

Argyll and Bute Council

Community Services: Education



Teaching and Learning 3 -12
across Mid Argyll, Kintyre and Islay

Introduction

Within the Mid Argyll, Kintyre and Islay area there are twenty five primary schools, Lochgilphead Joint Campus and Tarbert Academy (3-18). We also have pre-five units within some primary schools and commissioned providers who offer education to 3-5 year olds.

Teaching and Learning: Mid Argyll, Kintyre and Islay

Southend Lifeboat Visit

The P1 and P3 class have been learning all about lifeboats, lighthouses and the sea in their interdisciplinary learning project, The Lighthouse Keeper's Lunch. One of the many activities was visiting the Machrihanish Seabird Observatory and the Campbeltown Lifeboat Station. The class had a splendid afternoon in the company of Mr Hector Lamont, who was a lighthouse keeper at the Mull of Kintyre Lighthouse which is only 6 miles from the school.



Dalintober Primary Police Station Escape!



Primary 3 pupils of Dalintober PS recently visited Campbeltown Police Station as part of a topic looking at 'Emergency Services', you will be glad to know they managed to make a quick getaway! The pupils thoroughly enjoyed their visit and have written letters to Inspector Harper to thank him and his team for demonstrating many aspects of police work to the class.

Roman Master Class at Port Charlotte



Pupils at Port Charlotte gave their teacher a rest by teaching parents and community guests all about the Romans. There was a cooperative approach to planning and organising including research about Roman Food, Roman Numerals, Roman Games and Roman Mosaics. Pupils had 10 minutes at each station to teach their guests about each topic. Activities included playing the games of Rota and Knuckles, eating a six course feast and recording thoughts in a taste book, creating a joint mosaic and trying to work out roman numerals through playing dice games.

Gigha Primary School

Gigha Primary School have been working on the following topics since the beginning of this session:

- P1-4 Vikings, which included a visit to Kilmartin House Museum and a climb to the top of Dunadd Hill. Parents and friends were invited to school to sample some Viking food and drink and to view the work on show
- P5-7 studied the Victorians, visiting Auchindrain Museum for Workshops on agriculture and crofts in Victorian times. They hosted a Victorian Afternoon tea and sent an open invitation to all islanders, after a day's baking! Their work on the Victorians was on show for the guests to view.
- The Christmas Nativity and Pantomime 'Hansel and Gretel' raised £545 for local cancer charity 'Mairi Semple Fund'
- £510 was raised for Comic Relief at our Sponsored Disco!
- We have been working towards being a 'Fairtrade School'. We had a presentation from a fair-trade officer and will be having a Fairtrade day shortly for the Island community
- We will visit Amazonia on 26th April as part of our Rainforest Study. We are having a presentation from one of Mrs MacAlister's former pupils and her husband on 2nd May. They have lived and worked as missionaries in the Rainforest in Papua New Guinea for over 10 years.
- Mull Theatre visited on Wednesday, 27th March to perform 'Starbird'. The children really enjoyed the performance.



Tarbert Academy Rock up in red

Local produce, Kintyre teamed up with NHS Highland as part of their Rocking Red Heart Road show to promote the health benefits of using good wholesome local food. Pupils from Tarbert Academy - primary took advantage of this and all had a great time sampling food and listening to the Barrow Band play their songs about fresh fruit and vegetables.



Skipness News meets Campbeltown Courier

Skipness Pupils recently welcomed Campbeltown Courier's reporter, Steven Flanagan, to help them prepare the latest edition of their newspaper. The Skipness News has been running since 1991 and has a large number of local and foreign readers. The pupils were given 'top tips' on how to improve their journalism skills. They were very grateful for Steven's help and contributions.



Tayvallich Primary success in Heritage Lottery Fund bid

Pupils at Tayvallich Primary School in Argyll are taking part in a project to rebuild ancient links between Argyll and Northern Ireland with support from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF).

Inspired by local archaeology and views of Northern Ireland across the water, the children of Tayvallich PS will join forces with Mill Strand Integrated Primary School in Port Rush to research the story of their shared Iron Age and medieval heritage. Pupils will work with Kilmartin House Museum and the University of Ulster's Centre for Maritime Archaeology, to find out more about what life was like in Argyll long ago.

