

Arkleston Advertiser

Edition 4 Session 2024 -25



Message from the Head Teacher

As we approach the end of another busy term, I want to take a moment to thank you all for your continued support. Recently, David and I had the pleasure of meeting with the new Primary 1 parents. We shared with them the journey we will embark on together over the next seven years. For some, this is their first child starting school, and the experience can feel overwhelming. For others, this path is familiar. Regardless of where you are in your journey, we deeply value the relationships we build with our families—relationships that, over time, help every child grow, thrive, and become the best version of themselves. Trust is at the heart of this partnership, and we are truly grateful that you have entrusted us with your child's education. Together, we will navigate the highs, the lows, and the challenges that are part of every child's learning journey. While we may not always get everything right or be able to resolve every issue to everyone's satisfaction, please know that we are always striving to do what's best for your child. This term, many of our pupils are preparing for big transitions—whether that's moving on to high school or into a new class. During this time, we focus on equipping them with the skills they need to be healthy, active citizens within our school and wider community. We encourage them to use their character strengths, to approach change with a growth mindset, and to stay open and curious. Change can be daunting. It's natural to feel uncertain or even resist it. But we want to empower our children to see change as an opportunity for growth and self-discovery. It's through these experiences that they learn to shine. One area where change is especially noticeable is in friendships. Throughout life, friendships evolve. We've spoken with our pupils about these shifting dynamics. When friendships become overly dependent, children may rely too heavily on a single friend for emotional support and guidance. This can make transitions harder and potentially hinder their broader social development. By working together, we can help our children build healthy, resilient friendships and navigate these challenges with confidence. Thank you again for your trust, partnership, and ongoing support and we wish you all a fantastic summer break when it comes.

Dates for your Diary

Fri 30 May	Healthy and Active Sparky Arky Day – sports clothes
Thur 29 May	P5 and P6 School Show – 1.30pm
Thur 29 May	P5 and P6 School Show – 6.30pm
Thur 5 or Fri 6 June	Sports Day (weather permitting)
Tues 17 June	Bump Up Afternoon – Children meet their new teacher
Thur 19 June	P7 Leavers' Festival (festival clothing)
Thur 26 June	P7 Leavers' Assembly 1.30pm
Fri 27 June	Finish 1.00pm



Parent Council

The Arkleston Parent Council is excited to share some upcoming events with you. Mark your calendars for the following dates:

- June 3rd: Our Annual General Meeting (AGM) - we're looking for a new Chairperson, so if you're interested in getting involved, please get in touch!
- June 12th: Our Shorts and Shades Disco is sure to be a hit with the kids and the incoming P1s are invited to join us.
- June 14th: Join us for a fun evening at our Race Night for grown-ups - a great opportunity to socialize and have some fun.

We're looking forward to seeing you at these events and working together to build a stronger sense of community at Arkleston School.

The Parent Council is run on 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.



Medication

If your child is on any medication kept in school, please pick this up at the end of term. New medication permission slips can be completed at the start of the new session as required.

Parent Pay

Please check your Parent Pay balance before the end of the session and clear any outstanding amounts.

Parent Portal

Thank you to the 96% of parents who have signed up for Parent Portal. This is the authority system for gathering your information for the annual data check and to allow you to book your parents' night appointments. Next session, the clerical team will no longer have the time to contact parents who have had not made an appointment for parents' night. The dates for parents' night will be shared with you in August on the annual calendar and Parent Portal will send you a notification when the system is open for bookings. Siblings have early access to the system to ensure you can try and get appointments close together. If you have had any issues signing up, please contact the office. Due to changes to teaching staffs' working time agreement, we will only be offering one target setting meeting in November and one meeting in May to discuss your child/ren's progress. Our attendance for our May session was 89% of parents. Thank you for your support

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Head Teacher - Ms C Crawford

Health and Active Citizens

School Improvement Plan

Improvement Priority 3 – Young Leaders of Learning

Here is an update on the progress we have made this year in relation to Priority 3 on our improvement plan.

