

# Arkleston Advertiser

Edition 2 Session 2021 -22



## Message from the Head Teacher

This has been a term to think about change. As COP 26 came to Glasgow, the eyes of the world were on the changes required by everyone to build a better future for the next generation. Just as countries have been discussing the changes required to ensure a better future for our planet, we regularly ask the children to reflect on the changes that they need to make to be the best version of themselves and fulfil their full potential. This requires them to look inwards and think about their own impact on others and the world around them. Change cannot happen unless we realise that it needs to happen and we all have something in our lives that we would benefit from changing. We use the language of character to support our children in getting to know themselves well. Our character defines us and we each have a different combination of strengths that we utilise daily. Using our strengths helps us to shine and we tend to make mistakes when we don't use our strengths wisely. Children are learning these skills daily and learning from the mistakes that they make to make positive changes for the future. There are times when everyone wishes they could change something or someone, but we don't always have the power to change others. What we do have control over is the decisions we make about ourselves. They say that "You can't change what's going on around you until you start changing what's going on within you." We want to support children with this inwards reflection through our PATHS and Mindfulness Programmes so that when faced with a challenge, or circumstances that cannot be changed, or people unable or unwilling to change, they can make a change in their own choices. A change that ends with a positive outcome. I am sure that as we head towards the end of this year, we will be hoping that things soon change and that life in school can return to normal. I want to thank you for bearing with us as we continue to work with the mitigations that we have been asked to follow. These have been massive changes that we have adapted to over the last few years, but maybe they will be the making of us, as Robin Sharma says, "Change is hardest at the beginning, messiest in the middle and best at the end." ☺

## Dates for your Diary



Tue 30 Nov	Holiday – School Closed
Fri 3 Dec	Christmas Lunch in Dining Hall (Pre-order required)
Fri 10 Dec	Christmas Jumper Day
Fri 17 Dec	Class Parties
Wed 22 Dec	School Closes 2.30pm for holidays
Thur 6 Jan	Children return

Base 2 will record their nativity and the whole school will record a Sing Along, that we will send you the links to, so that you can join at a time that suits you best. Base 7 will also record and share their Christmas Assembly at the end

## Parent Council



We would like to thank everyone for getting involved in our online Halloween Week Fundraiser which was a huge success. We raised an amazing profit of £418.00

There will be a Christmas fundraiser coming up soon, We will keep you posted!

Our next Parent Council meeting will be held online on Wednesday 12th January 2022 at 7pm. If you would like to get involved or know more about the Parent Council, then please follow us at Arkleston Parent Council on facebook or @ArkyPC on twitter for all our latest updates. You can also email us on [Arkleston@renfrewshire.npfs.org.uk](mailto:Arkleston@renfrewshire.npfs.org.uk) for more information.

Please remember to use #easyfundraising when you do your Christmas shopping. Over 6,000 shops and sites will donate to Arkleston Parent Council at no extra cost to you - so you can raise donations when you buy gifts, decorations, your festive food or anything else. #ThisMeansMore than gifts for loved ones, it means donations that help make a difference! Please sign up and help us raise more at:

[https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/arklestonparentcouncil/?utm\\_campaign=raise-more&utm\\_source=social&utm\\_medium=facebook&utm\\_content=rm-ghtms21-f1](https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/arklestonparentcouncil/?utm_campaign=raise-more&utm_source=social&utm_medium=facebook&utm_content=rm-ghtms21-f1)

We are also running a stall at Robertson Park Market on Dec 12<sup>th</sup> and are looking for donations of chocolate for the tombola stall. If you can donate anything, please send it into the school for collection.

<https://m.facebook.com/arklestonparentcouncil/>  
<https://twitter.com/ArkyPC>

## Christmas Events

As you know, we are still unfortunately not allowed parents into school to join us for Christmas events, so again are having to think of creative ways of sharing our work with you. Here are some of the things we have planned for the upcoming month.

**Fri Dec 3<sup>rd</sup>** – School Christmas Lunch

**Fri Dec 10<sup>th</sup>** – Christmas Jumper Day in aid of St Vincent's Hospice – Donations through Parent Pay Parent Council to run a Jumper Swap event beforehand

**Thur 16<sup>th</sup>** – P7 Pizza and movie afternoon

**Fri Dec 17<sup>th</sup>** – P1-6 class parties and Santa visit to P1 children (P7 children support all class parties)

Online Panto to be shared with classes during the last week.

