership groups have begun again. All children in P4 to P7 hold monthly meetings with their lead staff member to develop an area or strive to gain an award in the school. The P4 to P7s coordinate this and involve EYC to P3 through assemblies and activities when appropriate.

Our Pupil Council will be further developing the playground environment.

The digital committee will be striving for a digital leardership award.

The Rights Respecting School is aiming to achieve silver RRS status.

Learning for Sustainability Team will be developing the garden so we can hold a community café in the spring and finally our Reading Ambassadors are collecting evidence to gain gold reading status.

P7 Arran Trip

We are delighted to announce that Primary 7 pupils will have the opportunity to attend a residential at Arran Outdoor Centre from 19th to 23rd June. The cost of this is £208 per child and we hope to be able to use our Pupil Equity Fund to meet this cost. There may be a small cost for transport but we will let you know in plenty of time. We will be attending with children from Skelmorlie Primary and Fairlie Primary so that they can build relationships before attending Largs Academy. They will be participating in activities such as canoeing, climbing, walking and lots more!

Parent Council

Our Parent Council are holding the Christmas Fayre in the Garrison on Sunday 4th December. More details will be available nearer the time. One of the stalls will be a tombola stall. To help with this we are asking that all children participate in a dress down day on Friday 25th November and bring in a prize for the tombola stall. The prizes could be a bottle, candles, chocolates, toiletries, stationary, gifts etc. (anything new or in unused condition). If you are sending in a bottle of wine/ beer/ spirit, please could an adult hand it in to the office and not give it to children.

Family Learning

Scott Hindmarsh, our family learning worker is delivering Harry Potter science themed activities to P1 to P3 families at present. He will then deliver sessions to P4 to P7, more information to follow shortly.

Please contact the school if you would like further information on any of the above.

Kind regards

Mrs J McAleese

Dates for your diary

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| Tues 8th & 15th Nov | P1 -3 Family Learning (prebooked) |
| Fri 18th Nov | Holiday |
| Mon 21st Nov | Holiday |
| Tues 22nd Nov | In-service for teachers. Children off. |
| Wed 23rd Nov | Back to school |
| Fri 25th Nov | Dress down day & bring a tombola prize |
| Tues 29th Nov | P4 – P7 Family learning |
| Sun 4th Dec | Christmas Fayre in Garrison Noon to 3pm |
| Thurs 15th Dec | Christmas lunch – wear some tinsel! |
| Fri 16th Dec | EYC & P1/2/3 party pm |
| Mon 19th Dec | P6/7 party pm |
| Tues 20th Dec | Whole school to pantomime Beacon Arts |
| Wed 21st Dec | P4/5 Party pm  P1/2/3 Nativity for parent in church 1.45pm |
| Thurs 22nd Dec | EYC & P1/2/3 to MacDougalls Show, Largs |
| Fri 23rd Dec | School service at church 10am  School closes 2.30pm |