

Our vision

At Ben Wyvis Primary School, we are committed to delivering an ethos of respect for all in our school community.

We aim to provide a happy, positive environment where everyone is listened to, supported, valued and nurtured through fun learning experiences.

Be the best you can be.

Ben Wyvis Primary and ELC Newsletter November 2021

It has been a busy start to term 2, beginning with our Dare to be Different Day, our Remembrance Service and Ross County visiting every Friday. P7s also enjoyed a trip to the Newton Room in Dingwall. This Friday, 19.11.21, we are looking forward to Children in Need, raising money by dressing in bright colours. The class teachers are already beginning to plan events in the run up to the next holidays. Dates have been included in the newsletter to help everyone plan ahead.

Many thanks

C McDowall, Acting Head Teacher

Disabled Parking

We have several families requiring access to the disabled parking bays and they are frequently unable to park. Please could disabled parking bays be kept clear for families who require them.

We would like to encourage our families to walk or park and stride, reducing the pressure on the car park.

We would like to remind parent/carers parked in the car park to switch engines switched off while they wait.

Children In Need

Wear something colourful for a donation of your choice on Friday 19th November 2021.



Staffing Update

As Mrs Mackie continues to work at Education Headquarters she has made the decision to resign from her post as Head Teacher at Ben Wyvis Primary. Mrs Mackie was appointed as Head Teacher in October 2015 and in May 2019 was seconded to support Education and the Change Team. On behalf of all the staff, parents and pupils we would like to thank Mrs Mackie for all her hard work and wish her well. The Head Teacher Post at Ben Wyvis Primary has been advertised and we hope to hear of the appointment of a permanent Head Teacher later this term.

Mrs Hegarty, Nursery Support Worker, began her maternity leave last Friday. We would like to wish her well. Mrs Hegarty's post has been advertised and we hope to appoint by the end of this month.

We would like to welcome students, Miss Ramsay to P1L and Miss Henderson to P4. Nursery have also welcomed Miss Simpson this term.

Ms Westmoreland will be leaving her post as class teacher of P2W on Friday 19.11.21 as she will be relocating to England. Ms Westmoreland has been a teacher at Ben Wyvis Primary since the school opened in 2012 and prior to that worked in Conon Bridge Primary. She is going to be greatly missed by pupils, parents and staff. We would like to thank Ms Westmoreland for all her hard work and dedication to the pupils of Ben Wyvis Primary and wish her the very best. We are going to miss her a lot. Miss Mackinnon will teach P2W until the post is advertised and filled.



Remembrance Day

On Thursday 11.11.21 we gathered together outside (with classes 2m apart) to commemorate Remembrance Day. It was a special moment having the whole school together safely. Well done to all the classes for making beautiful wreaths which were displayed in the courtyard.

Covid Update

Covid continues to affect our community and families. I would like to thank parents for supporting us, remembering to wear face coverings and maintaining social distancing.

We would like to ensure that you are aware of the procedures should Covid affect your child's class.

If there is one positive case a Warn and Inform letter will be issued, encouraging families to be cautious and look out for symptoms. If there are two positive cases of Covid in the class the school notifies the Health and Protect team. The Health and Protect team then instructs the school on what to do next. Sometimes the communication will be in the evening or early in the morning. We will communicate the information to families as soon as we receive it.

We have had cases of Covid this term and at the time of writing this newsletter the P4 class was isolating.

Staff continue to work hard to follow protocols to reduce the risk of Covid, with classes having no indoor contact.

With the rise in Covid we are having to be extra careful and ask that items are **not** handed into school for individual classes e.g. cakes.

Thank you for your ongoing support during these challenging times.

Parents Appointments

We were delighted that parents appointments were able to go ahead last week, with a 95% uptake. Due to technical challenges some of the appointments required a telephone call instead. Thank you for your patience with the use of the Booking System.

Pupil Council

This week classes will be voting for a Pupil Council representative. We are looking forward to re-establishing our Pupil Council meetings with children having the opportunity to contribute more to the life of the school and be involved in making decisions. The first project for the Pupil Council will be to develop the schools vision and values. They will also be involved in sharing their ideas about how we learn to spell.



Morning Routines

All classes have been allocated a door to use to arrive and leave from. This is to minimise the risk of Covid. We are seeing an increasing number of children arrive late, which is causing congestion in the office and raising the risk of Covid. Please could children arrive on time for class, with all the items required for the day. We appreciate that from time to time children may be late but this would help to minimise foot traffic at the office.

Early Learning and Childcare

Both nursery rooms really enjoyed participating in the Remembrance Service. We made a wreath which we laid at the service. Saoirse from the Rainbow Room said, "I went with Archie to put the poppies down," and Rory in the Sunshine Room said, "We wear red poppies for people." It was lovely to see everyone (socially distanced) together for the Remembrance Service.



School Closure Procedures

As Winter approaches we must be prepared for the possibility of a school closure e.g. due to a power cut.

We will try to communicate via

- MFR—listen carefully for the school name.
- The school emergency phone number—0800 564 2272 (Pin:041730).
- Ben Wyvis Primary Facebook page.
- Highland Council Website

<http://www.highland.gov.uk/schoolclosures>

Please try to avoid phoning the school to ask if the school is open—it makes for a busy office!!!

Dates for the Diary

Wednesday 15th December	Christmas Lunch & Christmas jumpers
Thursday 16th December	11am Carols in the Courtyard—Pupils & Staff (Christmas Jumpers)
Thursday 16th December	(pm) Christmas Parties in classrooms
Friday 17th December	Nursery Parties 9.30-11.30
Monday 20th- 22nd December	Children are welcome to wear their Christmas jumpers
Wednesday 22nd December	School Closes (usual times) Holidays
Thursday 6th January	School Reopens Nursery closed to pupils
Friday 7th January	The new Nursery opens.