

Lamlash Primary School and Early Years Class

Date: 1st October 2021

UPDATE FROM MRS FOSTER

Hi everyone,

The last newsletter went out to you at the start of term; this one is arriving in time for our October break! It has been a very quick, but lovely term. For example, I had forgotten how amazing it is to hear the sound of children singing. The Covid mitigations have certainly refreshed our appreciation for small things that were previously taken for granted.

The autumn has come quickly. Once again our grass area has become soft and muddy. Children playing in this area should have appropriate footwear; wellies are definitely preferable to wet, squelchy shoes. I would encourage you to ensure that your child is wearing them if they wish to play on the grassy area of the playground.

I attended the AGM of our Parent Council last week. I'm sure you will wish to join me in thanking our outgoing chairperson, Sharlene Little, who has been fantastic in the role. I look forward to working closely with the current Parent Council who are always happy to welcome you along to take part.

Finally, I would like to wish you all a really lovely and safe holiday wherever you end up. As usual I will be probably be doing glamorous activities such as painting (walls).

I look forward to seeing all of our pupils back on Monday 18th October.

Mrs Foster

Parent Council

The Parent Council run the Hallowe'en Party (during non-Covid times) and help out with Christmas and School Trips. They are looking for your ideas and help with fundraising. Please contact them on lamlashprimarypta@gmail.com

Please also see the minutes of the recent AGM which are attached with this newsletter.

P7 Barcaple Residential Trip

Due to the high uptake by P7's across the island, the Barcaple Residential Trip in May will only be open to P7 pupils.

Sovereign Credit Union

Application forms were sent home with the children this week for anyone who would like to open a savings account. Mrs Kabala will start collecting savings deposits for new and existing account holders on Friday 22nd October.

Hot Choc Friday

Mrs Foster will be starting a 'Hot Choc Friday' celebration in school. Children who have gone 'above and beyond' in relation to our school values of Ambition, Compassion, Belonging and Trust will be invited via a golden ticket to attend 'Hot Choc Friday' with Mrs Foster at 2:30pm. We are sure that this will be something that the children will really look forward to, especially with the addition of whipped cream and sprinkles! Allergies and those who just don't like hot chocolate will of course be taken into consideration and there will be equally special alternatives available for them to enjoy!



News from the Early Years Class

It's hard to believe that we are at the end of our first term already. For some of our children this means that they will finish on Friday for a two week break and for others they will continue to come into the Early Years Class and follow a relaxed curriculum and we hope to be out and about within the community on some fun excursions.

The highlights of the past couple of weeks have been using the gym to develop our climbing skills, throwing, and catching, balancing and large group games.

We have enjoyed being makers, engineers, architects and



designers using recyclable materials to make some interesting objects.

Dressing up continues to be popular within the Early Years Class. Thanks to staff clear outs and ARCAS we have seen princesses adorned with jewels, hats, scarfs, and bags a plenty. There have also been many superheroes of all calibre.

The children like to observe the weather during their day with us, so we have created a weather wall where daily weather can be updated by the children.

Sarah had a large tree taken down from her garden and brought in a large round from it. We looked at the rings and counted them to see how old it was then the children were given hammers and nails to enjoy some experience of using of small tools safely. This has progressed with the children wanting to fix things using real tools. Staff will be creating a tinker table so we are looking for donations of things that the children can use; screwdrivers to unscrew, e.g. old radios and DVD players, and some bolts and nuts.



This week we reintroduced 'Welly Wednesday' in the woods. This continues to be a popular activity with our little people, and our fabulous new outdoor suits accompanied by their wellies ensures that they have the freedom to get wet, dirty and climb without worrying about getting their own clothes dirty or wet.

Early Years Parent Council - We are looking to form our own Parent Council as the Primary School Parent Council is, by our request, fundraising for Lamlash Primary School only. This means that we need volunteers to help with fundraising ideas and events for our EYC. If you are interested and able, please let Heidi or Jacqui know. We are looking to raise funds to continue to develop our outdoor play experiences.

On behalf of the Early Years Team, I hope that those of you that are managing to have an October break have a good time and for those that remain with us we will see you on Monday, our first official holiday operational. Exciting!!

P1/2 News

We have continued to be extremely busy in P1/2 and the approaching end of term has not had an impact on this at all, but just what have we been doing? Here is a snapshot of some of our (Mrs Marriott and Mrs MacHale's!) favourite learning moments.

P1/2 have had the pleasure to welcome the Primary 6/7 class into our room and spend some time reading with them. This has given them the chance to begin to form friendships with the older children, to have them act as mentors to support P1/2 in their reading and to simply enjoy listening to a story being expertly read. The importance of listening to stories cannot be underplayed and is a great way to show P1/2 the skills that they need to develop as readers as they progress through their learning journey.

P1/2's literacy focus with Mrs MacHale has been all about rhyming. As part of this



topic they learnt a poem about a crab and made a wonderful crab puppet. What fun was had making and performing with these!



With Mrs Marriott books by Tom Perceval have been the focus and we've used these to discuss our emotions as well as our likes and dislikes when listening to a story. We've included Maths skills within our literacy unit by creating pictograms of our likes and dislikes as well as our favourite book by this author – Ravi's Roar was the most popular choice if you want a good bedtime story!



