**Gartconner Primary School**

**Spring Newsletter 2022**

**Trees from the Woodland Trust**

100 trees arrived from the Woodland Trust and pupils throughout the school, Eco Committee, Nino’s Afterschool Care and our nursery children have been busy planting them. What a great way to improve our school grounds and invest in the planet’s future. We hope these trees will eventually encourage lots of wildlife into our school garden. Rebecca in P1 was very excited about helping, “I loved planting the trees. I gave it a stick to help it grow really tall. I hope it grows taller than Miss Cairney and I really hope a squirrel will use it as its new home.”

**Lendrick Muir**

Most of the primary 7’s managed to get away for their residential trip to Lendrick Muir. What an amazing time they had. Even Storm Dudley couldn’t spoil it although we did lose a night when Storm Eunice promised overnight snow on the Thursday night. Thankfully they made their final disco before heading home. They supported each other, conquered their fears and pushed themselves further than they thought they could. We are so proud of the P7’s and they were a credit to themselves, their families and the school. “The archery was so much fun and reminded me of my favourite Disney movie Brave. I channelled my inner Merida!” Neve, P7.

**Easter Fun Day**

PTA has supplied Easter Eggs for the children and I am sure they will love this treat. A huge thank you to our eggcellent Parent Council and PTA for their continued contribution in working together to support the school and for organising prizes and treats for our Easter Fun Day.

The PTA do a fantastic job supporting our school and new members are always welcome. Contact the chairs Pamela Lucas (PC) and Alana Callaghan (PTA) with ideas or suggestions via the school office or join the Facebook or twitter pages. We will be able to have parent volunteers back into school soon so you can get to do the fun stuff too.

**P7 Transition**

The P7 pupils have started transition visits with Kirkintilloch High School. Mrs Bradley, the Depute Head Teacher, has visited our school and answered all of our many, many questions about going to High School. The P7 pupils have also been on a virtual tour and visited KHS for an afternoon. Molly gushed, “It was amazing and everyone was really friendly and welcoming. There is a plethora of clubs to join like drama, art and every sports you can think of! I’m really excited to go into S1 in August.”

**Nursery – P1 Transition Programme**

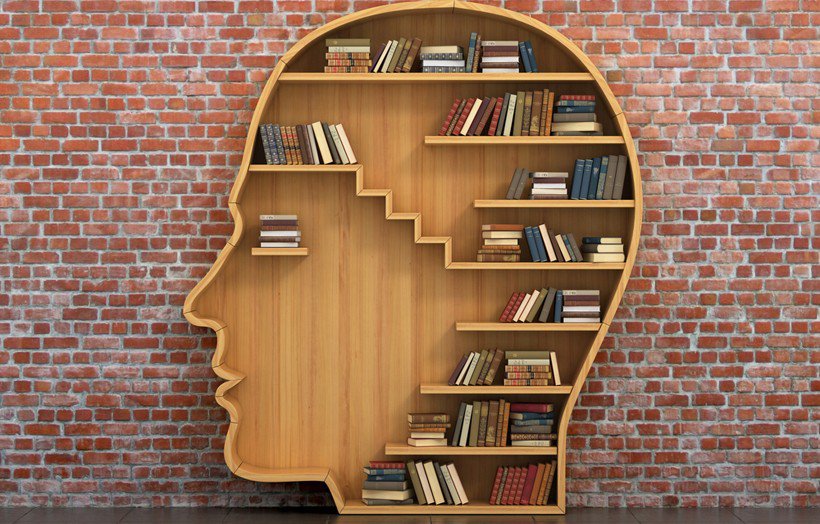
Our programme has already kicked off for this year’s intake with a video welcoming our **new P1** pupils to the school.

Our plan for transition will be as follows:

* Stay and Play Session for children morning of Friday 22nd April 2022
* Parent and Child induction morning of 10th June 2022
* Buddy Letters 26th May 2022
* Come Dine With Me lunch experience for children and parents August 2022

Parents should have received their invites for the Stay and Play session. Pupil surnames A-L will come at 9.15am – 10.10am and children with surnames M-Z will attend 10.50am – 11.45am.

We look forward to welcoming our new pupils to the school.

**World Book Day**

Primary 3 organised our World Book Day. Pupils enjoyed lots of different activities and the real highlight was guessing the Masked Readers. I think my suit gave it away even with a unicorn head.

Cameron P3 said, “My favourite part was when the P7’s shared their writing with us and I got to magpie ideas from them. I felt inspired!”

**Whole School Trip**

As restrictions ease, we are very excited to be able to go on a whole school trip. We are going on the 16th June to Blair Drummond Safari Park. We will need parent volunteers for this to help so look out for letters nearer the time of the trip.

