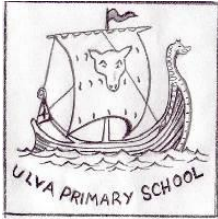


# Ulva Primary School Newsletter

## Autumn Term 2017

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### DEAR PARENTS

I hope you have had a wonderful, relaxing summer holiday. It's wonderful to see the pupils back after their break. It certainly seems that the weather is turning autumnal now that we are back to school.

I have really enjoyed my first year as Acting Head Teacher and I look forward to another busy, productive year. I am extremely fortunate to have such committed and dedicated staff working in our school and this, coupled with the pupils' enthusiasm and hard work, will ensure on-going success.

Let us not forget, of course the enormous support that you, as parents and carers provide to the school - we are indeed very fortunate.

Please remember that Mairi, as Principal Teacher, is at school to support the pupils and yourselves, which she does to a very high standard. Do not hesitate to contact the school if you want to chat over any areas of concern. Also be assured that no matter which school I am in, I can be contacted at any time. For point of reference, the telephone number for Lochdonhead Primary School is - 01680 812 473 and my mobile number is 079029 44626 / 07786685227.



### STAFFING

We would like to welcome our new starts to the school.

Mary Ireson is joining us as Clerical and Classroom Assistant and we look forward to welcoming her to the school.

We would also like to welcome Stacey Inglis who is joining us as temporary Cleaner / Janitor.

The staffing arrangements for this year are -

Acting Head Teacher - Susie Carmichael. I shall be in school for half the week. The days will be dependent on the needs of each school.

Mairi Nicolson, Principal and Class Teacher will be in school each day.

Beccy Roth, Music Teacher will be with us on Monday afternoons and will also help support in class on a Wednesday.

Katherine Charlier, Class Teacher, will be teaching on Tuesday morning.

Mary Ireson, Clerical & Classroom assistant.

Anne MacDonald, Cleaner & Janitor.

Stacey Inglis, Cleaner & Janitor (temp).

### ABSENCE AND ILLNESS

As we move into autumn, we feel it is a good time to remind everyone about NHS advice on children's attendance at school when they are

feeling poorly. For bouts of sickness or upset stomach children should be kept at home for 48 hours after the last bout of sickness. If your child shows signs of being unwell, please keep them at home until they are well enough to return to school. Thank you for your co-operation and partnership in helping us to maintain a happy, healthy school.

#### Absence

If your child is absent from school it is important that the office is contacted on the morning of absence before 9:30am if possible. This procedure is in place for the safety and security of pupils. You will receive a telephone call or text message if no call is received. Please inform the school office as soon as possible if your mobile telephone number changes. Thank you

### PUPILS

We are delighted to welcome Alena Merritt to our P1 class and Chayce Wright and Leo Wright to our P2 class. They have started off the term with great enthusiasm and I am sure they will be great assets to the school.



## LAST TERM

### STEM COMPETITION WINNER

We were delighted to discover in May that Bruce Cutlack from Primary 2 had won his age category in the Scottish Engineering Leaders Award. This is a huge achievement as over 12,000 children from across Scotland had entered. Bruce's design focuses on the problem of plastic pollution in our seas and oceans. His design is a submarine which sucks up tiny plastic balls known as nurdles and then uses these nurdles to actually power the craft. Bruce chose this design as he is very worried about animals ingesting plastic, while they are trying to feed.

Bruce was invited to the Barony Hall at the University of Strathclyde where he was presented with a very impressive glass award and certificate, during a grand prize giving ceremony. Congratulations Bruce!



## FUEL HUNTERS

On Friday the 12<sup>th</sup> of May the P4-P7's joined Dervaig and Lochdonhead schools at the Dervaig Village Hall for a fun, extremely interesting and engaging morning with the Generation Science Team from Edinburgh University. We learned lots and even had a race to build an oil rig.



## MARVELLOUS MAGNETS

On Friday the 19<sup>th</sup> of May, we were joined by another Generation Science Team, from Edinburgh University, who came to Ulva Primary School to teach the P1 - P3's from Ulva and Dervaig Primary Schools all about Magnets. We learned lots!



## OUTDOOR CLASSROOM DAY

On Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> May we joined the nation in engaging in National Outdoor Classroom Day. Mrs Nicolson taught us all our lessons outside. It was a lot of fun and luckily the sun was shining all day long.



In the afternoon Ann Cleave very kindly came to the school and read to us all one of her favourite stories.

## BEACH CLEANS & MOY CASTLE VISIT

Ulva primary did our annual beach clean in association with GRAB on 4<sup>th</sup> May. Thank you to all who helped and donated, we really appreciate it.



On Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> May, we met up with Greenpeace members and pupils from Lochdonhead and Dervaig on the beach at Torloisk. We had been invited to take part in a survey about the types of rubbish found on our beaches. The pupils collected a huge amount of dangerous plastics and the results will be used in the national survey. One of the moves they hope to make is to change the production of cotton-buds and straws to being made of cardboard.



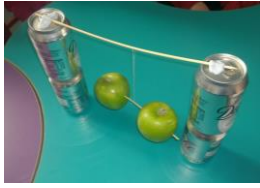
On the 8<sup>th</sup> June both Lochdonhead and Ulva pupils cleaned the beach at Lochbuie and then Flora Corbett gave the pupils a guided tour of Moy Castle which she opened especially for them. We would like to thank Flora very much for showing the children the castle and telling them about its history which they found fascinating. We would also like to thank Grace and Harry's granny for the delicious brownies and Pennygown Quarry for donating the skip for the day.



## SCIENCE DAY

On 23<sup>rd</sup> May Professor Robert Bowman came to Lochdonhead school for a special joint school science day. Robert involved the children in lots of amazing magnetic experiments (the gasps of wonder were audible) involving lots of equipment including

skewers, pipes, apples and coke! He very generously donated a set of all the equipment used to each school so the children can continue to learn and discover more about forces.