This project is part of HLF's All Our Stories programme to help people explore their community's heritage, and has linked up with the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) so that pupils can work closely with universities and benefit from the knowledge of heritage experts.



Jacquelyn Condie, P7 teacher at Tayvallich Primary, said: "This is a really exciting 'hands-on' history project, which provides a great opportunity for the children to fill a gap in our history and re-establish the link this area once had with Ireland."

The children will investigate local archives, take part in workshops run by Kilmartin Museum, visit a dig at an Iron Age fort and take to canoes to experience the land from the sea. Pupils will be trained in using digital cameras, blogging to record their findings and

creating a resource box with weapons, costumes and jewellery from the era for the community.

As well as making visits to historic buildings, museums, parks and archaeological sites in Argyll and Northern Ireland, pupils will investigate their own family histories, record and exchange stories from their families' past, and look into any links to Northern Ireland. The results of the pupils' work will be shared with their local community through exhibitions, 'living history' demonstrations and other events.

'Clyde' the official Glasgow Commonwealth Games Mascot visits Furnace and Minard Primaries

In March, Furnace School had a visit from the Commonwealth Games Mascot - Clyde. The children from Minard joined in the fun. All children learned how the mascot was 'created' and about the different sports which will be part of the Commonwealth games. Clyde then played a game of rounders ending with lots of 'high fives'! He even raced the teachers, which was fun for all those watching!

All are now looking forward to the Commonwealth Games..



Kilmartin Early Level Class Blog

Kilmartin P.S. has been part of the Argyll & Bute Early Level Class pilot for just over a year now and the experience has been one of the best that the school has ever undertaken. To help share the wonderful learning that takes place in the Early Level Class everyday, we have made a blog to help parents and any other interested people understand what the children experience and gain from this method of teaching. Our Early Level Class consists of three year old children to P.1, with P.2 and P.3 also joining in at Level 1. We would be delighted if you left some comments or asked questions!

<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/ab/KilmartinPrimary-EarlyLevelClass/>



The Hoity Toity Angel meets The Gruffalo's Child

Well done to all star performers who took part in the Christmas Concert in Rhunahaorine Primary. Children performed The Hoity Toity Angel and The Gruffalo's Child and entertained their audience with bells, clarinet and trumpet. The fantastic sum of £250 was raised for school fund. Thanks were expressed to everyone who helped and supported the school yet again with a super turnout.



National Science and Engineering Week at Port Ellen

Port Ellen School had a busy science week which commenced with a visit from Dr Dave Stodhart from the Fraunhofer Institute in Glasgow. Dr Stodhart works as a scientist making lasers that can detect escaping gas, and talked about his work and about being an inventor. He also demonstrated how to make spectrosopes to see the colours found in light. It was excellent.



Primary 6&7 shared their learning about light with primary 3&4, who then went on to create shadow puppets with what they learned.

Primary 6 & 7 spent an afternoon of food science detecting fats, proteins, sugars and starch using chemical indicators. Primary 7 then took part in a transition day with other Islay and Jura Primary 7s learning about air pressure. They launched rockets and got an egg into a conical flask only using air. Primary 5 were busy relocating their salmon offspring to a river near Inveraray as part of their hatching salmon eggs topic, and made a game to teach the life cycle of the salmon. Primary 1 & 2 were very busy learning about forces to build their own Malteaser transferring vehicles, which were judged by primary 6. Lots of discovery and invention took place in a very science fun filled week.

Bowmore Primary Toyota Dream Car competition

Bowmore Primary is very proud of Natasha Thomson. Natasha's class P5, entered the Toyota dream Car competition and this is what happened...

'I had to draw a picture of my dream car and I found out I had got into the World Competition! I was so excited when I entered the Toyota Headquarters because it was soooooo big. We had lunch in a private room and it was delicious.'



Ahoy there me Hearties!

