

## UPDATE FROM MRS FOSTER

Hi everyone,

You may recall that several months ago that the island schools won a silver National Education Award as finalists for 'impact through partnership' – we were one of only four groups in Britain to get this. Well, this weekend, Mrs MacLachlan (the Head Teacher of the six other island primaries) and I are travelling down to London for the final award ceremony where we will discover, Oscars style, if we are the Gold winners. Some of the winners have been surprised this week on the One Show; our category will be revealed on the night. I have said it many times, and I will say it again – it is our schools' relationship with our communities that shapes and drives the quality of the experiences for our young people. I know that as Head Teachers, we are both very grateful to you and if we win, this award will belong to everyone.

This week, our North Ayrshire Senior manager, Laura Cook, was in school as part of a quality improvement visit. It was a pity that Covid restrictions meant that some of the observations could not take place but she did manage to speak to teaching staff and small groups of pupils in both Early Years and Primary. I am pleased to say that the visit went very well; it was clear that a lot of work has been put into ensuring that our environment is stimulating and positive and as usual, the pupils were articulate and informative. The manager was satisfied that we were endeavoring to ensure the best possible outcomes for our learners in raising attainment and achievement, despite very challenging circumstances. Ms Cook also met with staff to hear how we taking forward initiatives to ensure wellbeing, equality and inclusion. I would like to thank both staff and pupils for making this a very positive and beneficial experience. It is lovely to have their efforts affirmed by a visitor to the school.

Swimming lessons have started! In the coming weeks and months all of our pupils will receive a block of lessons at the Auchrannie pool. Once again, I'd like to give a huge thank you to the Parent Council - without their support this would just not be possible and I think that the ability to swim and confidence in water is essential for children living on an island near the sea.

## UPDATE FROM MRS BUNTING

I hope you all continue to be safe and well. Christmas is fast approaching and over the coming weeks the pupils' excitement levels will increase. Classrooms will be getting decorated and Advent Calendars opened. Class parties will be held again this year so look out for those dates!

We are trialing a new initiative with the newsletter. Paweł Gren, an S6 pupil at Arran High School, is working on translating the information shared with you into Polish during his Wider Achievement Opportunity. Paweł, a fluent Polish speaker, is looking to improve his written Polish and translation skills; he hopes to spend a year abroad in Poland whilst he is at University.

Cześć, mam na imię Paweł, mam 17 lat i jestem w moim ostatnim roku szkolnym. Będę tłumaczyć wasz biuletyn. I would like to thank him for taking this on. He will be accredited with a Saltire Award for his efforts and we would love to hear from you about this project.

Santa's Sparkle was back this weekend and, in the absence of a Lamlash Heather Queen, Mrs Foster and I were approached by Michael Gettins, the Chairman of the organising committee, to nominate a young person from Lamlash to switch on the lights on the Green. Alyssa Simpson was nominated to do the honours.

I'm glad that the weather was kind for everyone attending Santa's Sparkle and the parade.

Michelle Bunting

## ART COMPETITION

This month we saw the launch of a whole school monthly competition starting with Art. Lots of entries with the theme 'Red Squirrels' with the overall winner being Evie Steel P7. A very well done to all pupils who took part, Iga Kasprzycka, Lennon Hollingsworth, Jaime Simpson, Erin McGarrigle, Emily Bourne, Meredith McKie, Connor Inglis, Abraham Kabala, Stella Brunasso Cassinino, Anna Kabala, Penelope Tannahill, Filip Kasprzycki and Lily Steel.

Copies of the amazing art work will be put into the display at the front office, changing every few weeks. Iga Kasprzycka's work was the first one chosen to be displayed, brightening up the front office area.



The second art competition will be given out in December along with the launch of STEM competitions with Literacy being launched in January 2022.

## Children in Need

We had a fantastic time on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> November getting our spots on to raise money for Children In Need.

