

# Meet the Head Teacher

Alison McFarlane



**A little about me.** My name is Alison McFarlane and I am just beginning my sixth year as Head Teacher in Gartcosh Primary School. I am really looking forward to the year ahead. I am excited about things opening up and getting to do more in school. I am a reflective person and always trying to look for improvements. I appreciate feedback on how things are going both the good and the not so good! I love travelling and recently starting visiting countries through cruising. I hope to be able to travel abroad again sometime soon. In the meantime – exploring Scotland has been wonderful too! I particularly love Eilean Donan Castle.

**What is important to me outside of school?** My family and friends. I have two grown up children! I am also very lucky to have lots of good friends and two sisters to spend time with. We like talking, going out for meals and talking some more. I do like to talk!



## What's Important to me in school.

It is important to me to really get to know the children. It is only through knowing them that I can direct support and help them. I want the children to know that whatever the problem, issue or cause for celebration, I will be there for them. The children are the most important people in our school, and I would like them to know and understand that.

I also believe that kindness is a real strength that is sometimes under rated. Kind thoughts, words and actions can really make a difference and I try to be an example of this. Through kindness we become a school that truly cares. A kind word can change a day for someone, lift a mood, and inspire someone to take that next step. And it costs nothing!

I also encourage children to have a growth mindset. We can always try again, have another go, make a mistake, and ask for help! Children should never be worried by getting something wrong – never be afraid to try, to put themselves out there! I would like the children to be able to recognise that a growth mindset is not just for school but in all we do – give it a go and if it's worth it – try again and give it another go!



## What our year will look like.

At this point, the honest answer is that it will be a year of change across the school. We are still very much under the impact of covid and that will continue to have a major effect on what goes on. But we also have the opportunity to make new ways of working in school and across the cluster. Homework is just the first area that we will look at.

This year will see a return to school clubs. Outdoor clubs will be easier and Bikeability will begin very soon. We have so much we would like to do and new activities and learning we would like to develop especially in terms of STEM.

This year will also hopefully see parents having more access to school again, to re-establishing connections and furthering your understanding of your child's learning journey. It is a time to look forward.



## The future I would like to see for our school.

A new school will make all the difference to us, room to learn and grow. But the building is just part of it. We are more than a building!

I would like to see children able to explore different areas in the curriculum with confidence, to find the fun on learning and to pass that on to others. I want us to support the gardener, the artist, the writer or the physicist - and keep up with the technology we will need to do it! I would like children to understand their talents, know their goals and be able to continue working towards them in a community of support.

Our young children arrive every day excited and coming running in to school – I would like that enthusiasm to be reflected in all of our children! Children who believe in themselves the way we believe in them!

## If you need to get in touch with me

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