P6 Young Leaders of Learning – Collaboration with St James's Primary

Our P6 Young Leaders of Learning team recently participated in authority training and have had the exciting opportunity to work alongside St James's Primary in Renfrew. This collaboration has allowed our pupils to have their voices heard on ways to improve Scottish Education. **Article 12**

Before the holidays, our Young Leaders visited St James's Primary, and on Wednesday 22 April, we were delighted to welcome eight children and their teacher from St James's to Arkleston. During their visit, the pupils spent the day learning what it's like to be a pupil at Arkleston and shared their feedback with us at the end of their experience.

We were thrilled to receive such positive and thoughtful comments from our visitors. Here are some of the highlights they shared:

- 🏠 **Den building** – valued for developing important skills
- 💙 **House points** – encourage kindness and positive behaviour
- 🤝 **A welcoming school environment**
- 📋 **Well-resourced and organised playground zones**
- li>• ⭐ **Sparky Arky Days** – great for building connections across year groups
- 🌿 **Tidy playgrounds** – thanks to indoor lunchtime routines
- 🌱 **Courtyard garden** – a calm, peaceful space for reading and reflection
- 🎨 **Bright, welcoming decorations** throughout the school
- 🐉 **Beastie Street** – a fun, freeing experience
- 😊 **Friendly staff** – especially visible and welcoming in the playgrounds

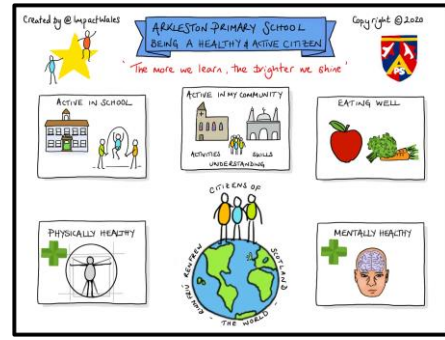
What lovely comments to receive from one of our cluster schools! Our Young Leaders were proud of how well the day went and were inspired by the feedback and ideas shared. They've also gathered some suggestions from the visiting children on things we might try at Arkleston next session.

Looking ahead, our current Young Leaders will soon take on the responsibility of training the next cohort, ensuring the legacy of leadership continues. They are also looking forward to presenting their journey and achievements at an upcoming authority event in June.

Every child who took part in the programme reported an improvement in their leadership skills – a fantastic outcome from a rewarding and impactful experience!



Healthy and Active Citizens



One of the key skills of a healthy and active citizen is the ability to support their own mental health and personal growth. For many of our children, the expressive arts offer a powerful outlet for this. We are fortunate to have many talented pupils who play musical instruments and perform in productions outside of school. At school, we strive to provide opportunities for all children to experience the joy and benefits of participation in the arts.

This session, many younger children enjoyed attending the P7 Play Leaders' arts and crafts club during lunchtime. These activities provided a therapeutic and creative space for self-expression and relaxation. Our school choir has also had a fantastic year—performing at a local care home, Buchanan Galleries, taking part in the Glee Competition, and most recently singing at the opening of the new Renfrew Bridge.



Children in Base 3 and Base 6 took part in drumming workshops during Term 2. While certainly lively, the sessions introduced pupils to the calming and unifying power of beat and rhythm.

This term, Base 4 pupils are working with Right2Dance as part of a collaborative creative project supported by Renfrewshire Council's music service, Paisley Opera, and One Ren. Inspired by the BBC Ten Pieces initiative, this programme includes workshops and a performance the pupils are excited to share with their grown-ups soon.

Meanwhile, Base 6 are eagerly preparing for their upcoming show, *Rock Bottom*. They have been rehearsing lines, songs, and choreography for their performances next week. Throughout the process, they've demonstrated a range of character strengths—bravery, teamwork, curiosity, creativity, leadership, and humour—all of which will support them as they transition into P7. Primary 5 pupils have been busy rehearsing the songs and will proudly support the production as the show choir. We are incredibly proud of the effort, commitment, and talent all of our pupils have shown.



