

Lamlash Primary School and Early Years Class

UPDATE FROM MRS FOSTER

Hi everyone,

I am really pleased to have all of our children back in the building at the start of what will be a really busy term!

The weather has been relatively kind and all of the classes are making full use of the school's outdoor space. You may have noticed the enhancements. Once again, thanks to Ms MacDonald and her family for giving up their time to do this; I know she has even more ambitious plans in the pipeline! (I have been tasked with creating wind chimes!)

At the time of writing we have only seven and a half weeks left and, as restrictions relax, we hope to start thinking about trips and activities. We will let you know when plans are firmed up.

I hope you have a lovely and safe weekend.

Mrs Foster

Holiday Weekend

The school and Early Years Class are closed on Monday 3rd May. Both re-open at the usual times on Tuesday.

Date: 30th April

UPDATE FROM MRS BUNTING

I hope you all continue to be safe and well and that everyone enjoyed the Easter break. The change in the weather has certainly encouraged us all to be outside more and it has been fantastic to see the Early Years Class and the Primary pupils make full use of the outdoor spaces and the newly installed Trim Trail.

This term the focus will continue to be on Teaching & Learning and transitions. Plans are underway for the three-day P7 visit (9th-11th June) and more information will be sent out nearer the time; the EYC pupils are experiencing extended play at the Primary and are meeting P6 buddies.

Many of the end of year experiences were lost last year due to the first lockdown and we very much hope that we can re-instate some of them this year and restore a feeling of normality.

Have a great weekend!

Mrs Bunting

UPDATE FROM MRS DICK

Dear all

Reading, reading, reading.

We say this a lot but what has become apparent for us locally is the children who spent even a little time reading over lockdown found coming back into school easier than those who didn't. Reading is always on my radar at this time of year due to the primary 7 transitions when I start looking across island as to those coming into secondary and checking that everyone who is able to, can read at the level for their age or beyond it.

According to latest research nationally:

- Primary school children tended to struggle a bit more with reading during lockdown than those in secondary school
- While average and above average readers met or even exceeded expected standards, pupils with lower reading ability found lockdown more of a challenge
- The teachers and school leaders interviewed for this report found the same trends in their schools but have also seen wider fluctuations in individual student performance.

We say it a lot but it is the one thing that you can do for your child academically that will really make the difference. We can teach them how to read in school and practice reading with them but the more they do at home the easier it is the further up the school they become. When a child gains secondary age, unless there is a recognised learning difficulty, they need to have a reading age of 11/12 to be able to access the curriculum regardless of the subject. We know it is not always easy but the earlier you start with your child the better, but it is never too late to begin and 30 minutes a day spent with your child supporting their reading now, will lead to less academic struggles later on and make their journey through school in all subjects that bit easier. We understand not all parents are teachers or know where to begin so I hope this resource below will help a little. Remember the school and your child's teacher are here if you need us too.

<https://home.oxfordowl.co.uk/reading/common-reading-issues/struggling-readers/>

For those whose English is not their first language, this article from lockdown has also some helps and tips on how you can support them even if you are unsure of English yourself. <https://www.glasgowtimes.co.uk/news/18385430.teach-child-english-home-second-language/>

Wishing you all a pleasant weekend,

Mrs Dick

Counselling for primary school children

In addition to the counselling we currently offer for those age 10 +, we are able to tap into counselling via Exchange Counselling for those aged under 10 through the school and Mrs Dick. Once a referral is made the rough procedure is as follows:

1. Contact the school to arrange a suitable day/time to hold a parent meeting.
2. Contact the parent to invite them to an initial meeting (this can also be done via telephone) and school staff are welcome to join.
3. Meet the parents at the school - These meetings are being conducted over the phone at the moment due to Covid-19.
4. Meet the child to complete a resilience assessment and create an agenda for support.
5. Work with child for up to 6 sessions (8 in total with assessment and end meeting).
6. Meet the parent to provide a summary of progress and outline a plan of continued support (this might include activities that parents can complete with the child and similar for school staff).

We know there is a need for support during these circumstances and therefore North Ayrshire are running two virtual group programmes whilst restrictions are in place that we can sign children up to take part in, with parental consent.

