

Arkleston Advertiser

Edition 4 Session 2022 -23



Message from the Head Teacher

Another session will soon be coming to an end and it is a time when we reflect on what a busy year it has been. We started the session with many covid absences, which we did not anticipate. It took until the second week of January for us to have a full staff team for the first time this session. This impacted upon our capacity for change, but considering these challenges, we have still managed to have attainment levels that are in line with our comparators locally and nationally. We have had multiple staff changes, with a baby boom in Arkleston and welcomed numerous new pupils to our school for whom English is not their first language. What we have learned is that we all face challenges at different times in our lives. Sometimes these are small and sometimes these are big. We are all capable of coping with challenges. Facing challenges and navigating one's way through them builds resilience capacity. Knowing that one can overcome obstacles, learn from struggles and benefit from mistakes lays a solid foundation for success in later life. We are fortunate to have a strong team of people that dedicate themselves to working at Arkleston Primary School. A team who stays positive, when faced with challenges. A team that finds solutions to problems that arise. A team that comes up with innovative solutions. A team that is not afraid to make mistakes. A team that supports each other. A team that works together for the common goal of doing our best for the children and families of Arkleston. We are all privileged to work with your children every day and for the trust that you put in our team. The school has a fantastic reputation in the community because of the hard work of the teams of people who have invested their time and energy to delivering a quality education for the children of Arkleston over the last 50 years. As we move out of our 50th anniversary year, we promise that we will continue to do our best for the citizens of Arkleston today and hope that they are ready to be the leaders of tomorrow that we know they are capable of being. Thank you for helping us to celebrate all that is great about Arkleston and we look forward to making more memories with you over the coming years.

Dates for your Diary



Fri 19 May	Base 3 Healthy and Active Assembly Base 3 parents welcome 9.30am
Wed 24/Thur 25	P1 induction visits and P7 Renfrew High Induction Days
Fri 26 May	Holiday
Mon 29 May	Holiday
Tue 30 May	Inset Day – School closed to children
Fri 2 June	Healthy and Active Sparky Arky Day – Sports clothes P7 1'm a P7 Event at Renfrew High
Fri 16 June	Bump Up Afternoon
Wed 21 June	Ice Lolly Afternoon
Thur 22 June	P7 Leavers' Festival
Mon 26 June	P7 Leavers' Service 1.30pm
Tue 27 June	School closes 1.00pm for summer

Parent Council



The Parent Council had organised the Valentines disco in February, and we are now going to start planning our Shorts and Shades disco on 15th June 2023.

We will be ending the term with our AGM Meeting which is due to be held on Tuesday 6th June 2023 at 7pm. More details will follow nearer the time, and the invite is open to all. We look forward to seeing you there.

Volunteers run the Parent Council, 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 to the Parent Council for their very kind contribution towards our whole school trip. They paid £2.60 towards the cost for each child. They are also contributing to the events organised for the P7 Leavers Festival in June. Their kind donations ensure that the children of Arkleston continue to access opportunities and experiences that enhance their learning. They are all Arky Stars!

Staffing Updates

Mrs Sinclair returned from her secondment at Renfrew High School and we are delighted to have her back.

Miss Brown, Mr Crawford and Miss MacKinnon will be leaving us at the end of the session. We thank them for their hard work and support during their time with us and wish them all the best in their new ventures.

Miss Simpson in P6, has concluded her probationary year with us at Arkleston and is almost fully qualified. Well done Miss Simpson and thank you for all of your hard work this session.

Mrs Reid will return from maternity leave just before the end of term, with Miss McColl and Mrs Campbell returning in August.

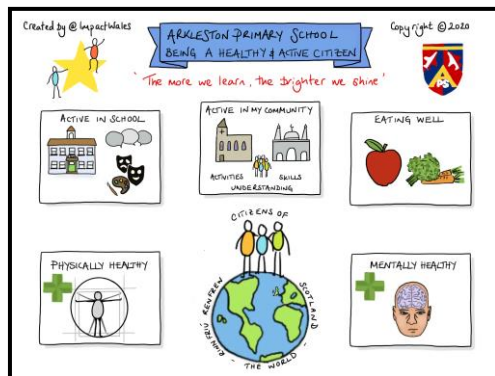


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Head Teacher - Ms C Crawford

Healthy and Active Citizens

This term we have been thinking about the skills that children need to be healthy and active citizens. Our children have had many opportunities to develop these skills this session, particularly during our 50th anniversary whole school show.