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

Reading Schools Gold Award

We have been working hard over the last few sessions to gain our Reading Schools Awards and are delighted to announce that we have recently gained our Gold accreditation. Well done to Miss Clark and to Mrs Smith for their efforts and to the Achieving Citizens Committee.

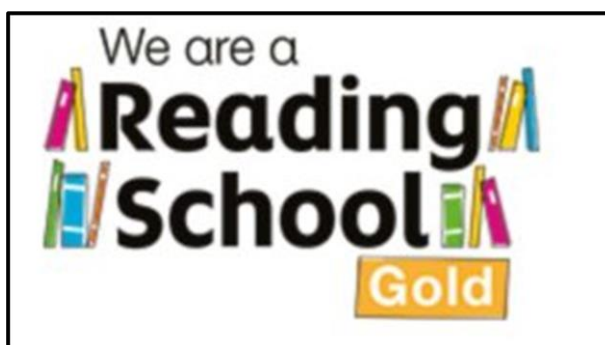
Research proves that reading for pleasure supports equity and wellbeing, impacts learners' attainment, and encourages critical thinking, creativity, empathy and resilience. Through participating in the Reading Schools Programme, we have been able to access practical resources and friendly support that has helped us to build our reading culture at Arkleston.



To achieve this award Mrs Smith has organised class visits to the library for every base and we have created two new reading areas within our school. One for our Therapet Corub and one outside The Ark, with a focus on health and wellbeing.

P7 and P6 children have connected with the youngest members of our community and have been going to Glendee Nursery each week to read them a story from the Story Sacks. We have also connected with the eldest members of our community and have been reading to the residents at the local care home.

The assessors noted that, "The environment you have created for your learners as readers is fantastic and you have forged lovely and lasting links within the wider community with the local nursery, library and care home. Your school families also continue to be an important and valued part of your reading culture and journey."



We celebrated World Book Day with a visit from the author Lindsay Littleeson and encouraged sustainability with our School Book Swap.



What have we been up to?

Base 2 – This term, Primary 1 will be busy bees preparing for our Healthy & Active Citizens assembly. We have been learning about healthy foods and will be creating our own healthy packed lunches! We will be experimenting tasting different fruits, using our sense of 'taste'. We will also practise our singing skills and are so excited to share with you our assembly songs. We are going to enjoy our last term as we prepare for the challenge of Primary 2. In numeracy, have been learning all about money. Primary 1 decided that we needed a practical space in our class where we could practise paying for items using coins. We had a class vote and decided to open our own ice cream shop! We worked as a team to make labels, our own money, and different flavours of ice cream. This term we will also be learning different ways to collect and display information, looking at tally charts, bar graphs and pictographs. We also plan to learn about following and giving directions and plan to take some of our learning outdoors. In literacy, we will be continuing learning new double sounds and have enjoyed completing our new sound booklet. Primary 1 will be working with their learning partner to use our North Lanarkshire magnetic boards to learn our double sounds. We will also continue to practise our handwriting. We are excited to learn our new Talk for Writing story 'Billy Goats Gruff' and create actions to go along with the story. We will use our character strength of 'create' as we change and innovate a part of the story. We will also be developing our non-fiction writing skills by creating a fact file all about goats!

Base 3 – Primary 2 - What an action-packed year we have had in Primary 2. So much so, we are even squeezing in another school trip! This time, we are off to Robertson park to hunt for Tree Spirits, whilst also using our knowledge of change to visit the ice cream parlour. Speaking of real-life learning contexts, Primary 2 have been busy using their data handling skills and knowledge of probability to predict the gender of Miss Lister's baby...



We have also been learning about Tree Spirits and have even found some in Bestie Street and our school playground. Our Acrostic Poems are amazing and we are planning to write about a Tree Spirit Adventure in the coming weeks.



