Arkleston Advertiser

Edition 3 Session 2022 -23



Message from the Head Teacher

A belated Happy New Year to you all. I hope that you had a relaxing break. It was wonderful in December to return to normality and welcome visitors to our nativity and sing along. Having normal Christmas events put everyone in the Christmas spirit and the feedback was very positive. This seems like a long time ago now. January is always a difficult month. Everyone is tired, the weather is miserable, and it seems a long time until payday, but we have come back to a very positive vibe in school, with lots of exciting things planned for the remaining terms. Children are thinking about their successes and areas for development, ready to talk with you and their teacher at our pupil/parent/teacher conferences in February. Please remember to bring your child with you. These conversations are in line with our school values of success and team. Together we can support your child to be the best that they can be, and this journey will be very different for every child. We value the part you play in our team. Working together with you is an honour and a privilege. Thank you for helping our Arky Stars to shine!

Already this term, we enjoyed welcoming grandparents into school for our Scottish Afternoon and the children worked hard to get their heads and tongues round Scot's language to perform some poems and songs for the audience. The hot drinks and food went down a treat. This has given the children a flavour of the skills required to perform to an audience, and they will be putting these to good use for our whole school show at the end of March. Every class will perform two songs from the decade that they studied in term one. We will link songs with some humorous sketches, sharing stories from the school, across the decades. This will require children to come to school on the evening of Thursday March 23rd and we hope that you can support us with this. There will be an afternoon and evening performance. There will be a restriction on tickets due to the number of children in the school. We will share more information with you nearer the time. Flying Through the Decades – All Aboard Arky Airlines is currently under construction and will be ready for take off soon.

Dates for your Diary

Fri 27 Jan Strike day
Wed 1 Feb Pupil/Teacher/Parent Conferences 3.30-6.30
Thur 2 Feb Pupil/Teacher/Parent Conferences 3.30-6.30
Mon 13 Feb School closed

Mon 13 Feb School closed Tue 14 Feb School closed

Wed 15 Feb School closed to pupils. Inset for staff

Thur 16 Feb Pupils return 9am – Parent Council Valentine's Disco (evening)
Fri 17 Feb Sparky Arky Day – Nurtured and Included Citizens (own clothes)
Thur 23 March Whole School Show – afternoon and evening performances

Fri 31 March Easter Assembly Base – Base parents welcome 9.30am

Fri 31 March School closes at 2.30 for holidays

Mon 17 April Children return

Parent Council



The Parent Council would like to thank all the Arky Stars and their families who attended the Christmas Fayre. We raised over £2000.00 Thank you to all the volunteers on the day who were able to help and hope everyone had a great time! We are now busy organising the Valentines Disco which will be held at the school on Thursday 16th February 2023. More details will be shared nearer the time.

We thank you all for supporting our events and if you would like to know more or get involved, then please contact us on Facebook page 'Arkleston Parent Council', Twitter @ArkyPC, or email us arkleston@renfrewshire.npfs.org.uk'





Staffing Updates

Mrs Reid welcomed baby Nova to the world on 23rd December. Mum and baby are both doing well. Mrs Smith joined the team to cover her maternity leave.

Miss Gilbert finished in December to take up a post out with education.

Renfrewshire Council appointed Mr Bagnara as as our second senior facilities operator working with Mr McCall.

We appointed Mr Crawford as an additional support needs assistant and will be working with us two days a week, following completion of HR processes. We are hoping that he will be able to start after the February weekend.

Head Checks

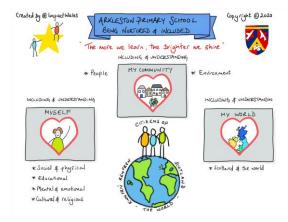
We have had a few phone calls from parents alerting us to issues they are having around headlice and recurring infections. Please take some time to regularly check your child's head and seek advice from the pharmacist on the correct current recommended treatment. Thank you for your support in this matter.

Arkleston Primary School Cockels Loan Renfrew PA4 0EL 03003000143

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

Nurtured and Included Citizens

This term we will be thinking about the skills that children need to be nurtured and included citizens within their community. This includes learning how to understand myself, my community and my world.



