



Lismore Newsletter Term 3 2021

Our third term has been an interesting one to say the least. As you will know, the children spent the first 5 weeks learning from home. I know this was a challenging time for some but lots of positives have come out of this experience too; of which we will share some here!

We all returned to school on the 22nd February and in some ways it felt like we had never been away. However, there has been a need to once again place a big emphasis on re-establishing our school values and explore what is important to us here at Lismore Primary. It has taken some time for us to settle back into our school routine. There has been a lot of change and uncertainty for children (for everyone) this year and it has been, and continues to be, our utmost priority, to create an environment here, in which children feel welcomed, secure and happy!

One positive, for me, during lockdown was the regular contact with parents and carers I was able to have. Popping round on a Friday afternoon provided some much needed time and space to check in with both learners and parents/carers. I want to, once again, thank you for all your hard work during this time!



Lockdown and School Life After

Remote learning was, as I am sure you will agree, a challenging time, for most. But, as a team (school and community), we persevered and provided the best possible experiences for our children.

Many of the children enjoyed certain aspects of home learning, and thrived at the experiences provided but others found it challenging. Some of the children have chosen to share their thoughts below:

Cian: I found lockdown learning frustrating because I wasn't able to spend time outside.

Cormac: I found it fun because we had less work to do than we do in school.

Emma: I found it challenging because I didn't have my teacher there to support me.

Esme: It was terrible because I couldn't go anywhere.

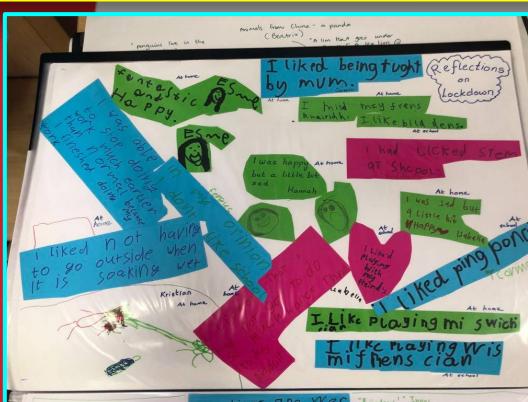
Fergus: It was fun; it was easier to learn at home.

Isabella: It was frustrating because video calls lagged when we had bad internet.

Ruairidh: I didn't like it because I couldn't see my friends or Gran and Seanair.

Kristian: I enjoyed not needing to come to school.

Some highlights from a school perspective were the Burn's Poetry recitals, improvements in reading confidence and some excellent written stories the children shared.



Outdoor Learning



Spring is almost here; we are so excited!

Our new polytunnel is ready and we have begun to plant seeds, thanks to having Eva on-board and at hand with her expertise.

The children have planted broccoli, cabbage and lettuce and we plan to plant potatoes soon too.

We have also ordered some more gardening equipment (children's broom, rake and wheelbarrow) to allow the children to take responsibility for our garden and have overall autonomy for that area (in time).

We have also been spending lots of time playing outside with our new resources and exploring our school environment as part of our living things project!



We have been so lucky this session to have some extra money in our budget which we have been able to use for some lovely new resources.

We have purchased resources for outdoor education, languages, literacy, numeracy and play based learning.

The children have been enjoying exploring our new resources and are beginning to develop a level of responsibility for taking care of them.



Living Things and their Habitats

Our Project

This term our inter-disciplinary project is living things and their habitats.

As such, we have been learning about the characteristics of living things, what a habitat provides, classification of living things and food chains.

Some of us have also been working on a short personal project. Some of us completed this during lockdown and others are completing it in class. Here's what we have to say about project work...



We found a newt! Kristian



I did my personal project on planting. Alasdair.



I enjoyed my personal project because I got to write about a hobby of mine. Emma.

I like learning about living things because it is fun learning about animals. Cian



I like our living things project; it is great learning about animals. Esme.



My project was about farm animals. Fergus.

We have been going outside more to learn about living things. Isabella.

I learned about why trains are the shape they are during my personal project. Ruairidh.

I would like to learn more about sheep. Innes.