Our very able House Captains and Vice Captains came up the ideas and helped to orgainse the fun for the day. They invited all pupils to come school dressed in non-school uniform, and encouraged everyone to wear spots and even sport some crazy hair masterpieces!

In the afternoon, they led a series of activities for the children including a scavenger hunt and some arts and crafts. They also asked Mrs Kabala to quickly cut out some material so that everyone could sport a Pudsey type bandana – not sure she knew she was being asked to make them for the whole school when she agreed!

In total, we raised £77.10 for this worthy cause, so thank you to everyone who supported us to do so.



## Hot Choc Friday

We had 4 Golden Ticket winners on our last Hot Choc Friday, they were Dominik Gren, Penelope Tannahill, Lily Steel and Amelia Gren. This took place on the same day as Children in Need so this added to the fun!

## CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY 2021

We will be taking part in this event on December 10<sup>th</sup> - for more information please log onto:

<https://www.savethechildren.org.uk/christmas-jumper-day>

## EARLY YEARS CLASS NEWS

Autumn is one of our favourite seasons in the EYC and we can't quite believe that winter is just around the corner! There is an exciting buzz in the air as we gradually see lots more sparkles, glitter and festive colours appearing in the early years class.

What exciting things have we been learning in the last few weeks?

Welly Wednesday's - the children absolutely thrive during our outdoor excursions to the woodland area.



The changing seasons allow the children to identify and experience how nature and the weather can change from month to month. They have been particularly busy exploring the different colours and contrasting textures of the fallen leaves that lay on the woodland floor. One of our favourite activities is to make those wonderful crunch, crunch, crunch noises when walking on the crispy leaves! Another exciting element this week has been the opening of our very own nursery café, the 'Good Food Café'!

The children have been focusing on numeracy and mathematics and the implementation of a till and money has encouraged counting, problem solving and social interaction. The children have been

taking food and drinks orders from each other and writing these down on pads, thus developing their language and literacy skills as well as communication skills. The practitioners have thoroughly enjoyed visiting the café and tasting the delicious healthy foods that the children cook in the café kitchen, yum yum!



We have recently introduced our Early Years Class Superheroes which we are all SUPER excited about!

*Where did they come from?* They came from the planets Aims and Values (our school aims and values are Compassion, Belonging, Ambition and Trust).

*What do they help us with?* They help us to understand what trust means to us, where and how we belong, how and why compassion is important and give us the strength and motivation to climb ambition mountain and enjoy the sense of achievement that it brings to us. *Why have they come to live with us?* To embed their superpower values into the lives of our little people. Keep your eyes peeled for some superhero value achievements and if your child achieves any of these at home, please share with us.

With Christmas fast approaching, and with the glitter and sparkles well and truly making an appearance, the festivity practices have now begun. Watch this space...

Best wishes,  
EYC Team ☺

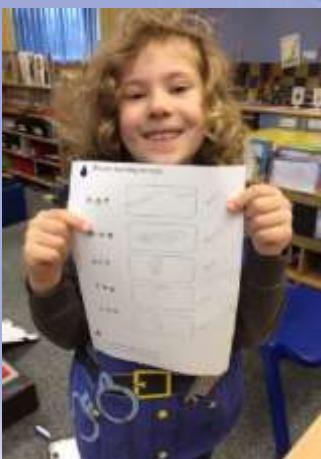


## P1/2 NEWS

We've been exploring colour during our art sessions. We looked at the 3 primary colours and used them to make a fantastic piece of collaborative artwork. We then looked at how these primary colours can be mixed in order to create the secondary colours. We were inspired by the artist Kandinsky to mix the primary colours together in order to create secondary colour circles. In Literacy, we've been working on instructional writing. We've really enjoyed this because we were able to be really bossy! This is because we were learning about imperative verbs, bossy verbs, and how we need to use them at the beginning of our instructional sentences. Instructional writing has also been a hit because we gave verbal instructions in order to make some toast! I think everyone's favourite instruction was: Eat the toast!