One programme focuses on dealing with transition and change and is aimed at p.7 (Adventure Programme).

The second programme promotes positive relationships, friendship skills and the impact of isolation (Friendship Shield).

Both programmes will be facilitated by 2 members of the Exchange Team and will run for 4 weeks.

Here is some more information:

The Friendship Shield (Building Friendships)

This programme targets the necessary resources and essential skills for building positive relationships (autonomy, self-esteem, empathy, social competence, problem solving and conflict resolution). The narrative facilitates personal growth within the area of connecting to others during this prolonged period of isolation/lockdown.

The Adventure Programme (transition and change)

This programme has been designed to strengthen 5 critical resilience resources of psychological wellbeing which are important in times of turmoil and change (felt security, optimism, self-regulation, confidence and social competence). The sessions will be activity based and will help the child communicate their inner concerns and anxieties about the changes they are experiencing.

As always confidentiality is maintained and more information can be had by contacting Mrs Dick directly.

Mrs Dick



News from the Early Years Class



A Word from The Team

We have been enjoying the wonderful weather and taking the opportunity to enjoy lots of outdoor experiences; painting, planting, mini beast discovery, exploring our shadows and colour mixing at our potion station.

We have played with the patterns of music and created our own. Numbers have been enjoyed in a variety of ways, sequencing, ordering and following the numbers on instructions to achieve an end product.

Next week the children have requested a tea party. We will hold this on Friday 7th May - tea shall be served in proper cups with saucers. Dress up is optional, cake and traditional games are a must!



P1/2 NEWS



We've had a busy time in Primary 1/2 since our return from our Easter break. We've begun a new Science topic, 'Planting and Growing', and have enjoyed predicting, planting and evaluating the growth of some cress seeds. We will be planting different types of seeds this week and are looking forward to getting outside to plant in our ever improving outdoor area!



Last Friday we got out into the sunshine and begun an upcycling project which will hopefully add some colour to the outdoor area. The children worked extremely hard to paint old records which will (with some magic from Ms Macdonald next week) become flowers and something that we can hopefully all enjoy in the summer sunshine.

Miss Shaw has begun a Magical History Tour with the class –complete with their own (paper!) bus. They have journeyed back in time over four thousand years to the Machrie Standing Stones and have begun modelling some homes from the period. The children are really looking forward to painting these and finding out where the bus will take us next!



artwork to showcase with you in the next newsletter.

As part of literacy we have enjoyed exploring two books linked to our Science topic, *The Flower* by John Light and *The Tiny Seed* by Eric Carle. We've used these books to work on our SHORS skills with a big focus on predicting and summarising. *The Tiny Seed* is going to also give us the opportunity to continue using our artistic talents, so hopefully we'll have some fantastic

We have also focused on our Rainbow challenges as part of our provision time, worked on our reading skills, had chance to discuss how we're feeling each morning, finished our money topic in maths and, naturally, had some time enjoying our new trim trial!

P3 NEWS

Primary 3 were investigating right angles, they checked where they could find them in school and some children found some at home too. The main discovery that man-made objects have right angles and perfect ones are not found in nature.

As part of the Community topic Primary 3 undertook a litter pick at the High School field - we found 4.2kg of rubbish which had the usual bottles and wrappers along with a school football, cycle helmet and some clothing.

Primary 3 are continuing the living things topic by looking at plants. They have planted their own beans and are also examining them growing with different conditions like temperature, water, ground condition, light and air.



