

I hope this newsletter finds you all well. As restrictions begin to ease further we are delighted to be able to start getting back to normal and to be able to have parents in the building soon. 😊

**Mrs Macgregor Duncan**

### **NUTS**

**PLEASE REMEMBER WE ARE A NUT FREE SCHOOL AS  
WE HAVE CHILDREN WITH SEVERE ALLERGIES.**

### **School Lunches**

Just a reminder that school lunches are now free for **ALL** children from P1 to P5. We expect this to roll out to P6 and P7 before the end of June. We still have a huge number of children who are not having school dinners despite the fact they are free. The menu has changed again and has better choices than before however the authority are bound by extremely strict regulations in terms of salt intake, processed food etc and the menu choices have to adhere to these regulations. We are also delighted to be able to inform you that all children from P1-P5 who have a packed lunch can now order fruit and milk free of charge.

### **A little plea**

Due to our new plated service in the dinner hall, it has become very apparent that a huge number of our children are unable to use cutlery properly. This can be very challenging for us at lunchtime as we are having to help large numbers of children cut up their food – this is not just infants but across the school. As this is a life skill it is very important that children know how to do this.

This also applies to children who require help dressing themselves, tying their laces and doing up their school ties.

It is very important for children to be as independent as they can from an early age. It would be most appreciated if you could work on this with them at home if this is applicable to your child. Thank you in advance.

### **Thank you**

I would like to say a HUGE thank you to our wonderful Parent Council who have given us £1500 to spend on books to supplement our library. Ms Hughes took some of our Librarians to Waterstones and they had a wonderful time choosing books. All pictures have been posted on Twitter.

As you know we like to play music in the playground -the children love this and now have a number of dances under their belt thanks to the classroom assistants who have been teaching them! The Parent Council have previously bought us our two music systems. One has broken and the Parent Council has come to our rescue by ordering us a replacement. Thank you very much to Max Salisbury's Dad who got us a discount for this.

The Parent Council are once again organising their Smartie Tube fundraiser. All children will be given a tube of Smarties (children with allergies will be given an empty tube and a replacement treat). We ask that where possible you fill the empty tube up with coins then return to the school. As always, please just donate what you can as we are aware everyone's circumstances are different. An email has been sent regarding this.

### **World Book Day**

We had lots of activities ongoing for World Book Day last week. These were activities designed to encourage a love of reading and to give children something new to read. Dressing up for World Book Day is not something we do annually as this is not always the best way to encourage a love of reading and to ensure children are exposed to reading. Many classes did their own World Book Day celebrations and I am sure you have seen all the pictures on Twitter. Thank you to all children who donated books for our Book Swap. We had lots of happy children heading home with new books to read. Miss McInnes's class dropped books off around the community for children to find and read -we hope some of our children found them and enjoyed reading their new book. By far the event that generated the most excitement was our Secret Reader. An email had been sent out to all parents asking if you would come into your child's class as a surprise to read a book. The surprise on some children's faces was so lovely to see. Thank you so much to everyone who gave up their time to do this- we are aware there were lots more willing to come in but the day didn't suit – maybe next time!

### **Extra Curricular Clubs**

We have a number of clubs running currently. Two of these are run by Active Schools but the rest are run on a voluntary basis by staff. Once again, I would like to thank all staff for running these clubs in their own time unpaid.

Monday	P1 multi-sports	ACTIVE SCHOOLS
Tuesday	P5-7 Basketball	Mr Brown
	P6 Homework Club	Miss Morris
	Infant Tuesday Clubs	Various Class teachers
Wednesday	P6-7 Running Club	Mrs Macgregor Duncan
		Mr Brown
Thursday	P3 Expressive Arts Club	Mrs Campbell
	P5-7 Library Club	Miss Hughes
	P4-7 Lunch Club	Mrs Macgregor Duncan
Friday	P5-7 Football	ACTIVE SCHOOLS

### **Uniform**

We are very proud of our uniform at Lochfield and we would like to continue to encourage every child to be in full uniform each day. Having the same uniform is very important for the children to feel a sense of belonging. It also means everyone is the same. The preference is white shirt, school tie, Capstan Blue jumper/cardigan/tank top. Grey trousers /shorts skirts. White badged polo shirts are also part of our uniform. Our PE kit should be our white polo shirts, black/navy shorts/leggings/jogging trousers and plimsoles or trainers.

We pride ourselves on the fact that we help families by providing uniforms if there is a need. If you need help ensuring your child wears a uniform, please send me an email and this will be dealt with confidentially and sensitively.

Claire.macgregor.duncan@renfrewshire.school

Could we please remind you to ensure children are coming to school wearing jackets and jumper? We continue to have to ventilate classes and a number of children are coming to school without jumpers - if you could please ensure your child is wearing a jumper that would be much appreciated.

