

Lamlash Primary School and Early Years Class

Date: 31st March 2022

UPDATE FROM MRS FOSTER

Hi everyone,

What a term this has been! We started off the term with a Readathon, which not only honed literacy skills but raised money. We have conducted wild and wacky experiments in our science week.

In addition, the children have all had swimming lessons, worked in our garden and had opportunities to 'rock up and ride' with Arran High School Mountain Bike Club.

Not only have we been busy in our curriculum, we also raised money for charity on Red Nose Day.

This is all on top of the excellent learning and teaching that has gone on apace despite pesky Covid paying us a visit on a number of occasions.

I certainly am looking forward to recharging my batteries during in the next two weeks and I'm sure that the children are too.

I'd like to wish everyone a really relaxing and fun filled break. I am, however, looking forward to welcoming the children back on the 19th April though, when we can get started with all the exciting activities planned for the summer term.

Mrs Foster



Red Nose Day

Many thanks to all who purchased Red Noses and contributed to the dressing up day. We raised the great sum of £160.50!

Well done!

World Book Day

Following the successful book sale on World Book Day, we were able to buy the books below to add to the school library. Thank you to everyone who contributed.



News from the Early Years Class

Down in the Early Years Class the children and staff have been embracing the wonderful spring weather and all the exciting learning opportunities that it brings.



We were given some frog spawn rescued from a puddle and have created a "Growing Frogs" area in the garden where the children are enjoying learning about the life cycle of a frog. This has inspired them to learn about other life cycles of other animals.

After a recent trip to Malaga, Rachael brought back a book about the artist Picasso. The children have really enjoyed looking at the book and it has inspired them to create their own pictures of portraiture. Erica has even created her own gallery.

Shona and the children have been working hard in the garden potting up herbs to create a more sensory experience to our garden. The children were asked what they wanted the garden to look like Lottie said "full of bees", Arwen wanted it to be full of butterflies, DJ and Donnacha wanted it to have lots of worms and bugs so that they could look at them with the magnifying glasses.



Our student, Elaine, has been planting peas this week with the children. They have asked lots of questions about growth and shared their own knowledge on the subject. Ramsay told us that he grows plants with his gran. When told that the peas like to climb round the canes Piper

said "just like in Jack and the Bean Stalk". We hope there is no giant at the top of our pea stalk!





Sarah has been helping the children make garden dens and has observed lots of problem solving skills. Robyn and Elisemarie have created cosy reading dens using the tree house and the pirate ship. We have used a variety of patterned materials to create our dens, which then led to a discussion about animal camouflage and matching our small world animals to the correct camouflage pattern.

Ainsley has been working in the art area and the theme was 'All Things

Spring'. By using a variety of art materials the children have made chicks, nests, flowers and lambs, to name but a few. One of our favourite morning activities is choosing our powder paint and mixing it for the day ahead. This is a task that requires measuring the correct amounts of both powder paint and water. The children are now becoming quite skilled at this.



EYC Staff News

We now have our very own Facilities Assistant, a lovely lady called Reesa who serves our lunches and teas. Previously she worked at Cooriedoon Nursing Home, serving the residents their lunches. She is a very nurturing and encouraging lady who the children and staff have warmed to very quickly.

Senior Practitioner

As some of you may know we were advertising the above post for someone to work alongside Jacqui, our current senior practitioner. I am delighted to say that we will be welcoming home Mairi Inglis who was the preferred candidate. Mairi worked with us previously for 8 years and is an excellent practitioner.

Students

We currently have two students on placement with us; Elaine and Veronica both are studying their HNC in Childhood Practice.

The Early Years team would like to wish you all a Happy Easter.

P1/2 News

Over the term we have had great fun exploring the theme of Fairy Tales through our Discovery Time, Maths, Literacy, P.E. and other subjects.

We used fairy tales as our focus for World Book Day at the beginning of March. We built bridges for the 3 Billy Goats Gruff and a bed for Sleeping Beauty. We used our subtraction skills, drew maps and made some marvelous sock puppets, which we enjoyed using in our puppet theatre.

We also went on a story adventure with our friends in the Early Years Class, exploring the woods to find some clues and tracking down some Fairy Tale characters. In the afternoon we worked with the rest of the Primary School on activities set by our P7 House Captains and Vice Captains.





Back in class, we've recently used the story of Cinderella as the main focus of our learning. We had a Cinderella Tic Tac Toe grid, with a range of activities for us to explore as part of our discovery time. These activities had Literacy, STEM and Maths focuses and helped deepen our understanding of this genre of story.



We've been exploring measure in our maths this term; capacity, length and weight. We recently helped the Fairy Godmother to create some potions in order to help our understanding of capacity and were able to successfully use the words full, empty, half full, nearly full and nearly empty to create some magic within the classroom! We had to



work together as a team, make sure we didn't spill too much and decide what magic powers these potions would give Mrs Marriott if (!) she was to drink them!

