



Please ask for / Foighnich airson: Samantha Muir  
Direct Dial / Aireamh Fon: 01470 521307  
E-mail / Post-d: samantha.muir@highland.gov.uk  
Date / Ceann la: 17.08.23

Dear Parents / A Charaidean Choir,

*Welcome back to session 2023-24. Thanks to everyone for settling back so well and a special thank you to all of our new pupils who have settled in so quickly.*

**Staffing and Pupils / Luchd Obraich:** The following staff will be working in Dunvegan Primary School and Sgoil Araich this session:

Ms Samantha Muir ~ Head Teacher (Cluster with Carbost)  
Ms J MacLeod – Acting Principal Teacher (GM) + GM1-4 teacher  
Mrs M MacGregor ~ Teacher GM5-7  
Miss R Ferguson ~ Teacher GM5-7  
Miss L Kater ~ Teacher EM1-4  
Mrs J Allan ~ Teacher EM1-4  
Miss S Wilson ~ Teacher EM5-7  
Mrs A MacVicar ~ Non-Class Contact Teacher  
Mr D MacLean ~ Additional Support Teacher (EM)  
Mrs L Coull ~ Clerical Assistant  
Miss H Moujib ~ Pupil Support Assistant  
Miss M MacGregor ~ Pupil Support Assistant  
Mrs M Morrison ~ Pupil Support Assistant (Gaelic)  
Mrs C Matheson ~ Early Years Practitioner (Gaelic)  
Miss C Macdonald ~ Early Years Practitioner (Gaelic)  
Mrs R Llewellyn-Porter ~ Visiting Strings Instructor  
Mr A Craig ~ Visiting Pipe Band Drumming Instructor  
Mr IR Finlayson ~ Visiting Chanter Instructor  
Mrs F MacAskill ~ School Cook  
Miss A Blair ~ Cleaning Operative

Our English roll is 21 and our Gaelic roll is 23. Our Gaelic Nursery roll is 12.

**School Dinner Money / Airgead Dinneir:** School lunches are available to all children in full time education and are FREE up until they reach P6 & 7 when the cost is £2.30 per day.

2 days - £4.60  
3 days - £6.90  
4 days - £9.20  
5 days - £11.50

**Homework / Obair Dachaigh:** Reading/homework journals will be given to all learners again this year and daily reading remains a priority. We would be very grateful if you could regularly add your comments to these records too. Please can you listen to your children read as often as you can and discuss the stories / events etc. afterwards. Please also continue reading to your child, this is so important at all ages.

In addition to regular reading and book talk, class teachers will send home spelling and timetables/number practice along with additional games and website recommendations for you to use. Older children may bring home project work.

**Meet & greet the teacher / Coinneachadh & fàilte:** There will be the opportunity for parents to come and meet the new teachers next week, a time & date will go out on Seesaw.

**Open Afternoon / Feasgar Fosgailte:** There will be an open afternoon the week beginning 25th September. This is an opportunity for parents to get involved and engage with their child in their learning journey. More information will be sent out closer to the time.

**Pupil assessment review / Lèirmheas measadh sgoilearan:** Week beginning 4th September we will be sharing pupils baseline assessment results with parents. Week beginning 2nd October we will have an update on how pupils are progressing with their targets and setting their targets for the following term.

**Visitors / Neach-tadhail:** If you are visiting the school for any reason, please report to the office on arrival. If you need to contact the school during the school day, please note that the office is not always manned, and messages can be left on the answering machine. Thank you.

**Absences / Neo-Lathaireachdean:** If your child is going to be absent from nursery or school, please can you give this information to the school in advance. If your child is absent unexpectedly on any given day, please phone the school on 01470 521307 before 09.30am.

**Forest School & Ocean school / Sgoil na Coille & Sgoil a'chuain:** Please ensure that your child has wellies and waterproofs in school all the time as these sessions will be running at different times through the week.

**Clothing / Aodach:** Please can you write your child's name on their clothing, especially school jumpers. This helps us so much when we are trying to return 'lost items'. Please could we ask all children to bring in a pair of indoor crocs, trainers or shoes (NOT SLIPPERS) that will only be worn inside the school building. This will help to keep our carpets, cushions, rugs etc. clean and dry. If you prefer, wellies for outside play are a great alternative. It is also a good idea to make sure that ALL children have a spare change of clothes in school.

**Snack / Biadh beag:** Please can you send your child to school daily with a healthy morning snack. We do not operate a tuck bar at the moment.

