

Arkleston Advertiser

Edition 3 Session 2021 -22



Message from the Head Teacher

We are all glad to say goodbye to January, which turned out to be a very cold, dark and wet month, with continuing restrictions in place. We have been talking about using the character strength of hope in school. To have hope is to want an outcome that makes your life better in some way. It not only can help make a tough present situation more bearable but also can eventually improve our lives because envisioning a better future motivates us to take the steps to make it happen. Everyone hopes for something. Research indicates that hope can help us manage stress and anxiety and cope with adversity. It contributes to our well-being and happiness and motivates positive action. Hopeful people believe they can influence their goals, that their efforts can have a positive impact. Your children have been discussing their learning with their teachers in preparation for their Pupil/Parent/Teacher Conference calls and everyone has been thinking about their next steps. Setting targets with the children allows them to see how to use the character strength of hope in their everyday lives. They set a target, work hard to achieve it, sometimes fail, and make mistakes but always thinking about how to improve and get better at something. These are life skills that they will be able to apply to any situation whether it is a falling out with friends or a new skill or hobby, having hope and a positive mindset will ensure that they are prepared and have the necessary strategies to own their experiences and to make decisions about their future.

We are hopeful that restrictions will continue to lift and that soon we can come together again as a school community and share your children's amazing achievements with you in person. There are signs of spring on the horizon and these times will soon become part of the history of the school. As we think about our 50th celebrations, the COVID years will become part of a legacy of something that we all came through together, as one strong Arky Team. Thank you for everything you have done to help us through these difficult times.

Dates for your Diary



Mon 14 Feb	Holiday – School Closed
Tue 15 Feb	Holiday – School Closed
Wed 16 Feb	Staff Inset Day – School closed to pupils
Fri 1 April	Base 3 Easter Service (link will be sent to parents)
Fri 1 April	School Closes at 2.30pm for holidays
Mon 4 April	School Closed for spring break
Tue 19 April	School re-opens
Mon 2 May	Holiday – School Closed
Thur 5 May	Staff Inset Day – School closed to pupils
Fri 27 May	Holiday – School Closed
Thur 2 June	Holiday – School Closed
Fri 3 June	Holiday – School Closed
Wed 29 June	School Closes at 1pm for summer break

Parent Council



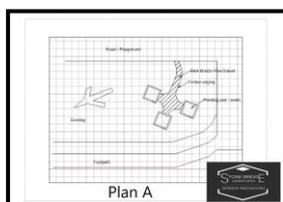
The Parent Council has contributed towards the P7 leavers hoodies which the children received last month, and they all look extremely smart! Thank you to the school for allowing these to be ordered earlier than usual.

We are also covering the transport cost for the P7 children going to Ardentynny in March 2022 to help and keep their overall costs down. Have a great trip children!

There is planned playground work in the pipeline which we are excited about. The map is outlined below and will provide the children with outdoor seating pods to replace the overgrown planters. Work hopefully begins over Feb Weekend.

Our next Parent Council meeting will be held online on Thursday 28th April 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 for more information.



Staffing Updates

Miss Miller has been back in school for a few keeping in touch days, prior to her return from maternity leave at the beginning of March. On her return, she will be working 3 days a week initially. We are delighted to have her back on the team.

Mr Davies will be leaving us at the end of February to take up a new post in the authority. We would like to thank him for being part of the team since August.

Mrs J Sinclair was successful at interview for the post of transition teacher at Renfrew High School on a secondment basis until the end of June. We are awaiting to hear from the authority in relation to the member of staff who will cover for Mrs Sinclair for the remainder of the session and will update P5A parents once this has been clarified. Mrs Sinclair won't take up her new post until we have someone to backfill her post at Arkleston. We are delighted that Mrs Sinclair will be putting her many years of experience to good use for the children across the cluster at such a crucial point in their education.

Mr Bonnar remains absent from school for the time being and we wish him a speedy recovery.

