

Lochaline Primary School



Brochure

2010 - 2011





Head Teacher's Welcome

Dear Parents

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome your child to Lochaline Primary School. It is a small village school with a friendly, pleasant and happy atmosphere. I hope that your child will enjoy their time with us and we look forward to having them become members of our school community.

Home, school and community are powerful influences on your child and by working together we can endeavour to ensure that your child is given a well-balanced, varied and sound education. You, as parents, are invited to play an active role in your child's education and also in the life of our school and there will be many opportunities in the course of the school year for you to do so. Parents wishing to discuss any queries or concerns are welcome to make an appointment to speak to staff.

The purpose of this brochure is to give you as much information as possible about our school. Whilst every care has been taken to ensure that the information is up to date, changes after printing may affect pupils and parents. In these cases, you will be kept informed by our regular school newsletter.

Yours faithfully

Mr. Keith W Adams
Head Teacher

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Our vision, values and aims

Vision

Our vision in the Lochaline Primary School community is for:-

Happy and motivated pupils able to engage successfully with others outwith the school
Staff who feel valued in all they do and say
Parents who experience inclusion in their child's education

Values



wisdom



justice



compassion



integrity

Aims




To provide a safe and secure environment which will motivate and arouse curiosity and foster an enjoyment in learning





To help every pupil develop their full potential through the 5-14 curriculum programme.





To present the curriculum programme in a manner both interesting and differentiating.


-  To create an ethos of achievement throughout the school and to encourage all children to aspire to greater achievement by helping them to develop confidence, self-esteem, ambition and the discipline required for these goals.

-  To enhance professionalism of staff through teamwork and personal and staff development.

-  To continue with our partnership with parents, to build upon it and to continue to work with parents to support the education of their children.

-  To continue to foster a positive attitude and respect towards our school, each other and the wider community. To ensure equal opportunities for all.

-  To nurture the esteem with which the community views the school and to continue to involve the wider community in the school programme whenever such opportunities arise or can be created.

-  Subscribe to the ideals of the Health Promoting School by encouraging children and parents to become involved in making informed decisions about their Social, Emotional and Physical Health.

General Information

School Address Lochaline Primary School
Lochaline
Morvern
By Oban
Argyll.
PA80 5XT

Telephone 01967 421 245

Fax 01967 421 245

School Staff	Mr K W Adams	Head Teacher P4-7
	Mrs S Adams	Class Teacher P1-3
	Miss G Gallagher	Management Support
	Mr B Gregg	Visiting P.E. Teacher
	Mrs K Upstone	Clerical Assistant
	Mrs D Walter	Classroom Assistant
	Mrs F Finnigan	Cook
	Mrs F Christian	Cleaner

School Roll Currently 21

School Hours 9.15am - 11.00am
11.15am - 12.30pm
1.15pm - 3.15pm

Secondary Schools

Ardnamurchan High School
Strontian
Ardnamurchan
Telephone 01397 700105

N.B. Lochaline Primary is now a "Feeder" School for Ardnamurchan High School. Parents wishing their children to attend Tobermory High School must inform Mr. K Adams and The Area Education Manager, Fort William, by February of the year of leaving.

Our School

Description

Our school is situated in the heart of the village of Lochaline, Morvern, overlooking the Sound of Mull. The school site, which is beside the busy, single track A884 road, consists of several buildings, of varying ages. The oldest building, comprising two storeys, which was the original School, the upper storey is used for accommodation for key workers, while the ground floor accommodates the nursery. The stone building was added to by the building of the "New School" in 1887 and houses the current G.P. room, which is used as a hall. The toilets, staffroom/office and a further two classrooms were added to the building in the early 1970's. The school canteen is adjacent to the school. The school grounds are spacious and include a large grassy area for playing on as well as a small tarmacadam area. There is a roofed stone structure to the rear of the school, which provides limited shelter during showers. Also within the school grounds there is a large Wildlife garden, comprising of two separately fenced areas, one includes a pond, the other has various habitats. Both of these areas are used as teaching resources. These areas are used by the after-school Nature Club, which is working towards making the school an ECO school.