Children learned that the arts provide a platform for children to be able to express themselves and have their voices heard (**Article 12**). We were blown away by the talents demonstrated by our children and the character strengths that they had to use to have the confidence to perform. They were brave, worked as a team and tried new things. We are proud of them all for the fantastic job they did. Thank you to everyone who came along and supported the children during their performances. Lots of budding stars in the making.



We have a strong connection with the arts and have worked closely with Paisley Museum over the years on a project with artist John Byrne and were lucky to be the only school in Renfrewshire who got a visit from The Monarch of the Glen. We are looking forward to working with One Ren Creative Learning Team, supporting them with their preparatory as they design a curriculum for the new Paisley Museum, due to open soon.



EID Celebrations

Nurtured and Included Citizens

At Arkleston Primary School we have families with no faith and families whose faith is important to them. Our main faiths are Christianity, Hinduism, Sikhism and Islam. Every year in school, we have an assembly at Harvest, Easter and Christmas, which are all predominantly Christian festivals. We link our learning to other religious festivals throughout the year. This year, our children wanted to hold Eid celebrations across the school to recognise the second largest faith group within our school community. Mrs Kajla worked with children and a parental group to organise key events at every stage. Helping children to understand the religious beliefs of others. At Arkleston we feel that by understanding others, it helps us to be our best selves. It promotes inclusion, diversity and understanding in a world that can sometimes be very divisive. Faiths, cultures and traditions are important to all families at Arkleston, and we are proud of the diverse community we have. We currently have children that speak 14 languages other than English in our school and we take time to celebrate these unique characteristics throughout the session.

Our Eid celebrations were a great success. Many Muslim parents supported the afternoon by making traditional savoury and sweet dishes that would form part of their own Eid celebrations. Children across the school had the opportunity to sample the food made and everyone agreed that they were delicious. We are grateful to our Muslim community for coming together and supporting our work and look forward to building upon this next year.



What have we been up to?



Base 4's new friends

Base 5

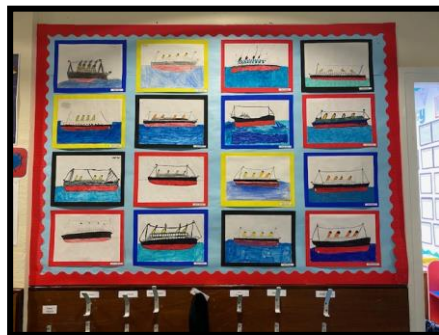
Base 5 had an exciting Term 3 and are looking forward to lots of fun activities ahead in Term 4. We enjoyed performing at our school show and class assembly last term.

This term, in Literacy, we will be focusing on using ambitious vocabulary in our writing and uplevelling our work using peer and self – assessment. Our class novel, *The Titanic Detective Agency* by Lindsay Littleton, is helping us to become more reflective readers. So far, we have learned where The Titanic was built, and we have been finding out about some of the characters who were aboard the ill-fated ship on her maiden voyage from Southampton to New York.

We are continuing to develop our mental maths skills using the 4 operations as well as continuing our work on fractions, decimals and percentages. We will also be looking at angles and measure. In Maths, we enjoy using numeracy grids to complete our activities. This gives us lots of choice and helps develop independence around how we want to complete different tasks throughout the week.

For our Citizenship topic this term, we will be looking at Spain and its history and culture. We have started learning some Spanish words and phrases. Many of us have visited Spain on holiday and could already say many different words and identify some places on a map of Spain. Spain has many islands and we were surprised to find out that many of its islands off the North Coast of Africa were acquired by Spain around 600 years ago.

In PE, we are developing our skills in tennis and will be practising lots of different athletic-based skills in preparation for Sports Day.



