

Arkleston Advertiser

Edition 4 Session 2023 -24



Message from the Head Teacher

The sun has finally shone and we are heading towards the end of another busy session at Arkleston. The staff and children have worked incredibly hard again, under some difficult circumstances, and we have had an amazing session full of great experiences. Absence amongst staff and children has remained high this session and we hope that with this being our Healthy and Active Citizens term, the bugs and germs now disappear. To be a Healthy and Active Citizen it is important that you understand yourself physically, emotionally and mentally. It means you feel safe and ready to connect with your body, your community, and your environment. Having a healthy self-esteem and self-respect are also part of being emotionally well. In a broader sense, you can function within society while reaching your goals and tackling your issues effectively. We know that many members of our school community struggle with their mental health. Mental Health Awareness Week is the perfect time to reflect on how to support our school community with their mental health. Being physically active is great for our bodies and our minds. Exercise has been proven to reduce anxiety and depression, and it can help us to prevent physical illnesses. Research shows that doing exercise releases feel-good chemicals called endorphins in the brain. Even a short burst of 10 minutes brisk walking can improve your mental alertness, energy and mood. Now that the weather has improved, it is the perfect opportunity to make the most of our natural environment and to get out and be more physically active. Staff have organised a fund-raising event to raise money for school funds and we can't wait to see how many laps of the daily mile track the children can do.

Dates for your Diary



Mon 20-Thur 23	P7 Renfrew High Induction Days
Wed 22/Thur 23	P1 induction visits
Fri 24 May	Holiday
Mon 27 May	Holiday
Fri 31 May	Healthy and Active Sparky Arky Day – Sports clothes
Thur 6/Fri 7 June	Sports Day – Parents/Carers welcome

Weather permitting on the Thur afternoon, if not on Thu then Fri, weather permitting. If not Thur or Fri it will take place on the first nice day without a parental audience. We ask all visitors to remain in the seated area on the grass to allow children to move safely from activity to activity.

Thur 13 June	Bump Up Afternoon
Thur 20 June	P7 Leavers' Festival
Mon 24 June	Ice Lolly Afternoon
Wed 26 June	P7 Leavers' Service 1.30pm
Thur 27 June	School closes 1.00pm for summer

Parent Council

The Parent Council would like to thank everyone for their support and hard work collecting the Tesco tokens. We are thrilled to have come first and the grant will be used to develop the mindfulness garden project. We are pleased to have contributed to the new storage containers for the playground which seem to have been a big hit with the children.

After our busy spring disco last term, we are gearing up for our final disco of the year "Shorts and Shades" on the 13th of June. Prior to that we have our AGM on the 4th of June at Renfrew High School and look forward to seeing lots of parents there.

Our Parent Council have worked tirelessly this session for the benefit of the children and need your support to continue their hard work. Please come along and join us so that the Parent Council can continue next session.



Staffing Updates



Mrs Williamson left us in term 3, we wish her all the best in her new venture and thank her for her contribution to Arkleston. Mrs Durrant joined the team again, after many years working in other establishments in Renfrewshire. It is lovely to have a returning Arky Star!

Miss McFarlane in P4, has concluded her probationary year with us at Arkleston and is almost fully qualified. Well done Miss McFarlane and thank you for all of your hard work this session.

Mrs Kajla will be going off on maternity leave at the end of term and Miss Miller will take on the role of acting principal teacher 0.8 and Miss Lister 0.2 as of August.

Mrs Smith has been with us for over a year now and we would like to thank her for her hard work and support during her time with us.

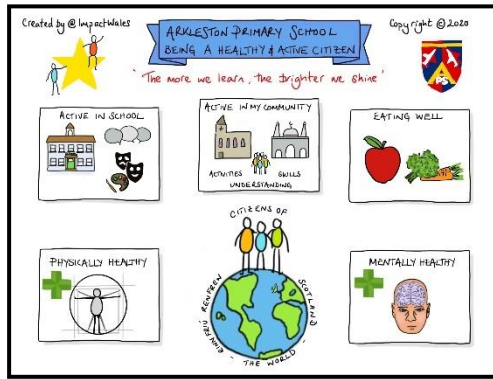
Parent Portal

If you haven't already signed up for your Parent Portal account, please follow the instructions on SEESAW or contact the office for further information. Every child must be linked to an account for next session. This will be how we organise parent night appointments moving forward.

