

Lismore Newsletter Term 2 2020



Our second term has gone by in a flash! We have been so busy with lots of exciting learning and new projects. Read on to find out all about floorbook planning, outdoor learning, STEM, French, Messy play, Ukulele and more...

We have been re-visiting our school values and exploring what is important to us here at Lismore Primary. We have been learning about respect, honesty, compassion, kindness and equity. We aim to show this in our actions in and outwith school. The children have been working very hard on this. They have been 'filling buckets' (making others and themselves happy) and have been rewarded with a selection of class treats. A visit to the park and hot choc with marshmallows, cream and a tasty treat, have been amongst the favourites.

It was excellent to catch up with everyone briefly at the end of term 1 for the children's Health and Wellbeing Meetings. Please see the schedule below for parental reporting throughout the year:

- Term 1: HWB Meetings and Class Newsletter
- Term 2: Video Message (on FB) and Class Newsletter
- Term 3: Parents Meetings (Fingers crossed for in person)
- Term 4: Written Report

I look forward to getting to know you all more in the months to come.



This term the children have been using floor books to plan and reflect on learning. This allows the children to have a say in what's next for them. It also provides a real life context for developing the important skills needed for critical reflection.

This term the children planned and reflected using floor books every Tuesday morning. Using the thoughts and ideas of our young people we have planned for special events such as the Halloween Disco and Christmas Fair/Christmas in the community. We have also chosen projects that excite and motivate our learners such as STEM.

Finally, we have decided on school environment improvements. The children designed their own dream outdoor area and chose some items (for purchasing) to bring it to life!

Floorbooks are not only used for projects, events and improvements but for planning the core curriculum too. At the end of term 1 the children discussed their learning in literacy, numeracy and HWB and decided what they would like to do next. This has been at the forefront of what we do here at Lismore, every step of the way.

Check out some of our floor book pages:



Outdoor Learning

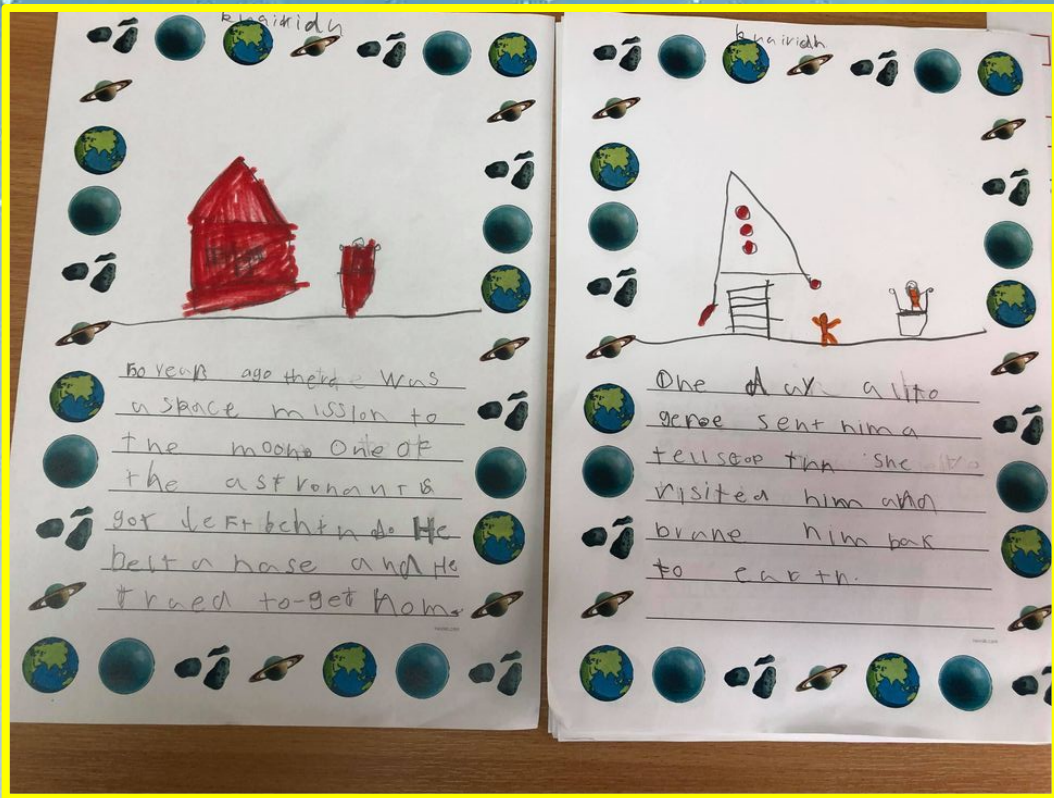
With the weather changing and things becoming a bit wet and wild we have tried hard to keep outdoor learning alive. Every Monday we continue to work in our outdoor learning groups to take part in an outdoor learning activity. This term this has involved bug hotels, outdoor improvement plans, Autumn pictures, story sticks and outdoor feely boxes. It has been a lot of fun!