We are still planning for our nativity and a sing song, but these will have to be very different again. We have been having terrible trouble streaming live events from the school as some of you will be aware of, so for the Base 6 Assembly we recorded the whole assembly and then shared the YouTube link with parents. We plan to do the same for Base 2 Nativity and P1-7 Sing Song (you can sing along at home). We can't give a set date as to when these links will be shared. It will all depend on how long this takes to pull together



Arkleston Primary School  
Cockels Loan  
Renfrew  
PA4 0EL  
03003000143

[www.arkleston.renfrewshire.sch.uk](http://www.arkleston.renfrewshire.sch.uk)  
Head Teacher - Ms C Crawford

## Keeping My World Safe

### Respected and Responsible of My World

This term we have been thinking across our school about ways in which we can keep our world safe. To do this we have to act as respectful and responsible citizens within our communities in order for our actions to have an impact on a larger scale. With COP26 having come to Glasgow, there has been a huge focus on learning about climate change and preserving and conserving our planet's natural resources.



The children in P6 were lucky enough to be invited along to the Glasgow Science Centre to take part in a variety of activities that helped them to think about the impact of human activity on the planet. This was a wonderful experience for them. The children have been thinking about plastic in the ocean and the impact that this has on wildlife, sharing their thoughts and findings in their class. They learned scientific vocabulary to explain the processes involved and used their literacy skills to write a scientific report. Base 6 are currently recording their learning to form an assembly, which they will share with parents online.

We have been very impressed with how interested children have been to find out more about what was happening in Glasgow. Here are just some of the examples of the things that the children have been learning about.

**Base 4** children were keen to find out about world leaders and have written to them with their ideas on how things need to change for the future.

**Base 3** children were also thinking about recycling and plastic pollution and the impact of this in our rivers and oceans.

**Base 7** have been using their science skills to design waterproof houses that would be able to withstand flooding caused by climate change.



Base 3 have been connecting with their international school, Baby Steps Primary, in the Republic of Congo and learning all about what life is like for the children. They met online and shared lots of stories that have helped them to understand their similarities and differences

## Nurtured and Included Citizens

P6 Children have just completed a block of learning called Resilience for All. The programme is offered to primary six to help the children discover that they already have everything they need ahead of the educational and personal transitions they will experience in the coming years.

The programme works on a very simple premise: that we are all born resilient. If we look at a baby learning to walk, we can be in no doubt that as human beings we have the capacity to learn from what happens without taking it personally, to take "failure" as feedback that is useful in achieving success and to get on with the adventure of lifelong learning. There is no need to work hard to "build" something we already have but may just have lost our connection with. When we reconnect with this natural capacity for resilience, we have greater access to and confidence in our own ability to deal with issues arising in our classrooms, schools and lives.

In the programme, the children explore and make discoveries about the ever present but often invisible role that thought plays in our experience of life - seeing this is the key to unlocking natural resilience in and out of the classroom. There are many life-changing implications that come from discovering something about the role of thought in our experience and connecting with our natural resilience, including easier relationships with others, not taking the words or actions of others or our own "mistakes" personally, and less time spent worrying about anything that you are prone to spend time worrying about.



### Gender Stereotyping

Mrs Farrell led her first assembly on the theme of inclusion and what children's understanding of gender is. This led to some interesting conversations which will help us to challenge gender stereotyping and ensure that we promote gender equality in our work across the school. These are the words that children used to describe girls and boys and the jobs they think that men and women do. Lots of work to do to address their views and to help them understand that gender should not be a barrier to future success in any field.



## Healthy and Active Citizens

**Article 15** – Right to meet with friends and join groups and clubs

**Article 31** – Right to relax and play

**Article 29** – The right to become the best that you can be

Mr Mitchell, our Active Schools Coordinator, has organised several after school clubs to start and it is lovely to see the children enjoying these opportunities. Working with S5/6 Leadership Team, he has been able to provide:

Monday	P5-7	Basketball	3-4pm
Monday	P5-7	Netball	3-4pm
Monday	P1-2	Play Club	3-4pm
Tuesday	P1-2	Play Club	3-4pm
Tuesday	P3-4	Multisports	3-4pm

Thank you to Miss McColl in P5 for supporting this work.