Base 6 had a busy and exciting term 3 and enjoyed performing in the school show. We discovered our inner rockstars and had lots of fun performing, but some of us never want to hear Bon Jovi and The Black Eyed Peas ever again! In literacy, Base 6 have recently completed their third Talk for Writing block which focused on a model text called "Kidnapped" which was an adventure story. Throughout the weeks of our Talk for Writing block, the children explored different techniques used within an adventure 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 is a persuasive piece of writing and we will be focusing on the model text "The Multi-Function Mobile Phone". In maths we have developed our skills in using timetables and deepened our knowledge of 12- and 24-hour time. We have also begun to look at measurements and have enjoyed using different tools to measure different items. In PE primary 6 we have enjoyed working with Active Schools to achieve their play leader training to assist with their roles in becoming a buddy to the future primary 1 children. We also enjoyed working with Active Schools and learning some new golf skills, and you never know, we might have the future Tiger Woods at Arkleston Primary School. Over the

Base 7

We are excited for our last term at Arkleston and for what lies ahead! We have started learning all about body systems with Mrs McWilliams and have enjoyed experiments creating a replica heart and lungs. Our visit to Renfrew High Science Department was exciting, and we learned about the function of the brain and our senses. We have started our Moving On Sessions with high school staff and this is helping us to talk about how we feel about starting high school and to answer any questions we have. We have our trip to Hampden and our Leavers' Festival to look forward to. We are also excited to share our Leavers' Assembly with our parents and families.

What have we been up to?

Base 2 –Term 4 has been a busy term for Primary One. We have been completing our online Scottish National Standardised Assessments, showing the character strength of bravery in doing so. In Literacy, we have been learning our double sounds. We have now learned our last double sounds of P1 and will be making sure we know them to impress our P2 teachers. We have also been having fun learning stories such as 'If Only' and are getting confident in using story maps. We are going to create our own. In Numeracy we have been learning lots of strategies to help with addition and subtraction. We have also been learning about numbers beyond 10, right up to 100! We love learning about maths and the tricks and strategies that help us. We loved finding out about the triangle for addition and subtraction.

We had a great time at Blair Drummond and have been learning about the different animals. We are hoping to learn some key facts about the animals and will be 'having a go' at writing these down when we come back to school. In PE we have been learning how to play tennis, including learning our tennis postures, such as 'grizzly bear'. We are sure that we will be future Wimbledon Champions.

This term has also been very busy with parties! We celebrated Eid and loved trying all of the tasty foods that we were treated to by some of the Arkleston parents. We even learned a new Eid dance. We still have lots of exciting things planned for this term, including Sports day, afternoons at Beastie Street and meeting our new teachers. We are excited for the rest of the term ahead!

Base 3

Primary 2 have had a busy start to term 4 and have had their own health week. We learned all out our physical and mental health. On the first day, we learned all about the 5 food groups and how to create a balanced meal. Day 2 involved learning about physical health and exercise. We even had Ms Crawford visit to tell us about her experience of being a marathon runner. On day 3, we talked about mental health and decided to make an 'Acts of Kindness Challenge' to spread some joy around Arkleston. We are excited to share our learning with the school next Friday during our assembly. We were inspired by one of our favourite characters, Iris the mermaid in our class novel. We created our own mermaids using various art materials. In maths, we have been learning about money and how to pay for things and calculate change. We even set up a class shop. We are now learning about time.



Primary 3 have had an excellent start to term 4 and have begun practising for our healthy and active assembly on Friday. We are excited to see our adults in school again and showcase our learning and skills whilst performing once again! In literacy, we have started a new class novel called *Oliver and the Seawigs* by Philip Reeve. We have designed front covers and made some mixed media artwork of Iris the mermaid. In numeracy and maths, we learned our coins and notes to £10. We used the Aldi catalogue to choose items and paid for them with exact money. We have started looking at clocks and how to tell the time. We have made our own working clocks with big and small hands! We finished our topic work by presenting our research findings to our classmates. Using our knowledge of logging into the Chromebooks, using non-fiction books and note taking from videos, we refined our skills and knowledge and worked in teams to share our learning! We are excited to finish term 4 on a high and even utilise more time outside for den building, games on the MUGA and outdoor learning.