Pupils at Carradale Primary had lots of fun taking part in 'Talk like a pirate day' The school received a letter from Captain Black Bottle explaining how to make a treasure map. Letters were written to him explaining

what to do and where to go. Treasure maps were made with a big X Marks the Spot! The older pupils were writing a story called 'Pirate Adventure' The children were learning directions and compass points including a way to remember the compass points: Never Eat Shredded Wheat and Nelly Elephant Squirts Water. Our young people said "We had to

come up with all the ideas and names for the buffet and Mrs. Ramsay kindly cooked it and decorated it for us to enjoy. We came up with lots of gruesome foods called sea weed strips, fish eggs, long boats, skulls, Cannon balls, sharks teeth, dead man's fingers, pizza boats, pirate vege fingers, treasure chests, blood and guts with seagulls poo, pirates grog, captain hook's missing fingers, ink pasta, scorpion eyes and a cucumber crocodile. We had a lovely lunch even though it sounds disgusting!"



Drumlemble Forest Schools

Primary 5 - 7 have embraced the great outdoors during their current Forest Schools topic. The pupils have all worked enthusiastically and have relished the team-building challenges which have enabled them to build shelters and benches. In the photographs, you can see pupils constructing the benches which they then use inside the shelters. They also learned how to tie knots and make kazoos. As a reward for their hard work they gathered around the campfire, which they also built themselves, and enjoyed toasting marshmallows!



Achahoish Primary 'Water' visit



“Our topic for the term was all about ‘Water’. At Ormsary we have our own water purification system. We all thought it was educational but fun. It was not only a nice forest walk but we filled our heads with unknown knowledge about how water is purified here at Ormsary. We started at the top of the hill with Matt who looks after the Estate water. At first it goes through a mesh and a smaller mesh. Ultra Violet light kills bacteria. Next there were filter bags. They stop small pieces of peat

getting through. When Matt pulled it out it was really brown and slimy. Next we went to big tanks filled with carbon. This is a brilliant way to filter. Matt doesn't use chemicals. Our water tastes lovely but I didn't realise how much work went into making sure it is bacteria free when it comes out of the tap here at school. Matt also came to make filter experiments here at school. I felt like a scientist. It was a really exciting day and right on our doorstep here at school.”
By Connor P7

Zumbatomic® at Lochgilphead Primary

Last term, Friday afternoons saw all 220 pupils (and staff!) stepping out in a 30 minute Zumbatomic class led by P1 teacher Laura Sweeney. Not a word of instruction was given, instead it was a case of watch and follow. A fun and engaging way of fulfilling the requirement for 2 hours PE and a great way to end the week.



Keills & Small Isles

This session as part of their Crofting Connections developments, both schools have participated in ‘Rivers in the Classroom’ – an Argyll Fisheries trust education project for Argyll primary school children. This involved the children hatching out salmon eggs and rearing the ‘alevins’ in the classroom. When the young fish were big enough, both schools took

the fish to the River Fyne, and released them. As part of this project, the children

learned about the life cycle of a salmon and how young fish can be reared artificially.



Community Links:

Craignish Primary School's 2p Build Up Event

The children of Craignish Primary School have been working with the Craignish Church Restoration Action Group (CCRAG), and members of the community. The main aims of this co-operative working are to:

- seek children's and adult views about what should happen to the church building.
- assist in the raising of funds for the Church Restoration Fund

The children's views will be incorporated into consultation across the whole community and the children are actively involved in the ongoing consultation process. A primary 6 pupil is a member of the

Action Group and acts as the school's representative. On the 1st of November the children held their "2p Build Up Event". This resulted from gathering 2p donations from parents, relatives and members of the community, with the aim to create an outline of the Church within the school grounds. Apart from having great fun the children had many opportunities to enhance their learning by making meaningful links across the curriculum. Some links were shared with parents and members of the local community on the day.

A great morning was had by all and we look forward to many more opportunities of working



with our local community. Thom our school representative says "The collecting of the 2p helped us understand why we are doing this. Like helping the Church and all the things it needs done". I can't believe how quickly we made the 2p outline and it was fun"

Glassary Play Park opens.

Recently, the long awaited Glassary Play Park opened next to Glassary Primary School. £70,000 had been raised to build a wonderful play park for the children of Glassary. A direct entrance from the school means that all the children are able to go into the play park during break and the rubberised surface means that it is much kinder to children's knees than the school playground.