Reading and phonics skills are ever developing here in P1/2 and it is fantastic to see the children applying their new knowledge of letter sounds and digraphs in order to read and write words.





We've explored pattern in maths; enjoying our time outside on Outdoor Learning Day, to complete our patterns out in the fresh air using lots of natural objects. We also used our RME sessions exploring the Hindu festival of Diwali to look at Rangoli patterns, investigating the symmetry in these.



We've now begun estimating and rounding, which is proving a challenging topic and something new for our triangles and squares, in particular, to sink their teeth in to!

With Mrs MacHale the children have been focusing on addition (and subtraction for some!), discussing different ways of doing a calculation to get the correct answer. Children need to be exposed to lots of different ways of thinking and calculating to find out what works best for them. Number talks are a way to increase mental agility and discuss a maths problem as a group. It even has a special hand-language to join in!





Mrs MacHale's outdoor learning sessions have had a nature theme this term. Activities ranged from a ghoulish Halloween skull challenge; to sitting very quietly waiting to spot a rare bird or fine-tuning our fine-motor skills while helping birds survive the winter, making bird feeders. Outdoor games have been teaching us about how squirrels disperse oak tree seeds (ask your child about 'Hide Your Nuts' game) and how bats find their food while playing the blindfold game – Bat Moth!



As ever Discovery Time is a great opportunity for the children to apply the skills they are learning and to take their own learning on a journey of their choice. Well done P1/2. We love to see you becoming independent learners. It's amazing to see how much learning we can experience and extend through simple 'play'!



We've enjoyed creating poppies for Remembrance day, taking our learning outside for Outdoor Classroom Day, exploring our Bookbug and Read, Write, Count books during Book Week Scotland, and raising money for Children in Need!

*It's certainly been a busy month!*



## P3/4 NEWS

P3/4 have had another busy month. In Literacy and English, we have been focusing on punctuation; when to use capital letters and remembering to use a full stop, question mark or exclamation mark at the end of our sentences. We've continued to try and get outside to work on our spellings, as we enjoyed this so much on Outdoor Classroom Day.



In Numeracy and Mathematics, we have moved on from learning about shape, then pattern, to expanding our skills in addition and subtraction.

We enjoyed creating patterns, using pegboards.



In P.E., we are making great progress with our Badminton skills:



We created Bonfire art, using pastels on black paper.



In RME, we have been learning about Diwali, the festival of light. As part of this, we created salt dough diva lamps.





## P4/5 NEWS



P4/5 have been doing lots of hands-on activities the past few weeks. We have been looking at chemical reactions and how yeast reacts with different ingredients to inflate a balloon. The class became master bakers with their bread making, delicious. We still have to launch a rocket using coke and Mentos to conclude this part of our topic work.

We have also grown a 'sloth' in class, he grew over 72 hours in a jar of water and when we took him out, he was huge. He has now



slimmed down again as he dried out; our new classroom pet.

We have been working hard on our times tables at home and in class, with some practical work outside with sticks and in class with Lego and counters. In Numeracy, we are also working on division and multiplication linking this to practical life. We have now moved onto time and are looking at the analogical clock and reading travel timetables.

In Literacy, the cuddly corner dogs were out of action until pupils wrote a persuasive letter to get them back. I can happily say they have been reinstated and are back for pupils to read in comfort. On the subject of reading, we buddied up with the P3/4 class and spent time reading to each other as part of reading week. This week is read-a-thon so we are counting the minutes read in class and at home with pupils being sponsored. Carry on reading.

Other news, in PE we are doing gymnastics, swimming and dance, and in topic we are finishing off our ocean eco system work. The window display of the eco system will be changing at the end of the week to show how excited we all are about Christmas and lots of practise is going into the school Christmas play.