Catchment Area

In the early 1970's the small schools of Bonavullin and Claggan were closed down and the children transferred to Lochaline. The school was then enlarged to its present day plan. At this time the roll reached a maximum of 64 pupils. The numbers are now below 30 pupils, which allows for a two teacher status. The classes are organised so the P1-3 children are in one class and the P4-P7 are in the other class. We have a classroom assistant, who is allocated to either class, as needs demand.

Transport

The current catchment area takes in the whole of Lochaline village, plus Drimnin and all the houses between. Also Ardtornish Estate, Larachbeg, Rahoy Estate and out to the boundary at Be-ach.

Transport is provided for children who live outwith the three mile boundary of the school. Parents who feel that their children are entitled to such transportation should contact the Head Teacher who will issue the appropriate application form, which should be completed and sent to the Area Education Manager, Camaghael Hostel, Camaghael, Fort William.

Equipment, Resources and Facilities

We are gradually building up our range of audio visual resources. At present we have two colour televisions, two video recorders, two listening centres and two cassette/CD players. Our computer hardware currently stands at: P4-7 Classroom - two Windows XP PCs, both of which have internet access, a scanner and printers, two Windows XP laptops (which can be connected to internet), two 'eee' PCs and six Alphasmarts. There is also an interactive whiteboard and projector.



P1-3 classroom - one Windows XP PC with laser colour printer, which has internet access and one Windows XP laptop. There is an appropriate range of software, which is gradually being extended and updated. Music sessions take place in the G.P. room where there is a good piano, several percussion instruments and chime bars.

Physical Education is taken in the G.P. room and outside when weather permitting, it is timetabled for two sessions a week with class teachers. There is a variety of P.E. equipment, which allows for the development of various skills and also allows the playing of a variety of sports.

There is a class library in each of the main classrooms, with a selection of fiction books and a good range of non-fiction books and reference books and we are currently extending this range with a variety of electronic resources. The school runs the "Scholastic Book Club" which gives every child in the school a chance to buy the latest titles in children's fiction at least once a term. In this way we are also able to increase the school stock of fiction titles. The mobile library van also visits the school every third Monday, when the children can choose their own books.

Uniform

The wearing of uniform is recommended at Lochaline School as many parents have expressed a wish for the school to have a uniform. By recommending a uniform we wish to encourage a sense of identity and a feeling of pride in our school.

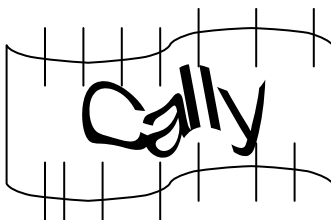
The suggested uniform is:-

Girls: Light blue polo shirt / Dark blue sweatshirt or Fleece / Dark trousers or skirt.

Boys: Light blue polo shirt / Dark blue sweatshirt or Fleece / Dark trousers.



Shorts, t-shirts and gym shoes must be worn for P.E. and all jewellery must be removed for these sessions.



Name Tabs.

Similarity in the children's clothing creates confusion over ownership.

It cannot be stressed too strongly how helpful it would be if all pupils had name tabs on every item of their clothing.

Children should also carry daily a pair of shoes, trainers or slippers for indoor use only.

Children should bring a coat and have suitable foot wear.

A wide variety of reasonably priced items including fleeces, sweatshirts, poloshirts are available. A uniform order form is included at the back of this brochure.

School Meals

School meals are cooked on the premises and served in the canteen in one sitting from 12.30pm until 1.00pm approximately. Dinner money is paid every Monday morning, directly to the cook, and at present costs £1.70 per day. The meals may be paid either in cash or by cheque made payable to The Highland Council. The money must be sent to the school in a sealed envelope with your child's name and the amount of money enclosed clearly written on the envelope. We would also very much appreciate the correct amount of money being sent. Parents in receipt of Income Support may apply to the Head Teacher for a form for Free School Meals (proof of receipt must be sent to the Area Education Office along with the form).