Base 4 –

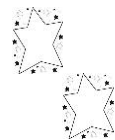
Primary 4/3 It has been a busy year so far and term 4 is set to be just as busy. With only weeks left before the summer break, we have lots of learning to get through. In the coming weeks the children will take part in a range of lessons. We will be looking at the features of a newspaper report, the difference between fact and opinion and we will continue our Talk for Writing lessons. For maths and numeracy, we will be learning about 2D shapes and 3D objects, how we take information from a range of data and a range of other activities. During Term 4, pupils will continue to use PATHS to support their emotional welling. PATHS is used to develop the fundamental social and emotional skills that children need to make positive choices throughout life. Pupils will be learning about where living things come from and how they grow, develop, and nurtured. This links to our topic where we will explore the life cycle of a butterfly. We will observe and record the 4 stages of the life cycle, then we will release the butterflies into the wild. Primary 4/3 have two PE slots each week, they are on Wednesday and Friday. On these days it is important that all children come dressed appropriately in suitable clothing and footwear.

Primary 4

This is our final term in P4 and we cannot believe it. We were all a little nervous towards the end of last term as it was the school show, but we loved seeing other children singing and acting and inviting people into see our songs. We also got to wear 90s outfit for our show which was fun. We got our thinking caps on when returning to term 4 and learned all about equations and how to solve tricky answers by looking at the correct operations. We have started learning about 3D objects which has involved going outdoors to identify different shapes we see in our daily lives. We are hoping to know our times tables by the end of P4- our favourite game is last man standing! In Literacy, we are going to create our own newspaper article and so far, have been learning about a dragon that has gone missing and the urgent updates required, and information needed to create our own article. We have completed our "cold task" and will complete different activities before writing our hot task. Please ask us at home to tell you about our talk for writing jotters. They are full of exciting stories. We have created a link with a school in Uganda. We are excited to write to them and find out all about their day in school compared to ours. We wanted to learn about animals last term and decided as a base to look at the life cycle of a butterfly. We will be looking after our own caterpillars in class this term too! Finally, we have started to practise different skills for Sport's Day. We started off with relay races and worked as a team to pass the baton to the next person. We had a great time at Blair Drummond for our whole school trip! 😊



What do the pupils have to say?



Mirrin P6 – Arklestone Primary is great because the teachers are always respectful and are willing to listen.
Ted P6 – It is great because we have the right to play.
Ashton P6 – The people make Arklestone great. Everyone is respectful and make me feel safe at school.
Sam P6 – Arklestone is great because I get to see my friends everyday friends.

Kirsty P4/3 – All the learning that we do.
Anaya P4/3 – All of the teachers are kind.
Sara P4/3 – It is a rights respecting school.
Ava P4/3 – All the staff are caring and inclusive.
Poppy P4/3 – I love the handwriting activities that we do.
Max P4/3 – There are lots of choice for sports activities.

Aela P1 – Everyone does their best to make good choices.
Kayden P1 – Everyone does their best to play nice.
Ayat P1 – We make lots of new friends.
Frankie P1 – You learn so much.
Coen P1 – It is fun.
Maleya P1 – I like to learn.
Reed P1 – Everyone is very helpful and caring.
Aaiza P1 – I like the homework.

Avaya P2 – Everybody is kind.
Lucy P2 – Everyone is included.
Jamie P2 – We all play with each other.
Carley P2 – You can make lots of friends.
Olivia P2 – We all help each other.
Katie P2 – The playground has great things for us to play with.
Angus P2 – All staff in Arklestone are kind, helpful and amazing.
Marli P2 – Learning is always fun in Arklestone.

Question

**In our 50th Anniversary session -
 What makes Arklestone great?
 Ms Crawford**

Article 13: Your right to express your thoughts and opinions



It makes us feel safe and when we are hurt people in the school help us.
Maya G P3
 Arklestone is good at teaching us. **Freddie P3**
 It makes us learn a lot and we get a good education.
Mason P3
 Arklestone helps people.
Maja D P3

The people we are surrounded by. **Ryan P P7**
 The kind and caring teachers. **Murray P7**
 Opportunities to take part in sports events and tournaments. **Riley P7**
 Committees and pupil councils – having our ideas and opinions listened to.
Keerat P7
 All the teachers make us feel happy and safe. The teachers make the school a great place. **Ellise P5**
 In PE we get to try out different sports. We have the chance to compete in sports against other schools which is great! **Kai P5**
 It is great we have all our committees and the Eco Committee have had 7 green flags. **Libbi P5**