We encourage children daily to share their feelings with us. Emotional literacy is taught through our PATHS Programme and this ensures children have the vocabulary to describe and manage emotions. P2-7 colour their emotions star booklet three times a day and teachers use this information to track how a child is feeling They can then have targeted conversations to find out more about why a child may be feeling sad, angry or tired. Over time we can build up a picture of a child's emotional wellbeing in school, using this information to put supports or interventions in place. If you feel that your child is struggling with their emotions or emotional regulation, there is information for parents can also find useful information on the Ren10 website

https://www.ren10.co.uk/

Please let us know if there is anything that we can do to support your child with their emotional wellbeing or their emotional regulation.

Article 14: Every child has the right to think and believe what they choose and to practise their own religion.

This January we acknowledged World Religion Day and looked at the traditions and celebrations around Chinese New Year, a festival which is celebrated by some of our Arky pupils and staff. We looked at the meaning behind the zodiac animals and were interested to find out about it being the year of the Rabbit. What animal are you? What personality traits shine through?

In Base 3,4 we are looking at the meaning of identity and cultural heritage for ourselves, our peers and staff, appreciating our unique differences, values and character strengths. As a rights respecting school, we are looking at articles 2,14, and 30, and appreciating that every child has the right to choose and practise their own religion. We are excited to explore this further during our Nurture and Included Sparky Arky Day, with many special guests coming along to share world religions.

We are also excited to be back in touch with our international school in the Republic of Congo and look forward to sharing photos of our citizenship curriculum in the coming months.





LGBT Inclusive Education

This session all staff participated in LGBT Level 2 training. This was organised to help staff to think about how we can incorporate some key themes within our curriculum. Scotland has become the first country in the world to embed LGBT inclusive education across the school curriculum.

Our nurtured and included curriculum and approaches have already encouraged children to think about such things as prejudice, bullying, discrimination, diversity, gender stereotypes and looking at protected characteristics. Staff have looked at our class libraries to ensure that books reflect diversity within our society. There will be stories that show families in many different forms with a focus on a family being a loving and caring unit of people that does not have to be one mum and one dad. Children have also been thinking about positive role models in society and within this work there is scope to include LGBT identities e.g., learning about the music of Freddie Mercury as part of our decade's topics, or thinking about Tom Daley as an inspirational sports person. Our work will centre around introducing learners to the diverse representation of people in society.

We sent out a leaflet to parents, last session, with information, which I will put back on SEESAW for you. There is also further information on the advice given to teachers on the government website: www.lgbteducation.scot

You can access a parental information leaflet at: https://lgbteducation.scot/wpcontent/uploads/1622/53/Involving-Parents-and-Carers-LGBT-Work.pdf

One of the things that we regularly challenge children on homophobic language and their use of the word 'gay'. When used in a negative manner, children might not know what they are saying or what the word means, but they are learning there is a connection between the word 'gay' and 'bad' or 'rubbish'.

Several times this session we have had conversations with children around their use of language, explaining what it means and the impact that it can have on others. Comments like 'You're so gay!' are not acceptable and when used to tease someone can be bullying type behaviours.

It is important that as a school community we challenge discrimination and support our children to be understanding of the diverse society that we live in.



Healthy and Active Citizens

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

Article 31 - Right to relax and play

Article29 – The right to become the best that you can be

Mrs Orr has completed her Bikeability training and has gained an SCQF qualification as a cycle training assistant. P7 children yesterday began their training with a cycle check to ensure that their bikes are all road worthy.

We like to call them the 'ABCDs' of cycle maintenance:

- AIR Have your tyres got enough air?
- BRAKES Do the front and back brakes work properly?
- CHAIN Have you oiled it recently?
- DIRECTION Are your handlebars fixed on tight? Is your seat on tight and pointing forward?

If the children's bikes passed, then they can cycle on the road. Their Bikeability 3 training will teach them how to:

Maintain their cycle: make sure their ride is in tip-top condition and make simple repairs

Glide: smooth, calm and collected

Control their bike: including setting off, cruising, slowing down, braking and stopping. They will even learn to pedal one handed!

Pedal: without feeling wobbly or out of control

Be aware of their surroundings: looking behind and turning around obstacles.