We are keen to provide clubs that cater to the other interests that our children may have and Miss Brown, our classroom assistant, has kindly offered to run a Games Club for P5-7 children on a Thursday 3-4pm. At the club, they will get the chance to play a variety of different board games, read comics and swap trading cards. This club has proven to be so popular, that it now has a waiting list.

Our P7 children are now all Play Leader trained and would usually offer lunch clubs to children. As we are still running with staggered lunches, this is not possible, but the children will be thinking about providing some opportunities for P5 children to participate in games in the playground at morning and afternoon breaks.

To celebrate the London Marathon, the children were signed up to participate in the Mini London Marathon in school. They had to run, walk or jog 2.6 miles in school. All children who took part received a certificate for their hard work and efforts.



As winter is setting in it can be increasingly difficult for children to access opportunities for exercise. As a school we have signed up to the virtual Bound for Beijing Challenge. To celebrate the Beijing Winter Olympics in 2022, families are encouraged to log a variety of sporting activities that they take part in in order to reach the summit which is 9800m. Whether you are walking, swimming, cycling or taking part in organised sport, logging every activity helps our Arkleston Team to reach the summit faster. We have already reached 2296m, with 22 activities being logged. If you want to help our team, go our school page and log the activities you do.

<https://www.getset.co.uk/app/arkleston-primary-school-pa4-0el/school-team-15315>



**I Am Me**

Olivia, William and Robyn represented the school at the launch of the I Am Me, App at Paisley Grammar High School last week. The children got to meet with members of the community to discuss their involvement. The school has worked hard over the last few years to support the creation of the app, which can now be used by children across Renfrewshire to find advice and to report bullying if they feel they have no-one else to talk to. Olivia in P7 is the backing voice for the introductory video <https://youtu.be/NPyJ1M3g0dc> The app can now be downloaded from the App store on android and apple devices. Well done to everyone who supported this process.



## How do pupils have a say in the life and work of the school?

<p><b>Nurtured and Included 1</b></p> <p><b>Focusing on our work towards becoming a nurturing school</b></p>	<p>Daisy Evans P1 Darcy McLaren P2/1 Mason MacAuley P2 Ruairidh Cook P3/2 Safa Saeed P3 Ella Costello P4 Phawak Sandoval P5A Mirrin Paterson P5B Ethan Miller P6 Olivia Janowska P7A Olivia Nicholson P7B Mrs McManus Mrs Reid</p>	<p><b>Nurtured and Included 2</b></p> <p><b>Focusing on diversity and equality across the school</b></p> 	<p>Blake McCafferty P1 Liam Moffat P2/1 Rehan Liaqat P2 Lexie Dickinson P3/2 Aria Mack P3 Jouri Karajah P4 Tyler McMeekin P5A Ashton O'Neil P5B Ryan Porter P6 Kalia Reid P7A Dua Saeed P7B Mrs Farrell Miss Clark</p>
<p><b>Health and Active Citizens</b></p> <p><b>Focusing on our Sports Scotland activities and health promotion</b></p>	<p>Ella McInnes P1 Cooper Robertson P2/1 Charlie-Jay Dickson P2 Rhys Miller P3/2 Asher Sandhu P3 Connor Brooker P4 Ben Smith P5! Chloe Moffat P5B Lois Campbell P6 Alex Ure P7A Abigail Brooker P7B Mrs Sinclair Miss McColl</p>	<p><b>Safe Citizens 1</b></p> <p><b>Focusing on developing digital skills across the school</b></p>	<p>Carley Mulligan P1 Isla Banks P2/1 Sara Igret P2 Maisie Feeney P3/2 Poppy Kerr P3 Tamim Zino P4 Harry McNair P5A Finlay Reid P5B Murray Swain P6 Ismail Bajwa P7A Ibrahim Hussain P7B Mr Davies</p>
<p><b>Safe Citizens 2</b></p> <p><b>Focusing on science, technology, engineering and maths</b></p>	<p>Jamie Halsall P1 Corran Munro P2/1 Amber Middleton P2 Miley Quigley P3/2 Roojrit Sidhu P3 Jamie Lynch P4 Abdulrehman Aziz P5A Cameron Nesbitt P5B Martin Muldoon P6 Aaisha Malik P7A Kelsie Donnelly P7B Mrs A Sinclair Miss Jeffrey</p>	<p><b>Responsible and Respectful Citizens 1</b></p> <p><b>Focusing on our Eco Schools work</b></p> 	<p>Angus Dougall P1 Arran Fleming P2/1 Dylan Jones P2 Ayla Zino P3/2 Sophie Haddow P3 Willow McColl P4 Nieve Girvan P5A Callum Morrison P5B Anaya Ahmed P6 Robyn Clark P7A Mia Evangelista P7B Mrs Mitchell Mrs de Pellette</p>
<p><b>Responsible and Respectful Citizens 2</b></p> <p><b>Focusing on being a rights respecting school</b></p>	<p>Quetzalli Sandoval P1 Olivia Brown P2/1 Ruby Muir P2 Lucas Kennedy P3/2 Millie Young P3 John Joseph O'Rourke P4 Lacey Ball P5A Sophie Fitton P5B Zak Mohammad P6 Kyla Ironside P7A Noor Saeed P7B Mrs Campbell Miss Rainey</p> 	<p>Each committee has had the opportunity to meet and decide on their priorities for the session. They each have a wall in the corridor of the school and we look forward to seeing their ideas being shared. The Healthy and Active Committee have already met with Renfrewshire Council to discuss the quality of school meals and the Responsible and Respectful Committee 1 have been gathering the plastic bottles from class bins to recycle through the parent council. Pupils make a difference to the work of our school and we are proud of the ideas.</p>	