We have been making the most of the milder weather to play team games outside. Our favourite game is rounders, where we are using the character strength of community to play as a team and communicate on the field ('There is no 'I' in TEAM!') This is a transferrable skill that your children are keen to play at home with you. Thanks as always for your co-operation over this busy session. 😊

Base 4 - Primary 3 - Welcome to our final term in Primary 3! We have an exciting and busy few weeks ahead, full of rich learning experiences and new adventures. Here's a look at what your child will be exploring this term: In literacy, we will dive into the magical world of The Snow Queen. Our focus will be on describing settings using imaginative language. We'll also be sharpening our grammar skills by learning how to use similes to make our writing more vivid and exciting. In reading comprehension, we will continue developing our understanding by linking a range of questions to the texts we read, encouraging deeper thinking and discussion. This term, we will explore practical topics such as length, volume and capacity and measurement. These hands-on areas will give pupils plenty of opportunities to apply their learning in real-world contexts. We'll also continue revising our times tables to boost speed and accuracy. We are turning into mini scientists this term! We will be observing the lifecycle of caterpillars right in our classroom. Children will care for their own caterpillars and watch as they grow, change and eventually transform into butterflies, which we will release into the wild—a beautiful moment we're all looking forward to! Our topic this term is castles and knights in Scotland. We'll learn about life in medieval times and the important role castles played in Scottish history. To bring our learning to life, we had a great trip to Stirling Castle.

What have we been up to?

Base 5 We are having a busy term! We have already had a great time on our learning visit to Vikingar in Largs. It was an amazing day and we added to all the information we have found out about Viking life as part of our topic. Some of us even got to dress up as Vikings! As part of our Reading Schools programme we had a lovely afternoon reading books with the residents of the care home. We discussed the books we like and why had chosen them. In maths we have completed our work on fractions and are currently finding out about an extended range of 2D shapes and 3D objects. This term we will also be learning about area, length and weight. We are almost finished work on our class novel *One Dog and his Boy* and have enjoyed exploring its themes of friendship, loneliness, bravery and finding inner strength. We have one more piece of Talk for Writing to complete which will be our final assessed writing piece for this year. We will be writing a folklore story with a messages about warnings and changes. Our new topic is Scottish Wildlife and we have been really interested in finding out about all the different mammals, fish, birds, amphibians and reptiles which live in Scotland. We are looking forward to Sports Day, and of course the summer holidays when they come! It has been an exciting and hardworking year in Primary 4! Thank you to you all for supporting the children so well this year.

P4 - We have also been practising hard with Right2Dance for our upcoming performance on 11th June at Renfrew Town Hall for the BBC 10 Pieces programme. We will be in touch soon about tickets for grown-ups so that you can see our wonderful work singing and dancing.

P5 – We are looking forward to singing the songs for the upcoming show *Rock Bottom*! We can't wait to perform for you.



Base 6 It's all go in Base 6! Show preparations are well underway and we are all very excited to perform for you. Following on from our learning in Term 3, our show is called 'Rock Bottom', set in the Stone Age. We have been working hard on learning our lines, our acting skills, delivering humour and comedy, confidence, being clear and audible, eye contact, listening to directions, handling props, singing and choreography. This also involves many of our Arkleston values... To achieve success, we must work as a team, have the right attitude and show respect. While all this has been going on, we have been working on topic grids filled with interesting activities. We have enjoyed creating a Stone Age 'Come Dine with me Menu', board game and our very own Stone Age pet! We also wrote a diary entry for a day in the life of a Stone Age hunter or gatherer. In between rehearsals, we have started a new book called, Time Travelling with a Hamster by Ross Welford. We hope you all enjoy the show!



