

Clober Primary School Newsletter

March 2024



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Dear Parents and Carers,

We have had a very productive term, with lots of progress made towards school improvements and lots of events and activities to keep our young people busy. I hope you enjoy reading about some of these here. Its good to see the sun starting to make an appearance, and there are signs of spring in the school grounds. We are looking forward to a restful Easter break and the chance to slow down for a couple of weeks. I hope you and your family have the opportunity to do the same.

Have a very happy Easter,
Catriona Marshall
Head Teacher

Staff News

Mrs Saunders left us on 1st March and we had a special assembly to wish her well. She was very grateful and said she had a wonderful day. Clober has been a big part of her life and she shall miss us all but she has arranged lots of nice new things to do too. Interviews for her replacement (on a temporary basis for now) took place last week and we hope that the successful candidate will start with us next term.

Mr Billcliff retired last month; he was able to come and visit us at Christmas to see the P4-7 concert and will pop back in to say goodbye to us before the end of the session. Mr Billcliff's ability to think outside the box (removing the cloakroom to make room for the Playzone was his idea) and deliver the curriculum in innovative and engaging ways will be very much missed by the children and staff here.

Ms Dayer has also announced her intention to retire at the end of next term. She has been a teacher at Clober for 28 years and a great champion of the Clober community. Her big personality will leave a big hole to fill but we wish her well in her future adventures and look forward to hearing all about them. Miss Gibb returns from maternity leave on 28th May. She will assist in classes, providing additional support to our learners and covering classes too. We are looking forward to welcoming her back.

School roll for next session

Numbers for P1 entrants are being finalised; there's lots to organise between now and June and I will keep you informed regarding staffing and class structure when plans are complete.

Reporting pupil progress

All classes will receive an end of year report, which will detail progress and next steps in literacy, numeracy and health and wellbeing. This will be issued to parents in June.

Promoting Positive Behaviour

As part of our school improvement plan, we have considered our approach to promoting positive behaviour. Consultation with the teaching and support staff, Parent Council and Pupil Council has resulted in the production of our Behaviour Blueprint and we have now added to this with the concept of paying back time for P4-7. Paying back time will be used following the 30-second microscript, in which three chances to repair and make the right choice are given before paying back time is used. Paying back of time will occur during morning break. The child will complete paying back time sheet and will then be given a task to help out in school in some way. This could be helping in the office, litter picking or helping with wall displays.

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We understand that parents want to know about the behaviour of their children and how they can support the school to ensure their child meets behaviour expectations in future. Therefore, a copy of the paying back time sheet will be provided to parents. The following steps will be taken:

Step 1- If a child is asked to complete a pay back sheet a copy of the sheet will be sent home. Parents should sign this and return it. There will be the option to receive a phonecall from the leadership team to discuss – just tick the box on the form.

Step 2 - If the child receives 3 further pay back sheets there will be a call home. Each time a copy of the sheet will be sent home so that parents are aware that payback has occurred. Parents will be invited to a face to face meeting with SLT and the class teacher to discuss.

Step 3- SLT/ CT meet with parents and agree actions.

School Clubs

We have run a number of school clubs this session. These include:

Lunch time cross country with Ms Barrett for P7

Lunch time netball with Mrs Adair for P7

After school basketball for P7 with Mrs Barr and Ms Cowan

After school yoga for P3 with Mrs Kerr (parent) and Mrs Chapman

After school girls football for P4-6 with Active Schools

After school basketball for P6 with Mrs Barr and Ms Cowan

After school coding club with Douglas Academy for P4

After school mini fit for P3

After school gymnastics for P6 with Active Schools

After School Multi sport for P4 with Active Schools

SFA after school football for P3, P4 and, next term, P5

Thanks to the staff, parents and organisations who have delivered these.

P7 trip to Inverclyde

P7 are currently at Inverclyde and its very quiet in school without them! We are looking forward to hearing all about their adventures. Thanks to Mrs Greer, Mrs Barr, Miss Butler, Miss McNeice, Mr Lees and Miss Weir for accompanying the children. The P7s received their leavers' hoodies last week ahead of the trip and can now wear these to school daily.



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World Book Day

We loved dressing down World Book Day on Friday 8th March. Thanks to those of you who sent in photos of children reading in interesting places; these were shown at assembly and kept us entertained. We hope that the children have enjoyed using their World Day book tokens to buy books they are interested in. We also had a baking sale and raised an amazing £292.69 which we are donating to The Beatson Charity.