Children not in a committee have traditionally met in the hall with SMT to discuss the work of the school using How Good Is Our School – Children’s Version. Due to the numbers, we have been unable to do this yet, but plan to do so as soon as is possible. It is important that the voice of all children is heard, so children take part each term in completing a questionnaire with their class on the day to day work of the school. This helps us to improve things for them moving forward.

### Your Thoughts Matter and Make a Difference

If you have any ideas or suggestions on how we can improve the work that we do please email [arklestonesenquiries@renfrewshire.gov.uk](mailto:arklestonesenquiries@renfrewshire.gov.uk) and put Family Feedback in the sub-heading

## What have we been up to?

### Base 2 –

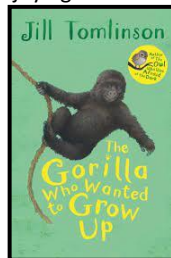
**Primary 1** we have been learning more single sounds and we have been blending these together to make words. We have been exploring words that rhyme by keeping the ending the same and changing the first sound e.g. cat, hat, mat etc. We have been trying so hard to read and write our tricky words, and have been finding these words in the books we read. We have also been trying very hard to write a sentence independently. We have been working very hard in numeracy and maths exploring different aspects of measure such as length, weight and capacity. We loved using different objects around the room to measure our heights! We have also been learning about subtraction and our number bonds up to 10. We are very confident with our doubles and halves!

**Primary 2** we have been learning more double sounds, and have had lot of opportunities for practising reading and writing words with our new sounds. We have been making super progress with our banded reading books and have been enjoying learning through our novel study *The Owl Who Was Afraid of the Dark*. We have been writing recipes and other instructional texts to inform our audience. In grammar we have been learning about verbs and adjectives. We have also been working hard in numeracy and maths, finding out about some of the standard units of measurement that are used for measuring length, weight, and volume. We have been working hard to learn strategies for addition and subtraction, up to and beyond, 20. We are very busy practising for our Nativity and Sing-along in December.



