

Arkleston Advertiser

Edition 4 Session 2021 -22



Message from the Head Teacher

As we head towards the end of the session, we take some time to reflect on our school year, our successes, achievements and areas for further development. Thank you to those of you who have responded to our questionnaire. Your responses help us to improve our service and ensure that we try to get it right for you and your child/ren as much as we can. The questionnaire comes to you later than usual this session. It has been an incredibly challenging time for the school since January, with staff absence impacting upon our capacity to deliver our usual service. I want to thank you for your understanding and support during this time. We were able to weather the storm with the support of the whole Arkleston team, who as usual went above and beyond to maintain our service. They say that life is the best teacher and we have certainly all learned a great deal this session about what is important to us. As a school we know that our values are at the heart of every decision we make. We want children to be a **Success**, work together as a **Team**, have a positive **Attitude** and show **Respect** to others. These are the values that make our Arky Stars.

As we now live without the restrictions of the past few years, we need to make sure that we reflect on our experiences and plan for future. This will involve being open minded and being prepared to do things a little differently, but at Arkleston we are proud of our creative thinking and approaches and we can't wait to see what opportunities await us. Arkleston has a rich history of being innovative and with our 50th Anniversary next session, we are keen to find out what you think we could do better or differently. We plan to celebrate the last 50 years in style and look forward to the next chapter in the history of our school.

Dates for your Diary



Wed 25 May	P1 Induction Visits and P7 Transitions to Renfrew High
Thur 26 May	P1 Induction Visits and P7 Transitions to Renfrew High
Fri 27 May	Holiday – School Closed
Tue 31 May	50 th Anniversary Sponsored Run and Jubilee Celebrations
Thur 2 June	Holiday – School Closed
Fri 3 June	Holiday – School Closed
Mon 6 June	Parent Council AGM 7pm
Thur 9/Fri 10 June	Provisional Afternoon Sports Day or Indoor House Quiz (sports day is weather permitting and will take place on the Thur if dry, if not we will try for the Friday. If weather is inclement on both days, it will run without parental attendance on the first dry day)
Thur 23 June	Afternoon P7 Leavers' Festival
Mon 27 June	Afternoon P7 Leavers' Service – P7 Parents Welcome 1.30pm
Tue 28 June	School Closes at 1pm for summer break

Parent Council

Thank you to the Parent Council for the new seating areas and for their contribution to the cost of the P7 residential trip. We value the contributions that you make to the school.



Dear Parents/Carers

The Parent Council have been involved in changing planters into seating pods at the school to promote outdoor learning. This was possible with some funding we received from Flightpath. Due to the lifting of restrictions, we are hoping to hold a school disco before the end of term. Watch this space for more information. We will be ending the term with our AGM Meeting which is due to be held on Monday 6th June 2022 at 7pm. More details will follow nearer the time, and the invite is open to all. We look forward to seeing you there.

The Parent Council is run by volunteers and we are always looking for people to join. 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.

Thank you – Arky Parent Council

Staffing Updates

Congratulations to Mrs Farrell, who has been appointed to Dargavel Primary School in Bishopton as their new Principal Teacher. She takes up her post in August and after 13 years in Arkleston we are sure she will take some Arky sparkle with her.

Congratulations to Mrs Bain, who will take up a new post in the school office as of August.

Congratulations to Miss McColl and Mrs Campbell, who are both expecting and are due to start maternity leave in August and October. Mrs Kajla plans to return from maternity leave in October.

Miss Rainey finishes her probationary year in June and we want to thank her for the wonderful work she has done in P2 this session.

Mrs Sinclair is enjoying her secondment at Renfrew High School and will continue in this post until spring 2023.

As you can see, we have many changes to staffing ahead, which may impact upon our ability to inform you of who your child's class teacher will be in our usual timely manner. We are awaiting information from head quarters in relation to who will be filling the many posts that will be vacant at the start of the session and I will inform you as soon as possible.