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Head Teacher - Ms C Crawford

Healthy and Active Citizens



Children have many opportunities to join clubs and meet with friends at Arkleston (**Article 15**). Our P7 Play Leaders have this year ran a variety of successful lunchtime clubs, from Lego to dance. As a result, it has allowed us to track the attendance of all children at a club, in and out of school. By March, we had **....** Of children in the school attending a club. Staff are now also offering an after-school sports club, choir and a reading club, all of which support our children to have experiences linked to their interests.

Throughout the session we have provided many opportunities for children to participate in sporting events both in and out of school, giving them opportunities to try new things and to develop existing skills further. Here are some of our adventures this session.



Girls' Football Team



Tennis Tournament



P7 and P6 Bikeability Training



Boys' Football Team



Renfrewshire Athletics

We are proud that all children who have represented the school at events have show our school values at each event. For some of our children these experiences can be the boost in confidence needed to believe in themselves.

Healthy and Active Citizens

We are lucky to have a fantastic dining team, who work with a group of children on every Sparky Arky Day, to develop their understanding of food, nutrition and hygiene. They help to prepare what is on the menu that day for their classmates. There will be a new menu in place within the next few weeks and we hope that this will encourage more children to take up a school lunch. This is free for all children from P1-P5.



Making pizza for school lunch

We are also fortunate to have an allotment at Tesco, where we can grow our own food. Children can go over with their class and groups of children this year have brought back bumper crops. It is difficult to send children over regularly due to staffing demands. If you have green fingers and would be willing to be PVG checked to support us, please get in touch. Mrs Briskham has been doing a super job of keeping the plot tidy for us.



Snack Attack

We know that not everyone brings a snack to school so we have put a bowl of fruit at the office for any child who is hungry at playtime. We try to encourage children to bring healthy snacks to school. One thing to eat and drink is more than enough. We are seeing an increase in sugary snacks and sports drinks recently. Our most recent dental inspection in P1 and P7 has shown that out of 100 children 6% were advised to seek immediate dental care on account of severe decay or abscess. 35% of children were advised to seek dental car in the near future on account of a history of dental decay and 59% had no obvious decay experience but should continue to see the family dentist on a regular basis.

Please think about the snacks that your child is bringing to school and help us to be a health promoting school.

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. 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. We are really looking forward to our trip to the Science Centre on 29th May!

Base 6 Primary 6 have been enjoying a slower start to term 4 after the excitement of our knockout success in our show last term! We were very lucky to receive another wonderful parcel from our friends in Hong Kong filled with letters, sweet and savoury treats along with some special gifts from our new friends. We have written back and are just in the process of deciding what we could send them in return. It has been a very enjoyable process writing and receiving letters this year and we have learnt lots about life for children in a culture and environment very different to our own. In literacy, we are reading the novel, *Rooftoppers* by Katherine Rundell and are already hooked on the story of Sophie and Charles and their search for Sophie's mother. We were also very lucky to visit the Paisley Book Festival recently to hear from the author Barbara Henderson. She talked to us about her new book, *The Boy, The Witch and The Queen of Scots*.

She was very engaging and told us lots about the history of Mary Queen of Scots as well as how a book is written and published. Our talk for writing focus this term is persuasive writing and we are exploring all the different ways companies and people try to influence our decisions.

In numeracy, we are learning all about how to manage our money and budget for real life experiences and we will go on to explore time by learning about timetables, measuring time and calculating journeys and durations. We will also be developing our understanding of area, perimeter and symmetry. In science, we have been doing some research into different types of energy and in particular, the use of renewable energies and will be presenting our findings to the class.

Primary 6 also have some very important things coming up for us to take part in. We are about to begin our sessions in Bikeability which will help us to learn how to stay safe when cycling in the community, an important life skill. We have begun our play leader training which will allow us to lead lunchtime sports and activity clubs for children across the school next year. In the next few weeks, we will be visiting the feeder nurseries to meet the children who will be joining us in August and will be our buddies. There will also be the opportunity to apply for the roles of captain, vice-captain and secretary for our houses and at the end of the month we will be taking part in the Safe Kids event at St. Mirren Park. Another busy term ahead but one we are ready and looking forward to!