Over the next 10 weeks they will get the chance to develop their skills further and ensure that when out on their bikes, they are being safe citizens of Arkleston. This is the first time that we have been able to offer this opportunity to the children. Thank you to Mrs Orr, Mr Bonnar and Mr Dougan for their support.







Football



Miss Simpson will be taking a girls' football team to the next tournament on 17 February. They played very respectfully in November, and I am sure will demonstrate their values at this event.

We will continue to work with our partners at Renfrew High, who will be organising football/netball sessions for P7 children culminating in a tournament and a possible trip to Hampden Stadium. This will be for all cluster P7 children and will be part of the transition experience. Renfrew High School of Sport will be spending time working with the P7 children prior to the trials for the School of Sport and this will allow them together information on the skills, talents and attitudes of our interested children.

We are hoping to soon have an after-school football club with the possibility of school football team being created. Watch this space for further information!

What have we been up to?

Base 2 -

In Primary 1, we have been busy since we came back from the Christmas holidays. In Literacy, we are continuing to learn our sounds and have moved on to our double sounds, such as 'sh' and 'ch'. We learn one of these sounds per week and then practise it in our jobs in class and our homework. In Talk4Writing, we are learning to identify the beginning, middle and end of a story, through new stories such as Baby Bear and the Bee. We enjoy learning the actions that go alongside the stories, as this helps us to retell them in groups and independently. This term in Numeracy, we are focussing on shapes and telling the time. We are also learning how to subtract within 10. We use materials such as compare bears, counters and the Numicon to help us with subtraction but we know that we can use almost any objects from around school and in the home to help with our subtraction, such as pasta and pencils. As it is Burns night, we have been looking at celebrating Scotland, through learning a Scot's poem by J. K Annard, entitled 'Twa-Leggit Mice'. We have also created some super pictures of the Loch Ness Monster by painting using a method called graduated wash, where we using big watery brush strokes to paint horizontal lines in varying shades of blue and white. We then collaged a picture of Nessie over the top and the result was fantastic! P.E continues to be on Tuesday and Thursdays, and we have been learning some Scottish country dancing at the beginning of the week (the military two step) and gymnastics on a Thursday, where we are practising our balancing and making shapes with our bodies. Please ensure that your child has the correct footwear for gym and covers their earrings on these days.



Base 3

Primary 3 have enjoyed being back to school and it's taken us no time to get back into our class routine. Each morning we continue to share our feelings via our star sheets. We are learning different feelings through the PATHS programme. Part of our morning routine also includes taking part in a new talk for writing story all about a talking papaya! We even had fun tasting a papaya and describing it using exciting adjectives. We have challenged ourselves by learning some synonyms and time connectives and identified these in our new story! In numeracy we have been learning about weight and measuring in grams and kilograms. We investigated our snacks and found the weight labels on our food. We have also started learning some of our times tables and some of us have been challenging ourselves to see how far we can count! We have also learned about grid references where we plotted references of zoo animals. It was fun learning using Super Mario as a guide and to remember that he walks along before he jumps!

Primary 2

We are continuing to learn independently using grids to help guide us through our daily tasks. We are carefully learning different skills through play and discussing what type of play is happening at different areas in our classroom and with different resources. We are particularly enjoying building, 2 player games, craft areas, play doh and using the Chromebooks for our own research. Here's to a fun filled and busy term in Base! Primary 2 have started the year off strong by diving into our next Talk for Writing unit – The Papaya That Spoke. We got the chance to taste some papaya and used adjectives to describe the taste. We can't wait to start creating our own story maps and innovate the story to make it our own. This story has taught us about time connectives, verbs, adjectives and even speech marks! In numeracy, we have started to learn the 2 times table. We have played board games, quizzes and even made 2 x table fortune tellers to test our classmates. We will be moving on soon to learn the 5- and 10-times tables too.