Literacy

Numeracy

HWB

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

Literacy

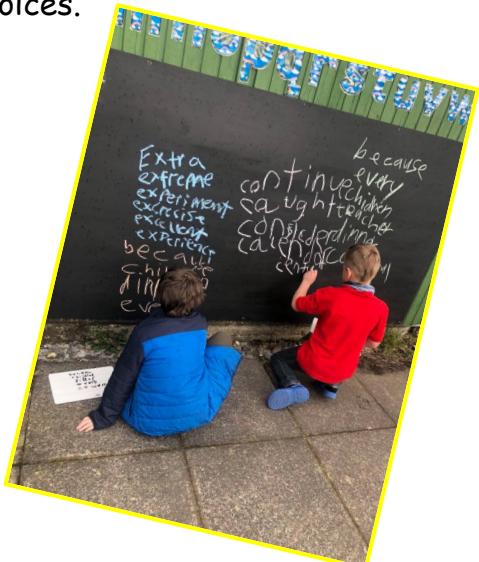
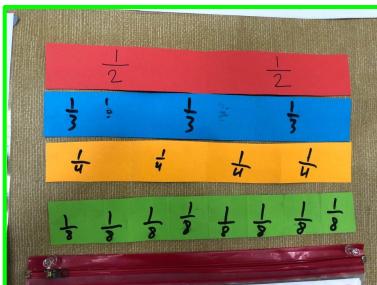
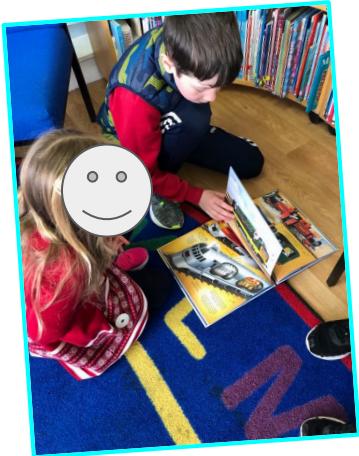
We have continued to work hard on our story writing skills. This term we have been focussing on using description (whilst learning from home) and functional writing (in school). We have been learning about how to write instructions, an informal letter and an e-mail. We have continued working on spelling and have been using some of our new resources to help us practice- such as painting our words on our outdoor canvasses and chalk writing them on our blackboard daisies. For grammar we have been focusing on homophones. For comprehension and reading we have been learning about non-fiction texts. Most of us prefer non-fiction to fiction at the moment.

Numeracy

For Numeracy this term we have been focusing on division and fractions. Some of the children are learning about finding halves, quarters and thirds and others are looking at ordering and adding fractions. To continue developing our number sense we continue to do lots of fun challenges such as number of the day, countdown challenge and 4 operations bingo. We continue to like these a lot! For our extended maths the children have been focusing on time with Miss Mac. We are getting very good in this area.

HWB

We continue to focus on social and emotional health but have also started exploring our substance misuse topic. We are learning about the impact certain substances can have on our bodies; we are also learning about substances that can help our bodies. Our main focus with this topic is about being safe and making healthy choices.



Messy Play

We have continued messy play this session and have used our new resources to aid this. We have explored mark making, water play, sand play and play dough. It continues to be a lot of fun!



Ukulele

Amy Bowman has joined us again this term for 1 hour a week of ukulele lessons. We can now play 6 chords and can do the island strum. We have been learning about beat and rhythm too, and have been writing our own song lyrics. We are confident that we will be able to play a short tune soon and will share this with you as soon as possible.

French

We have continued our French lessons this term with Mrs Barry and Miss Mac. We have re-visited the months of the year and are learning more vocabulary associated with a calendar. We now know some of the days of the week too and will continue to practise these to embed our new language skills.



Pre-5 News

This term in the pre 5s we have had lots of fun being back in school and playing with our friends.

We have received many new and exciting toys and goodies and have enjoyed exploring and playing with them. Our favourite is the scooter.

Our learning focus this term has been Animals around the world. We have talked about where we might find animals such as panda bears, llamas and elephants. We have been baking every week, we are very good at helping to weigh and stir the ingredients, and we are also great at helping to flip pancakes and flat breads. We enjoy eating our home baking at snack time!

We have been joining in whole school activities such as yoga, reading, and messy play.

Lots of sunny days means lots of outdoor learning! Our new tuff trays make learning outside lots of fun. We have used them to paint outside and to help us learn all about birds from around the world while outside in nature.



What's to come

We are still awaiting a visit from Gillian Walker from Active Schools. Covid regulations are making this difficult at the moment but as soon as we are able to, we will have Gillian over to help assist us with playground games, P.E. and outdoor play. Dates should be confirmed at the beginning of term 4.

Amy Bowman will continue with the class, teaching ukulele for 1 hour a week in term 4.

Julia Hamilton from Kilmartin museum will be over for 2 days in June to work with the children on different projects including natural history and pottery history. Bob Hay, also hopes to come in for a few days in June to work with the children on an archeological project. How exciting! Please note exact dates have to be confirmed.

Argyll and Bute have sourced some outdoor experts from local outdoor education companies and we hope they will be joining us for at least 2 sessions in the 4th term. Exact dates tbc.

Homework will be re-issued in term 4. More details about this will be provided at the start of term 4.

Next term our project will be on the history of Scotland. Some of our children already have some strong knowledge in this area and we look forward to developing this further and having them lead the learning in certain aspects of this IDL.

The children have recorded their ideas for term 4 as a floorbook. This will be used to inform planning for term 4.

Staffing

Hazel is leaving us after 12 years at Lismore Primary! Hazel, you will be sorely missed by all but we wish you the best of luck with your candle business! We are very excited to see what's to come! Thank you for all you have done here- we think the legacy of your cooking will last for many years to come!

Seona (Miss Mac) is leaving us too. She may be back on the odd occasion for supply but we are still trying to recruit a permanent classroom teacher. As soon as we do, we will let you know. Thank you for your time with us Miss Mac- it's been a blast-we hope to see you again soon!

Iona is sadly leaving us too. Some changes to the food service have been proposed so we are currently awaiting an update from catering about what will happen after Easter. Iona, thank you for your time with us. We will miss your cheery smile and lovely cooking.

We look forward to updating you all again just before the Summer 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 Easter holiday!

Miss Harris and the pupils at Lismore Primary School