Base 7

Primary 7 have been busy this term looking at War and Conflict, relating historical events to more recent, current affairs taking place across the world. We have finished reading the *Boy in the Striped Pyjamas* and created various comparisons between the book and the film. We loved finding out about leaders from the past, looking at their values and views and what beliefs they had. We looked at propaganda posters and created our own- feel free to have a little look at Base 7 walls during parents' night! We continued with our Compassionate and Connected classroom lessons, looking specifically at empathy and coping strategies that are available for us. We are beginning to prepare ourselves for high school and feel it's important to showcase our character strengths of being a friend and showing bravery during our upcoming high school visits. We have finished our 6-week block with the SFA who prepared us for trials that will be taking place at the end of the month. In addition, we were able to virtually meet our pen pals in Taiwan. They received our letters and had lots of interesting questions to ask us. We were able to put faces to names and children loved asking questions about their school, football teams in Taiwan and some food and drinks e.g., comparing bubble tea and Irn Bru! We have had a hardworking term across Literacy and Numeracy. We are underway with our Reading Circles and spend twice a week completing tasks independently which leads to collaborating with our group about ideas, predictions, ambitious vocabulary and identifying tricky words. We set ourselves reading targets and hear each other reading. We have been working on creating portal stories which stemmed from a model text called "The Gas Mask". We have loved using our imagination to create different stories and read each other's ideas and feedback. We have moved onto learning about speed, distance and time in Maths, looking at why we need to know about this, when we would use time and understanding conversions and timetables. As part of our STEM week, we looked at creating flood proof houses. We worked as a team to plan, design, resource and budget what we needed before testing our houses in a flood. There are lots of pictures of twitter of our busy week! Finally, we are nearing our final few months as P7 and can't believe how quickly the year has gone! We are looking forward to our festival next month and celebrating what has been a fantastic 7 years at Arkleston!



What have we been up to?

Base 2 – It has been a very busy start to our last term in P1. We have enjoyed learning about the Olympics and learning new songs. We loved performing at our assembly and sharing our knowledge with our buddies! We are having an Olympic event for our big people later this term. In Maths we have been learning about our human calculator and that our 10 fingers can help us when we are adding and subtracting numbers. We have also been learning about numbers beyond 10 and what they are made up of. We even wrote the number 101 this week! Next week we are going to be revisiting our learning about money and can't wait to have a shop again in the shop. In Literacy, we have been busy learning some more double sounds and have been using magnetic boards at the teacher table to practise our blending skills! We have also learned some new tricky words and have been trying hard to include these in our writing. We are learning a new story in Talk for Writing called *Three Billy-Goats Gruff* and are becoming more confident in retelling the story. We will soon be having a go at drawing our own story map and adding some of our own innovations! We are also very excited about our new playground toys and are enjoying using them.



Base 3

In Literacy, Primary 2 have been moving our Talk For Writing learning on by tackling our most challenging story imitation to date. The story is called *Kassim and the Greedy Dragon* and it features lots of imaginative language and new vocabulary, such as 'monumental.' We have been utilising our new dictionary skills to find the meaning of these words and use them in our writing.

The class novel for this term has been *Fantastic Mr Fox* and we have enjoyed creating visualisations of the main characters. We have been busy using descriptive language to explain their appearances.

Our focus for PE this term is fielding and striking and with the drier weather, we are hoping that we can continue to make use of the great outdoors to further our striking and fielding skills, by playing games such as rounders.

In Maths, we have been looking at the value of money by recognising amounts, ordering coins and giving change from given amounts. We have enjoyed learning through play for this, by setting up a toy shop and buying and selling objects with our friends. Speaking of our friends, we have been learning how to share equally between two and four and how this fits with the mathematical concept of fractions. Our focus has been 'The Rainforest' and we have developed fact files on the animals that live there. The tarantula was a particular favourite of ours. We have our trip to Kelburn coming up soon and we are excited to explore nature and continue our learning outdoors.



Our Rainforest Showcase Event

Base 4 –

Primary 3 As we embrace the final term of the session, we're excited to share some activities planned for our pupils. It's been a joyous journey filled with learning and growth and we're grateful for your continuous support. This term, we're focusing on writing skills through the Talk for Writing approach, with creativity and imagination. We aim to enhance the children's linguistic abilities and storytelling process. In numeracy, we're diving into the world of data information and 3D shapes, providing pupils with practical knowledge and problem-solving skills that are essential in today's digital age. Looking ahead, we're thrilled to announce our upcoming trip to Heads of Ayr in June. It promises to be a day filled with laughter and exploration as we immerse ourselves in outdoor adventures and hands-on learning experiences.