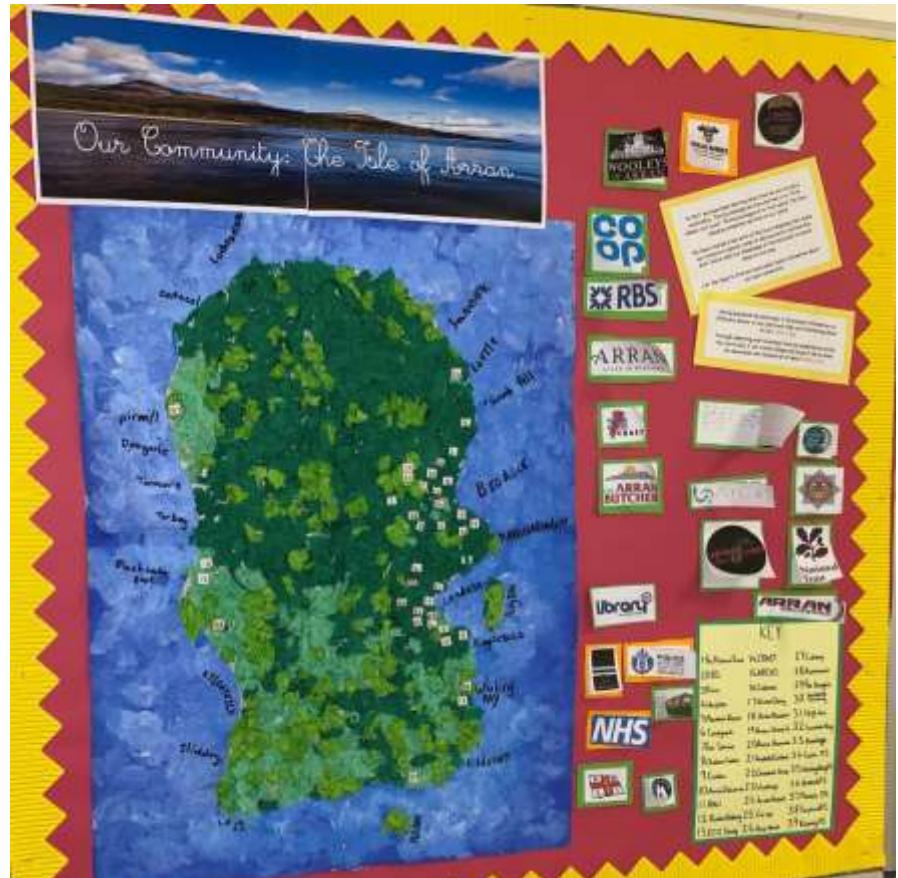


## P6/7 NEWS

It has been a busy month for P6/7!

We have learned a lot through our Sustainability Topic, such as the causes of global warming and enjoyed developing our listening and talking skills by creating PowerPoint presentations on how to reduce our carbon footprint and sharing them with the class. We received some very valuable feedback from our peers! We have been thinking about the message 'Think Global, Act Local' and have created a wonderful display at our school entrance showing a key with our community links and various places we can support on our island to live more sustainably.

We also created some beautiful 'Through our eyes' art which helped us encapsulate our understanding of global warming.





In Maths, we have completed our block on angle, symmetry and transformation and we engaged in various activities to demonstrate our learning. We have also looked at rounding and estimating decimal numbers; we did a super job! We are looking forward to beginning our learning on time, focusing on calculating durations and looking at the relationship between speed, distance and time.

We have begun our learning about persuasive writing and have enjoyed exploring various persuasive devices such as alliteration, emotive language and rhetorical questions. We are focusing on structuring our persuasive writing to ensure we have clear, separate arguments. Some super work so far!

We had children in need last week and the P7s did a fantastic job of organising and running the team activities! A massive well done to them for all their efforts.

This week we enjoyed our first Gaelic Arts lesson. We listened to fairytale stories, shared our own and then did some hot-seating drama themed activities. It was lots of fun and we are looking forward to more activities with our specialists over the next few months.



We have generated some fantastic ideas for our winter wonderland art project and are looking forward to creating the finished piece!