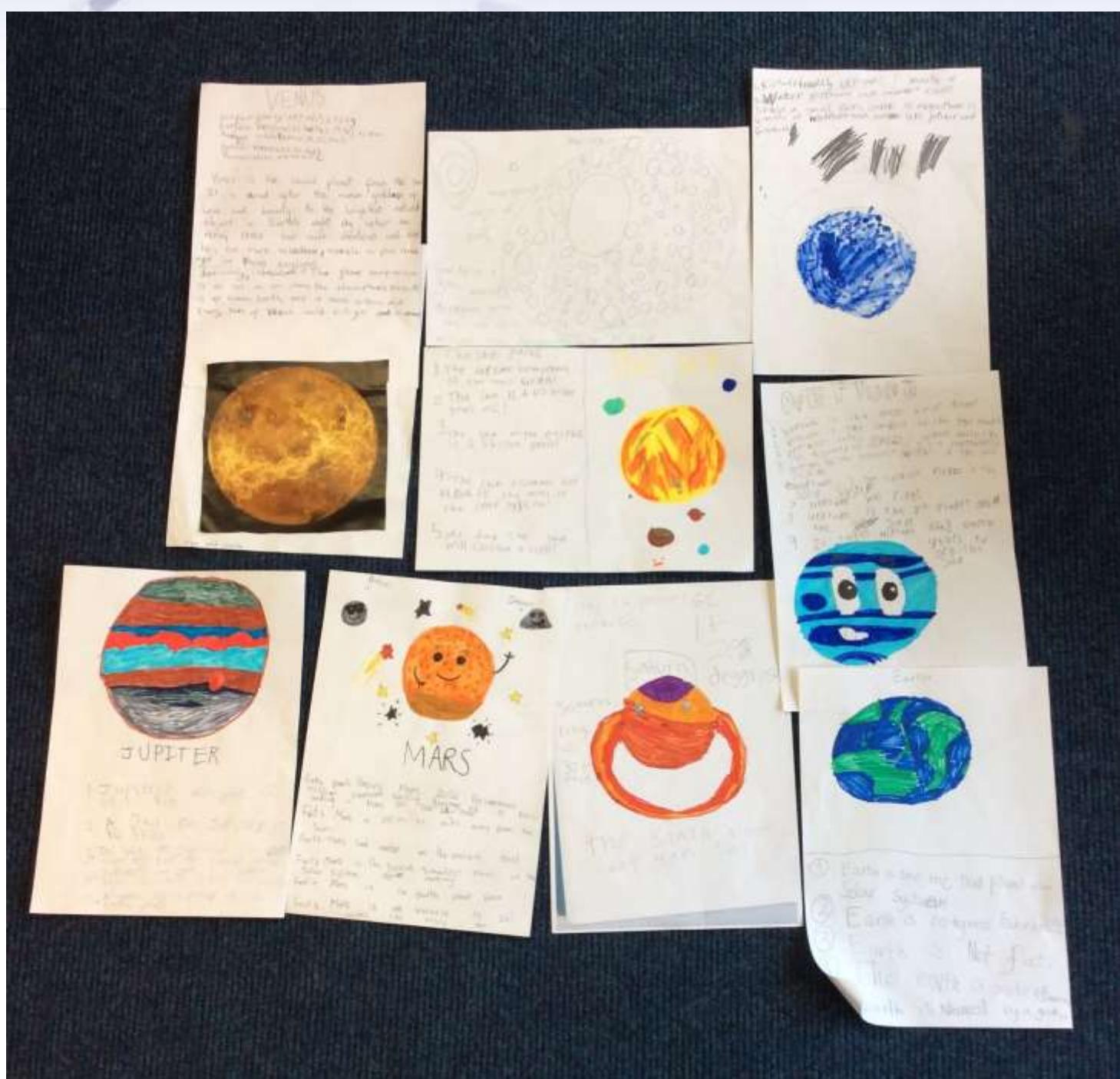


P4/5 NEWS

Since returning to school after the Easter holidays, P4/5 have been working very hard. We really enjoyed a couple of extra sessions with Lauren, the Active Schools Co-ordinator. The class particularly enjoyed playing Basketball, so have voted to continue this in P.E. sessions.

In Science, we have been learning about the Solar System. We collaborated in pairs to research one of the planets in the Solar System. Each pair then created a poster with the most interesting information found, including a picture of the planet. This work was so good that we then presented it to the rest of the class.

This week, we decorated labels to go on tins, to plant some sunflower seeds to grow. Let's see whose will be the tallest?