Mid Argyll Music Festival Clachan Vocal Ensemble

Clachan Primary Vocal Ensemble were delighted to be awarded first place in the vocal ensemble competition at the Mid Argyll Music Festival. The pupils had a wonderful day participating in a variety of solo competitions too.



Parental Links:

Parent Workshop Evening at Dalintober

A large number of parents attended Parent Workshops on two areas of the curriculum. The workshops focussed on 'Big Writing' and 'Active Maths' and parents participated in activities and used resources that the pupils use in school. Miss Caroline Armour, Head

Teacher, said, "We are delighted so many parents came along to participate in our Information Workshops. This will be the first of many activities which promotes the strong home-school partnership that exists within the Dalintober PS community."



Charities:

Comical Cars, Coffee and Cakes at Ashfield

The pupils at Ashfield Primary School held a 'Comical Cars, Coffee and Cakes' event to raise money for Red Nose Day. Parents and friends were able to relax with a cuppa and some home baking while the children washed and polished their cars until they sparkled! The pupils ended up very soggy by the end of the afternoon but great fun was had by all and they managed to raise just over £200.



Pre-5 Lochgilphead Joint Campus —Art Exhibition



The Pre-5 Unit recently had a visit from Art teacher, Alec Ohnstad, who gave the children some tips as they painted pictures for their Art Exhibition. Family and friends had the opportunity to purchase the artwork in order to raise funds for the charity, Mary's Meals. The Art Exhibition was a great success and all pieces were quickly snapped up! As well as the sale of their paintings, the children ran a café and had baked flapjacks to serve to those visiting the exhibition. The fantastic sum of £80 was raised.

Eco Learning - Eco Schools:

Castlehill Primary School Visit to Kintyre Recycling Ltd.

Children from Castlehill P5/6 recently visited Kintyre Recycling Ltd as part of their current topic. They were shown what happens to the



items that they collect in school to be recycled. They thoroughly enjoyed their tour of the plant and once back at school they worked in their cooperative groups to create models of the various recycling machines. These were then displayed in the classroom. Recycling is a large part of the Eco activities at Castlehill Primary School.

1st Green Flag raised at Minard

In March, Minard Primary organised a Soup and Sandwich lunch fundraiser. This was a community event prior to the raising of the schools first Green Flag. The flag was awarded before Christmas but we waited for a day when all could join in the celebration. The children thanked the helpers for all the hard work they had put in to enable them achieve the flag.



Ardrishaig Primary Climate Change presentation

On Friday 23rd November Ardrishaig Primary School held a presentation on Climate Change. The whole school have been studying Climate Change with each class looking at a different aspect. There were a variety of interesting presentations made to an appreciative audience.



Mother Earth Planet Event at Inveraray

Friends and families joined Primary 4 and 5 at Inveraray Primary School to celebrate their 'Mother Earth Planet Event'. This marked the end of an extremely interesting topic based on environmental issues. Each group of children were given an issue, these included – Pollution, Over and Destructive Fishing, Trophy Hunting, Animal Crime UK, Habitat loss and Invasive species and Global warming. Each group had to research their issue in depth and create an informative display demonstrating the breadth and depth of the children's knowledge. The children also organised a Coffee Afternoon where they raised money for WWF and the SSPCA. Staff and parents were impressed at the extent of the children's knowledge and hope they continue to be protectors of our planet.



Lochgilphead Joint Campus Learning Centre

The introduction of a Plasma screen has enabled pupils to work independently, make choices and be in control through using software such as multi option storytelling games. The screen helps to get more communication from pupils as it is such a good motivator for learning.

It allows us to cover all areas of curriculum and can be used to research on the internet. The large screen enables easy access and it can be used for powerpoint presentations relating to topics. Pupils have watched 3D brain tours and

farm to food presentations which pupils could not otherwise access.

Sessions begin with simple cause and effect games and software relating to literacy, numeracy and health and wellbeing are major features. Pupils have progressed to complex listening games, matching different music types to photos e.g. jazz band, african music, church music.

We have also used it to introduce new concepts e.g. more than, less than and it allows pupils to be on a level field with their mainstream classmates and



genuinely share a game with them. This in turn means they are motivated to play and spend time with Learning Centre pupils.