Arkleston Primary School
Cockels Loan
Renfrew
PA4 0EL
03003000143

www.arkleston.renfrewshire.sch.uk
Head Teacher - Ms C Crawford

Healthy and Active Citizens

Part of our focus during assemblies this term, is supporting children in understanding how healthy and active citizens take care of their mental health. We know that children have found the experiences of the last few years difficult for a variety of reasons. We are only now beginning to see the effects of these experiences on children's mental health and wellbeing and with the current financial pressures that families find themselves in, we know that the impact on children will continue for many years to come. Working with parents/carers is key to ensuring we do the best for our children, so please do not hesitate to get in touch if there is a change to your family circumstances that we should be aware of, or if your child is experiencing difficulties which may impact upon them at school. We use Pupil Equity Funding to close the poverty related attainment gap and this can include supporting children with social and emotional barriers to learning. For the last few sessions we have worked with Vicky Mulholland who runs Calming Minds. She is in the school every Thursday afternoon and provides one-to-one and small group sessions for children. We hope to continue to work with Vicky next session.

We also have access to The Exchange Counselling, which is provided by Renfrewshire Council and are happy to refer children following a discussion with you. Children can be referred when they face adverse life events that are difficult or challenging such as bereavement or divorce.

Renfrewshire Council also has a new community mental health and wellbeing service called Ren 10, launched in March. Information can be found on their website <https://www.ren10.co.uk/>.

Ren 10 offers support for parents and children and can be accessed via the website or the drop-in centre, which meets on a Wednesday morning at Renfrew YMCA.

There are a variety of interventions they can support with including:

- Empowering Parents Empowering Communities is a fantastic intervention that helps children and families get the best start in life.
- Not sure who to talk to? Feeling anxious? Stressed? SHOUT is a 24/7 text service where anyone, of any age, can text if they are struggling to cope or need mental health support. This service is free and confidential. Text REN10 to 85258 and a trained professional will help.
- NVR parent groups are led by skilled practitioners with psychology training and experience in the area of child-adult violence. Although NVR is usually with parents where violence is an issue, families trying to help children with extreme anxiety that has become distressing can also be helped.

If you need any further information on how to support your own or your child's mental health, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Non-Violence Resistance Approaches for Parents

NVR parent groups are led by skilled practitioners with psychology training and experience in the area of child-adult violence.

Parents who have completed the course say that their child's emotional and behavioural outcomes have improved significantly and that they are happier.

Get help today

REN10
ren10.co.uk

Healthy and Active Citizens

We discussed at assembly what stress is and that small amounts of stress are healthy. This dates back to our ancestors who had to rely on stress to keep themselves safe from predators.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hnpQrMqDoqE>
Managing Stress

Problems arise when stress levels escalate and remain high. This can lead to what is known as toxic stress. There are many strategies that we teach in school to manage stress and one of these is the 5,4,3,2,1 Method. The video link explains how it works.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=30VMIEmA114> This is a grounding technique used in supporting feelings of anxiety.

5 ★ 4 ★ 3 ★ 2 ★ 1
SLOW DOWN & CALM DOWN
FIRST OFF - TAKE 3 SLOW & QUIET DEEP BREATHS!

5 List 5 things you can **SEE** 👁️👁️

4 List 4 things you can **FEEL** ✋

3 List 3 things you can **HEAR** 👂

2 List 2 things you can **SMELL** 👃

1 List something **positive** about yourself 😊 **MAKE today COUNT**

FINISHED? NOW - TAKE 3 MORE SLOW & QUIET DEEP BREATHS ☺

World of Work Week

Achieving Citizens

As part of being an Achieving Citizen, we wanted the children to think of the skills and qualities required for life, learning and work. We had a great week where children researched qualifications or experiences needed for their dream job, completed questionnaires which indicated the jobs suited to them based on their answers and had lots of fantastic visitors to each base. We had visits from the police, fire brigade and ambulance service. We had electricians and charity workers. We had retail supervisors and pilots. Most of our visitors were parents of children to the school and we understand how intimidating it is to come in and speak to a class of little faces when it is not something you are used to doing so for that we would just like to say a big thank you. Thank you for putting yourselves out there. The children really enjoyed it and learned a lot.



