



Guiding, Uniting and Promoting Success

# Glenurquhart Primary News

Issue 2 – end Sept'19

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It has been an extremely fast term 1 for all I'm sure with the school busy with lots of new and ongoing projects and fun learning taking place.

**CLASS EVENTS** Please follow the class blogs on the school website for more information and regular updates.

**P5/6 Swimming** - This continues after the October break, finishing on 7<sup>th</sup> November.



**Cnocan Burraidh** - Over the course of this year, various classes will work with the restoration project of the Cnocan Burraidh monument opposite the school. This is a project supported by Soirbheas and run by Glen Urquhart Community Council. More information can be found here: <https://www.soirbheas.org/cnocan-burraidh/>

We have planned with Soirbheas for the children to be able to learn about local history in relation to the monument as well as, the various skills for work links through the people working to restore it e.g. archaeologists, stone masons etc. The first of these sessions will take place on Tuesday, 1<sup>st</sup> and Wednesday, 2<sup>nd</sup> October where the P7 children will be introduced to the history of the monument and shown how to do archaeology recording (plane table drawings.) On the Wednesday, the children will then work in groups to complete plane table drawings, photography and upload these to the national archive - My Cranmore.

**SHSAA Cross Country** - We will again be entering a team for the P6/7 SHSAA Cross Country on Thursday, 10<sup>th</sup> October. Further information will be sent to those in the school team. Good luck to all taking part.



## **SPONSORED WALK**

Our sponsored walk was a great success (photos on the school news page.) Please can we now ask for all **Sponsor money to be handed into school as soon as possible.** This is the school's main fundraising this year and we appreciate your support.

## AFTER SCHOOL AND LUNCH TIME ACTIVITIES

We are very lucky to have many activities running at Glenurquhart Primary and thank all those who offer their time and efforts for these. I have detailed the wide variety of programmes on offer to the children at Glenurquhart below and continue to work with our Active Schools Coordinator, Storm Fraser, to evaluate other opportunities we can offer the children.

**MONDAY- P5-7 Homework club** from 3.25-4pm run by P5-7 class teachers  
**Brownies** from 5-6.30pm in the church hall

**TUESDAY - P2-7 Chess Club** from 3.25-4pm run by Miss Mullin (P6/7 teacher)  
**Boys' Brigade** - 6.30-8pm (P4-6) 8-9.30pm (P7 upwards) meeting in the Blairbeg Hall

**WEDNESDAY - \*NEW\* Choir** at lunch-time for all interested children run by Ms Mackay (P2/3 Teacher)

**Shinty training** - P1&2 AstroTurf 6-7pm/ P3, 4 & 5 AstroTurf 6-7.30pm/P6 & 7 field 6-7.30pm/U14 & U17 field 6.45-8pm - run by Helen MacLennan, Glen Urquhart Shinty club

**THURSDAY - P2-7 Chess Club** lunch time run by Miss Mullin (P6/7 teacher)

**Athletics** 3:10 and 3:25 to 4:30pm run by Mrs Tree, Miss MacPherson and Mrs Thorp , Active Schools

**Badminton** 5.30-6.30 Craigmonie P4-7 run by Gordon Watson, Active Schools

**FRIDAY - Karate** 12.10-1.15pm in the hall run by Dolina Ross

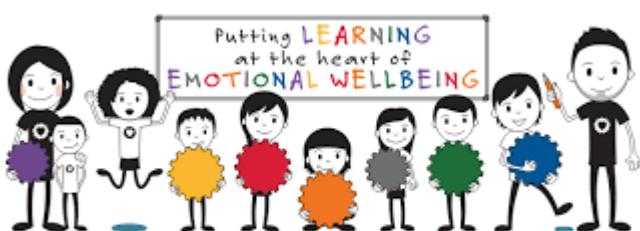
**Football training** 6-7pm - P1-3 in the Sports hall and P4-7 on the AstroTurf run by Mr Thorp, Glen Urquhart Football club

I am also working with Storm to start a P1-3 multi-sports lunch time club and to have some Junior Leaders trained for playground games. More information to follow.

## SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT

<http://www.glenurquhartprimary.org.uk/our-school/improvement-plan/>

During the Inset training days, staff looked at how we could work productively to best support the children within the school. As a result, we have reviewed our planning and feedback procedures. We also looked at **homework** and will be trialling a move towards **Family Learning** and away from set homework. There have been recent articles related to the stress homework can cause and research has shown that the benefits for Primary school children are limited. However, when parents voted two years ago, the majority wished homework to continue. Parental engagement and family learning have been shown to have much better impacts. Glenurquhart Primary has various home learning opportunities with the maths packs, STEM packs (to be completed soon), Education City, First Minister's Reading Challenge, spelling games, Active Maths, HT Writing Challenge etc. We are therefore going to trial a monthly focus for homework after the October break which will be detailed in newsletters and on a new Homework page on the school website. Here we will also publish links to the research discussed above.