## An update from Mrs Henderson

As you know I am working as part of the North Ayrshire Council STEM team - part of our responsibility is Learning for Sustainability. Following COP26 we are looking to continue Learning for Sustainability in the form of recognising where the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UNSDG's) fit in our everyday lives and our learning. All of us can do simple things to change our behaviour and help the planet. For example if every man, woman and child in Scotland (5.454 million people) switched off their lights for 10 minutes that would add up to 104 years of light saved. Your child may come home talking about some of these simple things we can do. Food waste is another area where we can all help the planet - if all the food waste in the world was added together it would emit the same CO2 of the 3rd most polluting country in the world. Everybody doing a little soon adds up to a lot! Here are the graphics for the UNSDG's.



## Faculty of Support

The Faculty of Support lies within the heart of the school community, providing guidance to all pupils and teaching staff alike to reduce barriers to learning. In the faculty, our goal is to work closely with pupils and school staff to support pupil's individual needs enabling them to flourish academically throughout their time on Campus at Arran High School, Lamlash Primary and Early Years Class.

The faculty is overseen by one the campus senior leadership team, Siobhan Wilks, Depute Head Teacher and jointly led by Jane Macbeth, Principal Teacher of Pastoral Support and Karen Officer, Principal Teacher of Additional Support Needs. The department team includes two teachers of Pupil Support, one teacher responsible for Developing the Young Workforce, a Nurture Teacher and Nurture Assistant and six classroom assistants. The team of experienced teachers, who have taught in a variety of subject areas, offer expertise and guidance to students and fellow colleagues alike; the team of skilled classroom assistants work with and support the pupils on a period to period basis. A wide range of emotional and social needs can be addressed by the team in addition to specific learning difficulties. The faculty team is complimented by a School Councillor, an Inclusion Worker and specialist colleagues including the School Nurse, Health Visitor, Educational Psychologist and Social Workers. In addition, our Wellbeing Centre team includes an Art Therapist, Family Counselling, Outdoor Learning and Speech and Language Consultancy. The department liaises with all faculties and in Primary and Nursery offering direction, advice, observational assessment, support and assessment as required. Over the coming months we will provide an insight into the team, their work and faculty priorities for the year.

The Faculty of Support do our best work when we work as a team with all pupils, their families and school staff. If you have any concerns about support for your child please contact the faculty through the school office: 01770 600341 and ask for Mrs Macbeth or Mrs Officer.

In Primary and Early Years please contact: Mrs Marriott, Principal Teacher / Mrs Macfarlane, Early Years Manager, who will forward your concerns to the faculty leads.

### Our Nurture Team

Most of you know me already; however, I thought I would introduce myself in my new role as Nurture Teacher.

Before moving to Arran four years ago, I taught in primary schools for eight years and taught in a Steiner Kindergarten for two years. I love working at our Lamlash Campus and I'm delighted to be the Nurture teacher here.

When I'm not teaching, I am kept busy with my three children and various pets! I love theatre and performance and I can't wait to get the drama clubs up and running again. More info to follow about this in a later newsletter.

If you would like any more information about our Nurture groups and extended transition groups please contact the school office or email me at [gw19smithjennifer1@glow.sch.uk](mailto:gw19smithjennifer1@glow.sch.uk)





I am Miss Rodeck and I am working as the Nurture classroom assistant, alongside Miss Smith.

Before moving to Arran, I lived with my family in Glasgow, working on a conflict resolution programme with children in primary schools.

Since moving to Arran, I have spent quite a lot of time homeschooling and I am excited to be back in school now with the opportunity to help to create a space of wellbeing for the students.

Out of school, I love to spend time with my son, practice mindfulness and volunteer at the Arran Pioneer Project's community garden in Cordon.

Miss Rodeck

The Arran Horticultural Society is planning a Spring Show in 2022.

Please see the attached schedule which includes the categories for the children's entries. Please note a small change to the scarecrow entry which is now the 'Funniest Scarecrow'.