Maths has been all about number with Mrs Marriott. We've looked at counting forwards and backwards, sequencing and ordering numbers, talked about what they are worth and all the different representations of these numbers. We've practised forming them correctly, asking ourselves if they are facing the right way, if the tens and ones are in the correct places and if they match our 'what a good one looks like.' Mrs MacHale has focused on time; the seasons, the days, the months and clocks! We've learned some catchy songs to remember the days of the week and months of the year – maybe P1/2 can sing them to someone at home? O'clock has been mastered and half past was introduced on both analogue and digital clocks. It was interesting and tiring to find out how long a minute was...turns out it's quite long when you're trying to bounce, do star jumps or stay quiet for a whole minute!



As this week has been 'Maths Week Scotland' we've sent home some homework all about our termly foci and it was amazing to see children using Seesaw to respond to their homework tasks on the very first night! Wow!

Outdoor in the garden we've been busy exploring our school grounds. We've explore the topic of 'Nature's treasures' and have had scavenger hunt's, explored the colour of nature, built pictures using natural objects and even brought the outside in by continuing to build these indoors too! We've spent time with Mr Inglis exploring what's in our raised beds as we cleared them ready for the next wave of planting and are busy making a scarecrow in preparation for this!



Our 'Discovery time' has continued to allow us to learn through play and both Mrs MacHale and Mrs Marriott have been working closely with the children in the areas to deepen and extend their learning.





The jumping frogs have been particularly popular with Hamish and Lucas and they've now made puppets for them, created a storyboard with the frogs as the central protagonists and made a fantastic Maths game practising their addition skills. The addition of big cardboard boxes in the role play has given us dens to explore, the creative area has been very busy with presents being made for familiar members, the Lego is ever popular and our calm area is great to take 5 minutes of chill out time in.

Happy October Holidays!

P3/4 News

It's coming to the end of a very busy term for P3/4. We've all been working extremely hard and the children (and I) are ready for the holidays.

Since the last newsletter, we've had to say goodbye to Noah, as he and his family have left the island. We are all very sad about this and he is greatly missed in class.



We've continued to help to improve our school outdoor area by clearing the plants and weeds from our allocated raised bed. There are some very keen gardeners in the group.



In PSE, we have been learning about similarity, diversity and respect, which led to creating self-portraits, to demonstrate and celebrate how unique we all are.



This week is Maths Week Scotland. We are marking this with a variety of mathematical tasks.

At the beginning of the week, we took our learning outdoors by completing tasks such as: collecting sticks and stones and ordering them according to length and weight; creating symmetrical stickmen from twigs; creating patterns using items including sticks, stones, leaves, etc., creating numbers using materials found outside; and identifying shapes outdoors.



P4/5 News

It's been another busy few weeks for P4 & 5. We have finished off our writing on zoos and set individual targets to aim for in the next piece of writing. We have started diary entries and this will lead to an assessed piece of work. Looking great so far.



All pupils are succeeding with getting their names on the recognition board each week and some will reach 50 'Ready for Learning' stamps by the end of term, well done to all.

We have cleared out our part of the vegetable planters ready to make it all spooky for Hallowe'en.



Badminton has been great, some started not being able to hit the shuttlecock, now all can hit it and have a class game. They have worked out who the power houses, chippers and servers are, new PE blocks are starting after the October break.



In Maths we are continuing with directions and angles, having fun with the Beebots and the blindfold game.



Every Friday the class are doing a 'News, News and More News' video to send home to parents to tell them what they have been doing, wigs are optional.

I hope you all have a great break, and I will see all pupils back in two weeks, enjoy.



P6/7 News



P6/7 are settling in with their new teacher, Miss Scott. We have participated in lots of getting to know you activities as a class and recently completed some self-portraits, where we focused on shape, line and tone. Super effort all around and some fantastic pieces created!

We also focused on target setting and have set personal goals for the year.

We have been focusing on instructional writing in literacy. We have enjoyed engaging in various activities to help us write our instructions, such as building K'nex cable cars and doing science experiments. We are excited to begin reading about our new class novel 'The Girl of Ink and Stars'; we have made some super predictions about what we think might happen in the story. We will use this to develop our skills in creative writing, higher order thinking and listening and talking.





We have started up reading buddies with P1/2 and the children have loved listening to the younger children reading their book and choosing a story to read to them! We have been excellent role models for the younger children.



In maths we have looked at addition and subtraction, exploring various strategies to help us tackle more challenging number questions.



We've also enjoyed taking our learning outside for Maths week Scotland this week. We have cleared our vegetable patch in the garden ready to plant some new things! We couldn't believe the size of the roots of some of the plants, we were digging for a long time! We found some carrots, pea pods, snails, mealworms, spiders and lots of other bugs! We will research which plants survive best in our weather conditions and plant some new things!

We are looking forward to next term where we will continue working hard to develop our learning.

Getting to know.....Mr Barrow

I moved to Arran in 2019 with my wife and two young children, and have been busy renovating our house since. I have had a multi-faceted career over the years including the Military, Police and education sector. This has involved aspects of outdoor education, sport, physical fitness and nature/ the environment. I have a degree in Environmental protection as well as qualifications in fitness instructing, mountain leader, and education. For the next eight weeks I will be working on a one-to-one basis with a small number of Primary pupils, carrying out a variety of fun and engaging activities which will focus on outdoor learning and nature, such as bug hunting, Hapa Zome (leaf art), bird house building, nature trail quiz.



Autumn Crafts in Arran Library, Brodick -
Thursday 7th October, 2-3pm, ages 5-11.
Pre-booking ESSENTIAL on 01770
302835 or email arranlibrary@north-ayrshire.gov.uk

Sally Hunter's After School Swimming Lessons

Sally is starting at the beginning of November with groups on Tuesday and Thursday. She will prioritise beginners and initial improvers as numbers are limited. Please message Sally on Facebook messenger for more information.