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Head Teacher - Ms C Crawford

Keeping My World Safe

Respected and Responsible of My World

Mrs Mitchell has been spending time each week with groups of children at our allotment next to Tesco. They have cleared the bed ready to create a planting calendar for the next few months. As respectful and responsible citizens it is important that we support children in understanding their natural environment, particularly within the community of Renfrew. With 8 Eco School Green Flags, we continue to develop our approaches and ensure children can learn skills that they will be able to put to good use in later life. P1 paid a visit to the allotment recently with Mrs Mitchell and enjoyed speaking to the other allotment holders, learning about their favourite things to plant. They also found out about the beehive housed at the allotment and are curious to see it in action in the summer months. If you enjoy gardening and would be willing to support our trips to the allotment, we are always looking for parents willing to go through the PVG process. If you are interested, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

The Respected and Responsible Committee have been encouraging the children across the school to recycle their plastic bottles from snack and lunch time and paper. The plastic bottles are being collected by the Parent Council and taken to Sainsburys where they are being converted into cash. We have collected a number of bags so far and our bins are now full ready for our next uplift.



Safe Citizens

Safe Citizens know how to act responsibly online to keep themselves and others safe, this ensures we are upholding Article 17: your right to get information in lots of ways, as long as it's safe. Safe Internet Day is on Feb 8 and we will chat at assembly about this year's theme 'All fun and games? Exploring respect and relationships online'. As respect is one of our school values, we want to ensure that children they know how to demonstrate it in all areas of their lives. There are fabulous resources on the website for parents and carers which you may find useful.

<https://saferinternet.org.uk/safer-internet-day/safer-internet-day-2022>

In the UK children aged between 5-16 years spend an average of 2-3 hours per day watching television, 1-3 hours on the internet, 1-2 hour playing video games and over an hour on mobile phones (not talk), a total of 6.3 hours of screen time per day. It is crucial that we support them in managing their time online and the impact of this time on their mental health, wellbeing, and safety.



Nurtured and Included Citizens

Nurtured and Included Citizens are aware of each other's differences in relation to our protected characteristics. You will all have received a copy of Mrs Farrell's leaflet in relation to our plans moving forward to look at LGBT+ Education within the school. Focusing on promoting equality, reducing bullying and improving the educational experiences of LGBT children and young people, subjects across age groups will now include LGBT identities, issues and history. We are at the very beginning of this work and Mrs Farrell is keen to ensure that parents' views are heard and that you are part of this learning journey with us. All staff are currently participating in additional training as part of Phase 1 of the Scottish Government's implementation.

In implementing this first phase of LGBT inclusive education, Scotland will become a world leader in equality, as the first country in the world to have LGBT inclusive education embedded right across the curriculum. By normalising LGBT lives and experiences, and educating on the issues faced by LGBT individuals historically and presently, children and young people will have a greater understanding and greater respect for everyone and a renewed commitment towards inclusion and equality.

Launched in September 2021, phase 1 of implementation of the recommendations include:

- A basic awareness e-learning course on LGBT inclusive education for practitioners;
- a toolkit of LGBT inclusive education teaching resources; and,
- a centralised website (www.lgbteducation.scot) where resources, training and other relevant information will be hosted and available to all school staff and the wider public, including parents and carers and children and young people.

We will take part in the second part of the training in August and this will form part of the work on our school improvement plan for next session.

Languages Week

Nurtured and Included Citizens ensure that Article 8: Your right to an identity is respected. This identity can include your ethnicity, religion, language, culture, and heritage. For Burns' Day the children across the school learned a song or poem containing words in Scots and they had great fun recording these to share with you on SEESAW. We have thought about all of the languages that we use in school and at home and Base 2 celebrates Languages Week by making French flags, building French places of interest and trying some traditional French food.



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

Due to the reintroduction of restrictions in January, we had to unfortunately cancel our after-school clubs. We are delighted that Mr Mitchell will be organising for these to resume as of week beginning 21 February. Please use the link to sign up <https://onenen-arklestone.class4kids.co.uk/>. Miss Brown's Games Club will also resume on Thursday 24 February. There will be a new sign-up form sent out for this and children on the reserve list from last term, will be allocated a place first.