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

We are delighted that a team of P7 children took part in the first inter-authority football tournament recently. Children in P7 had been participating in fair play training sessions with staff from Renfrew High School and staff nominated 10 pupils who had shown great commitment and the character strength of fairness. The children represented the school well and took our values with them, winning 4 out of their 6 matches. We look forward to more opportunities opening up for children to participate in events beyond the school next session.



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

- Ella Mc P1 has started swimming lessons and got her 1st certificate. Lucy P1 and Isla P2/1 also got 1st swimming certificates. Kingsley P2/1 got her 10m badge. JJ P4 can now swim a whole length
- Ella P1 and Kingsley P2/1 made their promise at Rainbows and Ella P1 and Lucy P1 got badges for finding things. Isla P2/1 got two badges.
- Willow and Libbi P4 took their Brownie promises and Bonnie P4 got her stage 2 badge for camping with Brownies
- Corran P2/1 has started Beaver Scouts
- Theo P2/1 got a badge at football for being a good listener
- Olivia P2/1 got a certificate at gymnastics. Callum J has mastered 'giants' where he swings around the high bars.
- Darcy P2/1 and Taylor P4 have started at PACE Drama
- Safa P3 is now reading Harry Potter books
- Millie P3 can now do an ariel flip in gymnastics and Ellie P3 can do a back bend. Kian P3 can do a double flip on the trampoline.
- Abbie P4 has learned how to do a back bend and Taylor P4 can now do cartwheels. Jennifer P4 was awarded 2nd place at her gymnastics competition. Taylor P4 has learned how to do consecutive cartwheels
- Taylor and Kai P4 and Darcy P2/1 got trophies at football
- JJ P4 can now swim a length of the pool and Conner P4 got an award for swimming and moved up a class. Evie P4 has learned how to do a backwards roll in the water
- Carly P4 won first place in a dancing competition and Lacey F P5 came second in a cheer competition.
- Tyler P5 achieved a new PB for running 5k – 20m48s.
- Ibrahim P7 has been invited to sit his black belt in Tai Kwon Do
- Alex P7 saved a penalty at a recent game and Ben P5 scored 6 goals in a match with Renfrew Vics.
- Nathaniel P7 achieved his Grade 2 in piano and Sara has started piano lessons and is learning about the different keys on the piano. Cameron N P5 learned how play a song on the piano with long jumps between notes.
- P6 children visited Glendee Nursery as part of their work experience programme in preparation for becoming buddies to our new P1 children in August.

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 –

In **Primary 1** we are looking forward to visiting Renfrew High School and spending time in the Science Department. We are also hoping to visit the library, Robertson Park, Sprinkles and even Gravity! This will allow us to experience real life learning.

We are hoping to visit our new classroom and even meet our new teacher. We have been training for our Jubilee run on the 31st of May and practising for our first ever Sports Day. We are so excited as we have never had one, even at nursery.

We are learning to write stories which have a beginning a middle and an end. We are also looking at numbers beyond 10 and can tell you what an odd and even number is. We have been working hard on SEAL and enjoy doing this at the Teacher's Table.

This term we are going to pretend to be a Weather Presenter and give a weather report to our friends.

Primary 2:

In Primary 2, we are working on joining our handwriting and trying to improve our spelling by using our sounds. We have been working hard on our banded reading books and making lots of progress! We will be learning about persuasive language and use what we learn to write a persuasive letter. In Numeracy and Maths, we are learning about money and finding ways to combine coins to make different money totals up to £1. We will also find out about change and hope to set up a class shop to help work out the change from 20p.

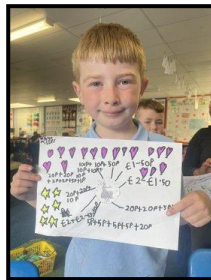
Base 3

Primary 3/2 have been busy learning all about money. We have been learning to use different coins to make different amounts of money. Primary 3 have been learning about giving change up to £1 and Primary 2 have been learning about giving change up to 20p. We have enjoyed using real life money to help us to learn how to pay for items.

