

SGOIL A' BHAC



NEWSLETTER

SESSION 2007/2008

Term 3

website: www.sgoilabhac.org.uk

We take this opportunity of wishing all parents and friends of the school a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

All too often the post-Christmas term coincides with periods of bad weather which in turn means that, on occasions, the school may have to close. It is always with a great deal of reluctance that such a decision is taken as there can be difficulties in informing parents and arranging transport. Should the weather, however, be severe or the forecast unfavourable, it may be in the interest of the children's safety that the school is closed.

When children are enrolled, parents are asked for an initial "emergency contact", usually a neighbour or relative, to whom the child can go if parents are not available following an early closure or other emergency. **It is vital therefore that parents advise the school if this "emergency contact" for your child has been changed so that our records can be updated accordingly.**

1. Parents' Evenings

S2 – S3 Transfer

The Information Day for S2 pupils will be on **Wednesday, 6th February 2008** in the Lecture Theatre at The Nicolson Institute. This will be followed by the Lews Castle College Taster Day on **Thursday, 7th February 2008**.

S2 Parents' Meeting

All parents of S2 pupils are invited to a meeting on **Thursday, 7th February 2008 at 7.00pm** in The Nicolson Institute. The purpose of the meeting is to learn about the S2/S3 transfer.

2. Open Day for Pre-school Pupils

Prior to enrolment in February parents of pre-school children will have the opportunity of visiting the infant classes on **Friday, 25th January 2008 9.30am to 10.30am**. The purpose of the visit is to afford parents the opportunity of seeing both the Gaelic and English infant classes and to have discussion with staff.

3. Refurbishment

It is anticipated that the school heating boilers will be replaced at the February mid-term break.

It is also anticipated that the former Janitor's House on the school campus will be demolished in the near future. This is in preparation for the building of new accommodation for Sgoil Araich Loch a Tuath on the site. The new accommodation should be completed early after the Easter holidays if all goes to plan.

4. Information for Parents

The School Handbook for this session will be issued soon. This will replace the School Handbook – December 2006 in the Handbook folder which has been issued to every family. The **School Website** is also updated regularly and parents can access it at www.sgoilabhac.org.uk.

5. Mid-Term Break

The School will be closed for both pupils and staff on **Friday, 15th February** and **Monday, 18th & Tuesday, 19th February 2008**.

6. School Attendance

Among the Government's recent education initiatives is "target-setting" for **school attendance**. Although attendance for pupils at Sgoil a' Bhac is generally very satisfactory, it would be appreciated if family holidays were arranged, where possible, to coincide with school holidays.

7. Bethesda Home & Hospice

The school would again wish to thank parents and friends for their donations at the school's Christmas concert. The generous sum of **£620.80** was collected for Bethesda in addition to the monies raised through buying from the Bethesda stall.

8. Use of Mobile Phones - Reminder

Below is a copy of the Local Authority's policy on the use of mobile phones in schools.

Can I ask parents and carers to ensure that this policy is strictly adhered to. Parents /carers must ensure that phones are clearly marked with the pupil's name so that they can be returned if lost and found.

Sgoil a' Bhac generally discourages parents and pupils from bringing mobile phones or other valuable items to the school on the grounds that they may get lost or stolen. If a phone or other valuable item is brought to the school, parents are advised that, where possible, the items should be marked in some way to aid future identification if lost and subsequently found.

If a pupil does bring a mobile phone to school, the phone must remain switched off during the school day and may not be used on school premises, grounds or during off-site school curricular activities (such as swimming or other sports activities). The only exceptions to this will be on school trips, where the school will have discretion to allow pupils to carry and use phones if they wish (e.g. during planned solo activities), in emergencies or with the express approval of a member of school staff.

If a pupil is found by a member of staff to be using a mobile phone for any purpose, without authorisation, the phone will be confiscated from the pupil and will generally only be returned to the pupil's parent. However, the phone may be returned directly to the pupil:

- a) on a first breach, if it is clear that the pupil did not understand the school's policy on the use of mobile phones; or
- b) in a situation where there is genuine concern that the pupil requires the phone directly after the school day on security, health and safety or similar grounds; or
- c) on receipt of a signed authorisation from the parent, where travel or other issues make it difficult for the parent to attend the school to receive the phone.

9. Children's Property

All property belonging to children, in particular items of clothing, should be clearly marked with the pupil's name. It is very difficult for the school to identify an individual's item of clothing if this is not done.

10. End of Term Closure

The school will close for the Easter Holidays on **Friday, 28th March 2008** and reopen on **Monday, 14th April 2008**.

Parents should also note that the school will be closed early in Term 4 on **Friday, 2nd and Monday, 5th May 2008**. (Early notice is being given of this as it is near to the beginning of Term 4.)

11. Scheme of School Attendance for Session 2008/2009

The Scheme of School Attendance for Session 2008/2009 is attached for your information.
Pupils return to school on **Thursday, 21st August 2008**.



SGOIL A' BHAC



SCHEME OF SCHOOL ATTENDANCE 2008/2009

AUTUMN 2008

OPEN	Teachers	Monday, 18th August 2008
	Pupils	Thursday, 21st August 2008
CLOSE	Teachers/Pupils	Friday, 10th October 2008

WINTER 2008

OPEN	Teachers	Tuesday, 21st October 2008
	Pupils	Thursday, 23rd October 2008
CLOSE	Teachers/Pupils	Tuesday, 23rd December 2008

SPRING 2009

OPEN	Teachers/Pupils	Tuesday, 6th January 2009
CLOSE	Teachers/Pupils	Friday, 27th March 2009

SUMMER 2009

OPEN	Teachers/Pupils	Monday, 13th April 2009
CLOSE	Teachers/Pupils	Wednesday, 1st July 2009

OCCASIONAL HOLIDAYS

27th & 28th November & 1st December 2008	3 days
13th, 16th & 17th February 2009	3 days
1st & 4th May 2009	2 days
TOTAL	8 days

INSERVICE

18th, 19th & 20th August 2008	3 days
21st & 22nd October 2008	2 days
TOTAL	5 days

GENERAL INFORMATION

Local Holidays	8 days
National Mod	10th – 17th October 2008