Base 7 - This term Primary 7 have been looking at War and Conflict, specifically WW2, relating historical events to more recent, current affairs taking place across the world. We are reading the Boy in the Striped Pyjamas, making sense of the story through our learning about WW2. We studied historical figures in War and Conflict, finding out about their different viewpoints. We analysed propaganda posters and created our own. In addition, we created Gas Mask artwork using 'Zentangle' linework and a collage background. These are on display in our classroom. We began 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 block working with the High School on teamwork and positivity through netball and football sessions, finishing off with some of us attending the Fairplay Festival tournament with other schools at Renfrew High. We have had a hardworking term across Literacy and Numeracy. Weekly we complete Reading Circles tasks independently and then collaborate with our group about ideas, predictions, ambitious vocabulary and identifying tricky words. 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. In numeracy we have been solving problems using the order of operations (BODMAS). Also, we have been looking at expressions and equations, substituting a value into an equation as well as finding the value in an equation. With Mrs Smith we have been finding data then presenting this data in various ways including on a spreadsheet! Finally, we are nearing our final few weeks as P7 and can't believe how quickly the year has gone! We are looking forward to our festival and celebrating what has been a fantastic 7 years at Arkleston!



What do the pupils have to say?



I went on a big long walk to the park. **Anna P1**
I can talk to my friends if I am feeling sad. **Aria P1**
I make sure to get some Vitamin D from the sun, but not too much!

Melody P1
When it is a sunny day instead of staying inside you should go out to play.

Cara P1
Get some sleep, it helps you with everything!

Cameron P1
I try to eat healthy to take care of my mind.

Sienna P1
Don't spend too much time on your tablet or in front of the TV.

Jackson P1
Getting fresh air is good for you. **Jessica P1**
When you breathe in and out it helps you calm down. **Jessica P1**
Doing yoga helps me feel calm. **Eric P1**

Exercising helps my mental health, such as going a walk. I like to go on my own. **Jouri P7**

Writing a journal or writing down my feelings helps because I release some feelings. **Evie P7**

Eating healthy food helps my mental health.

Callan P7
Having a routine helps me stay organised and the makes me feel good.

Ruby P7
Doing things I like such as reading and going walks.

Willow P7
Sleeping helps when I feel my mental health isn't good because when I wake up I feel more energised.

Roshni P7
I like going out and socialising with my friends.
Ben P7

I eat healthy.

Daniel P2

I keep active to help my mental health.

Evan P2

I attend social clubs.

Myla P2

I like to read books.

Amelia, Hope Jamie, Daniel, Ryan and Lucas P2

I read during the day and at night.

Ava, Taylor, Kelvin, Finn, Mirryn, Grace, Cole, Archie, Aoife, Archie Mc P2

I have a Tonie to relax.

Emilia P2

I swim and play outside for my mental health.

Eilidh P2

I colour in.

Aoife P2

I scoot to the airport after dinner.

Sophie P2

I exercise.

Mirryn P2

I listen to nature sounds.

Taylor, Cole P2

Question

How do you take care of your mental health?

Everyone knows I like to run to take care of my mental health. ❤️

Ms Crawford

Article 12: Your right to express your thoughts and opinions



I like going on a long walk to help me clear my head.

Mila P5

I like to go on a long bike ride which helps me to calm down. **Maya P5**

I enjoy drawing and that helps me to stay calm.

Kaleb P5

I like to play in my back garden which calms me down.

Jace P5

I enjoy playing tennis with my parents and my sister which helps me to forget things I am worried about.

Sara P5

I enjoy playing in the park with my friends which helps me to have a clear head. **Rayan P5**

I enjoy listening to music and watching a pretty sunset. This helps me to stop worrying about things. **Anaya P3**

I like to go out and spend time with friends.

Dylan Jones P6/5

I go outside to get fresh air and exercise. **Kaleb P6/5**

I like to cycle. **Amber P6/5**

Every morning I like to take my dog out for a walk. **Rhys P6**

I play football every day after school with my dog and dad.