We enjoyed reading 'Pugs of the Frozen North' so much, that we are going to be reading another book written by the same author called 'Funfair Repair'. We enjoy using our three sharings to talk about our likes/dislikes, puzzles and connections. Primary 3 have been working on our grammar skills and have been learning about speech marks and present tense. We are going to be learning how to use a dictionary too! Primary 2 have enjoyed practising their spelling words in a variety of ways. Our favourite way is when we get to write on our desks using whiteboard pens!

Primary 2 we have been busy learning more double sounds and practising our tricky words. We have recently started a new class novel, The Twits, and have enjoyed using adjectives to describe Mr Twit's beard! We are learning all about money and what coins we need to use to pay for things up to the value of £1. We have also started to learn how to calculate change. We have been participating in the Daily Mile this term to improve our fitness levels. This term we are going to learn about substances and how to stay safe around medicine.

We have another meeting planned with Baby Steps Primary in the Republic of Congo to talk about children's rights around the world and will be finding out more about different cultures.



Base 4 –

Primary 3 have been Primary 3 have been learning all about shape and angles in maths. We created wanted posters for some 3D objects and investigated angles.

Primary 4 We are looking forward to going on our school trip in June. We have started learning about different shapes and identifying what 2D shapes are hidden within 3D objects. We used pasta and marshmallows to build different 3D objects. We also worked as a team to explore 2D shapes within the classroom and made our own 2D posters. We also learned about angles. We identified acute angles, right angles and obtuse angles.

Base 4 really enjoy going outside for P.E. We have been practising the daily mile for our 50th Anniversary. We have started our new novel, The Rewilders and cannot wait to finish it to find out what happens. Lindsey Littleleson visited us to talk to us about the different books she has written. We learned to create mind maps and used these skills to create character mind maps. We have created VCOP poster which help us with our writing. We painted the Ukraine flag and used sunflower seeds and yellow paper to create 3D sunflowers to show that we stand with Ukraine. We have been using our character strength of the heart this term by making sure we help others in the playground. Finally, we have been using our character strengths to give each other compliments at the end of the day and throughout our transition time. We share 'happy' stories after break.



What have we been up to?

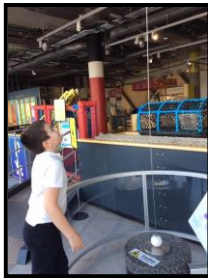
Base 5

Base 5 had an exciting term 3 and are looking forward to lots of fun activities ahead in term 4. They learned all about the major organs in our bodies and had a trip to Glasgow Science Centre for a fun filled day with lots of activities exploring our organs in even more detail. This term in Literacy, we will be focusing on ambitious vocabulary in our writing and uplevelling our work using peer and self-assessment.

In Numeracy and Mathematics we will be focusing on division and fractions as well as continuing to develop our mental maths skills in addition and subtraction. In maths, we enjoy using numeracy choice grids to complete our activities which gives us lots of choice and independence around how we want to complete our different tasks throughout the week.

Our topic this term is Scottish Wars of Independence, we have only recently started this and are really interested to find out what happened over the different years.

In PE, we are developing our skills in Tennis with Miss Miller and will be practising lots of difference athletic based skills soon in preparation for sports day.



Base 6 have been enjoying our swimming lessons and everybody is feeling more confident in the water. We are looking forward to our trip to the Falkirk Wheel where we will have taster sessions of canoeing and mini golf. We are also hoping to have some input during P.E. from Renfrew Cricket Club.

Our Science topic is space and we are going to be making our own mini models of the solar system. We will also explore the life stories of people who have been in space and find out more about our own and other planets.

We had a visit from the teachers at Inchinnan Primary who were very impressed with how independently we managed the activities on our numeracy grids. They commented on how knowledgeably the children discussed their learning with them. In Maths this term we are learning about patterns and sequences, money and angles.