On Wednesdays we have an outdoor HWB focus time with Mrs Barry. It is great to take our learning outside to our beautiful school grounds.

Our parent council letters paid off and we have been lucky enough to receive some new gardening equipment including gloves, hoes and really cool Flamingo watering cans. The parent council have also helped us improve our school grounds by laying the foundations for our shed. We also had people from the local community put our new polytunnel cover and clean up our front garden area. We are so very grateful for these contributions and look forward to lots of time in the garden in the months to come.

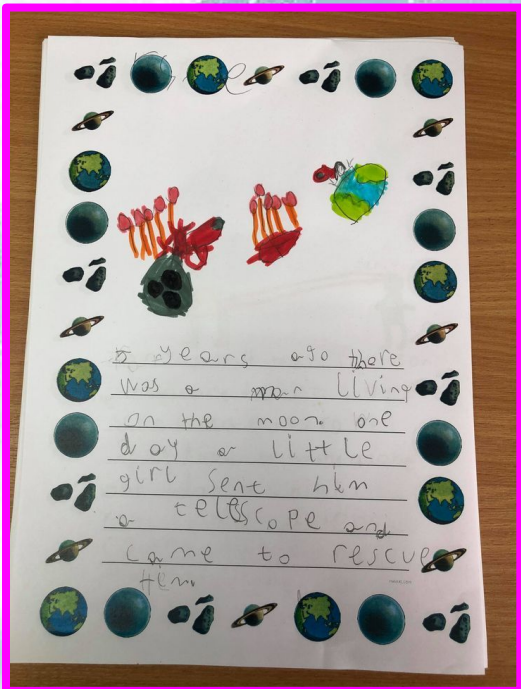
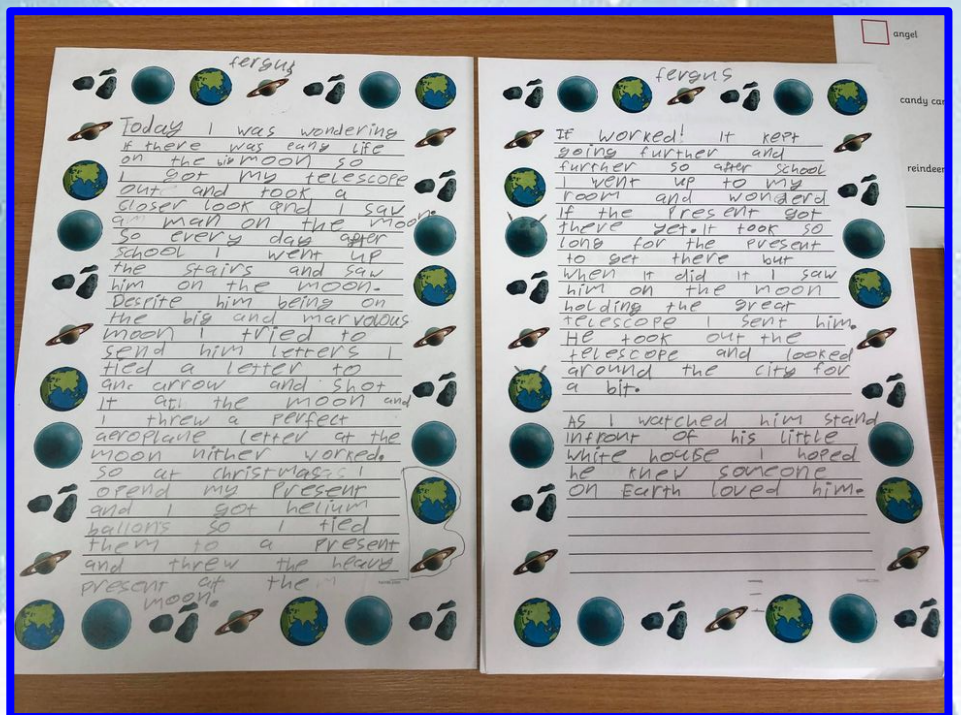
I am still looking into funding opportunities to revive our pond area! Again, I will let you know of any updates! If anyone has any ideas for this or would like to help, please don't hesitate to get in touch.





Check out our story writing skills!

Top: Ruairidh
Middle: Fergus
Bottom: Esme



STEM

What is STEM?

STEM is an acronym for Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics and is our chosen topic for this term. As such, we have been taking part in lots of fun activities within these fields as well as learning about famous Scientists, Inventors etc. and developing our collaboration and communication skills.

