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Your Ref:
Our Ref: LW/MSM
Date: 13 January 2023

Dear Parent/Carer,

**Would you like your child to be bilingual?
Choose Gaelic Medium Education in the Highlands!**

At this time, you will be preparing to enrol your child to start school in August 2023. Enrolment for Primary 1 commences on Monday 30 January and concludes on Friday 3 February 2023. I would like to take the opportunity to advise you that Highland Council offers the benefits of bilingualism through Gaelic Medium Education at primary schools across the authority. The list of schools where Gaelic Medium Education is available is detailed below.

Languages are central to our cultural heritage and identity. To protect and promote the use of Gaelic, Highland Council commits to giving equal respect to Gaelic, alongside English. This is delivered on the basis that both languages are essential components of Highland life and recognises the educational, artistic, cultural, social and economic importance of Gaelic. This approach is underpinned by the twenty Highland primary schools that provide Gaelic Medium Education, which is essential to supporting our diverse and inclusive community.

The option of choosing the bilingual route is open to you, even if your child has not attended a Gaelic Medium Nursery. The Head Teacher of your local school, which provides Gaelic Medium Education, will be able to give you more information. They can arrange for you to speak with school staff, should this be of help to you. A short video with information about Gaelic Medium Education in Primary School from parents and those involved in Gaelic Medium Education, and some common questions about Gaelic Medium Education can be accessed at the following website:

www.parant.org.uk/primary-school

If considering Gaelic Medium Education, you may find it useful to watch the video, '**Fàs Foghlaim**', which helps to explain the benefits of bilingualism through Gaelic Medium Education. One contributor, Professor Antonella Sorace, University of Edinburgh gives an insight into how young children can pick up languages quickly and the skills a person can gain from learning more than one language. This video can be viewed at: www.highland.gov.uk/gaelic

Highland Council has been providing Gaelic Medium Education for over 35 years; I hope you take this opportunity to consider the benefits of Gaelic Medium Education. I wish your child every success on their learning journey.

Yours sincerely



Nicky Grant
ECO Education & Learning



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Ceann-latha: 13 Faoilleach 2023

A Phàrant/Neach-cùraim Chòir,

**Am bu toil leibh gum biodh ur pàiste dà-chànanach?
Taghaibh Foghlam tron Ghàidhlig sa Ghàidhealtachd!**

Aig an àm seo, bidh sibh ag ullachadh gus ur pàiste a chlàradh airson tòiseachadh san sgoil san Lùnastal 2023. Bidh clàradh airson Clas 1 a' tòiseachadh air Diluain 30 Faoilleach agus a' crìochnachadh air Dihaoine 3 Gearran 2023. Bu mhath leam an cothrom a ghabhail gus innse dhuibh gu bheil sgoiltean air feadh sgìre na Gàidhealtachd far a bheil Foghlam tron Ghaidhlig ri fhaighinn.

Tha cànanan aig teas-meadhan ar dualchais chultarail agus ar dearbh-aithne. Gus cleachdadh na Gàidhlig a dhìon is a bhrosnachadh, tha Comhairle na Gàidhealtachd a' gealltainn gun toir i co-ionannachd spèis dhan Ghàidhlig, ri taobh na Beurla. Tha seo air a libhrigeadh air stèidh gu bheil an dà chànan nam pàrtean riatanach de bheatha na Gàidhealtachd agus ag aithneachadh gu bheil a' Ghàidhlig cudromach a thaobh foghlaim, ealain, cultair, agus nithean sòisealta is eaconamach. Tha an dòigh-obrach seo air a daingneachadh tron fhichead sgoil sa Ghàidhealtachd a tha a' tabhann Foghlam tron Ghàidhlig, agus tha seo riatanach do bhith a' toirt taic dhan choimhearsnachd eadar-mheasgte agus in-ghabhaltach againn.