**Breakfast club / Club Braicist:** We successfully started running breakfast club last year, where pupils have access to breakfast before they start the school day. This is run by our wonderful helpers, who, without them, this would not happen. There is currently a gap on a Tuesday where there is no one to run breakfast club, and another few of the days could do with a second helper, so if you are free between 8.50 & 9.25am during term time and are able to help that would be wonderful. Our breakfast club helpers need to have a PVG, but this will be organised by us. Please get in touch with Leona on [leona.coull@highland.gov.uk](mailto:leona.coull@highland.gov.uk)

**PE/ Sports:** Please can you send in a PE kit with your child - including trainers, shorts, and a t-shirt. This can be left at school on their hanger or tray in class.

**Music /Ceol:** We continue to have music tuition for Pipe Band Drumming, Strings and Chanter, virtually and in school lessons.

**Swimming / Snamh:** We are delighted to finally be able to get back to our swimming lesson blocks with the school.

W/B 20th November - EM5-7

W/B 27th November - GM 5-7

W/B 5th February - 1 day nursery & 4 days Squad team building sessions

W/B 18th March - EM1-4

W/B 25th March - GM1-4

Children will need to bring along a towel, swimwear, water and a snack.

We have booked the community minibus to help transport children to this and would like to ask any parents if they would be willing to help by driving the minibus, you must have passed your driving test pre 1997 and also have a PVG. I have the forms here for applying for a PVG and they can be arranged through us here. If we cannot get enough helpers to drive the minibus, we will need parents to help us with transport to and from Portree. More information will go out nearer the time.

#### **Afterschool Clubs / Club na Sgoile**

**Jaggy Thistles:** Nan will be starting up her Jaggy Thistles music group (For age 6 +) on a Monday from 3.15pm – 4.15pm. If your child would be interested in learning the Tin Whistle or Recorder, please let us know and come along and join in.

**'Sunday School Club':** On Thursdays 3.30-4.30pm Mrs Allan will be running an afterschool club in her classroom, P2-7. It will be exploring the Christian faith through song, dance, craft, games, drama and most importantly ....fun!

**Nursery / Sgoil Araich:** Our nursery is open full-time hours, from 9am – 3pm each day.

- Please can children have a pair of indoor shoes (NOT slippers), a change of clothes and a waterproof jacket each day.
- If you would like to send sun cream into the nursery for the hotter days and smidge for the midge days, please do so along with written permission from home that nursery staff are allowed to apply this.
- There will be no set 'Forest Schools' session for our nursery this term. The children will spend a lot of time exploring the outdoors during their sessions every day.
- If you have any issues or queries about the nursery, then please feel free to email Claire or Catherine on [claire.macdonald@portreehigh.org.uk](mailto:claire.macdonald@portreehigh.org.uk) or [catherine.matheson@highland.gov.uk](mailto:catherine.matheson@highland.gov.uk)

**MacMillan Coffee Afternoon / Feasgair Cofaidh:** We are planning to host a MacMillan Coffee Afternoon this term, more details to follow.

**Parent Council / Comharile nam Parantan:** Date & time will be posted on the school's Facebook page. All parents are welcome to come and attend these meetings.

**Message from teacher / Teachdaireachd bhon tidsear:** Staff have asked if children can bring in an old shirt from home that can be used for art to protect the children's school uniform.

**In-service Days / Latha Treanadh:** Sgoil Araich & School will be closed on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> September for staff training.

**Headlice / Mialan:** Please can you check your child's hair on a regular basis.

**Allergies in School / Alergidhean san Sgoil:** Please be aware that we have a member of staff who has a severe allergy to nuts. There can be NO NUTS or NUT PRODUCTS at all in the school building as the allergy is so severe that even being in the same room can cause a potentially deadly reaction.

**End of Term / Deireadh an teirm:** School & Sgoil Araich will close on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> October for the October break and will re-open on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup>.