Football in the Playground

Over the last few months, we have had an increase in the number of accidents being reported to the office, caused by football being played in the main playground. This is mainly due to the overly competitive nature of how children are playing, resulting in balls flying around injuring those playing peacefully in other areas. We have taken the decision to pause the playing of football in all areas of the playground except for the MUGA. All classes except for P1 are timetabled a slot on the MUGA, so children can still enjoy the opportunity to play football, but in a safe and controlled manner that does not impact upon others. P1 will have a designated area to play since they do not have a MUGA slot. Since introducing this, the number of accidents has significantly dropped. They children have been creative in thinking of other games to play with a ball or other items from their playground boxes. We will be replenishing the boxes soon. After Easter the children will also have a field day to allow them further opportunities. It is important that everyone's right to play and play safely is respected



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



- Tyler P5 completed an adult 5K park run in 21 minutes and 51 seconds.
- Daryl P5 has been signed for St Mirren.
- Sam P5 joined a new football team, Kyle P5 won a trophy in football and scored 30 goals last session, Riley P5 won a medal at football and Logan's team beat their rivals 17-1.
- Jack P5 got a medal in hockey.
- Cameron P5 learned how to play a classic by Beethoven on the piano.
- Callum P5 performed a round off back flip in gymnastics and can now do a tuck back and a straight back and has been setting new records.
- Chloe M P5 won 4 trophies in dancing and Lucy in P1 got a certificate for excellence at dancing out of 300 girls.
- Sophie P5 came 2nd in a drawing competition where she had to draw an animal.
- Emaad P5 earned a new belt in Karate and Theo in P2/1 has started karate lessons.
- Lots of children in Base 2 have made their Rainbow Promise: Lucy, Olivis, Kingsley, Isla, Ella and Carley.
- Zach P3 can do a side flip and Millie and Sophie P3 can do back bends. Struan P3 can now hold a handstand for 6 seconds.
- Jonathan P3 has created a book with his family and is working on the illustrations. He is hoping to get it printed.
- Shine P3 can now swing on the bars.
- Matthew P3 can do 5 keepie ups with the ball.
- Kian P3 and Ethan P3 have made progress on their bike and scooter and can ride for longer without stopping or falling off.
- Willow P4 has been a respectful and responsible citizen, filling up a bag of litter in her community
- Carly P4 won a trophy at a dancing competition and got 1st place.
- Kai and Connor P4 – their team moved down to tier two.
- Ben P4 has made discoveries with his metal detector.
- Evie P4 learned how to do a handstand under water.
- Cameron, Max C and Josh P6 won a football trophy from Renfrew Juniors.
- Leah P6 got 6 new Brownie badges.
- Jack and Ryan P6 got gold football medals from Parkmoor football team.

Achieving Citizens

As you know we are continuing to use SEESAW as a vehicle to communicate with you and to most homework opportunities. The activities on SEESAW cannot be downloaded on to paper copies, but we know that we had high levels of engagement using SEESAW during lockdown. We have noticed a significant reduction in the number of homework tasks being completed across the school and will be sending out over the next few months a survey to find out your views in relation to homework being set. This is a very time-consuming exercise for staff and if only 20-30% of a class are returning homework regularly, then this time could be used more efficiently to prepare for lessons rather than homework. We know that children have very hectic schedules and that parents are very busy, so do not want to keep setting homework tasks that will not be done. Look out for a survey coming your way soon and please take some time to complete it.



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

arklestoneenquiries@renfrewshire.gov.uk

and put Family Feedback in the sub-heading

What have we been up to?

Base 2 –

Primary 1 have been learning how to tell the time. We are also going to be learning about money and graphs. In Literacy we are learning to write stories and we have discovered stories have a beginning, middle and an end. We are also been learning our double sounds this term. We have also been learning about Scotland and know why Scotland have a thistle for their national flower. We also have learned about Nessie, Kelpies and unicorns! In Art we are going to design our own tartan as you can see in the picture and created a 3D picture – you will love it!

This term we are going to have visitors who specialise in music and we are excited to be learning about this. We are also having visitors from Nil By Mouth who are going to do a special workshop for us.

Primary 2 have been learning more digraph sounds, and even a trigraph – igh! We have been trying hard to answer questions about what we have read. This term we will focus on story writing and describing a character using adjectives. In Numeracy and Maths, we have been focusing on telling the time and working out the hour before and after a time. We are starting to learn about multiplication and division.



Base 3

Primary 3/2 have been learning how to tell the time. P2 have been learning o'clock and half past and P3 have been learning quarter past and quarter to. We played lots of fun time games and created our own class clocks. In literacy, we have been working hard to learn our double phonemes and playing a variety of spelling games. Primary 3 have been learning about adverbs and Primary 2 have been learning about nouns. Our class novel is 'Pugs of the Frozen North' and we have created our own base reading journal. Primary 3 have been working hard to answer comprehension questions on the text, while Primary 2 have enjoyed sharing their likes and dislikes about the story. We created our very own pugs and gave them all their own name. We enjoyed connecting with our school in the Republic of Congo and have been learning about the Congo rainforest. We have been busy creating our own rainforest with kapla, lego and loose parts and drawing rainforest animals by following step by step instructions. We are excited to arrange a virtual call with Baby Steps Primary in Congo to learn some more facts about the rainforest.