### P6/7 STIRLING TRIP

As part of Primary 6 & 7 transition, all the pupils from the North of Mull cluster went to Stirling for a 5 day residential trip. The pupils enjoyed so many activities including: visiting the Crannog Centre on the shore of Loch Tay, ten pin bowling, visiting the Scottish Parliament to take part in a workshop and be given a guided tour, a tour and workshop at Dynamic Earth, dinner at Pizza Hut, a fun quiz, tour of the Wallace Monument, Blair Drummond Safari Park, a ghost walk, the Kelpies and Adventure Zone, a trip by barge on the Falkirk Wheel and a tour of Stirling Castle - phew we were all exhausted!



Residential trips are such a valuable learning experience and on top of that all our pupils were so kind and considerate to each other.



### SCHOOL SPORTS AWARD

We were delighted to welcome Councillor McCuish to present the school with our Silver Sports Award. The sportscotland School Sport Award is a national, Lottery Funded initiative designed to encourage schools to continuously improve physical education (PE) and school sport opportunities. Well done to everyone involved for all our hard work.

### CAMAS

In June, the pupils from both schools enjoyed a wonderful 2 days and overnight stay at Camas Outdoor Centre on the Ross of Mull. What an amazing experience. Days were full of playing games, canoeing, tending to the garden, feeding hens, looking after new born ducks, enjoying their delicious home cooked biscuits and meals, and toasting marshmallows around a fire - all in super-hot weather! Any anxieties that first timers may have had, were quickly dispelled as they formed a super close bond with each other. The Camas leaders constantly commented as to how well behaved, thoughtful and caring the pupils were towards each other - they were all stars!



### AUTHOR VISIT

We had a lovely visit from author Ben Blathwayt on 7<sup>th</sup> June. It was particularly fascinating to see how he developed the story with pictures first and then words. A lot of the pupils could identify with this and can understand why it can be a good thing for them to draw

pictures to help develop their writing.

Tackle and Books kindly donated books to the school and Ben signed them for the children.

### THE TERM AHEAD

### PE

We are planning another joint school PE session in Garmony starting from Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> August for 6 weeks.

### PE KIT



Can pupils please ensure that they have a PE kit in school? They need a t-shirt, shorts, socks and trainers/gym shoes, all named. If your child has long hair, can they please have a band to tie it back? We would appreciate it if pupils could keep jewellery to a minimum on a PE day.

### SWIMMING

We shall have swimming sessions next term **and** after February.

### TAG AND TACKLE

The pupils will be attending a tag and tackle session in Salen with Allan Wright our Rugby Development Officer on Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> August.

### TOBERMORY FLOWER SHOW

The pupils created lovely 'under the sea' artwork for the Flower Show which is on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> August in Tobermory. If you would like to see the artwork it will be on display in the Aros Hall.

## WHALE WATCHING

Pippa Gerrard of the Hebridean Whale and Dolphin Trust is planning a whale watching workshop for the pupils on Monday 28<sup>th</sup> August. I will let you know more details nearer the time.



## MOD

The local Mod will be taking place on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> September in Tobermory. We shall be taking the pupils up for the action song. The school will be transported up for the action song then returning to school for the remainder of the day.

## SSPCA

The Scottish SPCA will be visiting the island on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> September and P4 - P7 pupils will be attending a workshop in Salen in the morning.



## COMMUNITY CAFÉ

The community cafes are a wonderful way of establishing ourselves into the heart of this wonderful community as well as providing the school with much needed school funds. We hope to continue these this year and will issue the dates when they have been set. We thank you all for your support with them, it is highly appreciated by all.

## ARGYLL COLLECTION

Each year Argyll and Bute set a Literacy competition, based around works of art. We intend to enter this stimulating Authority competition this term. More details will follow.

## STAFF DEVELOPMENT

Last term saw my Into-Headship graduation from SCEL in conjunction with UHI. I have learned a great deal from this course and I continue to learn every day. I am also still a member of the Argyll and Bute Numeracy Forum which drives forward the teaching of maths and numeracy within the authority.



I am delighted that Mairi Nicolson has been invited to take part in an authority wide literacy pilot for Primary 1 pupils. This involves looking into the early acquisition of literacy and the teaching of phonics. We are very pleased that Mairi is going to be at the forefront of literacy within the authority.

## EDUCATION OFFICER

Alison MacDonald is our new Education Officer and she will be visiting me on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> September to go over the standards and quality report and school improvement plan for both schools.

## REPORTING

This term we shall be setting up the parental access to the Evidence for Learning App. This will allow you to follow your child's progress through their weekly learning journal. We will let you know when it is up and running and give you full details of how to access the online learning journey. If you would prefer a paper copy then please just let us know.

## PARENT COUNCIL

Rebecca has created a Survey Monkey on-line to set a date for the next Parent Council meeting. If you can't access this can you please get in touch with Rebecca to let her know a time that suits you.

## WORKING WITH PARENTS

As you know we are very keen indeed to involve you in any way we can in the working life of the school. If you would like to come in to share any skill, assist in any project, wish to help in class in any way, please let us know. We would really welcome your help.

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES

- 14.8.17 - In-service
- 15.8.17 - In-service
- 16.8.17 - School starts
- 23.8.17 - Tag and Tackle in Salen
- 26.8.17 - Tobermory Horticultural Show
- 28.8.17 - Whale watching
- 8.9.17 - Local Mod
- 11.9.17 - 15.9.17 - Maths Week
- 21.9.17 -SSPCA P4 - P7 workshop in Salen
- 6.10.17 -End of term
- 23.10.17 - School starts