Netball and Football tournament, Douglas Academy

Many thanks to Mr Flaherty and Mrs Adair for accompanying the children on Wednesday 21st February at the Douglas Academy games night. Both teams played well and represented the school with sportsmanship and fabulous behaviour. We have another games night after the Easter holidays.

Euroquiz

Our P6 team took part in the Euroquiz on Thursday 21st March. They performed very well and were also excellent ambassadors for the school. Well done Austin, Ishan, Jack and Sophie, and to Indie who was reserve for the team. Thanks also to Mrs Greer who prepared the children for the competition.



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Rotary Quiz

Miss Butler accompanied our P7 team to the Rotary Quiz on Thursday 21st March at Craighdu Primary. It was a tough competition, and the team represented us very well. Well done to Aarin, Cathie, Declan and Gregor.



Danceathon

We had a great time in the hall on Tuesday 19th March, dancing away to raise money for school funds. Thanks to Mrs O'Donnell and Miss Gibb for keeping us moving to brilliant dance music, and to the dance champions from Douglas Academy who came along to help in the afternoon. We had a great time and raised a total of £4,0284.40 which is amazing! We have ordered playground storage containers and new equipment for the playground with the money.

Benedetti Foundation Workshops P1-3

Our children in P1-3 benefitted from a music workshop at Bearsden Academy with some other EDC primary schools on Tuesday 19th March. They had a great time learning about rhythm, musical instruments and movement.

Dogs Trust Workshops

Donna from Dogs Trust visited the school on Monday 11th March and Friday 15th March to deliver workshops to P4-7 and an assembly to P1-3 to advise on how to approach dogs safely. We now know that if we want to say hello to a dog when we're out and about, there are some steps we should follow first:

1. Ask the adult you are with if it's ok
2. Ask the owner of the dog if it's ok
3. Stay standing and face the dog, no sudden movements
4. Stroke the dog on its side, not on its head
5. If you are on your own, or the dog is on your own, it is best not to say hello as you don't know the dog or how it is feeling

Donna also had some advice if a dog runs up to you, or starts to chase you

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1. Stand absolutely still, with your hands crossed over your chest
2. If the dog knocks you over, crouch down like a hedgehog with your arms and hands covering your head and face



Stay and Play

We enjoyed welcoming out P2 parents to stay and play this term. Parents played alongside their child and found out more about our approach to play to develop social skills and enhance learning experiences for our children.

Toy Fair

Our toy fair raised £618.19 for school funds! Thanks to Mrs Law for organising and to our school community for donating and buying the toys.

PTA Fundraising

The PTA have donated £9000 to the school since August. This money has paid for:

Hopscotch Pantomime

Generation Science workshops P1-7

Play equipment for break times

Inverclyde subsidy

Clyde River Foundation for P4

Leavers hoodie subsidy

End of year star awards

We are grateful to the PTA for their generous donations and to all parents and carers who have contributed to fundraising activities over the school session.

Please don't forget that Clober Primary PTA - Milngavie is registered with easyfundraising to raise free funds, at no extra cost to you.

When you shop via the easyfundraising website or app, with over 4,100 of your favourite retailers, including John Lewis & Partners, eBay, Amazon and many more, you will raise FREE donations for the school.

If you're not already registered, please visit our easyfundraising page here:

https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/cloberpta/?utm_campaign=raise-more&utm_content=s-e3

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This will really make a difference to our school! Thank you for your support.

P6 Trip to Amazonia

P6 visited Amazonia on Thursday 1st February in connection with their Rainforests topic. They had a great day learning about the habitat of the rainforest and meeting some of the creatures who live there.



Fire Service Safety Talk

The fire service delivered an ice and water safety talk to P4-7 on Friday 2nd February. They told us of the dangers of entering rivers, lochs or ponds and the effects that freezing water has on the body. They and gave us some tips on how to keep ourselves and others safe if we fall through the ice:

1. Keep calm and shout for help
2. Spread your arms across the surface of the ice
3. If the ice is strong enough, kick your legs and slide on to the ice
4. If the ice is very thin, break it in front of you and make your way to the side
5. If you cannot climb out, keep as still as possible with your head above the water. Shout for help
6. When you are out of the ice, go to the hospital immediately for a check up

If you see someone who has fallen through the ice, call 999. Do not go on the ice yourself. You can try to reach them with a pole, rope, or branch or slide a floating object such as a ball to them to keep them afloat while waiting for help.