Additionally, we'll embark on a journey around Renfrew to explore various types of housing and learn more about water safety. It's an opportunity for our pupils to gain a deeper understanding of their surroundings and get a deeper sense of community awareness. To conclude our excursions, we'll gather for a delightful picnic and playtime, enjoying the beauty of nature and each other's company.

It's been a privilege to witness the growth and achievements of our pupils and we look forward to celebrating their successes together.

Primary 4

We have had a wonderful and enjoyable beginning to our final term of learning in primary 4. In literacy, we have been focussing on developing our writing as we begin our new Talk for Writing story *The Cobbler of Krakow and Smoke the Dragon*. We have enjoyed developing our writing by using a range of connectives and openers, alongside utilising our imagination to describe a character, setting and plot using interesting vocabulary. We have been enjoying reciting the story and creating our own actions as we work towards developing our own imaginative story! We have been enjoying reading our class novel *The Diary of the Wimpy Kid* whilst carrying out different learning activities, such as creating our own comic strip and summarising elements of the story.

Within Numeracy, we have just finished learning about shape and enjoyed getting outdoors to identify and recognise different 2D and 3D shapes. We enjoyed bringing our learning together and working in groups to create our own 3D models, identifying different properties. We have just started Data handling and have enjoyed gathering information in different ways and constructing them into bar graphs, pie charts and pictographs. We look forward to learning more about this.

We have had an enjoyable start to P.E. this term as we have begun our athletics unit. This term we are focussing on identifying skills to improve our performance and provide feedback to our peers to help them improve too. We have enjoyed taking part in different activities to develop our athletic skills including hurdles, running, relay races and long jump. We look forward to taking part in more different athletic activities in the coming weeks.

Primary 4 have been enjoying learning about children's rights and expanding our knowledge about the different rights we are entitled to under the UNCRC. We have been working hard to learn about the different articles within the UNCRC and have enjoyed educating others about them too! We have loved learning about the major organs in the human body in Science and have become more knowledgeable about their function and importance whilst conducting different experiments.

What do the pupils have to say?

Allie P6 I go to football 6 times a week and I feed my body properly with plenty fruits and vegetables.

Jennifer P6 I go to gymnastics 4 days a week, we do lots of stretching before we start to warm them up before starting routines.

Robbie P6 I go to boxing which works all of my body at the same time. I am also using my brain to make quick decisions about where to move and what to do.

Kai P6 I play golf which involves a lot of walking and upper body strength.

Evie P6 I do horse riding which involves moving all aspects of your body to control the horse. It is also very dangerous!

Taylor P6 I do roller skating which helps increase my heart rate.

Sara P4 I can be a healthy citizen by eating a balanced diet.

Ava and Ruby P4 We are attending circus class every week. It helps us to keep fit and learn new skills.

Mila P4 and Theo P3 Doing the daily mile every day in School.

Amber P4 By drinking lots of water and avoiding high sugar products.

Kamran P4 Eating your 5 a day of fruit and vegetables.

Jamie P3 -We have an option to have fresh fruit when we are in school.

Haadi P3 -I go to karate class and that helps me to be a healthy and active citizen.

Olivia P3 I am healthy and active because I go to dance classes.

Corey P2 I go out jogging, I eat apples and I drink water.

Brodie V P2 and Sara P2 I play football after school.

Joshua P2 I go to MOBO Football academy.

Aaron P2 I play dodgeball with my brother.

Evie P2 and Jamie P1 By eating lots of fruit.

Leo P2 and Aubree P1 By drinking lots of water.

Emaan P2 I play basketball at home.

By eating a healthy snack at playtime.

Aoife P1

Eat lots of vegetables.

Mirryn P1

Do some exercise.

Question

What helps you to be a healthy and active citizen?

Article 12: Your right to express your thoughts and opinions



Working as a team makes us healthy and active.

Kelvin P1

Swimming helps you to be healthy. **Eilidh P1**

Do something like drawing instead of watching TV.

Hope P1

Keep practising at sport to get better. **Rehmat P1**

We can attend after school clubs. **Jason P7**

We get to use the Muga regularly. **Logan P7**

We have 2 hours of PE a week where we do athletics and raise our heart rate.

Riley P7 and Mirabelle P3

We challenge ourselves during the daily mile by beating our school. We have outdoor boxes now that have lots of toys that will keep us active.