On Mondays and Tuesdays we take part in STEM challenges, such as 'Build a marble Maze' or 'code your own video game'. On Thursdays and Fridays we have been learning about energy! We are becoming experts in renewables!

We have thoroughly enjoyed this topic. Check out our comments below:



Coding is complicated but fun- Fergus

The bridges were strong. Cormac could pile 2 boxes on his- Cian

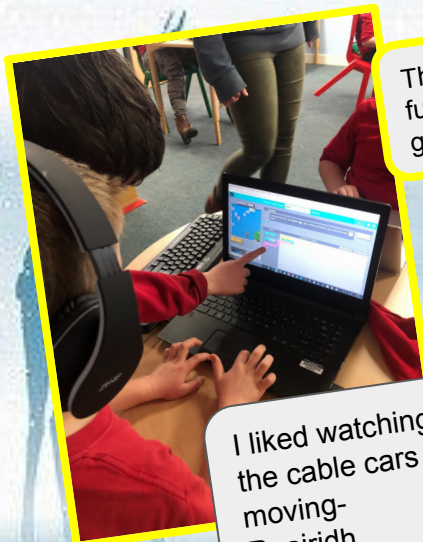


I liked building games on gamestar mechanic- Cormac

My favourite was gamestar mechanic- Kristian

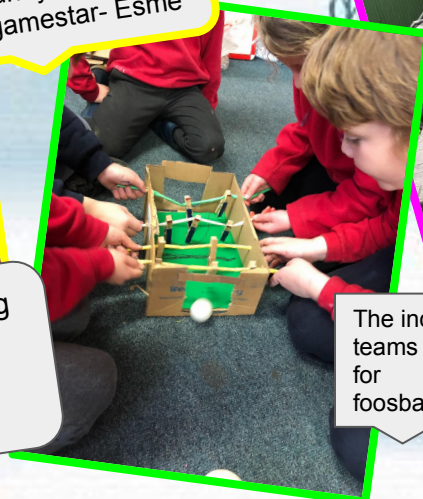


I liked thinking up new ideas for bridges- Alasdair



The fries were funny in gamestar- Esme

I liked watching the cable cars moving- Ruairidh



The individual teams were fun for foosball!!-Isabella



The egg drop was fun- I liked trying different things- Emma



Literacy

Numeracy

HWB

This term the children have been working across the curriculum but we have a continued specific focus on Literacy, Numeracy and HWB.

Literacy

We have continued to work hard on our story writing skills. This term we have focused on using interesting vocabulary- we have been focusing on word of the day to help build our knowledge in this area. We have also been looking at breaking stories down into beginning, middle and end; delving into what each of these sections need to be engaging to the reader. We learned about narrative hooks and wrote some excellent story starters using a new technique we learned: the puzzling hook. We have continued working on spelling and have enjoyed some new kinaesthetic experiences such as making our words with play dough. For grammar we have been focusing on suffixes and punctuation. For comprehension and reading half the class have continued reading the Witches whilst the other half have been exploring different picture books.

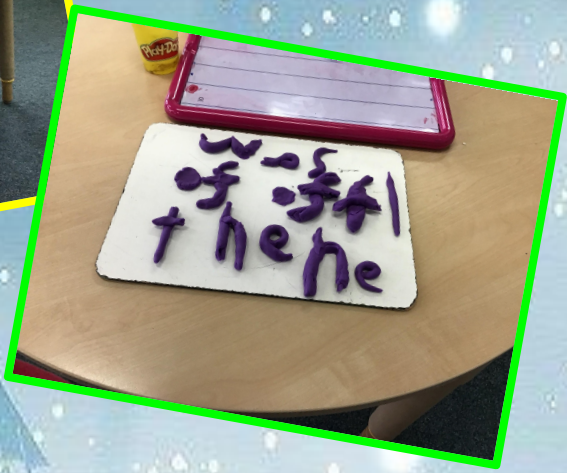
Numeracy

For Numeracy this term we have been focusing on counting and multiplication. Some of the children are looking at repeated addition and others are moving on to multiplication with 2 digit and 3 digit numbers. To continue developing our number sense we do lots of fun challenges such as number of the day and the countdown challenge. We like these a lot! For our extended maths the children have been focussing on money and shape with Mrs MacDonald- they have been looking at making amounts, giving change and budgeting as well as exploring 2D shape, 3D shape and angles.

HWB

We have continued to focus on HWB this term. We continue to start each day with a soft start (reading/mindfulness) and 10 minutes of movement/dance. As stated before, there has also been a big focus on re-establishing our school values. The children have looked closely at respect, honesty, equity and compassion and are beginning to explore what this looks like in school and the wider community. We utilise the outdoors, where possible, and have incorporated more time for play- including our messy play sessions on Tuesday.