P5 Snaw White Assembly

P5's performance of Snaw White was a real treat on Friday 2nd February. The children gave a very polished performance with plenty of humour – well done to the children and staff for 100% effort!

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P6 hockey block

P6s enjoyed two sessions with a coach from Western Wildcats, learning more about the sport of hockey and developing skills to play the game. It was a fabulous experience for the children, and some of them have gone on to take up hockey as an after school activity.

P7s The Thing

Mr Gray has been a frequent visitor to P7 over the past term. Although he has retired from his post as DHT at Douglas Academy, his passion for debating has ensured that our P7s continue to feel the benefit, and he prepared them for participation in The Thing at Douglas on Wednesday 20th March. Mr Gray said that the speeches were excellent and delivered very impressive ideas. The dancing in warm-up activity was also particularly well done! The important part of the day was the fact that all the pupils took part and showed an increase in confidence and engagement as the day progressed.

PTA Games Night

Thanks to the PTA for organising Games Night on Thursday 29th February. Our children enjoyed participating in a range of games and activities and enjoyed the social side of this event. It is definitely one to repeat!

P7 Transition

P7 have enjoyed working with staff from Douglas Academy this term; Mrs Berry has delivered Maths sessions and Ms Tait delivered RMPS (Religious, Moral and Philosophical Studies).

Hot Chocolate Wednesdays

Hot Chocolate Wednesdays are an important part of our approach to promoting positive behaviour. It's an opportunity for children across the school to enjoy a relaxing half hour together and celebrate their successes. It was also a positive feature of our inspection report.



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HMIe Inspection photo and press coverage

Our positive inspection report was published in January and we were delighted to invite the Chief Education Officer, Greg Bremner, and Convener of Education Lynda Williamson to the school for a photo along with P1, P4 and P7 pupils.



Easter Fun Day

We had a dress down Easter Fun Day on Friday 22nd March for school funds. Thanks to the PTA for running a tuck shop for the children.

P4 Science Centre Visit

As part of their Clyde in the Classroom topic, P4 visited the Science Centre on Thursday 18th January. P4 have been looking after their fish all term and they recently released them into the Allander to begin their journey in the wild.



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P4 Titanic Assembly

It was a busy start to the term for P4! After their visit to the Science Centre, on Friday 19th January they presented a superb assembly to friends and family about life aboard the Titanic. There were a lot of facts to remember and a vote for the audience as to who was to blame for the disaster.

STEM Make it Happen

The children in P4-7 have been really fired up with the challenge of creating their own App. On Wednesday 13th March, a STEM ambassador visited to launch the competition and we were blown away by the enthusiasm of our children to get involved and create their own Apps. The children's work has been collected for judging and one lucky pupil from our school will have their app created!

Generation Science

Thanks to the PTA for funding Generation Science workshops for every class in March, to coincide with national Science Week. The workshops were:

P1 Ready, Teddy, Go

Forces, movement and motion investigated by a teddy bear team

P2 Ella's Wobble

Telling the story of a musical journey and making their own instruments to take home

P3 Bricks and Blocks

Using drop-and-drag coding to programme LEGO goalkeepers to defend a penalty shoot out

P4 and P6 The Green Machine

Designing amazing machines, exploring energy transfer and discovering solutions for future renewable electricity sources

P5 Fizz Boom Bang

Creating cool, colourful chemical reactions exploring the scientific method.

P7 Creative Coding

Completing challenges and creating a robot disco using Marty the Robot



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PE: Trial of wearing PE kit to school

We have been in discussion with teaching staff and the Parent Council regarding wearing PE kit for the day to save changing in school. We will trial this approach after the Easter break. Please note we expect children to be smart for school, and this includes PE days. The dress code for PE is:

Trainers

Plain white, red or black t-shirt **which covers the waist**

Plain black shorts or leggings

School sweatshirt or plain black or red sweatshirt

Stepping Up

Usually, the children meet their new teacher and class mates in their new classroom at the end of June to prepare for the year ahead. We will be doing this in person on Monday 24th June – the children will meet their new classmates and teachers in a short session during the school day.

Sports Events

Each class will take part in an outdoor event, organised by our PE teacher Miss Barrett, on Wednesday 15th and Thursday 16th May. Please see the dates for your diary at the bottom of the page for more information.