If you would prefer your child to have a packed lunch please remember that any drinks, soup etc. should be carried in a plastic container or safety flask. Glass containers must not be used under any circumstances. Packed lunches are also eaten in the school canteen at the same time as the pupils taking school meals and the sitting is supervised by staff.

Healthy Snacks at Break times

As a Health Promoting School, we encourage the eating of healthy snacks, to this end, the Parent Council provide fruit at morning break times. Donations towards this provision can be forwarded to the Parent Council.

Pupil Welfare

Minor cuts and bruises suffered by the children at school are dealt with by staff. If a child becomes ill during the school day, one of his/her parents is contacted and arrangements made for the child to be uplifted from school and taken home. Please forward the name and telephone number of an emergency contact to us at the beginning of the session, just in case neither parent is available. It is important that your child knows his emergency contact well and that this person is normally available if you cannot be contacted. In cases of extreme emergency, the school will contact the local doctor.

The general health of the pupils is monitored by the school dentist, doctor and nurse who will visit the school from time to time during the school session. Any parent who wishes to be informed before their child is examined should notify the Head Teacher.

If you need to keep your child off school due to illness, or for any other reason, you should either send an absence note on his/her return or inform the school by telephone.

If you wish your child to be off school for any other reason (e.g. to attend a wedding) you should notify the Head Teacher. There are times when family holidays cannot be taken during school holiday periods if, for example, a holiday rota system applies at a parent's workplace and this cannot be changed. When this does happen the Head Teacher must be informed in advance. The school and authority however strongly urge parents not to take pupils off school for holidays during term time.

Figures have to be submitted annually to the Scottish Executive and these have to indicate authorised and unauthorised absences.

Child Protection

From time to time, incidents can occur within the school setting which cause concern and could indicate that a pupil is suffering some form of abuse.

In terms of Highland Child Protection Committee Inter-agency Protection Guidelines, Education staff must report such incidents to Social Work Services, which can lead to a joint Social Work/Police investigation.

All agencies involved in Child Protection are obliged to make the welfare of children their paramount consideration and this will be a priority for Education Service Staff.

More information about Child Protection Procedures within Highland can be obtained from the *Child Protection Development Officer, Mrs Susan MacLaren, Highland Child Protection Committee, Kinmylies Building, Leachkin Road, Inverness, IV3 8NN - Telephone (01463 713237)*

Pupil Behaviour

At Lochaline School we expect all children to behave well and respect others in the school. A copy of our Anti-Bullying, Discipline/Sanctions and Multi-Cultural and Anti-Racist Policy are available on request from the school office.

Wet Weather Guidelines

In severe weather, children will remain indoors (inside break time) and the head teacher will monitor both classes.

Other staff will also be available during these times.

Emergency Closure

In the event of the School being closed early, (in bad snow, for instance) or an emergency closure, (prolonged power cut) parents will be informed by telephone whenever possible. A local communications network is in place, which should enable us to contact parents. If the parents cannot be contacted however, the children will be sent to an emergency contact, or to a willing neighbour. We rely on the good sense of outlying parents to notify us if weather conditions begin to deteriorate during the winter months so that we can make arrangements for their children to be taken home before roads become impassable.

All parents are issued with guidelines, at least once a year, outlining the procedures. There is a **hotline** set up, giving a phone number for parents to contact to check on local adverse weather conditions.

Liaison with Parents

We strongly believe that education is a partnership between parents and teachers. Parents wishing to discuss any matter are welcome to come to school any time. We will always do our best to try and accommodate you. We keep in touch regularly by newsletter, which keeps parents up to date with events both in and out of school. The most recent school newsletter is usually displayed on the notice board inside the school.

Parents are invited to the school for Parent's Evenings twice a year - generally in November and May. On these occasions appointments are made with parents and the class teacher to discuss pupil progress. The P1-3 class have a home / school reading diary, which can be used to pass information between school and home.

Occasionally, information evenings are held if the need arises, such as to discuss the workings of our reading scheme or curriculum areas for new entrants.