CAST projects

In Mid Argyll, Kintyre and Islay the Creative Arts in Schools Team (CAST) has had pleasure in providing the following during the last academic year:

Big Draw: authority wide project involving inspirational artists visits to most primaries accompanied by in depth resources and planning tools. **Creative Learning Network cpd:** provided six twilight cpd opportunities for teachers covering music, drawing, character creation, film making and drama in Campbeltown, Islay and Lochgilphead.

Libraries: worked with library service to co-ordinate and support exhibition visits in Lochgilphead and Campbeltown.

Scottish Opera: engagement of SO in Kintyre opera pilot. **Liasing** with Kintyre schools and SO and production of graphic design work for programmes and tickets. 8 primary schools.

TAC Writing: Running Argyll Collection primary writing competition with successful first and second prize winners from Ardrishaig and Port Ellen.

CAST Music

3 Schools Samba!

Clachan, Glenbarr and Rhunahaorine Primary Schools have taken part in a six week samba session. The sessions were delivered by a talented local drummer, Mark MacSporran, using interesting teaching methodologies including "WE LIKE TO EAT ICE CREAM".



Schools contact details

School	Post	Name	School website
Achahoish	Head teacher	Louise Patterson	http://www.achahoish.argyll-bute.sch.uk/
Ardrihaig	Head teacher	James Helbert	http://www.ardrihaig.argyll-bute.sch.uk
Ashfield	Acting HT	Cathleen Macdonald	http://www.ashfield.argyll-bute.sch.uk/
Bowmore	Head teacher	Florence Macdougall	http://www.bowmore.argyll-bute.sch.uk/
Carradale	Joint headship Drumlemble	Anne Marie Elliot	http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/node/935
Castlehill	Head teacher	Richard Long	http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/node/299
Clachan	Joint headship Skipness	Catherine Black	http://www.clachan.argyll-bute.sch.uk
Craignish	Head teacher	Ian Jamieson	http://www.craignish.argyll-bute.sch.uk/
Dalintober	Head teacher	Caroline Armour	http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/node/326
Drumlemble	Joint headship Carradale	Anne Marie Elliot	http://www.drumlemble.argyll-bute.sch.uk/
Furnace	Joint headship Minard	Debbie Munro	http://www.furnace.argyll-bute.sch.uk/
Gigha	Head teacher	Lorna McAlister	http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/node/7196
Glassary	Head teacher	Dick Eadie	http://www.glassary.argyll-bute.sch.uk/
Glenbarr	Head teacher	Maureen Taylor	http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/node/7181
Inveraray	Head teacher	Lynn Kidd	http://www.inveraray.argyll-bute.sch.uk/
Keills	Joint headship Small Isles	Kathleen Johnston	http://www.keills.argyll-bute.sch.uk/
Kilmartin	Head teacher	Fiona Johnson	http://www.kilmartin.argyll-bute.sch.uk/
Lochgilphead	Head of Learning and Teaching - Primary	Sally Stankey	http://www.ljc.ea.argyll-bute.sch.uk/
Minard	Joint headship Furnace	Debbie Munro	http://www.minardprimaryschool.webeden.co.uk/
Port Charlotte	Head teacher	Judith Frost	http://www.portcharlotte.argyll-bute.sch.uk/
Port Ellen	Head teacher	Maureen Macdonald	https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/ab/OurLearningBlog/
Rhunahaorine	Head teacher	Ruth Reid	http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/node/7253
Skipness	Joint headship Clachan - pilot	Catherine Black	http://www.skipness.argyll-bute.sch.uk/
Small Isles	Joint headship Keills	Kathleen Johnston	http://www.smallisles.argyll-bute.sch.uk/
Southend	Head teacher	Leslie Ronald	http://www.southendargyll.org.uk/
Tarbert Ac/ Primary	Depute HT with responsibility for primary	May Taylor	http://www.tarbert.argyll-bute.sch.uk/
Tayvallich	Head teacher	Margery Bickett	http://www.tayvallichprimary.com/

Appointment / joint headship confirmed in last 2 years