

Head Teacher's Report to Parent Council. September 2020

Staffing:

We have a new teacher in Durness Primary School, Ms Ellis Jamieson who has settled in well and will be with us for this year at least. Ellen Parker has joined the team in Durness as a PSA. Mrs MacFarlane has been seconded to the ASG as Principal Teacher of Support for Learning and will give us full time SfL cover in addition to Mrs Ross's two days per week.

Jorge Garcia joins us in the high school as Teacher of Spanish and is also working for the Highland Virtual Academy.

We now have nurseries up and running in all three villages with the newly refurbished nursery in Durness is staffed by Klara Jancuskova, Krystina Coulton and Tia Keith. Kinlochbervie Nursery has finally been taken over by Highland Council and the staff of Leanne McKee, Gladys Kygen and Rachel Thackery have now transferred to be Highland Council employees.

The post of clerical assistant in Kinlochbervie Primary School which Jo Clark has left has been advertised and I hope to interview next week.

The Scottish Government have announced additional funding for schools to aid the recovery programme following lockdown and I am hopeful that this will allow us to appoint an additional PSA for the remainder of the year.

Covid Update:

At assemblies this week I reminded all pupils of the enhanced hygiene procedures in place in the schools and of their responsibility to keep themselves and others safe. I also asked that they make sure that they are as prepared as they can be for the possibility of further periods of lockdown. This includes making sure that they know where to access work set by teachers and a commitment from them to engage with this work if we do have to close.

Exam Results;

All exam results this year were based on teacher estimates and we went through a rigorous process of quality assurance to arrive at our estimated grades. I am delighted with our pupil's success this year. I have stressed to pupils that the possibility of a disrupted exam diet this session is very real and that teachers will base any estimated grades on performance throughout the year so it is vital that they work to the best of their ability all year. Information on gathering evidence and what form that evidence will take will shortly be issued by SQA.

All together days:

We have decided, with considerable regret that we cannot bring the pupils from Durness and Scourie to Kinlochbervie at present. We hope to resume this as soon as it is safe to do so and we will keep this under constant review but in the current crisis we do not feel that it would be wise or safe. When we do resume it is likely that the "all together day" will be a Thursday.