Primary 2 have been learning to tell the time! We have been doing so well with o'clock and half past that we even tried learning about quarter past/to! Now we are continuing to practise counting in 2's so that we can master the 2 times table. We have been enjoying our base novel 'Pugs of the Frozen North'. Base 3 have created a journal that we have all had the chance to add our likes and dislikes to. We can't wait to find out what happens next!!

Base 4 –

Primary 3 have been continuing to work on our character strengths of the heart and have been learning how to use the control signals in our paths lessons. We have been learning The Canadian Barn Dance which left us feeling very out of breath! We have been using mindful breathing and understanding how this feels in our bodies. We have been learning how to tell the time in maths, we have created our own watches and clocks. We know o'clock, half past and quarter past in digital and analogue time. We understand the difference between am and pm and we will be looking at calendars and where dates fall in the year. We started our new class novel, The Incredible Shrinking Girl by Lou Kuenzler. We have been transported to a tiny world where the character is the size of a fish finger! We are summarising the chapters and enjoying rich class discussion about our likes and dislikes. We have been keeping up to date with current affairs and watching Newsround, we have learned about the situation with our Prime Minister which has led to lots of interesting discussions. We are doing a mini topic on Scotland and have created art based on Charles Rennie Mackintosh, we have read the Scots book Neeps and Tatties and learned Lament to a Lost Dinner Ticket by Margaret Hamilton. We had a brow time! We are busy planning for our class assembly which is all about peace. We can't wait for you to see it!

What have we been up to?

Primary 4 we have been reading a new novel called "The Incredible Shrinking Girl" which is about a girl who is the size of a fish finger! We are looking forward to finishing it very soon! We have been learning to summarise different chapters and also summarised a well-known story called 'The Ugly Duckling'. We also read 'Neeps and Tatties' which encouraged us to start our new topic. We also got to try some Haggis, Neeps and Tatties during our senses session for Burns Day.

We have started our new topic about conflict and peace. We have enjoyed looking at different conflicts that happen around the world. We even had our own peace wall in our classroom for a morning. We were so glad when it was taken away and we were reunited. We are doing an assembly based on peace and conflict. We have written our very own lyrics to a song that we know you will recognise and learned another song about friendship. We have learned how to use our control signals which help with if we are feeling angry or upset.

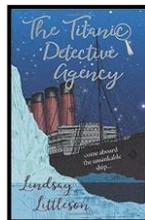
In numeracy we have been learning about time. We can read o'clock, half past, quarter to and quarter past. We have been converting am and pm to 24-hour time. - We also learned to read calendars and find the correct dates for events e.g., our birthdays.

We learned Lament to a Lost Dinner Ticket by Margaret Hamilton which was in Scots. We found it funny and got to include lots of expression when reading it out loud. We hope that you enjoyed watching it on SEESAW.



Base 5

We have been looking at patterns and relationships between numbers, letters and shapes. We have recently started expressions and equations (the beginnings of algebra) where we have been investigating missing values and symbols being used to represent missing numbers. Our new class novel 'The Titanic Detective Agency' by Lindsay Littleton is helping us to become more reflective readers. So far, we have read chapters 1-3 and have been finding out about some of the interesting characters who were aboard the ill-fated Titanic on her Maiden Voyage. Outdoors, we are developing our map reading skills during our weekly orienteering sessions which we are all really enjoying.



Base 6 have been enjoying our Spain topic and have been finding out about the architect Antoni Gaudi and the amazing buildings he designed in Barcelona. In Art, we explored line and pattern in the style of Gaudi and have just moved on to looking at how Pablo Picasso used line and colour as we create portraits in his style. We are also researching key features of different regions of Spain in small groups to make information booklets for visitors. In Maths, we are finding out about 12 and 24 hour time and time durations. Later this term we will also be learning more about multiples, factors and primes as well as 2d and 3d shapes. We are continuing to become more independent learners by working on our numeracy choice grids. In Literacy, we have been taking part in Literature Circles and have been enjoying taking on different roles in the group each week. We have been learning about the poetry of Michael Rosen and have also created our own poems in his style and have even produced our own versions in Scots language.