P6/7 NEWS

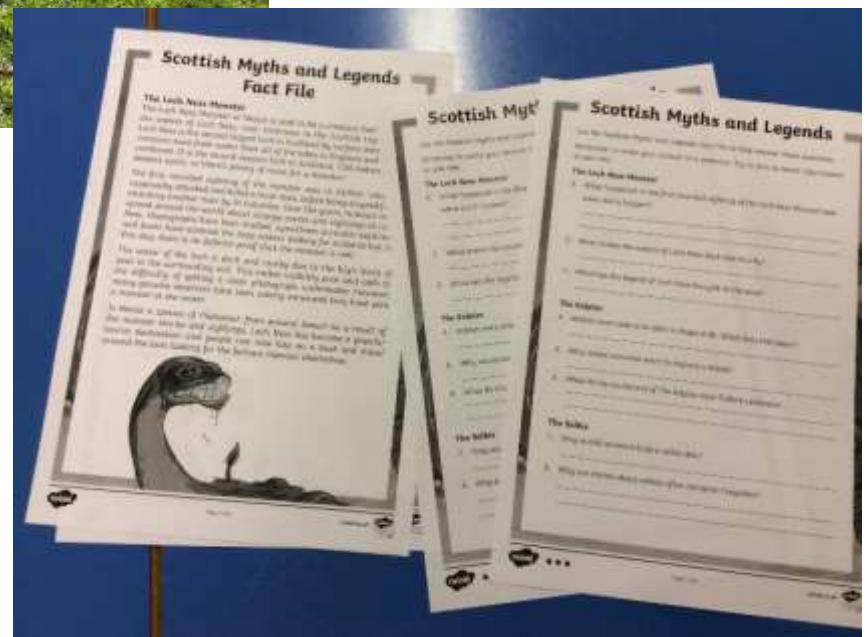
It is lovely to have all the P6 and 7 pupils back in school along with nice weather.

During lockdown we welcomed a new pupil, John Ross, into P7 via home learning. He has now had a few weeks to settle in, just in time to join in with the transition to high school. Since we have been back, we have started work on money in our Maths sessions and recapped on other areas we were unsure of.

In Literacy we are writing about journeys and looking at how to edit work to make the writing more exciting. Comprehension links with our topic work of Scottish myths and legends.

For our topic work we are still looking at Scottish landscapes and significant people, we will hopefully get to make the landscape this term. In other subjects we are looking at world religions, French sentences, greetings from around the world and some drawing skills. A busy few weeks in class.

Outside of the classroom the pupils have been helping develop the outside spaces by moving lots of mud and filling the tyres. A big thank you for their help, more outside work to come in the next few weeks. The class window display will be changing to crazy lettuce drawings until our lettuce grows. More planting of fruit and vegetables happening over the next few weeks.



P7 transition

Due to the uncertainty round what we will be able to do for the transition, Mrs Macbeth and Mrs Dick will be visiting each primary school on the island to take the students for a walk 'n' talk about life in the high school. Lamlash Primary will be after break time on Thursday 6th May. Please ensure your child has a jacket and appropriate footwear in case of rain. They will be in the local area and back in time for lunch. At the moment the P7 transition days at the high school will be going ahead as planned on the 9-11th June.

Your movement matters

Eight of the UK's leading walking, climbing and outdoor leisure organisations have joined forces for a ground-breaking research project examining the demographics of people who go walking and climbing.

Existing research by [Ramblers Scotland](#) and [Paths for All](#) has identified 12 critical barriers to participation in recreational walking and [Scottish Natural Heritage](#) found that the level of weekly participation in outdoor recreation among Black people and those from minority ethnic communities is lower than the average for all adults.

The aim of this project is to build a clear picture of what participation in walking and climbing currently looks like to support the development and implementation of evidence-based diversity and inclusion strategies within each organisation.

[Survey now live!](#)



We are delighted to announce our campus has been awarded the LGBT Charter Award. This was led by our S6 peer mentors and involved a range of activities including looking at LGBT issues and updating school policy, training for staff and highlighting LGBT issues in an age appropriate manner (P6/7). We are delighted to achieve this award and many thanks to all involved.