Zak P6

Dad and I play Frisbee with the dog. **Sonny P6**

I eat nutritious food. **Miley P6**

I love going swimming. **Ella P6**

When I want to relax, I listen to fast music. **Lola P6**

I take part in mindfulness.

Lily P3

I speak about my emotions and have quiet time.

Roqaya P3

Exercise helps to take my bad thoughts away.

Frankie P3

I like to go outdoors and get fresh air.

Isaac P3

I like to go to Braehead.

Evie-Rose P3

I like to read books.

Kayden P3

The library keeps my mind calm.

Ayat P3

I sit on the sofa and do nothing for a while to relax.

Joshua P3

I stay active by going to football.

Harvey P3

I watch TV to relax.

Emaan P3

My dad likes golf so I go with my dad to spend time with him and I really enjoy it.

Brodie V P3

I go to the park on my bike with my friends.

Camden P3

I go to my room and read my books.

Sara P3

I go cycling around my neighbourhood.

Aaiza P3

To keep calm and relaxed, I like to draw.

Seerat P3

I go to my bedroom and read books. I also write in my diaries.

Maleya P3

I do mindfulness at home to relaxing music.

Afiyah P3

We help children who are autistic feel included by playing games and supporting them with tasks. **Jace P5**

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

- Georgie P1 got a certificate at Rainbows for achieving a special pink badge. Camden P3 has joined Brownies and met new friends. Maya G P5 became a sixer in Brownies.
- Alfie P1 won a trophy for scoring a goal. Myles P1 helped his team to score a goal. Cameron P1 got a trophy in football for scoring some goals. Christopher P3 got a trophy for working as a team during football. Kayden P3 was recognised as player of the month at football. Logan P3 got man of the match. Nathan and Fred P3 travelled to England to compete in a football tournament for the first time. They both got medals. Mason P5 is now the captain of his football team. Adaeze P6/5 achieved a football rainbow flick. Zak P6 has had success with his football team beating their rivals 3-1. Sonny's team, P6 beat another team 16-1. Allie P7 made captain of her football team and is going to train for the under 15s. Connor P7 is now playing some games with the first team in football.
- Lewis P1 got a yellow belt and certificate in Taekwondo. Kamran P5 moved up a level in Taekwondo. Lucas P6/5 made it into a fight squad at MMA. Zach P6/5 has made it to the next level at his boxing club. Ruby P7 has got her purple belt in karate.
- Charlotte P1 got 2 trophies at dancing for winning a competition. Abigail P1 got a medal for her dancing show.
- Isla P1 got a medal and a trophy for swimming. Jessica P1 got a certificate for swimming and moved up a level. Hamish P1 has been learning how to swim. Ayat P3 got an award for swimming. Robyn P3 got a certificate and moved up a level in swimming. Brodie P3 moved up in swimming to Dolphins.
- Jamie P1 won a trophy for cheerleading. Aurora P3 got a medal for cheer, pom and hip hop.
- Maleya P3 has moved up to Level 7 in her trampoline Club. Jennifer P7 got her double front flip on trampoline in gymnastics.
- Evie F P3 passed 5 dancing exams in tap, ballet, highland and cheer. Mia P4 got second prize in a dancing competition. Avaya P4 won 2 trophies at her first dancing competition. Lucy P4 won 2 awards at a dancing competition and Marli P4 won 2 trophies in her third dancing competition. Darcy P6/5 was 2nd for lyrical solo in dancing. Miley P6 won 2nd place at a dancing competition. Carly P7 became a World Champion in dance at a competition in Florida. Abbie M and Libbi P7 got a bid to dance at the European Championships in Portugal next year.
- Mirren P6/5 auditioned for advanced musical theatre course and got in. Jojo P6 has been invited to audition for the Scottish Opera. Johnathan P6 has made an electronic musical album. Willow P7 has started to learn the electric guitar.
- Codi P6 completed the kilt walk.



World Champion in Youth Jazz – Carly Whyte

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