**Fair Trade Fortnight**

Fair Trade Fortnight provided lots of great learning opportunities for our pupils. P5/4 organised and ran a stall for their class and P4. Thank you to everyone who participated in our Fairtrade Community Cuppa. It was lovely to see you all! Hopefully next year we can host this in school.

Eilidh P5/4 reported, “We have made a wall display all about Fairtrade Chocolate! We sent our art to decorate the Fairtrade shop, Gavin’s Mill. I can’t wait to see it. My Fairtrade Cuppa tasted awesome and I bought some Fairtrade Chocolate from our tuck shop which tasted amazing. Hopefully when we are out of bubbles, we can run a tuckshop for the whole school.”

**Sustrans The Big Wheel and Walk**

Thank you to those who were able to participate in the Sustrans Big Wheel and Walk. Every active journey will help make a positive impact on our environment. Aiden (P7) our Junior Road Safety Officer explained, “Active journeys make your body and mind healthy and strong. Fresh air is so good for you. Remember to cross the road carefully and look both ways – Cross like a Boss!”

**John Muir Award**

****Primary 7 pupils have gained their John Muir Discovery Awards. This is an internationally recognised award where pupils explore local wild places, the outdoors and learn about sustainability. Gartconner Early Years Centre and Primary School are now a recognised provider. Well done everyone! Kelsey explained, “I love the whittling and building fires. It was so much fun exploring the woods. I really liked building habitats for beasties and little creatures to keep them safe and protected in the colder months.”

**After School Clubs**

Mrs Ewens and Cara Jamieson from Active Schools have been working hard behind the scenes to establish some clubs when restrictions ease.

If you wish to support the school and become a coach for lunchtime or after school clubs we would be delighted to offer free training. PVG checks are provided by Active Schools.

We can also offer training for Bikeability Level 1. At level 1 the focus is bike maintenance, and skills within the playground. This is not out on public roads.

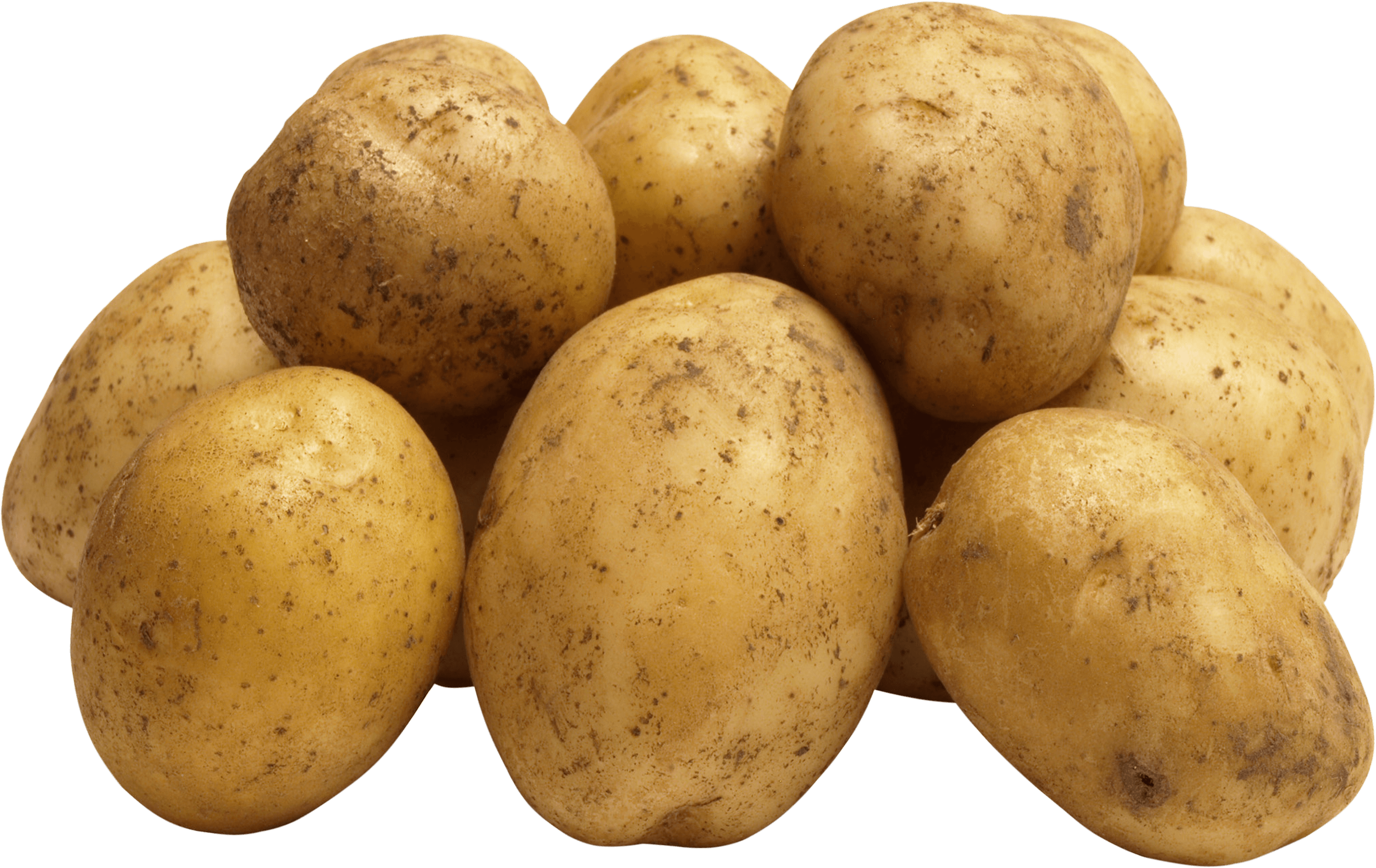
If you are interested in running a club or supporting Bikeability then please contact the school office.