### Base 3

**Primary 3/2** have enjoyed learning through play. We have worked together to create different learning experiences and created our class role play area, which we called 'Arky Sprinkles'. We decided to ask our local shop 'Sprinkles' for some things to add to our shop, which they kindly donated to us. We have been learning to scan QR codes and enjoy our Digital Library, where we can relax and put on our headphones to listen to an interactive story. We have enjoyed using the kapla to build football stadiums and floor plans for our dream homes. We have been reading *The Gorilla Who Wanted to Grow Up* and have enjoyed learning facts about gorillas. We had a meeting with our connected classroom in The Republic of Congo called 'Baby Steps'. We learned that gorillas live in The Republic of Congo and our new friends were able to tell us some interesting facts about gorillas that we didn't know before. We had a Teams call with them on Universal Children's Day to celebrate the rights of children across the world. In numeracy, Primary 3 have been adding 3 and 4 digit numbers with carrying, while Primary 2 have been adding to 20 and have been learning to use a number line. We have enjoyed experiencing numeracy and literacy through a range of play activities. We are enjoying the choice, challenge and breadth of these activities.



**Primary 2** we have been learning to measure objects around our classroom using cubes, paperclips, rulers and metre sticks. We have also been working super hard on our addition and subtraction strategies to 20 and beyond. We decided to read 'The Gorilla Who Wanted to Grow Up' for our class novel this term, which we later discovered links with our connected classroom in The Republic of Congo, as Congo is well known for being home to thousands of gorillas. Base 3 celebrated International Children's Day with a video call with our connected classroom - Baby Steps Primary School. This allowed us to ask questions about life in The Republic of Congo, gorillas and answer questions about Scotland! Primary 2 have enjoyed learning about the Eatwell Guide as part of Health and Wellbeing. We designed a healthy packed lunch using various foods from each food group and will continue to learn about having a balanced diet.



## What have we been up to?

### Base 4 –

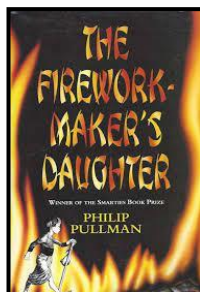
**Primary 3** we received our read write count bags from the Scottish book trust and have been busy using our measuring tapes and notebooks in class. We have also been enjoying our class novel *The Christmasaurus* and even created our own rhymes like the elves in the story. We love listening to this story enormously. In maths we have been using macaroni to help build arrays and investigate the link between division and multiplication. Our class topic *The Victorians* has opened up a new era of history to us as we explore this era and begin by learning about Queen Victoria. We created our own portraits of the monarch, complete with Victorian style frames!

**Primary 4** We have been learning about the Victorians. We started by learning about Queen Victoria first, she had 42 grandchildren! We have been learning about different fairy tales with Miss McKay. We started building our own fairy tale booklets and we even used junk modelling and clay to design our setting and characters. We have been learning about measure too. We had fun using different scales. and converting cm to m and g to kg. In our writing we were learning to use direct speech. They look like a 66 and 99. We are going to use this in our fairy tale story.



### Base 5

In Base 5, we have been learning to read and record 12 hour time on digital and analogue clocks. We have started using maths grids where we get to choose the order of our maths activities throughout the week, this is helping us become more independent in our learning. We also been practicing addition, subtraction, and our times tables (some of us have been multiplying large numbers too). This term, we started a new novel '*The Firework Maker's Daughter*' by Philip Pullman. We are enjoying meeting all the new characters and have been developing our skills in inference and visualisation. In PE, we really enjoyed progressing our Basketball skills and are looking forward to orienteering outdoors. At Halloween, we had a fun week of spooky maths and literacy tasks as well as some really fun competitions!



**Base 6** We have just completed our topic on Global Goal 14 Life Under the Sea and Climate Change. We enjoyed working on our assembly and learned new skills using the green screen when filming. Our trip to COP26 was a great success and we learned more about climate change over time. Our favourite parts were the experiment about greenhouse gases and the bouncing on the bubble which converted our energy to produce clean air inside it. We have just started our new topic about Spain and are looking forward to finding out about Christmas traditions in this country.

**Base 7** have had 2 visits to Renfrew High. One for sports and the second as part of our STEM week. We got to visit the IT and Science department. We learned how to use an excel document to create pictures and we were investigating chemical reactions.