EYC Graduation/Leavers' Farewell P7

Our early years children and P7 pupils will begin preparing for these events in term 3. The EYC Graduation is on Wednesday 19th June at St Luke's church at 11am. P7 Leavers' Farewell is on Thursday 20th June at 1.30pm. Friends and family are welcome to attend.

Dates for your diary

Term 3:

Monday 15th April

Thursday 2nd May

Friday 3rd May

Monday 6th May

Wednesday 15th May

Term 3 begins

Inservice day – school closed to all pupils

P2 Assembly, 9.15am, parents welcome (*This includes the P2s in P1/2*)

School closed

P1-3 Sports event 9.30am 4

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Thursday 16th May

Friday 17th May

Friday 24th May

Monday 27th May

Saturday 1st June

Tuesday 4th June

Wednesday 5th June

Monday 10th June

Thursday 20th June

Monday 24th June

Wednesday 26th June

P4-7 Sports event 9.30am

P1 Assembly, 9.15am, parents welcome

This includes the P1s in P1/2

School closed

School closed

PTA Summer Fayre

PTA meeting at 7.30pm, Douglas Academy

P1 induction meeting for parents 6pm, school hall

Parent Council Meeting at 7.30pm, on TEAMS

P7 Leavers' Farewell Assembly, 1.30pm, families welcome

PTA disco for all pupils

Stepping Up Day (children meet new class and teacher)

School closes at 1pm

Please note that all schools in East Dunbartonshire close at 2.30pm at the end of Terms 1 and 2, and close at 1pm at the end of Term3.

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Recognising Pupils' Achievements outwith Clober Primary

We encourage children to tell us about their achievements outwith school however big or small. For this reason we would like your help. If you feel that your child has accomplished something for the first time, improved in something or has achieved an award (yellow belt in Judo, a badge at Scouts /Brownies/Boys Brigade etc) then please let us know by emailing the office. This will then be discussed at assembly, your child will receive a certificate and will be added to our achievements wall and records.

Road Safety

Please refrain from parking on the yellow zigzags outside the school gate and the white markings opposite. This gives our children enough space to be able to look both ways and cross in safety. Although it can be frustrating in the morning when you are in a rush or on wet days, it is important to remember that I ask this to ensure that all our children are safe. This will continue to be enforced and monitored.

Arrival times for school

Children can arrive any time between 9am and 9.10am.

Dismissal is at 3.05pm, except P1 who will be matched to their adults at 3pm.

Dates for the Diary

You can find all dates for the diary for session 2023-24 on our website; look under the school Information tab.

Important Reminders

Nut Free School: Please **do not send your child to school with any items containing nuts or nut traces**. We have children within the school who have **severe allergic reactions** which could result in anaphylactic shock.

Medication: Only certain members of staff are allowed to administer medication to pupils. This can only be done after the parent has completed the necessary paperwork. We have strict guidelines which we must follow.

Parking: Please do not park on the pavements, block driveways or double park outside the school. Too often there have been near misses at the school gate. Please think of all children and park away from the school at all times. St Luke's Church car park is a suitable place.

Wet Intervals: Wherever possible, children will be outside at break times. Please ensure they have a named waterproof jacket with them every day – regardless of the forecast as we all know how reliable they can be!

If the weather is terribly wet, we provide your child with activities to do during wet intervals. If you would like to provide your child with a book or small, inexpensive game, that would be great. Please do not send your child in with any valuable items such as a PSP or iPods.

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Anti Vandalism / Health & Safety: Please report any sightings to the police. As you know we are equipped with CCTV cameras and these are very beneficial to us. Such cameras are fully operational both day and night and allow us to identify and report any vandalism.

Head Lice: Please check your child's head on a regular basis and inform the school if you find an infestation.

All Jewellery MUST be removed during Physical Activities (incl PE): I would ask that you refrain from piercing your child's ears until the beginning of the summer holidays as any size of earring prohibits your child from taking part in physical activities. Policy states that staff cannot remove jewellery.

Mobile phones: EDC policy states that any child requiring a mobile phone in school should hand their phone into the school office each morning and collect it at the end of the day. No smart watches should be worn in school.

Attendance: We monitor attendance every morning and afternoon session. If your child is going to be absent please contact the school office on **0141 955 2232**. Failure to do this puts a series of actions in place which could result in calling the Attendance Officer and Police Scotland. If your child is late please explain that he/she must pass the office to check off their name. The class teacher may have already alerted the office to begin the attendance check procedures and your child coming to the office when late could stop this procedure more quickly.

Keep in touch:

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