

Kilchattan School August 2009 Newsletter

A warm welcome back to all!

We are starting this term with a number of changes: we've lost Holly from P7 and gained Seamus in P1, leaving Jamie as the only pre5. However, with the shift in emphasis to more active learning in the early years we hope not to have Jamie on his own too much of the time.

As I'm sure you will be aware, there have been staff changes too: Jodi has been welcomed into the pre5 room and will also be our classroom assistant for a few hours each week after the October holidays. Until then Jen will be with us on Wednesday and Thursday afternoons and Laura will continue to provide a few hours classroom assistance.

We anticipate a number of changes in the year ahead as we work to implement 'Curriculum for Excellence' and will keep you up to date as the session progresses.

Our topic this term is on the 'Homecoming' theme: we will be researching famous Scots, and one or two with a Colonsay connection. We intend to 'invite' some of these famous faces to meet you at our open afternoon before the October break.

Following on the success of our Eco Schools silver award acquisition last term, we hope to achieve our first green flag by the end of this session, and have already had our first eco schools committee meeting and drawn up our targets for this session.



Our raised beds are looking lovely, as I'm sure you'll all agree, and would not have been possible without the help of a number of community members, and especially Chris Nisbet and Pedie (who both helped with the construction), Will Dady (who brought us the soil), Margaret Kiernan (who gave us lots of plants and herbs and told us how to plant them) and Penny Gill (who also

gave us lots of bedding plants.) Even the school clerk of works contributed with his begonias – a very colourful addition! The willow dome has survived its first Colonsay summer, to the surprise of us all as there were a few very dry weeks (when it had to be watered, and debugged) followed by weeks of almost unrelenting rain.

In recognition of the importance of exercise as part of our Health Promoting Schools programme, Jim McLoughlin will be helping us set up an exercise regime to be integrated into our weekly PE lessons.

We are hoping for an improvement in the weather as we begin a few weeks of orienteering. Initially this will take place in the school grounds, but if it proves successful we'll go further afield.

Don't forget to check our website to keep up to date with all that's happening: www.kilchattan.argyll-bute.sch.uk

Diary Dates:

7 th & 8 th September	I will be out of school to attend a planning meeting and our autumn Head Teacher's meeting. Pedie and Sheena will cover these days.
10 th September	Parent Council meeting, 6pm
24 th September	Dance Day – more info to follow
8 th October	Open afternoon – more info to follow
8 th & 9 th October	Alastair Hall, our Educational Psychologist will be with us.
9 th October	School closes, reopening Monday 26th

Please note the next Parent Council meeting will be the AGM. With our falling numbers, it's really important that as many parents as possible attend in order that we ensure the continuation of the Council. As Head Teacher I value the opportunity these meetings give to share our views on the future of education, and for Kilchattan School in particular.

We're all looking forward to another busy year, and sharing it with you, too!

Carol MacNeill
Head Teacher