We also held a Cinderella's Ball where we wore the masks and crowns we created and showed off the skills we'd been learning in our Social Dance P.E. sessions. The children executed their dance moves amazingly and it was a real treat to see their co-operation and listening skills in action. The co-operation continued back in the classroom where we were able to work together to junk model some amazing castles that Cinderella and Prince Charming themselves would have been proud to live in!



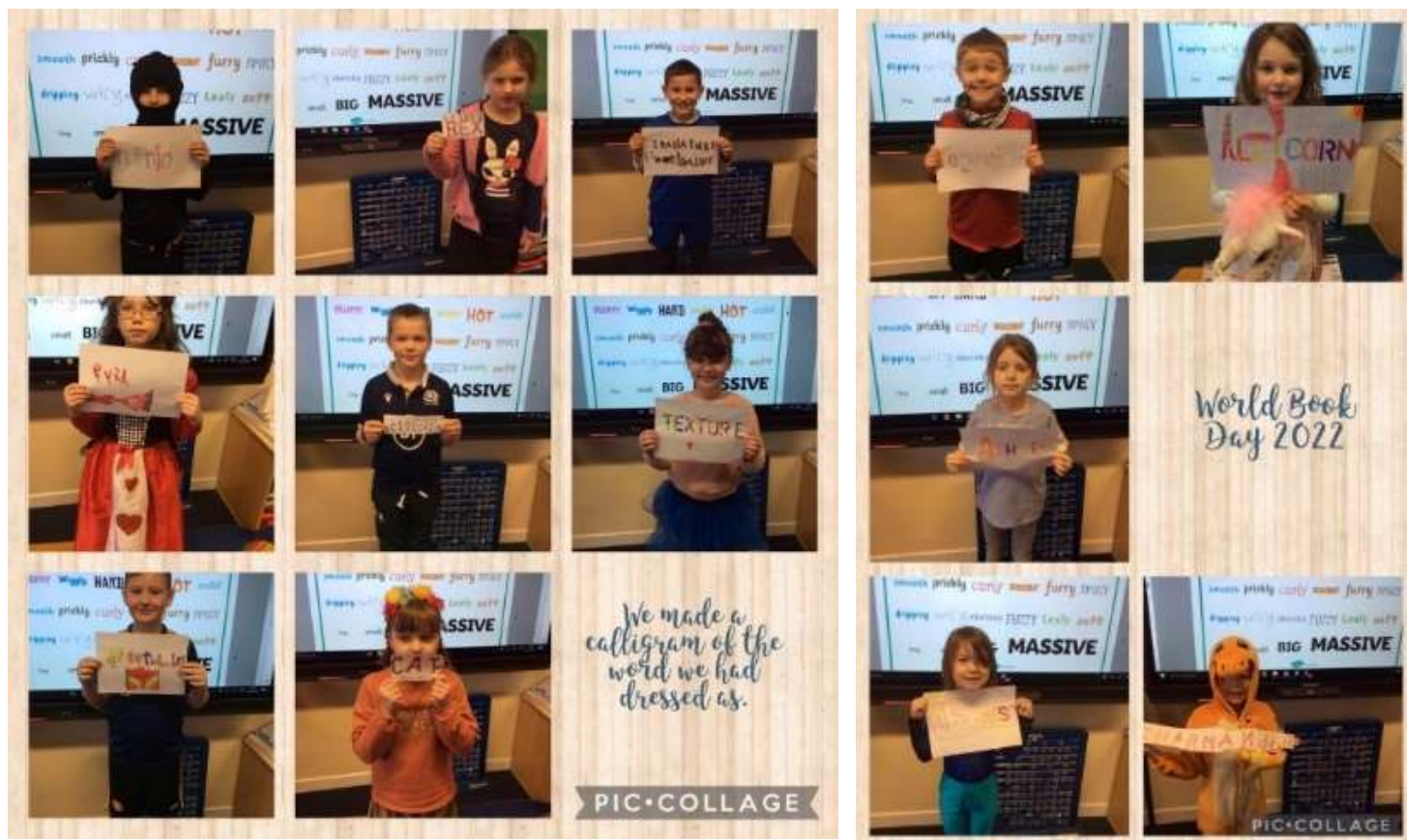
During Mrs MacHale's Food Chain topic in Science, the class worked on paper-based food chains, built their own food chains with toys, physically represented a food web as well as pretended to be an animal in the food chain searching for caterpillars!

At the bottom of the food-chain are the producers but how and what do they produce, the children asked. This lead to a little diversion to learn about photosynthesis and that plants can make sugar from sunlight. To create energy and contribute to the food chain, we also did something practical; planting wildflowers to attract and feed bees and butterflies. This is another RSPB Wild Challenge getting us one step closer to our Bronze Award. The wildflower plugs will establish in a greenhouse over the holidays to be planted up in April.



P3/4 NEWS

What a busy month we've had in P3/4! There was a lovely beginning, with World Book Day – always a favourite at Lamlash Primary. We celebrated this by dressing as a word. We each then created a calligram of our word.