Many of our writing activities this term will be based on our space topic including a diary entry. The main focus in our literacy grids will be on using punctuation correctly, and on using a wider range of punctuation in our writing.

Base 7 are very proud of our achievements at the football tournament where Arklestone won 4 out of 6 games and had the highest number of girls participating.

We are very excited to be visiting the Science Centre on Friday to continue our learning and will be focusing on all things science this term. We have been working hard on our solo presentations on a subject that holds a particular interest for us and we are looking forward to sharing these in class.

We have so much to look forward to this term... our transition visits to high school, Arky Leavers' Festival and having to plan and organise our Jubilee and 50th Anniversary Celebrations! What a busy time ahead!



What do the pupils have to say?

I am proud of being a kind friend in the playground. I showed the character strength of the heart.

Carley P1

I have learned how to write this year. This was the character strength of self-control. I had to work really hard with my pencil control.

Jamie P1

I have learned that I demonstrate the character strength of leadership as I like to organise and suggest games etc

Angus P1

I am proud that I was so brave starting Scouts because I was a bit nervous when I started.

Corran P2/1

I am proud that I have been helping everybody if they are sad.

Avaya P2

I am proud that I have been learning all my sounds and being able to read.

Olivia P2/1

I am proud that my drawing has got better.

Liam P2

I am proud of how confident I have become at my cheerleading competitions.

My groups came 2nd and 3rd.

Amber P2

I am proud of my reading. I am now reading pink books.

Fatima P2

I am proud of myself for joining kick boxing. I am very close to getting my white belt.

Mason P2

I am proud of the detail I have added to my drawings.

Ella P3/2

I am proud of how good I am getting at maths.

Rhys P3/2

I am proud of using the character strengths of the head to do my number talks.

Ayla P3/2

I am proud that I always do my must do jobs.

Oilly P3/2

I am proud of myself for improving my adding skills during number time.

Miley P3/2

I am proud that I am on blue level in my reading because I like to read.

Kaleb P3/2

Question

What are you proud of this session?

Ms Crawford

Article 13: Your right to express your thoughts and opinions



I created a mind map for the first time and I now know how to use this to help me in my learning.

Evie P4

I am proud that I used my character strengths of the head and have become more confident with my reading.

Robbie P4

I am proud of completing my Grade 2 piano.

Nathaniel P7

I am proud of my positive report.

Abdul P7

I am proud that I played in Partick Thistle Stadium.

Robyn P7

I am proud of the progress I have made in Spanish this year.

Noor P7

I am proud of the solo presentation I have been working on.

Ruairidh P7

I am proud of winning the Police Scotland Climate Change Poster Competition, displayed during COP 26.

Olivia N P7

I am proud of my work in division, I didn't know how to do it before this year!

Thomas P5

My reading has improved because I add more expression now.

Callum J P5

I am proud that I am a better person by being kind and helpful, something I have learned through our Paths Lessons.

Jaxon P5

I used to think handwriting was the worst subject, but I have worked really hard this year and my handwriting has really improved.

Harry E P5

I am proud that I have stayed on green all year.

Kieran P5

I am proud of my piece of writing for our assessment, I wrote almost 2 pages!

Cameron N P5

I have got really good at maths and numeracy this year.

Ashton P5

I am proud of my Literacy work and handwriting in particular, I feel my handwriting is much neater now.

Callum M P5

I am proud that I have tried my best all year.

Sophie P5

I am proud that I have got better at reading.

Katie P5

I was terrified of doing the solo talk, however I did it and I am so proud of myself.

Taylor P4

I have worked hard to make my writing smaller, and I am proud that it is neater.

Jouri P4

I am proud that I use my character strength of the heart by helping my friends in the playground.

Jamie P4

I am proud of developing my cooking skills.

Hannah P6

I proud of my progress in maths.

Zak P6

I am proud that I have got better at division.

Gray P6

I am proud that my comprehension skills have got better.

Rory P6

I am proud of my developing art skills.

Euan P6

I am proud that my confidence has grown in maths working with Miss Miller.

Avar P6



**KIDS
ZONE**