Across the base

We have created some beautiful Scottish artwork including tartan weaving with paper and some Scottish thistle's using pointillism as a painting technique. We used the Chromebooks to help us research our Scottish posters that we created in groups. We worked closely with primary 2 where primary 3 took a team leader role and helped to make sure everyone had a job. The research and facts we found independently were amazing and we can't wait for you to see these on our walls at parents' evening. Our new class novel Charlotte's Web has introduced us to interesting characters, and we will be exploring the theme of friendship, which will link closely with our health and wellbeing where we will be learning about different skills required to be a good friend. We are starting a friendship club each Wednesday, and everyone should get a chance to take part. We are excited about our Scottish Event and performing our poem 'A Dug A Dug' in front of an audience. We are getting very good at performing, and after our Nativity and the Scottish Show we will be more than ready to showcase our drama skills at our Whole School Show in March. Our decade was the 1980's and we have some throwback songs that we hope our adults will remember!



What have we been up to?

Base 4 - We are well into January and already we cannot thank you enough for your support. We have been working hard to invite parents/carers back into the classroom and it has been wonderful to see so many of you engaging with your child's learning. Our new topic will be about Scotland's History. We will also relate many of the events to Renfrew's history such as the airport, train station, Renfrew Vic's, transport in our local town and many more interesting parts of Renfrew's history. Our class novel, 'The Desperate Journey' will also link with our topic.

Primary 4/3 are using 'Talk for Writing' to support creative writing. We have had some excellent narratives and I hope you take time to read your child's work on Seesaw or at Parents Night. P.E will be on a Wednesday and a Friday. Homework will be active on a Tuesday morning at 9.00 am. Homework jotters and reading books should be returned on a Monday morning. This will help us to prepare for the week ahead. We look forward to celebrating Burns Day and learning Auld Lang Syne, playing the drums and dancing the Highland Fling. Our school show will be in March and the children are already preparing for this spectacular event. Children will be exploring measure, angles and symmetry. We will continue to recite times tables and apply this to calculations. Please ensure you have labelled your child's uniform. It is far easier to find the owners and return items quickly if items are labelled. If you would like to come to our classroom and read to the children, you will always be welcome. I hope to see you all soon and thank you.

Primary 4 We have been practising our spelling and using this in our Talk 4 writing stories. We are moving onto writing an adventure story which we can't wait for you to read! We have learned about common and proper nouns and are going to be learning about past, present and future verbs. We also received 10 new reading books into the classroom for our class library! We have invited some P2 children along to read to which has been fun. Within Numeracy, we have been learning to multiply vertically and recall our different times table. This term we are going to focus on our 8- and 9-times table. We love playing last man standing! We are learning to measure. We have compared

different lengths such as millimetres, centimetres, metres and kilometres. We ran the daily mile to see how many kilometres this would be- we were tired after this! P4 now have Mrs Kajla on a Friday morning and have started to create our own McCoos. We are looking forward to finishing these and displaying them on our walls. Mrs Kajla has been talking to us about how important it is to be ourselves. She has also been speaking to us in depth about our school show and we have begun planning and designing our school show tickets.



Base 5

Base 5 are looking forward to a very busy term! We have started the term by looking at Scotland's place in the world, Scottish inventors and it's history of dance and music. We are all learning a poem called 'Listen tae the Teacher' for our Scottish Showcase on 26th January. In Numeracy and Maths we will be multiplying and dividing decimals by 10, 100, and 1000. We will also be multiplying and dividing a decimal by a single digit and look at the relationship between fractions, decimals and percentages. We really must know our tables for this work! Later this term we will look at basic function machines and find values of symbols and operators in expressions (the beginnings of simple 'equations' with letters!) We are looking forward to welcoming Mr Bendix-Lewis on 30th January. He will be working with Base 5 until the end of May. Our citizenship topics this term will cover the Paisley Mills and The Titanic where we will look at the passengers who were on board from Renfrewshire. In Science, the children will be working with Mrs Sinclair on Space and Planet Earth's position in the universe. They will also be performing experiments on Forces, Electricity and waves. Base 5 will also be involved in Enterprise this term. We will plan, organise and set up a Mother's Day stall to raise some money for school funds. The most exciting event we have to prepare for this term is our School Show. Base 5 will be singing songs from the 1970s! We have started learning a very popular ABBA song through our weekly Charanga music lessons.