Staff had training from **Emotion Works** on the Tuesday afternoon. This is a new programme which the school are engaging with to further enhance our work on emotional wellbeing, the wellbeing indicators and children's rights and help children understand how these all work together. Further

resources have been published and we hope to show some of these at the parent meetings. This work also linked with training for all staff on the Tuesday Inset on **Promoting Positive Relationships - Developing Emotional Literacy and Resilience**. This supported staff in considering how we promote this within Glenurquhart and consideration was given to how we could take this forward in our school. Staff discussed our behaviour approaches and we have begun to review these. We hope to liaise with parents through Parent Council and open forums about how to take this forward.

**CREATIVITY** The learning council introduced Creativity in their assembly a few weeks ago and have given all classes areas to work on. They have also created a survey to gather pupil's understanding of Creativity which will be put round the classes before the October break. Last week, the 'Wonder of the Week' was introduced at assembly with all children being asked to consider this in their new Thinking books.



**PARENT COUNCIL** <http://www.glenurquhartprimary.org.uk/for-parents/parent-council/>

You will have seen from the school website and emails/letters sent regarding Parent Council that we are aiming to re-establish our Parent Council following many of our previous members' children moving on to High School. I know we have extremely supportive parents within Glenurquhart Primary however, for the great experiences we provide for the children and strong partnership with parents to continue, we really need your support. The Parent Council meets just once a term and there is not a huge responsibility as part of it apart from giving your ideas, views and opinions on school improvements and fundraising. We have re-organised a **Parent Council AGM and meeting for Monday, 4th November from 6-7pm** to tie in with times that the children might be at Brownies. If you have any questions or would like to find out more about what is involved, please get in touch with Lynn Milton through the email: [glenurquhartprimarypc@gmail.com](mailto:glenurquhartprimarypc@gmail.com)

### **PARENT PARTNERSHIP**

Our first parent meetings will be held on Tuesday, 1<sup>st</sup> October (5-7pm) and Wednesday, 2<sup>nd</sup> October (3.45-5.15pm.) These will be an opportunity to meet your child's teacher and discuss anticipated progress over this coming year. There will also be a display of school information on improvement priorities and actions in the hall.

**DRESS DOWN DAY** The last Friday of each month we normally do a 'dress down' day. Pupils wishing to 'dress down' pay £1 towards school funds and can come in to school in casual clothes. We continue to ask that no football colours are worn as part of this and also remind parents that this is optional. The next dress down date will be **Friday, 11<sup>th</sup> October**.



**SCHOOL CLOSURES** To check for information on schools closures or other details pre-recorded message(s) from the Head Teacher.

The number is 0800 564 2272 + the school's PIN 04 2130. Information is also posted on the website: <https://www.highland.gov.uk/schoolclosures> and is regularly updated on local radio station MFR.

## **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

A reminder that these are regularly updated on the Google Calendar on the website:

<http://www.glenurquhartprimary.org.uk/calendar/>



|  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>Tuesday, 1<sup>st</sup> October</b>   | 1.30 - 3.25 P7 over at Cnocan Burraidh<br>Parent Meetings 5-7pm   |
| <b>Wednesday, 2<sup>nd</sup> October</b> | P7s at Cnocan Burraidh<br>Parent Meetings 3.45-5.15pm             |
| <b>Thursday, 3<sup>rd</sup> October</b>  | pm - P5/6 Swimming  |
| <b>Thursday, 10<sup>th</sup> October</b> | P6/7 SHSAA Cross Country<br>P5/6 Swimming                         |
| <b>Friday, 11<sup>th</sup> October</b>   | Dress Down Day<br>School closes at normal times for October break |
| <b>Monday, 28<sup>th</sup> October</b>   | School opens for all at normal times                              |
| <b>Thursday, 31<sup>st</sup> October</b> | P5/6 Swimming   |

Advanced dates: Flu Immunisations 4/11/19

**Term Dates 2019/20** A downloadable calendar can be found here:- [Downloadable Calendar](#)

| <b>Open</b>   | <b>Close</b>                      |
|---|-----------------------------------|
| Monday, 19 <sup>th</sup> August - staff only<br>Tuesday, 20 <sup>th</sup> - for all               | Friday, 11 <sup>th</sup> October  |
| Monday, 28 <sup>th</sup> October - for all  | Friday, 20 <sup>th</sup> December |
| Monday, 6 <sup>th</sup> January - for all   | Friday, 14 <sup>th</sup> February |
| Wednesday, 19 <sup>th</sup> February - staff only<br>Thursday 20 <sup>th</sup> February - for all | Friday, 27 <sup>th</sup> March    |
| Tuesday, 14 <sup>th</sup> April - for all   | Thursday, 2 <sup>nd</sup> July    |

**INSET DAYS** - Staff training

Thursday, 21<sup>st</sup> and Friday, 22<sup>nd</sup> November (\*Please note these additional days for this year only\*)

Wednesday, 19<sup>th</sup> February 2020

Monday, 1<sup>st</sup> June 2020

**MAY DAY HOLIDAY** -

Friday, 8<sup>th</sup> May, 2020 (\*Please note change from Monday, 4<sup>th</sup> June as agreed Nationally)