



Meet the Head Teacher

Alison McFarlane

A little about me. My name is Alison McFarlane and I am just beginning my eighth year as Head Teacher in Gartcosh Primary School. I am really looking forward to the year ahead. The new school is getting closer and we are already preparing to be ready when we finally get into the new build.

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 underrated. 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.

I hope that this year is a settled and happy one.

Last year we introduced parent events and we hope to build on this throughout this year with some more workshops, activities and opportunities for parents to get involved.

We are keen to develop meta skills across the school and join forces with the "Developing the Young Workforce" Team. Our STEM week in October and Future Me Friday event in June were a big hit and we hope to build on this.

This year we are building on feedback for children to allow them to really get to know their strengths and areas of development.

It is going to be another busy year!



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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