

SGOIL A' BHAC



NEWSLETTER

SESSION 2008/2009

Term 1

website: www.sgoilabhac.org.uk

1. STAFF CHANGES

The school extends its sympathy and support to Sheena Inglis and her family during her current illness. Replacing Sheena for the duration of her absence is Muriel Macleod.

We welcome Dolina Macdonald (E5) to cover Amy Maclean's Maternity Leave. Angela Macdonald who was a probationer teacher at the school last session has been appointed teacher of G1/2 on a full-time basis. Iain Maciver, Gaelic Music Instructor, will be in school each Monday.

We trust that all of the above will enjoy their time at Sgoil a' Bhac.

2. SCHOOL ROLL

The overall school roll for this session is 194. There were 8 entrants into P1 English, and 10 into P1 Gaelic. The total roll for the Primary department is 117 (63 Mainstream & 54 GMU), 56 for the Secondary and 21 in the Sgoil Araich.

3. P1 ENTRANTS

As in previous years, P1 entrants will initially be in school until 12.00noon. As from **Monday, 22nd September** they will continue in school until **3.00pm**.

4. SCHEME OF SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

A copy of the Scheme of School Attendance showing term and holiday dates is attached.

5. SCHOOL UNIFORM

The school once more congratulates parents for the way in which they support the school policy by encouraging pupils to wear school uniform. Uniforms can be obtained through the Parent Council [representative Katherine Maciver – 820277].

May I remind parents that clothes worn in school should be clearly marked with pupils' names. Every session the school has unclaimed clothes – jerseys, jackets, sweatshirts etc. These could easily be returned if each item of clothing carried a nametag.

Valuables and money should not be left in cloakrooms. These should be left, for safe keeping, either with the classteacher or at the School Office.

6. ABSENCES

On returning to school, following an absence, pupils should bring an explanatory note to their classteacher. This would eliminate any pupils being recorded as having "*unauthorised absences*".

As you may be aware, the Scottish Office has now set targets for schools with regard to school attendance and the high attendances of previous years form the basis on which this year's high target is set. We therefore rely on the continuing support of parents in keeping school absences to a minimum.

7. CASHLESS CATERING

The council and the school intend introducing a Cashless Catering system to the school cafeteria from the beginning of term 2. This means that pupils and staff pay for anything purchased in the cafeteria by prepaid card or by finger scan. This new system will give parents more control of what their children buy and eat in the cafeteria as well as doing away with the need for children to carry money.

8. SGOIL ARAICH LOCH A TUATH

The new premises for Sgoil Araich Loch a Tuath have been completed and the first intake of children are now making use of their new surroundings. The new premises are purpose-built and are a bright and pleasant environment for young people to learn and play. The contact telephone number for the Sgoil Araich is the same as for the school [820230].

9. AFTERSCHOOL CLUBS

A comprehensive range of afterschool clubs is now being organised and details will be circulated to parents in the very near future.

The **Gaelic Activities Club** will be available for P1-P4 pupils from 3.00pm to 5.00pm Monday to Friday. Because of the age of the pupils and numbers involved parents must indicate daily in the homework diary whether or not their children are to attend the club on that day.

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