Tha an roghainn a thaobh a bhith a' taghadh na slighe dà-chànanaich fosgailte dhuibh, fiù 's ged nach biodh ur pàiste air a dhol gu Sgoil-àraich le Foghlam tron Ghàidhlig. Faodaidh Ceannard na sgoile ionadail agaibh, a tha a' tabhann Foghlam tron Ghàidhlig, tuilleadh fiosrachaidh a thoirt dhuibh. Ma tha sibh airson bruidhinn ri luchd-obrach na sgoile, is urrainn dhan Cheannard sin a chur air dòigh ma thogras sibh. Tha bhidio goirid le fiosrachadh air Foghlam tron Ghàidhlig bho phàrantan agus daoine tha an lùib Foghlam tron Ghàidhlig, le ceistean cumanta air Foghlam tron Ghàidhlig, ri fhaighinn aig www.parant.org.uk/primary-school

Ma tha sibh a' beachdachadh air Foghlam tron Ghàidhlig, 's dòcha gum bi e feumail dhuibh coimhead air a' bhidio '**Fàs Foghlaim**', a tha a' mìneachadh nam buannachdan a tha an lùib dà-chànanais tro Fhoghlam tron Ghàidhlig. Tha aon neach-labhairt, an t-Ollamh Antonella Sorace bho Oilthigh Dhùn Èideann, a' breithneachadh air mar as urrainn do chloinn òga cànanan a thogail gu luath agus na sgilean a dh'fhaodas neach a thogail bho bhith ag ionnsachadh barrachd air aon chànan. Faodar am bhidio fhaicinn aig: www.highland.gov.uk/gaelic

Tha Comhairle na Gàidhealtachd air a bhith a' solarachadh Foghlam tron Ghàidhlig airson còrr is 35 bliadhna. Tha mi an dòchas gun gabh sibh an cothrom seo gus smaoinichadh air buannachdan Foghlam tron Ghàidhlig. Tha mi a' guidhe gach soirbheachas dhan phàiste agaibh air an t-slighe ionnsachaidh aca.

Le deagh dhùrachd,

Nicky Grant
ECO Cùram & Ionnsachadh

Bilingualism and Gaelic Medium Education

Dà-chànanas agus Foghlam tron Ghàidhlig

Gaelic Medium Education is acknowledged through practice and research as a way of ensuring that children learn to speak Gaelic and reap the benefits of being bilingual from an early age. It is available to children from both Gaelic and non-Gaelic speaking homes. Enrolment to Gaelic Medium Education can take place at Primary 1 stage and in some circumstances at Primary 2, or thereafter, between Gaelic medium primary schools/departments. The Highland Council is a leading Local Authority and amongst the largest providers of Gaelic Medium Education nationally. Gaelic Medium Education represents one of the best means of reversing the decline of Gaelic in the Highlands, especially if it is supported by opportunities for young people to use Gaelic in the home and community. The Council is committed to continuing to develop Gaelic Medium Education in pre-school and primary schools, as well as expanding Gaelic Medium Education in the secondary sector. The benefits of Gaelic Medium Education and bilingualism are highlighted in the video, 'Fàs Foghlaim', www.highland.gov.uk/gaelic

Gaelic Medium Education is provided in 20 primary schools across the Council area (detailed below). We also continue to develop Gaelic Learning through English Medium Education, through the provision of a Primary Language Learning programme. Gaelic Medium subject teaching and Gaelic language courses, for both fluent speakers and/or learners are offered in a total of 20 secondary schools. The Gaelic Medium Education map on our website (www.highland.gov.uk/info/878/schools/18/gaelic_medium_education) provides information regarding all provision across the Highlands. In addition, we also provide support for parents and other learners in communities through a coordinated system of adult tuition, including a progressive tuition plan.

If you would like further information on Gaelic, contact your Area Education and Learning Office or e-mail: gaelic@highland.gov.uk

Acharacle Primary School
Broadford Primary School
Bun-Sgoil Ghàidhlig Inbhir Nis
Bun-Sgoil Ghàidhlig Loch Abar
Bun-Sgoil Ghàidhlig Phort Rìgh
Bun-Sgoil Shlèite
Craighill Primary School

Dingwall Primary School
Dunvegan Primary School
Gairloch Primary School
Glenurquhart Primary School
Kilmuir Primary School
Lochcarron Primary School
Mallaig Primary School