We have a lot of opportunities to talk to and play with our friends. We learn lots of skills during Sparky Arky Days.
Ella P5
 We get a new teacher each year and they give us different experiences. **Jamie P5**
 The teachers make Arklestone great. They are all so nice and supportive!
Willow P5
 We have won two rights respecting gold awards. We are a very respectful school and we have lots of opportunities.
Allie P5
 Everyone in our school is respectful and kind. **Ben P5**
 Everyone is treated fairly and equally in our school. **Taylor P5**
 All the staff care for the children. **Abbie M P5**
 The teachers are respectful. **Ruby P5**
 Everyone has a part to play in making our school great! We all work together!
Tamim P5

I love that we learn different rights.
Ayla P4
 I learn lots of fun things e.g., gymnastics.
Ruairidh P4
 I have made so many friends thanks to Arklestone. **Struan P4**
 We won our second gold rights award.
Rhys P4
 I have great friends that love helping each other.
Maisie P4
 We are a rights respecting school. **Asher P4**
 We always show respect.
Amelia P4
 All of the people e.g. teachers, parents, children. **Ella P4**
 The teamwork we do in class. **Jonathan P4**

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

- Sarah and Frankie P1 got certificates for swimming and Joshua P1 went up a level. Cali P1 achieved level 2 in swimming and Robyn has gone up to level 3. Jamie P2 got an award for swimming and Ella and Avaya P2 have moved up swimming levels. Sara P4/3 got an award at swimming and moved up a level. Corran P3 got his 50m badge at swimming.
- Evie and Maleya P1 went up a level in dancing. Lucy P2 got 4 dancing trophies for different competitions.
- Brodie P1 got a medal for cycling.
- Brodie V P1 moved up a level at Tae Kwon Do to a white and orange belt. Connor P5 achieved his purple belt in kick boxing. Dylan P4/3 has won a medal for competing in a kickboxing tournament. Maya G P3 has started Tae Kwon Do lessons.
- Rueben P1 moved up a level in surf boarding.
- Logan and Kayden P1 got trophies in football and Blake P2 has moved up a level. Kai P5's football team has gone up a division and he was player of the match during a recent game. Lucas P4 was player of the match and Zak P4 won medals at football. Alfie P3 got a trophy at football for being the best player. Freddie P3 got two trophies and 5 medals for football.
- Max P4/3 won a cup at a rugby tournament.
- Olivia P2 has achieved 2 awards at football. Allie P5, won player of the match for her football team and has been chosen to be a mascot for Chelsea Ladies Football Team.
- Isla P2 got 5 badges at Rainbows. Willow P5 earned a First Aid badge and Bonnie P5 earned a badge for camping at Brownies. Jacob P4/3 has earned badges at Beavers and Ava P4/3 earned badges at Brownies. Dylan Johnston P4/3 got a cooking badge at Cubs. Codi P4/3 got a reward at Brownies for helping.
- Katie P2 has learned how to do an elbow stand.
- Curtis P6 came 1st in a dirt bike competition.
- Sophie P6 achieved a new skill in gymnastics. Jennifer P5 won the gold medal for compulsory 4 at a Scottish gymnastics competition and is now the Scottish champion for her age group. Millie P4 won gold in gymnastics and is now off to the British championships. She can now do a back tuck. Ella P4 can do a round off and a cartwheel. Ruby P4/3 got an award for a small event at gymnastics.
- Katie P6 came 1st place, 3 times with her dance team. Carly P5, won the gold medal with her jazz dance group in Florida and they are now the World Champions.
- Cameron P6 achieved his grade 1 piano exam and performed at Paisley North Church.
- Abbie P5 landed a front flip on the trampoline for the first time.
- Abbie P5 is walking 100 miles in May to raise money for Cancer Research and so far, she has raised £500. Nathan P3 walked 3 miles at the Kilt Walk with his dad. Lucas P3 is proud that he ran 3 laps of the daily mile.
- Darcy went on a bike ride of 5 miles.



World Champion



Grand Champions

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

