



# Tarbert Academy Primary Newsletter

September 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome to the first Primary School Newsletter of the new session. A very warm welcome to all new families joining us for their first year at Tarbert Academy. We hope you all had an enjoyable summer with the lifting of restrictions and the beautiful weather. We are delighted to be back and are looking forward to a more settled year ahead. The children have made a great start to the term.

As you know the COVID mitigations are in place for a period of approx. 6 weeks. The playground area is now class zone free. The children can mix with their peers. However, the staggered drop-off and collection times remain, as do lunchtime sittings. We also continue to promote handwashing and sanitising throughout the school day. We will be keeping you updated with developments and procedures. I would like to reassure you that we will work together to increase confidence and keep Tarbert Academy as safe as we can.

## Staffing

We welcome back Mrs Sandercock to P2/1. Mr Morgan is the new Class Teacher for P3/2. We also welcome back to the school team Miss B MacFarlane and Miss J Wylie.

I am sure that you will all join with me in wishing each and every member of our staff and pupils success in the year ahead.

## Pupils

We are delighted to welcome all the new P1 pupils and parents/carers into our school community. A photograph of our P1 pupils will feature in The First Class Press and Journal Argyll and Bute. Date to be confirmed.



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## Lego Training

Support staff attended training with Sabrina Collins (Educational Psychologist) on 'Lego Clubs'. This is an evidence based, collaborative, play based social skills intervention. It was originally developed for children and young people with autism, but is now being used with a much wider range of additional support needs. Groups are run by a trained facilitator (our fabulous support staff), and children build together with set roles (builder, supplier, engineer). Group facilitators promote positive social interactions and skills, and our young people develop a range of skills, including: active listening, verbal & non-verbal communication, problem-solving, frustration tolerance, compromising, attention and focus, conflict resolution, social understanding, confidence, and fine and gross motor skills. Our support staff now have the knowledge, understanding and resources to effectively run Lego® clubs in school – minus the Lego, which we will now be sourcing to allow us to get this intervention running in school.

## Anti-Bullying Training

On Friday 13<sup>th</sup> August, Lena Carter, our visiting member of SLT, delivered refresher Anti-Bullying Training to all staff across the campus, in line with the Tarbert Academy Anti-Bullying Policy, The Argyll and Bute Education Anti-Bullying Policy and the National Respect for All Framework. The training session followed the structure of the "Bullying, It's Never Acceptable" programme from RespectMe, Scotland's Anti-Bullying Service but also took account of feedback from staff, pupils and families that has been collected through ongoing consultation over the last two years. The aims of the session were to:

- Explore our knowledge and understanding of bullying and how to address it

- Understand where to source and access further resources and information.

Key focus areas were on developing our understanding of the fact that bullying takes place in the context of relationships and that all staff have a role to play in promoting positive relationship across the school. A key text referred to was “Restorative Practice” by Mark Finnis, which states: *“Schools that explicitly put a greater focus on proactively building and maintaining relationships will find that there will be fewer occasions where relationships breakdown and, therefore, there is a need for them to be repaired.”*

41 staff members attended the training. Evaluations submitted show that they found the training very useful and also identified areas where further collaborative work would be beneficial as we continue on the journey towards eliminating bullying in school, the wider community and Scottish society.

### Key Date

- 13 September - Treòir Music Project
- 14 September – Hands Up Scotland Survey
- 15 September – UN COP 26 Poster Competition
- 17 September – Cauliflower Cards
- 24 September – MacMillan Coffee Morning
- 4 October – Flu Immunisation
- 11 - 22 October – October Break
- 25 October – Childsmile Tooth Brushing

### Learning Overviews

Class Learning Overviews will be sent out to Parents/Carers by 5 September to inform of the work and topics being covered during August to October.



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### Facebook

Just a little reminder that ' , and ELC Facebook page where updates and links to relevant sites are regularly posted.

### Class Learning for Term 1

#### **P2/1**

Primary 2/1 have had a busy start to this term learning and getting used to lots of new routines. The topic for this term is ‘The Gruffalo’ so all learning will be based around this and each week they will be learning about a different animal from the story.

#### **P3/2**

This term P3/2 have started looking at estimating amounts and distances in Numeracy work. In Literacy they are studying the book ‘Handa’s Surprise’. Topic work for this term is Music. The children are really enthusiastic about returning back to school.

#### **P5/4**

P5/4 have settled happily into school for a new term with Mrs Telfer. They have been reading Charlie and the Chocolate factory as a class novel and exploring the weird and wonderful world of Willy Wonka’s Chocolate Factory. They have been working on using colourful, descriptive language to describe the characters and come up with fantastic creations like Roald Dahl does in his writing. They have also voted in their two Pupil Council and one Eco Committee representatives who are eager to get involved in the school community.

#### **P6/5**

Primary 5/6 have been working hard settling back into the class routine after a lovely summer break. They are starting their new topic on Europe and have been having fun exploring the different continents around the world.

#### **P7/6**

P7/6 have chosen their topic of ‘Countries of the World’ and are learning about plate tectonics and the countries which suffer natural disasters as a

result of this. They have made Top Trump cards looking at units of measure to compare countries and explored what GDP (Gross Domestic Product) is as an economic comparator.

### School House Captains

School House Captains and Vice-Captains are in the process of being elected. The P7 pupils have written some really fabulous speeches. Those pupils elected to take on the role as School Captains and Vice-Captains will receive their badges shortly. Huge congratulations to all who took part and to those pupils chosen to represent the Tarbert Academy Primary.

### Pupil Committees

#### School Council



Each class has elected two representatives to form the School Council. Those representing have received their badge. Weekly class council meetings take place and the full School Council committee will meet with the DHT on September 14 to discuss points raised.

#### Eco-committee

Each class has chosen one representative to be part of the School's Eco-committee. Mrs Kayleigh Telfer has kindly offered to lead this committee for Primary and work closely with Julien Dessans (Secondary) to further develop initiatives such as:

- Bin Busters – S2 students are collecting paper, cardboard and plastic for recycling
- School Planting Tree Project – both Primary and Secondary pupils have been given the opportunity to take part. They will plant, under professional management, a giant redwood so that future generations of their families can watch the development of the trees over the years. The project is a great education element and also a huge contribution to carbon effect.

### Christmas Cauliflower Cards

We are going to run the Christmas fundraising project once again this year. We look forward to seeing the artwork created by the pupils, professionally printed and returned back just in time for the festive season.

### The Royal Mint Museum

The Royal Mint Museum's annual short story competition begins in October, offering pupils and their schools the chance to show-off their writing skills and win some fantastic prizes. The topic for this competition will be the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, and pupils are encouraged to engage broadly with the theme in their writing. We look forward to reading their short stories – we may have some budding journalists here at Tarbert Academy.

### School Values



At Tarbert Academy, we aim to develop a strong positive ethos. Our school values are key to this and we encourage all members of our community to uphold these values, namely: **Respect, Achievement, Nurture, Kindness and Unity.**

### Climate Action and COP26



As you will be aware Conference of the Parties (COP26) is the 2021 United Nations Climate Change conference being held in Glasgow in November. We will be using this as an excellent context to teach pupils in the school about what climate change is, what causes climate change and empowering them to take action to protect the planet. Children will think globally and locally about ways we can try and make a difference. Classes will take part in a poster competition. The chosen ones will be displayed at the conference. Good luck to all our entries. Let's participate to make people aware of how we could make a difference to our planet.

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