The children have visits from people in the community that help, these include police, fire fighters, paramedics and local doctor.

Community Links

Through our Environmental Studies programme, the children are encouraged to learn about and appreciate their local area. The pupils are taken out into the community to learn about their environment. We liaise with various bodies, such as Scottish Natural Heritage, Scottish Wildlife Trust and Forestry Commission, who often support us on such visits. We also welcome members of the community willing to come into school and who are able to share skills and experiences with our pupils. School pantomimes provide seasonal entertainment for the whole community.



Christmas pantomime.



Local SWT Ranger Steve Hardy works in and out of school providing opportunities for learning about the local environment. Here we are visiting the local Rahoy Wildlife Reserve.

New Enrolments

Arrangements for parents, who wish to place their child in the school and who wish to make a preliminary visit, can be made by telephoning the Head Teacher. When you enrol your child, you will be asked to provide certain information that will be required by the local authority for statistical purposes, e.g. language spoken in the home other than English, religion, medical and dietary requirements.

Advertisements will appear in the local press giving precise arrangements for the enrolling of new entrants for the next session. These advertisements will normally appear in late January or shortly afterwards. Pre-school visits will take place in the Summer term when the new entrants are invited along to join the infant classroom and participate in some morning activities.

There is a nursery which runs on site by 'Care and Learning Alliance'. It operates five mornings a week. The children are invited to join in with some of the school activities and to pay visits to the P1-P3 classroom. The primary school is working in partnership with the nursery group, with the Head Teacher playing a supportive role by visiting the Nursery where possible. Enrolment of new entrants may also take place on a Nursery school day and a notice will be put up in the nursery prior to enrolment week.

New P1 pupils only attend school for **morning** sessions in the first **two** weeks of school, this is time to allow them to gently get used to a more formal school day.

If you have any worries about how your child will settle in to school, please do discuss these worries with staff. You are welcome to arrange a visit to school at any time prior to your child starting in August, all you have to do is phone.



Trip to Fort William for an Inter-School sports day.

School Fund

The school has a small fund, which is used to pay for Christmas related activities and the many little "extras" not available through the school's allocated money, such as field trips, sporting trips, workshops and sometimes extra computer equipment and software. Parents, Parent Council, and indeed, the villagers are always very supportive of any fundraising events and this is always very much appreciated by the school community.



The whole school 'captured' in the cloisters on Iona, during the 2010 school trip.

Parent Council

We have an elected Parent Council, which meets each month during term time in the senior classroom. Dates and times of meetings are communicated through the school newsletter and the notice board. Any parent is welcome to attend.

The Parent Council has seven members: four parents, one teacher and two others. The Head Teacher also attends all meetings.

At present	Mrs J Kennedy	Chairperson
	Mrs B Mealand	Vice Chair
	Mrs T Bolton	Treasurer
	Mrs L Lorimer	Secretary
	Mr K Adams	Co-opted member

Pupil Council

We also have a Pupil Council, which is elected every year. They represent all the other pupils and make collective decisions on various matters, i.e. playground equipment, fund raising for charities and enterprise activities.

Areas of the Curriculum

The 5 - 14 Development Programme

In Lochaline Primary we follow the 5-14 Guidelines and are working towards implementing Curriculum for Excellence. These are nationally produced guidelines setting out minimum standards for the five curricular areas. We aim to provide an appropriate and balanced curriculum for every child in our school. The five main curricular areas within the primary school curriculum are as follows:



Language



Mathematics



Environmental Studies



Expressive Arts



Religious, Social and Moral Education

Our School Development Plan incorporates the regional priorities as well as those which we have identified as specific to our school.

The School Development Plan stating the areas of the curriculum, which are being targeted, is available for any parent to see, by asking the Head Teacher.

Assessment is carried out on a continuous basis throughout the school year and through National Testing

Language

Children's earliest language experience stems from the home. It is our aim to build on and develop these early language experiences by giving the children a rich and varied language curriculum balanced around four broad areas:

1. **Listening**
2. **Talking**
3. **Reading**
4. **Writing**

The school has adopted the Oxford Tree reading scheme and teaches early spelling through the phonic approach.