Base 7 have been working on War and Conflict and have been researching Adolf Hitler. We have been learning about time – specifically, the formula for speed, time and distance. We are wearing our new hoodies well and are getting excited for Ardentinn. Thank you to the Parent Council for their kind contribution to the cost of the hoodies.



What do the pupils have to say?

I want to spend more time with my family. **Lucy P1**
I hope we can eat our lunches outside. **Ruby P1**
I hope my baby sister hurries up and arrives **Jamie P1**
I hope that COVID goes away. **Cooper P2/1**
I hope that we get nice weather and we can play in the pool. **Olivia P2/1**
I hope to go on holiday abroad again. **Corran P2/1**
I hope I get to go to Disneyland this year!
Harry P2/1

I hope I am allowed to get my ears pierced. **Ava P2**
I hope that I can keep on practising my cartwheels. **Ruby P2**
I hope to practise my backwards rolls. **Mason P2**
I hope that I can learn how to do a crab in gymnastics. **Sara P2**
I hope that I can continue attending football to improve my skills. **Rayan P2**

I hope I can get better at basketball. **Ronnie P2**
I hope that I can join an acting club. **Lola P2**
I hope that I can make some new friends in the other class. **Freddie P3/2**
I hope that I can learn to tell the time. **Ruairidh P3/2**
I hope that I can play more in class. **Maisie P3/2**
I hope that I can read more books and read as many as I can. **Lexie P3/2**
I hope that I can do more art. **Lola P3/2**

I hope that everyone is kind to each other. **Richie P3/2**
I hope to get better at scootering **Ethan P3**
I hope to get better at riding my bike.
Sophie and Daanish P3
I hope to see the new Spiderman movie. **Zach P3**
I hope we can do more Cosmic Kids Yoga. **Connor P3**
I hope I can improve my drawing. **Safa P3**
I hope to learn to walk on my hands for 15 secs. **Struan P3**

Question

What are your hopes for 2022?

Ms Crawford

Article 13: Your right to express your thoughts and opinions



I hope to improve my shooting skills in football. **Max P7**
I hope to beat my dad at a game of pool. **Ellie P7**
I hope to work hard to train my new pony. **Robyn P7**
I hope to improve my darts game. **Ruairidh P7**
I hope to complete all four laps of the daily mile track. **Noor P7**
I hope to improve my football skills. **William P7**

I hoping that people will take more care in the playground especially when playing football. **Jack P6**
I hope I can go and visit the allotment more often. **Lois P6**
I hope there will be more sunny days soon. **Murray P6**
We are all hoping that we get to go to Ardentinny and have a great time. I hope we get to be buddies to the new Primary 1 children. **Hannah P6**

I hope to train at a higher level to improve my running speed and stamina. **Tyler P5**
I hope that we are free of COVID and the classes can come back together again in assembly and we can participate in activities in clubs. **Jason P5**
I hope that we can have Sparky Arky Days again and learn with my house. **Phawak P5**
I hope that I can complete a 'round off' double flick, back tuck' in gymnastics. **Calum J P5**
I hope to be healthy. **Ted P5**
I hope to see Sonic 2 movie. **Callum B P5**
I hope my football team will be the best team in Paisley /Johnstone District. **Logan P5**
I hope I can join the Olympic Gymnastics Squad. **Callum M P5**
I hope to settle into my new house soon. **Chloe P5**
I hope to get on a plane on holiday this year. **Cameron P5**
I hope to be recognized by a scout at one of my football games. **Kyle P5**

I am hoping to go to the harder gymnastics competitions and I hope to get better at French. **Bonnie P4**
I hope to learn to swim. **Taylor P4**
I hope I can get to my kickboxing competition. **Connor P6**

I hope to be able to do the splits. **Evie P4**
I hope that I can learn all of my times tables. **Jamie P4**
I hope to get better at my handwriting. I enjoy the handwriting lessons. **Saad P4**
I hope to get better at reading the digital clock. **Amber P4**
I hope to get better at cursive writing. **Kai P4**
I hope to join a football club. **JJ P4**



**KIDS
ZONE**