Base 6 have recently completed their second Talk for Writing block which focused on a model text called "Keep off the tracks" which was a warning story. Throughout the weeks of our Talk for Writing block, the children explored different techniques used within a warning story and even used some of the skills they had learned in the previous block to create suspense in their own story. We are now moving onto our third Talk for Writing block which will be based on an adventure story. Before the Christmas break, Base 6 were learning about division and were investigating different techniques such as bar modelling to help assist with this. Since coming back from the Christmas break, we have been focusing on factors, multiples, and primes. In our next maths topic, we will be learning how to use timetables to plan trips using 12 and 24 hour time. We are also currently expanding our knowledge of co-ordinates and later in the term we will be consolidating our knowledge of equivalent fractions and symmetry. The children have enjoyed working on their numeracy grids and have also enjoyed working independently and collaboratively. In PE, Base 6 enjoyed learning how to play netball as part of our PE focus on possession skills. We practised different types of passes, pivoting and dodging. We have learned about positions and rules of play too. During this block, base 6 demonstrated some great teamwork skills. we have now moved onto gymnastics where we have been learning how to do different types of balances, head stands and handstands.

Base 7 This term we will be looking at the causes and impact of war and conflict. This will involve developing a variety of skills including identifying news bias and reliable sources of information, independent research, study skills, personal project and presentation skills. This learning will be beneficial for our transition to high school. In numeracy, we will be working on negative numbers and the order of operations (BODMAS). After the February weekend, we are aiming to start our weekly visits from Renfrew High School Transition Teachers to support learning and for the children to get to know a few faces before August. We have a busy learning term ahead and P7 have assured me they are all prepared and up for the challenge!

What do the pupils have to say?

I include everyone ion the games I play in the playground. Robbie P5
I always ask everyone to join in, if they don't want to I just leave them to it. I am a good listener and make sure no one is worried about anything. I try to talk to everyone. Ben W P5
If I see someone standing or sitting by themselves, I go and talk to them and make sure that they're okay.

Willow P5

Everyone has helped me feel welcome at Arkleston
Primary. The children have been very kind and caring towards me. They make sure I know where I'm going and include me in their games and activities. Dave P5
I try to give people confidence by encouraging them to do their best, especially when we're on the MUGA playing football. Allie P1

If my friends are struggling with their work, I like to help them which makes them feel included.

Katie P6

I demonstrate kindness by treating everyone with respect and treating them how I would want to be treated.

Mirrin P6

I make sure everyone is involved in my games.

Euan P6

If someone is alone in the playground, you could ask them if they want to play to help make them feel included.

Cameron P6

I demonstrate kindness by helping people when they need help, even if they are not my friend.

Riley P6

I try to remember my manners when talking to other people, that way I show them respect and they hopefully feel included in the classroom.

Ted P6

I am always friendly to everyone. Lacey P6
I try to encourage people to be their best. Phawak P6
I always try to clean up the playground so that it was nice for everyone. Thomas P6
My friends and I stay behind to clear up the dinner hall every day because it helps the dinner staff. Tyler P6

By helping friends and always speaking to everyone. **Sara P4/3** I compliment everyone.

Antonia P4/3

I invite everyone to play games. Poppy P4 If I see someone that is left out of a game, I will ask them to join me. Max P4/3 If someone falls, I help them up. Dylan P4/3

Question

How do you demonstrate kindness so that everyone feels included?

Ms Crawford

Article 13: Your right to express your thoughts and opinions



I help people to draw.

Kayden P1

I am kind to people because I share. **Noor P1** I help people who feel sad. I talk to them. **Ayat P1** If someone gets hurt I tell the teacher.

Elina P1

I play with people outside. **Frankie P1**

I play with friends in my classroom. **Edward P1** I help people learn things with their job. Kane P1 When someone is sad, I help them to feel happy again. **Cali P1**

I am a good friend.

Robyn P1

I share with my friends.

Aela P1

I shout on the outside teacher when someone is hurt in the playground.

Corey P1

I help people to put their jobs on SEESAW.

Evie P1

I help people put their jackets on.

Camden P1

I help people when they are upset. **Afiyah P1**I help people go to the toilet. **Coen P1**

If I see someone who is upset, I talk to them to find out what is wrong with them. **Maleya P1**

I make people feel included when they are on their own. **Brodie P1**

If someone gets hurt, I get help for them. **Reuben P1** I always treat others the way I would like to be treated.