Harry W P7

We have a fruit bowl at the foyer where we can grab a bit of fruit if we are hungry!

Harry P7

We do lots of running and games which gets our heart racing **Calum J P7**

SFA visit us each week and we participate in Netball or football. It is so much fun.

Hamza P7

We are looking forward to Sports Day. **Harry P7**

We have Sparky Arky Day which focuses on this.

Jack P7

At break times and lunch times we run about outside with our friends and the classroom assistants.

Hayden P7

We have Sports Day every year.

Maisie P5

We have our new playground containers with lots of activities to keep us active during breaks.

Daanish P5

The lunch staff keep us healthy by offering us good options.

Rhys P5

Star booklets and mindfulness help us reflect on our feelings. **Rhys P5**

We have water bottles to keep us hydrated. **Corran P5/4**

We have the MUGA to play on during school and after school.

Liam P5/4

The P7s run lots of clubs for us at lunchtime.

Sonny P5/4

We do reading after lunch each day to help our mental health.

Amelia P5/4

Eat lots of bananas and broccoli.

Charlie P1

Go outdoors to be healthy.

Rachel P1

The daily mile helps us because it makes you fit..

Noor P2

We run about and play games in the gym.

Orla P2

I do trampolining with my friends. **Evie-Rose P2A**

I like to dance after school. **Emma P2**

I play badminton after school. **Isaac P2**

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

- Allie P6 was selected for the under 12s West of Scotland SFA Regional team. She will now train once a week for the next 8 weeks and hope to develop his skills and overall game. Freddie P4 received a medal in football. Jace P4 won 3 gold medals and two silver medals in football. Blake P3 is travelling to Cyprus for football tournament. Sonny P5/4 got star player at his football club.
- Jennifer P6 got into a Scottish gymnastics camp in Largs. She stayed overnight and did gymnastics with children from across Scotland. Olivia P3 completed level 1 in gymnastics and received a medal for this. Millie P5/4 came second in a gymnastics competition.
- Willow P6 learned how to play 'Smelly Cat' from Friends on the guitar!
- Rayan P4 received a medal for Taekwondo and Ella P3 got three medals for taekwondo competition. Harlee P1 had her karate grading and got a certificate and a yellow tag belt. Noor P2 won in Judo class for earning the most points. Emaan P2 has earned the red belt in karate. Shoubhit P5/4 achieved blue belt in karate. Maya P5/4 came second place in her first Tae Kwon Do competition.
- Maja P4 received a medal for dancing, came 3rd place in show. Lucy P3 got two trophies for her participation in dance. Myla P1 got a medal in dancing and Keira P1 got 3 trophies for dancing. Riley P1 is moving up a level. Sarah P2 won a medal at dancing for her hip hop and jazz dances. Evie P2 won 5 medals at dancing for jazz dancing.
- Avaya P3 and Aria P5/4 got a skiing certificate for achieving level 3. Darcy came second in her lyrical solo dancing. Amelia P5/4 got a rosette in cheer.
- Dylan J P4 received a certificate for swimming as has moved up a class in swimming. Archie M P1 got a certificate because he moved up a level in swimming to number 3. Myla P1 got a medal for swimming and moved up a level. Harrison P1 went in the deep end at swimming lessons for the first time. Mirryn P1 started swimming lessons. Kelvin P1 got a swimming certificate and can jump into the pool confidently. He needs to work on his back stroke. Isla P3 has finished the dolphins class at swimming and received a certificate. Elina P2 has learned to swim by herself and can swim a whole length of the pool. Robyn P2 received a medal for taking part in a swimming gala. Blair P2 moved up to the dolphins class in swimming. Joshua P2 has learned to swim in the deep end at swimming. He can reach the bottom on the deep end now. Brodie P2 won a certificate at swimming for passing his back stroke test. Corran P5/4 has got to the sharks level in swimming.
- Ruby P4 received her first badge in brownies and Ava P4 received her height badge in brownies this month. Hope and Amelia P1 made their Rainbow promise. Finn P1 started Beavers and got his first badge for talking about his favourite books
- Kamran P4 won 2 gold medals and 3 second prizes for isti at the mosque last month
- Mirryn P1 learned to ride her bike without stabilisers.
- Robyn P2 won a medal and certificate for netball.
- Mason P5/4 got a silver trophy for go- karting.

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