Senior Leadership Remits

Following the recent appointments of Mrs S Foster as Head Teacher and Mrs Heidi Macfarlane as Early Years Nursery Manager, it was required for senior leadership remits to be reviewed. Please find below a summarised version.

Mrs S Foster – Head Teacher

Strategic responsibility for school Vision, Values and Aims Strategic planning

- Strategic responsibility for Quality Improvement and Self-evaluation for self-improvement
- Strategic responsibility for School Leadership and Management, Learning Provision and Attainment, Successes and Achievements Strategic responsibility for School Policy
- Co-ordination and development of Policy and Process for Skills for Learning, Life and Work and Developing the Young Workforce
- Professional Advisor to Parent Council (ex Officio member)
- Parental Engagement – Family Learning

Mrs S Dick – Depute Head Teacher

- Year head responsibility for Primary through to S6
- Parental Engagement – Pastoral
- Safeguarding and Child Protection – LAC/LAAC (Primary to Secondary)
- Transition Policy and Procedure – Primary to Secondary
- Development of policy and process in relation to Health and Wellbeing Primary to Secondary
- Responsibility for Curriculum Development (Primary)
- Nurture and positive School Ethos and Relationship – Primary to Secondary
- School Attendance Policy and Procedure – Primary to Secondary
- Health & Safety Policy and Procedure including Fire Evacuation link with MITIE
- Risk Assessment and off site activities policy and procedure – includes school excursions Primary to Secondary
- Risk Assessment and Off site activities policy and procedure – includes liaison with MITIE, PPP, NAC Compliance Team and Facilities Management – Secondary
- Organisation of School Awards Ceremony – Primary to Secondary

Mrs M Bunting – Depute Head Teacher (Acting)

- SQA co-ordinator
- Co-ordination of all school examinations, standardised assessments and deployment of invigilators
- Improvement of Learning and Teaching
- Strategic responsibility for High School Curriculum
- Tracking and Monitoring learning – formulation and operation of policy and procedure
- Transition policy and procedure (BGE to Senior Phase and 16+)
- Operational management of school timetable and co-ordination of options
- GIRFEC Co-ordinator including specifically personalised support – EYC through to Secondary
- Overview of recognition of Wider Achievement, including certification

Heidi MacFarlane – EYC Nursery Manager

- Year head responsibility for Early Years – ante pre-school and pre-school
- Parental Engagement and Family Learning
- Responsibility for the support of Student Placements
- Safeguarding and Child Protection – LAC/LAAC
- Responsibility for Curriculum Development
- Transition Policy and Procedure – EYC to Primary
- Student Voice Policy & Procedure –
- Development of policy and process in relation to Health and Wellbeing
- Nurture and positive School Ethos and Relationship

Eco Schools Scotland - Make a poster to help us celebrate!

It's our **21st birthday** on 10th May and to celebrate we're having a poster contest!

Send in a poster encouraging everyone to take care of our environment, by protecting a local natural space, tackling litter and waste, or by fighting climate change.

We'll choose a winning poster to receive a wormery kit for their school as a prize. You can then use our [recent video activity](#) with [The Royal Zoological Society of Scotland](#) to make your very own classroom wormery to turn food waste into compost.

Guidelines:

- Your poster should be A4/A3 size, any media
- It should say Keep Scotland Beautiful in some form on it
- Should encourage everyone to take care of our environment
- Multiple entries per school are welcome
- All entries submitted will be shared by us to promote our work and campaigns.

Submit your entries via social media (Facebook, Twitter or Instagram) with hashtag #KeepScotlandBeautiful or email to ecoschools@keepscotlandbeautiful.org.

Deadline is Monday 10th May at midnight

The Wellbeing in Education Podcast:

Insightful and inspiring conversations that focus on raising the mental, emotional and physical well-being of pupils and teachers. With host Helen Clare, former school teacher, Senior Yoga Teacher, Founder of Class Yoga and creator of the Well Ed programme for schools.

https://thewellbeingineducationpodcast.buzzsprout.com/1678057?fbclid=IwAR3mOYi3RWWf76en0S50_1Qeh5RuL252FMyRl1xk9a-v1eitK2klvfKzAKU