## Term Dates 2023/24

### Highland School calendar 2023/24

Please note - Dates may be subject to change

August 2023							September 2023							October 2023							November 2023										
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
32		1	2	3	4	5	6	36					1	2	3	40							1	44							
33	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	37	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	41	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	45	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
34	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	38	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	42	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	47	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
35	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	39	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	43	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	48	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
36	28	29	30	31				40	25	26	27	28	29	30		44	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	49	27	28	29	30			
37																45	30	31													

  

December 2023							January 2024							February 2024							March 2024												
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su		
49					1	2	3	2	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	6					1	2	3	4	10						1	2	3
50	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	3	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	7	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	11	4	5	6	7	8	9	10		
51	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	4	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	8	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	12	11	12	13	14	15	16	17		
52	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	5	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	9	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	13	18	19	20	21	22	23	24		
1	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	6	29	30	31					10	26	27	28	29				14	25	26	27	28	29	30	31		

  

April 2024							May 2024							June 2024							July 2024										
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
15	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	19			1	2	3	4	5	23						1	2	28	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
16	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	20	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	24	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	29	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
17	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	21	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	25	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	30	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
18	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	22	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	26	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	31	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
19	29	30						23	27	28	29	30	31			27	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	32	29	30	31				

  

School holidays	In-service days	School days
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**End of the School Day / Deireadh an latha sgoile :** Please can all parents / carers that are collecting children at the end of the school day please adhere to the following protocol:

1. Nursery children leave at 3pm
2. Taxis leave
3. Bus leaves
4. Children being collected are sent out to cars
5. Cars leave

This is to make sure that the end of day traffic is handled in as safe a way as possible, and we do appreciate your help.

**Blythswood Shoebox appeal / Tagradh bogsa bhròg Blythswood:** We will be taking part in the Blythswood shoebox appeal this year and ask that you keep any empty shoe boxes that you may have for this. You can start sending them to school now and we will keep them safe until they are needed. If you are able to wrap them in wrapping paper that would be a great

help for us. The checklist of suggested items to go into the boxes is below. If you wish to send in a full complete box that would be great also. Please can items be in school by the end of the first week back after the October holidays. Whatever you can manage will be greatly appreciated.

## Checklist

Please ✓ items included and firmly secure this list on your shoebox lid.

**Include the essential items highlighted in the red box.**

**IMPORTANT: PLEASE ONLY INCLUDE NEW ITEMS.**

Tear along the perforation to detach this panel and secure to the outside of your shoebox

<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Toothbrush and Toothpaste</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Hat, scarf, gloves</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Soap</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Underwear/ Socks/Tights</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Small toy* / gift</b> <small>*small children's toy such as cars, dolls, balls etc. Please only include new shop-bought toys.</small>	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Sweets</b> <small>No chocolate or any other food items. No loose sweets, lollies or undated bags of sweets. Best before date no earlier than 31st March next year.</small>
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**Do not include** used or damaged items; war related items such as toy guns or knives or military figures; hand-made or knitted stuffed toys; chocolate or any food other than sweets. Chocolate Eclairs and Chocolate Limes are not allowed; books that are mainly words should not be included.

<p><b>Toiletries (NO TALCUM POWDER)</b></p> <input type="checkbox"/> Shampoo or Shower gel <input type="checkbox"/> Face cloth/ Moist wipes <input type="checkbox"/> Deodorant <input type="checkbox"/> Moisturising Cream <input type="checkbox"/> Comb/Brush <input type="checkbox"/> Sanitary Products <input type="checkbox"/> Shaving foam/Razors <p><b>Miscellaneous</b></p> <input type="checkbox"/> New Make-up <input type="checkbox"/> Sewing Equipment <input type="checkbox"/> Household Candles <input type="checkbox"/> Screwdrivers/Pliers <input type="checkbox"/> Kitchen Utensils <p><b>Stationery</b></p> <input type="checkbox"/> Pens/Pencils/Sharpener <input type="checkbox"/> Notepads/Colouring books <input type="checkbox"/> Rulers/Rubbers	<p><b>Clothes and other Items</b> (T-shirts/Pyjamas/Jumpers/ Shirts) etc</p> <input type="checkbox"/> ..... <input type="checkbox"/> ..... <input type="checkbox"/> ..... <input type="checkbox"/> ..... <div style="background-color: red; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center; font-size: x-small; margin: 10px 0;"> <b>Please tick the box next to who the box is for and the age of the female or male you have filled this box for:</b> </div> <p style="text-align: center;"> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Female</b>    <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Male</b> </p> <p> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Preschool</b> age.....  <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Primary</b> age.....  <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Teenager</b> age.....  <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Adult</b> age.....  <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Elderly</b> age.....         </p>
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Please call or email any time. Your support makes an incredible difference to our school, and we consider you all a part of our team.

I look forward to seeing everyone over the course of the term.

Tapadh Leibh / Thank you,

Samantha Muir

Head Teacher / Ceannard  
 Dunvegan Primary School / Bun Sgoil Dhun Bheagain