**Playground**

There are lots of new initiatives happening in our playground over the next year. Mrs Ewens has been collating all the information from pupils, staff, parents and the wider community to feed into the improvements. We have been in talks with a company who provide training and equipment to help improve outdoor environments in schools so we are looking forward to working on this with the whole community over the next year. We will be allocating around £5000 to this on top of the money donated from parents and the community.

**Outdoor Learning**

Outdoor learning has been a huge focus over the last year. The children have been using the donated items from the big loose parts play resources to create their own games and to stretch their imaginations to the limit.

The school is awash with trees, seeds, potatoes and the like as we prepare for the next round of planting. We will be looking for volunteers to help with this soon. Our outdoor classroom is ready to go in the garden and will give us so much scope for developing outdoor learning whatever the weather.

The pupils have been doing the daily mile all term, some by foot, and some on their scooters. This is great for stimulating the body and the mind. All the outdoor learning activities focus on developing skills that you can sometimes reinforce at home: teamwork, problem solving, self-esteem, conflict resolution, negotiation, relationships with peers, motivation to learn and behaviour.

**Community News**

A huge thank you to all our families who have supported the Luggiewatch litter picks. These are held on the last Sunday of every month.

**Dance Shows**

There has been a lot of excitement around the school due to dance shows starting up again. Some of our children have been participating this week in the Rosebank Dance School show. Mrs Ewens children were in the show and she said all our pupils did so well. One of our P1 pupils was a bit concerned as Mrs Ewens cried all the way through. She was just too proud. I can’t wait for Gartconner’s Got Talent this year to see the amazing skills on show.

**School Closure for Easter Break**

The early years centre stays open for many of the school holidays so please note this for any early finish times, closure or reopening dates. These only apply to the school. The EYC will issue their own dates and times for holidays and you can also find these on the EDC website.

Dates for your Diary Session 2021/22

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| April 2022 |  |  |  |
| Friday 1st April | Report Cards issued | In school bags |  |
| Friday 1st April | Easter Fun Day | Dress in bright colours  Easter Bonnet Parade  Egg Decorating Competition | All pupils |
| Friday 1st April | School closes for Easter Break – Early finish 2.30pm for all classes. |  | 2.30pm finish for all classes. |
| Monday 4th – Monday 18th April inclusive | Easter Holidays |  |  |
| Tuesday 19th April | Pupils return |  |  |
| May 2022 |  |  |  |
| Monday 2nd May | May Day Holiday | School is closed |  |
| Thursday 5th May | Inservice Day | School is closed for pupils |  |
| Friday 13th May | P7 Transition Sports Event | P7 to attend during school day. |  |
| Tuesday 24th May | P7 Transition Team Building Event | KHS P7 to attend during school day. | P7 pupils |
| Wednesday 25th May | Parents Night | P1-7 Location and format TBC |  |
| Thursday 26th May | Lenzie Football Tournament | 1pm -3.45pm  Elite squad only for this game |  |
| Friday 27th May | May weekend holiday | School closed |  |
| June 2022 |  |  |  |
| Wednesday 1st June | Jubilee Celebration | More info to follow | Whole school and hopefully parents too |
| Thursday 2nd and Friday 3rd June | Queens Jubilee Holiday | School closed |  |
| Thursday 9th and Friday 10th June | P7 Transition days at KHS | Whole days P7s attend KHS | P7 |
| Tuesday 14th June | Sports Day (afternoon) | In school and parents welcome to attend |  |
| Thursday 16th June | Whole school trip to Bair Drummond Safari Park |  |  |
| Friday 17th June | Prize Giving Assembly | P1-7 pupils |  |
| Monday 20th June | P7 Leavers’ Event and Trip | 2.00pm in the school for P7 parents followed by the P7 leavers’ night. |  |
| 23rd June | School Closes 1pm | We’re all going on a summer holiday… |  |