

# *SGOIL A' BHAC*



NEWSLETTER

SESSION 2006/2007

Term 3

website: [www.sgoilabhac.org.uk](http://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 Parents' Evening

A consultation meeting will be held on **Wednesday, 7<sup>th</sup> February 2007** for parents of pupils in S2 to discuss progress with school staff (details to follow).

### S2 – S3 Transfer

The arrangements this year involves all S2 pupils from the rural schools in Lewis being taken together at the Sports Centre for an Information Day on **Tuesday, 6<sup>th</sup> February 2007**. This will be followed by a meeting for all parents of S2 pupils in The Nicolson Institute, Assembly Hall on **Thursday, 8<sup>th</sup> February 2007**. Pupils are invited to attend this meeting along with their parents. The usual Induction Day will follow in Term 4 on **Thursday, 17<sup>th</sup> May 2007**. Further details to follow.

## 2. Refurbishment

The recent phase of refurbishment is now almost complete. The Technical Workshop has been completely upgraded to meet the new specifications and an additional bright and well-equipped classroom has been created. A glazed partition has been constructed between the gym and the Crush Hall. This will reduce the noise coming from the gym interfering with the work of classes elsewhere in the school. It also improves the gym as a venue for concerts and social events.

## 3. Information for Parents

The school has redesigned the **School Handbook** to enhance its appearance and overall appeal. A new **Code of Conduct** has been drawn up to provide up-to-date information for pupils and parents and is included in the Handbook folder. A copy of the Handbook folder has been sent to every family. The **School Website** has also been completely redesigned and parents can access it at the same address as before [www.sgoilabhac.org.uk](http://www.sgoilabhac.org.uk).

## 4. Mid-Term Break

The School will be closed for both pupils and staff on **Friday, 16<sup>th</sup> February** and **Monday, 19<sup>th</sup> & Tuesday, 20<sup>th</sup> February 2007**.

## 5. 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.

**6. 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 **£481.46** was collected for Bethesda in addition to the monies raised through buying from the Bethesda stall.

**7. Cinema Club**

The Cinema Club will meet on **Wednesday, 24<sup>th</sup> January 2007 at 7.00pm** when the film "**Garfield 2**", which is suitable for all ages, will be screened.

**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, 30<sup>th</sup> March 2007** and reopen on **Monday, 16<sup>th</sup> April 2007**.

Parents should also note that the school will be closed early in Term 4 on **Friday, 4<sup>th</sup> April, Monday, 7<sup>th</sup> & Tuesday, 8<sup>th</sup> May 2007**. (Early notice is being given of this as it is near to the beginning of Term 4.)

**11. Scheme of School Attendance for Session 2007/2008**

The Scheme of School Attendance for Session 2007/2008 is attached for your information. Pupils return to school on **Thursday, 16<sup>th</sup> August 2007**.



# SGOIL A' BHAC



## SCHEME OF SCHOOL ATTENDANCE 2007/2008

AUTUMN 2007		
OPEN	Teachers	Monday, 13 <sup>th</sup> August 2007
	Pupils	Thursday, 16 <sup>th</sup> August 2007
CLOSE	Teachers/Pupils	Friday, 12 <sup>th</sup> October 2007
WINTER 2007		
OPEN	Teachers	Tuesday, 23 <sup>rd</sup> October 2007
	Pupils	Thursday, 25 <sup>th</sup> October 2007
CLOSE	Teachers/Pupils	Friday, 21 <sup>st</sup> December 2007
SPRING 2008		
OPEN	Teachers/Pupils	Tuesday, 8 <sup>th</sup> January 2008
CLOSE	Teachers/Pupils	Friday, 28 <sup>th</sup> March 2008
SUMMER 2008		
OPEN	Teachers/Pupils	Monday, 14 <sup>th</sup> April 2008
CLOSE	Teachers/Pupils	Friday, 27 <sup>th</sup> June 2008

### **OCCASIONAL HOLIDAYS**

29 <sup>th</sup> & 30 <sup>th</sup> November & 3 <sup>rd</sup> December 2007	3 days
15 <sup>th</sup> , 18 <sup>th</sup> & 19 <sup>th</sup> February 2008	3 days
2 <sup>nd</sup> & 5 <sup>th</sup> May 2008	2 days
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>8 days</b>

### **INSERVICE**

13 <sup>th</sup> , 14 <sup>th</sup> & 15 <sup>th</sup> August 2007	3 days
23 <sup>rd</sup> & 24 <sup>th</sup> October 2006	2 days
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>5 days</b>

### **GENERAL INFORMATION**

Local Holidays	8 days
National Mod	12 <sup>th</sup> – 20 <sup>th</sup> October 2007