Literacy



Numeracy



HWB

Christmas Dinner

On Tuesday 21st Hazel made us a lovely Christmas dinner. We were sad our families couldn't join us but the children loved opening their cards from parents. Afterwards, the children played party games, went on a treasure hunt and watched a movie. What a fun day!



Crafting for the Community

During term 2 on a Monday afternoon the whole school have been working together to craft for the community. This involved making Christmas ornaments that were later hung in local gardens. We felt this would be a good way to give something back to the community this year and share some Christmas joy.



Christmas Cake

The children and their families worked together again this year to create a delicious Christmas cake. Each family was tasked with bringing in an ingredient to make the cake. The children then worked as a team to make it together. Afterwards, Hazel, cut the cake up and packaged it up. This was then distributed at the Christmas fair as a little gift from us to you- We hope you enjoyed it!



Messy Play

On Tuesdays we spend time in the Pre-5 Unit for messy play. This was spurred on at the end of term 1 when Krissy Monaghan kindly donated some messy play materials to the school. Since then, every Tuesday the children explore slime, jelly, sand, fake snow, etc. It's lots of fun and very very messy!



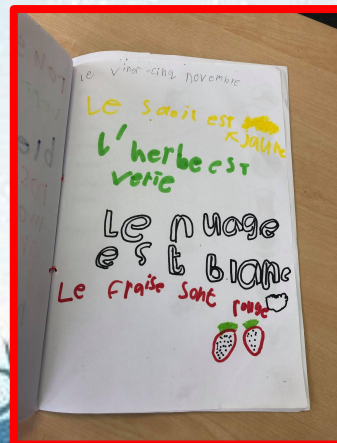
Ukulele

We have started to learn the ukulele this term with Amy Bowman. Amy has been teaching us about chords, parts of the ukulele and writing Christmas songs. We are hoping to be able to put this all together in the new term to play a song! We will be sure to share this with you all when we do!



French

This term we have been learning French. Primary 3-7 have been working with Mrs Barry learning about greetings, animals and colours. Primary 2 have been working with Roxanne and Janette in the Pre-5s learning about greetings and common words.



Pre-5 News

This has been an exciting term for the Pre 5s. We have enjoyed seeing Autumn turn into Winter and used our observations to make lots of art, and have learnt about how animals and people make the best of winter. With Mrs Barry we made a bug hotel to keep mini-beasts safe and with Roxanne we practiced making soda bread hedgehogs and spiced pear tarts. We worked hard with the big children to make lots of Christmas decorations, for our families and the community, and helped to make the school Christmas cake. We are looking forward to next year when we will be able to use the new polytunnel and shed!



Staffing

New Staff

Debbie Harris: By now we have all had the chance to touch base but unfortunately there continues to be limited contact face to face due to COVID-19. Hopefully this will change in the new year and we will be able to have our parents' meetings in person (fingers crossed) and get to know one another a little better!

Jenny Craig: I am now not the only newbie at Lismore Primary School. As you will know from last terms newsletter Jenny started with us as our classroom assistant and lunchtime cover in the Pre-5. Jenny has now also joined us in place of Denise Willis as our clerical assistant. We are very happy to have you on board, Jenny!

Rosemary Barry: We welcomed Rosemary Barry last term as CCEW maternity cover in the pre-5 unit. In term 2, Rosemary has also been working in the Primary class for a half day each week. Next term Rosemary will continue in the pre-5 unit until Kara's return in February.

Seona Macdonald: Unfortunately, we have been unable to secure a new teacher in place of Laura Cook on a long term basis. We have, however, had Seona MacDonald with us temporarily for 2 days a week for part of term 2. In term 3 Seona will be with us for 4 days a week allowing for some team teaching which means extra support for the pupils. We are very pleased about this!



What's to come

As you will now know, the children will be learning from home from January 11th to January 18th. I will be in touch with details of how we plan to support this learning.

Unfortunately, Gillian Walker (Active Schools) was unable to visit us in term 2. However, we are trying to re-organise this for term 3. Active schools will be working with the children to help them learn more about sports leadership and how to organise playground games.

Amy Bowman will continue with the class teaching ukulele for 1 hour a week in term 3.

Homework will continue in term 3. The children will have mandatory and optional homework tasks. This will be reviewed every 5 weeks. Please refer to the schedule in their homework bags.

Next term our project will be living things. We plan to explore animals and plant life. We will also be undertaking personal projects on a topic of our choice.

The children have recorded their ideas for term 3 as a floorbook. This will be used to inform planning for term 3.



We look forward to updating you all again just before the Easter holidays. Until then, stay safe, take care and as always if you have any questions or comments don't hesitate to get in touch.

Have a wonderful Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Miss Harris and the boys and girls of Lismore Primary School