We also watched a BBC Teach Live Lesson, with an author reading his book. During the afternoon, we enjoyed activities created and delivered by our P7 House Captains.

Literacy and English lessons this term have been focusing on improving our reading comprehension skills, using SHORS and developing our skills in imaginative writing; creating our own characters and developing a story about them.



Imaginative writing in action

We've also enjoyed completing our spelling tasks outdoors, on beautiful, sunny mornings.



In Numeracy and Mathematics, we've enjoyed learning about symmetry and measuring length. Both topics enabled us to have many opportunities for outdoor learning.





We also took part in the North Ayrshire SumDog competition, coming in 6th position!



P.E. this month has included our swimming block and the completion of our block of hockey.



PIC•COLLAGE

March has also featured British Science Week. We started this by planting our Big Grow seeds. We've been able to experiment with KAPLA, which is currently on loan to the school.



During our school 'Day of Science', we learned about animals and creatures living on, and around, our beautiful island.



Finally, we enjoyed a lovely day, raising money for Comic Relief.



P4/5 News

What a long term! I think everybody is ready for the Easter Break. In P4 and 5 we have been continuing our topic of The Vikings; our armoury is looking good and we have sorted out Viking facts from the myths.



We are also looking at biodiversity and what we have in our outside space. Pupils have found lots of worms, spiders and ants in the ground; this will inform what we will plant next term to encourage more wildlife.



We have also looked at the birds of prey found on the island and measured their wingspan, doing drawings on the playground. The rare sunshine meant we could do shadow birds of prey which was great fun.





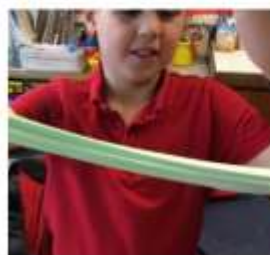
In sports we have been lucky enough to have the Sports Leaders from the High School taking a session each week along with fitness with Mrs Parker MacDonald. In Fit 15 we have enjoyed the good weather playing rounders and hockey outside.

Our imaginative writing is coming to an end with a final piece showing all the skills learnt this term, some great stories produced bringing out the characters of the pupils. Pupils have also been working on how to use their senses in their writing and having fun with poetry, acrostic, limericks, and haikus.

In Numeracy we have completed Money and the wage packets are coming to an end, all pupils are being made redundant with a final pay out that they can spend in the class shop. They have learnt to save as they get 10% interest on all savings meaning they get more money the next week.

In amongst all the normal lessons we have had Science Week and Red Nose Day. During Science Week we made sinking sand, slime, designed launch pads for our rockets, made LEGO animal habitats, went on bug hunts, planted sunflowers and squashes.

Red Nose activities included an assault course designed by the P6/7 class, great fun and the weather stayed nice. A great term.



P6/7 News

It has been a busy and exciting month for P6/7 and a fantastic end to the term, where we have consolidated so much learning!

With the better weather occasionally visiting us, we have ensured we take more opportunities to engage in outdoor learning. As part of British Science Week, we explored our surroundings, identifying bugs. To gain a better insight into the ecosystem around us, we set up pitfall traps to catch more bugs. They were very successful and we used our findings to create a food web of our ecosystem. The P7s were then able to share this learning at the Outdoor Centre this week when playing 'Survival Game' at the Dyemill.



PIC-COLLAGE



PIC-COLLAGE



PIC-COLLAGE

In Maths, we've had a big focus on fractions, decimals and percentages and have participated in a variety of learning activities to demonstrate our understanding. We also had a short focus on problem solving skills, using a variety of strategies such as: working backwards, trial and error and visualising. Miss Scott will not be forgiven for giving an 'impossible' question!

In Literacy, we have been exploring important parts of creative writing through writing our own children's story for our reading buddies. We have ensured we have included: alliteration, metaphors, similes, rule of 3, plot and characters. We have also learned about the importance of editing through the use of self and teacher feedback! We are looking forward to sharing our stories with our buddies in the new term.



We have also learned lots more about our topic, WW2, especially the blitz. We used our knowledge of Anderson shelters to create our own using recyclable materials. Excellent work so far!

At the beginning of this month, the children were keen to celebrate Pancake Day by making some pancakes. We added a French twist by identifying the French ingredients and listening to some French instructions. The end product was delicious!





PIC•COLLAGE



This week, our P7s and Miss Scott have been at Arran Outdoor Centre, where children have been learning lots of valuable skills and taking on new challenges, whilst also having an opportunity to meet and interact with P7s from the other 6 primary schools. It has been great to see the personal growth of the children over the course of this week and they should be extremely proud of themselves.



PIC•COLLAGE

We are looking forward to a new term full of exciting learning adventures. Happy Easter!



Parent Club's guide to online safety

Parent Club's new [child online safety campaign](#) gives parents and carers the tools they need to check and monitor what children in their care are doing online. It provides advice on how to talk to kids about what they do online, how to agree boundaries, practical things to make the internet safer and where to find further help if they need it.