Mathematics

Again the 5-14 Guidelines are the basis of the teaching of maths in Lochaline Primary. All areas are tackled, information handling, number, money and measurement, shape, position and movement as well as problem solving and enquiry. The school has adopted the Scottish Heinemann maths scheme, which runs in both classes. This scheme is supplemented by other resources, when necessary.

Environmental Studies

This heading covers the social subjects of people and place, people in the past and people in society. Also incorporated here are science and technology, where pupils make scientific studies of Earth and Space, Energy and Forces and Living Things and the Processes of Life. In technology pupils gain knowledge and understanding of technology as well as the design and making skills involved.

Health is taught in each classroom, focussing on both Health Education and Health Promotion. Physical, Emotional and Social Health are all covered. Environmental Studies is taught in a variety of ways, through themes or topics or as individual subjects. Sometimes it can be taught in a block, utilising field trips or visiting specialists.

Expressive Arts

The Expressive Arts Curriculum can be defined in four broad areas: **Art and Design, Drama, Music and Physical Education.**

Occasionally pupils have access to specialists in art, drama or music, either at the local high school or from visiting specialists.

Pupils have opportunities to compete, play and interact with other pupils outwith the school, on a variety of sporting occasions.



'The Celtic Games 2010' at the local High school.

Religious and Moral Education

Lochaline Primary School is a non-denominational school. Christianity and Other World Religions are studied throughout the school in line with the 5-14 Guidelines. It is our aim to provide the children with an understanding of religion and the way in which it shapes society. We do have visits from a member of the local church, once a month. We also endeavour to have a school service at the local church once a term. A prayer (written by the pupils), is said before lunch every day. A religious assembly with a broadly Christian theme is given each week.

Parents who do not wish their children to attend RE lessons should contact the Head Teacher to arrange for exclusion.



Visit to Local Church

Assessment and Reports

Assessment is geared towards finding out what the pupils have achieved individually. The evidence to provide these assessments is collected formally and informally over a period of time. Assessment activities are identified at the planning stage of a block of work and may involve oral work such as questioning, written work, observation of practical tasks and self-assessment where the pupil evaluates their own. By these methods, the teacher closely monitors each child's progress to enable areas of difficulty to be recognised and support given to the child to overcome the difficulties. In this small school, we aim to ensure that every child is given the means and opportunity to work to their full potential and that they feel valued as a pupil.

A pupil may be referred to the Educational Psychologist, after consultation with the parents, if further assessments are thought to be necessary. We also have the services of a Learning Support teacher who visits the school once or twice during the term. She will provide extra material and help for those children who require additional support. At the class teacher's request she will provide enrichment tasks for individuals or groups of children who show particular aptitude in a curricular area.

Reports

Pupil reports are written for parents in May. The teacher aims to describe each child's progress and to define "next steps" for his/her learning. After receiving the report, parents are invited in to discuss their child's progress with the class teacher and, if required, any other support staff.

National Testing in Language and Mathematics is part of the ongoing curriculum in school. Children sit these tests as part of the school's assessment activities when the teacher feels that their work is at the required standard and may not necessarily be tackled as a 'whole class' activity. Parents are informed of the outcome of National Tests in the pupil reports.

The school also uses NFER tests to monitor pupil progress.

Homework

Homework is issued at all stages. For older children written work forms the main element. Subjects may include maths, language, science or research work. Children are also encouraged to read at home, but formal reading homework is not given routinely. However in the P1-P3 class, reading will form the main basis of their homework. P2 - P7 children have weekly spellings.



Inter-school sports 2010.



School Calendar - Session 2011-12

Open

Close

2011

Tuesday 16th August
Tuesday 25th October

Friday 7th October
Thursday 22nd December

2012

Monday 9th January
Tuesday 17th April

Friday 30th March
Friday 29th June

2012

Mid term holiday (which incorporates regional closures and in-service days)

Open

Close

Monday 20th February

Monday 13th February

Monday 7th May