### **Robert Burns Day**

We thoroughly enjoyed celebrating Robert Burns day with Scottish songs and poems. We provided the children with shortbread and Irn Bru to make this an occasion to remember!

### **Lochfield Social Media**

**Please remember to follow us on Twitter @lochfieldPS.**

Please sign up for our school app. You can search for **School App for Parents (it's free!)** in your app store. **Our username is LPS and the pin number is 0168.** Please note that our text service only allows us to text one parent who is registered as the main career. The app however can be used for unlimited amounts of people and the text messages are part of this app therefore it is very good for families who have children living between different households so that all adults are aware of our message etc.

Also, we have a brilliant Parent Council Facebook Page, just search for Lochfield Parent Council.



### **Homework / ICT**

Homework is absolutely vital in order for your child to consolidate the learning taking place in school. Homework will continue all the way through school from Primary One to Primary Seven and beyond into secondary school. It is therefore **vital** that you support your child to complete homework and that you support them to recognise the importance of this. Getting into a routine of completing homework is something children must learn from Primary One or they will struggle throughout school to understand the importance of this and for it to become routine. Our curriculum must continue to move with the times so there is a real need to move towards a more digital approach to education hence why we have moved a lot of our homework onto Google Classrooms. Every child and parent should be familiar with this platform as we had two periods of lockdown and this was the main way of educating your child during school closures. Our entire lives are becoming much more digital in many aspects such as paying bills, booking holidays, banking, online shopping -the list is endless. It is the same for schools. We now have 80 chromebooks in school which are being used on a daily basis to enhance the teaching and learning therefore children are now very adept at using digital technology. A huge number of our children have mobile phones, tablets, play stations etc and they are very skilled at accessing games, social media sites etc therefore accessing Google Classrooms (which they do weekly in school) should not be an issue for them.

We are very aware that children may not have access to a device at home in order to complete homework and we are recognising this by providing a paper alternative. However, we do ask that if they DO have a device PLEASE ensure they complete the homework online. We have invested heavily in a new reading resource called Bug Club – this will provide a progressive programme for reading, grammar and comprehension. We researched this and it has helped to raise attainment in reading in many schools therefore we are very keen for all parents to support their child to complete this homework online. If children have not read the text given for homework this has a direct impact upon the work they are able to do the next day in class.

The Scottish Government has committed to providing a device for every child over the next year or so which will help families greatly. If you are struggling to access the homework, please let your class teacher know and we will provide all the help we can in order to upskill you to help your child.

### **Attendance and Late Coming**

It is part of my job to monitor attendance and latecoming. This is always done in a very supportive manner so that we can work together to ensure children are attending school regularly. We currently have a high number of children who have lower than expected attendance and also a number where latecoming is a regular occurrence. I cannot highlight enough how important it is for children to attend school, on time everyday. As you are all aware it is your duty as parents to get your child into school every day. We are seeing increasing numbers of children taking time off for social events or not coming in an entire day because they slept in. Attendance has a direct impact upon attainment and we are seeing clear link between low attendance and poorer attainment across the school. We fully understand if children are genuinely unwell -this cannot be helped.

Latecoming also affects every child in the class as the teacher has to leave the group she is working with to explain the work to the child who has come in late.

Please help us to continue to raise attainment at Lochfield by ensuring your child is in school everyday and completing all homework every week.

### Scottish Afternoon

Well done to all our children who performed in our Scottish Afternoon. We were so proud of them and very impressed with how quickly they learned the songs, poems etc. Please scan the QR code below to access the link to the recording.



### Parental Engagement

We are hoping to resume our normal activities for parental engagement as soon as we are allowed to do so. It has been a very frustrating two years as we have been unable to run our schools the way we would like to with all the restrictions. This obviously cannot be helped but we are very keen to resume things as soon as possible. We are having a face to face Parents Evening this session. I am aware not many schools are doing this but I have taken every precaution I can and are staggering these over two days. Please remember that we have a limited time for appointments as is the case every Parents Evening therefore it is vital that teachers are strict about the time for each appointment. Please understand this. We ask you don't arrive any earlier than 5 minutes before your appointment and that you leave immediately after thus avoiding having lots of parents in the building at the same time. I completely understand that we are all allowed to attend concerts and football matches where there can be 50,000 people in the one area but I have to follow the guidelines set out by Renfrewshire Council and as yet we are not permitted to have large numbers of parents in school.

Previously our parental engagement has been excellent. We have had volunteers coming into school to support the learning in the infant classes on a weekly basis, we have provided various workshops across the school throughout the year, we have had open afternoons and all the lovely events you are invited to such as McMillan, Nativity, Scottish Performance for Parents, Easter and Christmas Services, P7 Prom etc. We have really missed having you in the school.

We will arrange a tour for P1 and P2 parents before the summer as I am aware these parents have not had a chance to do this yet.