

Isla Primary School Newsletter

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Awareness Integrity Respect



Dear parents, carers and families,

Welcome to our April newsletter!

Term three is quickly concluding and we can look back at the achievements of a busy term from January until now.

Thank you to everyone for attending our Learner Led Conferences last month. This format is a strong way in ensuring that children have ownership of their learning, can highlight and showcase their progress and allow more time for you as families to observe and reflect on all aspects of the curriculum. Thank you all for completing the QR code surveys.

Our focus on Scots earlier this year was strengthened by our visit to see "Oor Wullie" in Dundee at Christmas time. There is always a keen interest across the school for Scots language, but this was certainly enhanced by a deeper analysis and understanding of reading and writing Scots through the "Oor Wullie" stories. Many congratulations to Elijah who came first in the Kirriemuir P1-3 Scots Recital competition. Competing against all local primary schools Elijah collected the Alec Ogilvie Memorial Trophy last month, for his recital of "Fireworks off the castle" by Michael Fitt. A fantastic achievement. Many congratulations also to Alex who came second in the P6-7 category and Lucy who was third in the P4/5 category.

It was lovely to have a number of family events in school over the last few weeks. The family paired reading breakfast on Pancake Tuesday was a great morning led by Miss Popham and the Pupil Council. Thanks to everyone for the lovely baking! Our Nursery P1 "Red Bag" project morning was also a lovely morning and we are glad at how successful this has been for all. The term ends on Friday 4th April at 1520. Thank you for your continued support.

With Best Wishes for a Happy Easter,

Simon McKell
Head Teacher

Sports update

We have had a busy few weeks with local and national sporting competitions. We competed in cross country at Kirrie Hill, won all of our matches in the recent football tournament in Kirriemuir and also won every game in the local school basketball tournament in Forfar. We had a really successful day at Motherwell last week at the Scottish National Primary Handball Championships, where our team won two matches, drew two matches and lost three. For a small rural school, this was amazing in a national competition, considering one of the matches was against a school with a roll of 695 pupils! I am very grateful to all families who have supported with transport for these events. It would be very difficult to compete without this assistance.



P6 Euro Quiz

Our P6 team competed in the Euro Quiz last month at Seaview Primary and were very unlucky not to win. Well done boys, great effort.



Social Studies

Nursery and both classes have been enjoying their Social Studies focus on "People who help us" Vikings and World War II. Nursery have had visits from both Scottish Fire and Rescue and Police Scotland. Thank you to all families for supporting this learning at home. We have had many visits from families supporting learning and donating artefacts.



Writing development

As you will be aware, writing is a key focus this year across the school. On the 18th March, staff worked with colleagues across the cluster at Eassie Primary, looking at teaching pedagogy and improving standards.

Parent Council

Many thanks to the Parent Council for purchasing construction blocks for the school. This fantastic resource supports problem solving, enquiry, design, numeracy and co-operative skills. The children are really enjoying using this great resource. The next Parent Council meeting is on the 20th May at 1830 in school. The Parent Council will be organising another Easter fun afternoon for all children on the 25th April. Many thanks from all staff for organising this, the children really enjoy this every year.

Visits

P5-7 will be visiting Black Watch Museum on the 6th May in connection with recent Social Studies learning and then Auchterhouse Primary on the 8th May, where they will be taking part in a motorsport STEM workshop.

VE Day 8th May

P5-7 have been studying World War II. Rev Stephen Blakey is organising VE day commemorations in Isla Parishes at 1830 which will include bell ringing, refreshments and nibbles. We would encourage children and families particularly in P5-7 to be part of this and to attend in school uniform. More details to follow.

Move it Mondays

"Move it Mondays" are open to all families every Monday from 0915-0935. Come and join us for song, dance and fitness every Monday. Sessions will stop in June.

Welly Wednesdays

Children have really benefitted in numerous ways from our outdoor learning sessions on Wednesdays. These will come to a conclusion for this academic session on the 28th May. The success and the benefit of the programme means that we will be taking this forward into session 2025-2026.

Sports Day

Sports Day will be on the 4th June from 1330. If the weather is poor, the back up date will be the 18th June. A decision on whether the day goes ahead or not will be made in the morning and confirmed via the app. Please do not phone the school on the day to enquire. Thank you.

School Uniform – BORDER EMBROIDERIES

Thank you all for supporting the school uniform. This is very important to our school identity. We kindly ask that skirts, school trousers or leggings are either grey or black moving forward. Thank you. In addition to our school jumper and polo shirts, a new line is now available. Tartan pinafores and tartan skirts are also available. The feedback from both children and the Parent Council was very positive regarding these new additions. The new tartan can be worn any school day. Please note that **indoor shoes are required** to maintain a clean

interior learning environment for all. www.border-embroideries.co.uk We kindly request that clothing has the name of your child on a label, to ensure that items do not become lost. Thank you.

Home learning

Home learning is an integral part of a partnership approach to learning. Learning is issued **on Tuesdays** and should be returned on the **following Monday**. This will cover reading, spelling and numeracy. Spelling and reading in particular are significant priorities this year for the school to raise attainment levels. Home Learning will be communicated via SeeSaw. We shall be having an open family morning next month to support this. For children to maximise their academic potential and to give depth and consolidation to learning, this is an important part of each week. Please note no Home Learning is issued on the first week of each term, short weeks or the last week of term.

Office

Please note that there is no staffing in the office on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons. Please email the school account isla@angusschools.org.uk if you require to make contact on these afternoons. A staff meeting takes place each Thursday morning at 0845-0900.

Parent/ Carer Reports

These will be issued on 20th June. We hope to have a digital format as well as paper.

Dates for the diary

End of term – School closes 1520 Easter holidays	4 th April
EASTER MONDAY SCHOOL CLOSED	21 st April
Earth Day	22 nd April
P4-7 Day of Dance	24 th April
Parent Council Easter fun afternoon	25 th April
MAY DAY SCHOOL CLOSED	5 th May
P5-7 trip to Black Watch Museum, Perth	6 th May
VE Day	8 th May
P5-7 trip to Auchterhouse Primary – Science event	8 th May
Health Week	6 th -9 th May
Glamis Tug of War competition	13 th May
P7 Transition morning – Northmuir (transport needed)	14 th May
P7 transition	20 th May
Parent Council meeting in school 1830	20 th May
In Service	26 th May
Eco Action Week	2 nd June
Sports Day ELC- P7 – All welcome	4 th June from 1330
Glamis Highland Games	5 th June
P7 Dalguise residential	6-9 th June
P7 transition	10-11 th June
Tayside Contracts BBQ	20 th June