Millbank Primary School
Mount Pleasant Primary School
Newtonmore Primary School
Plockton Primary School
Staffin Primary School
Ullapool Primary School



Dà-chànanas agus Foghlam tron Ghàidhlig

Tha Foghlam tron Ghàidhlig (FtG) air a dhearbhadh tro chleachdadh is rannsachadh mar dhòigh air dèanamh cinnteach gun ionnsaich clann Gàidhlig a bhruidhinn agus gum faigh iad na buannachdan a thig an lùib dà-chànanais aig aois òg. Tha e fosgailte do chloinn bho dhachannan Gàidhlig agus do chloinn aig nach eil Gàidhlig san dachaigh. Faodar clàrachadh gu FtG aig ìre Clas 1 agus ann an cuid de shuidheachaidhean aig Clas 2, no às dèidh sin eadar sgoiltean/chlasaichean FtG. Tha Comhairle na Gàidhealtachd am measg nan ùghdarrasan ionadail as adhartaike an Alba a thaobh FtG. Tha FtG a' riochdachadh an dòchais as motha a th' againn airson crìonadh na Gàidhlig a chur am feabhas air Ghàidhealtachd, gu h-àraid ma tha taic ann tro chothroman do dh'òigridh a bhith a' cleachdadh na Gàidhlig san dachaigh agus sa choimhearsnachd. Tha a' Chomhairle dealasach a thaobh leantainn le leasachadh FtG aig ìre ro-sgoile agus ìre na bun-sgoile cho math ri leudachadh a thoirt air FtG aig ìre na h-àrd-sgoile. Tha buannachdan Foghlam tron Ghàidhlig agus dà-chànanais air an toirt am follais sa bhidio 'Fàs Foghlaim': www.highland.gov.uk/gaelic

Tha Foghlam tron Ghàidhlig air a thabhan ann am 20 bun-sgoil air feadh sgìre na Comhairle (fiosrachadh gu h-ìseal). Tha sinn cuideachd a' sìor leasachadh Ionnsachadh Gàidhlig tro Fhoghlam tron Bheurla, tro sholar prògram Ionnsachadh Cànan sa Bhun-sgoil. Tha cuspairean air an teagasg tron Ghàidhlig agus cùrsaichean cànan Gàidhlig, an dà chuid do dh'fhileantaich is/no luchd-ionnsachaidh, air an tabhan ann an 20 àrd-sgoiltean uile gu lèir.

Tha am mapa Foghlaim Gàidhlig air an làrach-lìn againn:

(www.highland.gov.uk/info/878/schools/18/gaelic_medium_education) a' toirt fiosrachadh mu sholar air fad air feadh na Gàidhealtachd. Tha sinn cuideachd a' toirt taic do phàrantan is do luchd-ionnsachaidh eile ann an coimhearsnachdan tro shiostam co-òrdanaichte de dh'oidreachadh inbheach, a' gabhail a-steach plana oideachaidh adhartach.

Ma tha sibh ag iarraidh tuilleadh fiosrachaidh mun Ghàidhlig, cuiribh fios gu Oifis Foghlaim agus Ionnsachaidh na Sgìre agaibh no cuiribh post-d gu: gaelic@highland.gov.uk

Bun-Sgoil Àth Tharracail

Bun-Sgoil an Àth Leathainn

Bun-Sgoil Ghàidhlig Inbhir Nis

Bun-Sgoil Ghàidhlig Loch Abar

Bun-Sgoil Ghàidhlig Phort Rìgh

Bun-Sgoil Shlèite

Bun-Sgoil Chnoc na Creige

Bun-Sgoil Inbhir Pheofharain

Bun-Sgoil Dhùn Bheagain

Bun-Sgoil Gheàrrloch

Bun-Sgoil Ghlinn Urchadain

Bun-Sgoil Chille Mhoire

Bun-Sgoil Loch Carrann

Bun-Sgoil Mhalaig

Bun-Sgoil Bhruaich na Muilne

Bun-Sgoil Mount Pleasant

Bun-Sgoil Bhaile Ùr an t-Slèibh

Bun-Sgoil a' Phluic

Bun-Sgoil Stafainn

Bun-Sgoil Ullapuil