I include everyone in games in the playground. **Cameron P7** I help others when I see that they are struggling in the school or in the playground. **Anaya P7**

When someone is new to the school I look after them and include them in everything to help them settle in. Lois P7 When the new P1s came to school, I helped them in the playground and went to class to help them with their learning. Mason P7

If I see someone sitting by themself, I will ask them if they are okay and if they want to join in. **David P7**If I see someone sitting alone in the lunch hall, I will go to sit with them. **Euan P7**

We don't judge people by their skin colour. **Zoeya P3**There should be no fighting. **Aaran P3**Don't judge or annoy people especially if they come from a different country. **Rizan P3**

I help others with their Must-Do job if they need help. **Marli P2** When we are working in groups, I make sure everyone is included.

Lucas P2

I make drawings for my classmates. **Haadi P2**When my friends fall outside, I help them get back up. **Avaya P2**When other people ask to play my game, I let them join in.

Isla P2

I give nice compliments during Pupil of the Day.

Jamie P2

Everyone is treated the same because we are all equal. **Darcy P3**I help everyone to make sure they are included.

Maja P3

I use kind hands and words. **Cooper P3** I let people be included in games.

Kaleb O P3

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

- Euan P7 got his green belt in Tae Kwon Do, Mustafa achieved his blue belt with two red stripes and Jason completed his first year. Brodie P1 got his yellow belt and Kane P1 moved up to white belt.
- Rory P7, Thomas P6 and Gray P7 got medals of achievements during football sessions and Lois P7 won a medal in football and has moved up to the under 14 team. Allie P5 won 2 trophies and a medal at football, one was for 'most improved player'. Connor P5 received a medal and a trophy at his football club presentation. He scored 16 goals in 15 games last season. Kai P5 has been chosen to play against 2 football academies in the last few months, Dundee and Greenock Morton. He has moved up to the first team and received a medal and trophy for playing well. Dylan P4/3 got a medal for being best striker. Freddie P1 got a medal and Reuben P1 started football training. Nathan P1 won a football game. Rory, Frankie and Harvey P1 won football trophies. Kayden and Logan P1 won football medals. Cooper P3 has now won 15 medals in football. Kaleb O P3 won two medals and Arran P3 also won a medal. Kyle P6 scored the winning goal in football from the halfway line against a difficult team. Olivia in P3 has been learning how to play football and her brother is helping her. Lucy P3 got two trophies in football.
- Sophie F P6 won a medal in dancing and Gracie V and Lacey F won second place in cheer in their dance competition. Abbie P5 won 4 trophies for different types of dance. Carly P5 is going to Florida in April for an international dance competition. She got highly commended in her exams for freestyle and ballet. Amber P4/3 came first in cheer at Jam Fest. Maleya P1 got a medal for hip hop dancing. Aela P1 won a trophy in tap and ballet. EmmaP1 got a medal in dancing.
- Lacie P6 gave food to a homeless person.
- Callum P6 won a bronze medal in gymnastics. Jennifer P5 came 1st in floor, 3rd in vault overall in gymnastics and has been doing well in artistic gymnastics. She competed against 80 children from across Scotland in Perth. Ruby P5 won a medal for her beam performance. Maya and Ella P3 can now do handstands and cartwheels. Mila P3 can do the splits and cartwheels. Rizan P3 can now balance on one leg. Alfie P3 can now do a backflip.
- Taylor P5 got her performing badge at Brownies.
- Tyler P6 moved up to a new class in running. Max P4/3 ran 2K in England. Jace P3 won the fun run race and got first place.
- Harry P6 has achieved his yellow belt in judo. Ronnie P3 achieved his green belt in martial arts.
- Darcy P3 got a medal from PACE and Daisy and Avaya in P3 have started PACE.
- Amelia P4 learned to ride her sister's bike.
- Liam P3 has learned how to do a bicycle kick.
- Angus P3 has now completed Beaver's and is now in Cubs.
- Jonathan P4 made his own card game.
- Aurora P1 got a certificate in swimming for swimming a full length. Aria has moved up to the deep end in swimming.
- Zoeya and Haadi P3 have been practicing their basketball skills and are getting much better.

We are very proud of all of the achievements of our pupils, staff and school community. Well done Arky Stars!