We have been doing reading circles focusing on a variety of reading strategies to help us become more independent in analysing texts. During all of these activities we have been working collaboratively with different groups within our class, not always our friendship groups. We



# What do the pupils have to say?

I use the character strengths of the heart because I am kind to my classmates and I share things that I'm playing with. **Amber P2**

I use the character strengths of the head because I am always learning new things. **Sara P2**

I use the character strengths of community during literacy because I work with other people to complete my work. **Jackson P2**  
Strengths of the head to learn. I am learning new things. **Millie P3**

I use strengths of the head by being curious about different topics e.g. I learned recently about the Chernobyl disaster. **Libbie P4**

I use the character strengths of community during free play because I have been working with my friends to create a puppet show. (Strengths of Community – Work in a Team) **Libbi P2**

I use strength of the heart whenever we are in the classroom and outside in the playground. I always want to make sure our friends are okay. **JJ P4**

I always use strengths of community by working in a team. I use this in the classroom when I am working together, for example when I was learning about forces on Friday. I also use it outside during den building. **Abbie H P4**

Strengths of the heart in being kind. We listen to our teacher when we are learning and our classmates when playing. **Ethan P3**

Strengths of heart. Love - I am kind to my classmates during play. **Poppy P3**  
Strengths of action in trying. Trying my hardest at doing my work. **Daanish P3**  
Strength of action being brave, when I hurt my leg. **Zach P3**

## Question

Which character strengths do you use in your learning and play?

**Ms Crawford**

**Article 13: Your right to express your thoughts and opinions**



I use the character strength of self-control. Whenever I have a fall out, I make sure I don't lash out. I like doing counting in maths and playing with the activities. **Willow P4**

I show teamwork in hockey. **Keerat P6**  
I have learned to use control in hockey. **Anaya P6**

I have develop my bravery by trying new activities. **Martin P6**

I am kind all the time. **Zak P6**

I am honest when playing football. I am confident when learning new tasks. **Rory P6**

I use my voice and demonstrate leadership skills, I make sure everyone understands and takes part in games. **Gray P6**

I am kind and include everyone in group work. I am developing confidence in multiplication. **Leah P6**

Work as part of a team – in order to be successful in our groups I had to work as a team, even if I wasn't working with my friends all the time. - **Kyla Ironside P7**

Being kind – we are trying our best to be an inclusive group. We want our classmates to feel included in the playground. - **Max Armstrong P7**

Be happy – I think when you are happy you will create better quality of work. - **Mia Evangelista P7**

I have enjoyed the Superhero Multiplication challenges and making graphs **Phawak P5**

I like Maths, Literacy and in my free time I enjoy reading. I also like the challenge of the geographical jigsaw puzzles. **Harry P5**

## Arky Stars: Article 29 – Your right to be the best you can be

- Millie has been learning how to do a front handspring, Poppy can do the splits, Safa can do a back bend, Sonny has learned how to front flip and Ellie can do a front handspring. Skye in P7 achieved a full twist in gymnastics. What gymnastic skills P3! Struan and Kian in P3 have been learning how to do back flips on the trampoline.
- Codi P3 is joining Brownies after Christmas. Ella P4 received her first badge at Brownies. It was her camping badge. Lucy, Kingsley, Olivia, Isla, Ella and Carley in P1 have all made their Brownie Promise.
- Tyler has earned 8 badges in cubs.
- Asher P3 can now climb to the top of the climbing frame and Riley C P3 has learned how to walk on tyres.
- Ethan P3 is learning how to run and time his runs. Blake in P1 has joined a running club.
- Shine P3 is learning how to play football and Daanish is improving his skills. Allie P4 got awarded a trophy at her football for being the best player. Lucy P1 has joined a football club. Alex in P7's football team hasn't lost a game in 6 games! William P7 has joined a new club and they won their first game. Riley, Ted, Sam and Kyle's in P5 won a trophy at football. Harris P5 was Player of the Tournament and Chloe P5 has started goalkeeper training. Kyle P5 scored a hat trick 2 weeks in a row and Riley P5 scored his first goal for Renfrew Juniors.
- Jennifer worked incredibly hard to earn 2 silver and 2 bronze awards at the weekend- well done, Jennifer.
- Libbi passed her grading for Taekwondo- she is now a yellow belt. Theo P1 has started karate and Zohaib in P7 has received his first black tag on his brown belt. Cameron P5 has gained his orange belt in karate. Noor and Dua in P7 have started boxing.
- Finlay P5 won 5 matches in a row at rugby.



**KIDS  
ZONE**