

Summer 2017

Fifth Edition

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## National Winner of the French Drama Competition

Well done to the P5 class of Dunoon Primary School for winning first prize in the national final of the French Drama competition 'Le Concours de la Francophonie'. If you would like to be in with a chance of winning next year's competition please send video clips to [gwen.mccrossan2@argyll-bute.gov.uk](mailto:gwen.mccrossan2@argyll-bute.gov.uk)



Well done to the P5 class of Dunoon Primary School for this fantastic achievement!

Every year, the French Institute of Scotland organises 'le concours de la francophonie': a national French drama competition for learners across Scotland. Teachers submit a video clip of a dialogue, song, or play in French. The competition is organised in two phases: local authorities choose their local champions and then a national jury selects the winners.

This year, the Primary 5 class of Dunoon Primary School won the P5-7 category of the national competition. Their Winning performance was based on an interdisciplinary learning project about the Titanic. Senga Wakefield, the teacher who led this project, is creative in the way she imbeds the French language into other areas of the curriculum. The French drama piece and song which developed from the children's learning about the Titanic is a perfect example of this. The piece was highly praised for its creativity and making French an integral part of the curriculum. There is also a lovely part of the film clip where we see the children visiting Ardnahein Care Home and singing their French song for the residents. This visit really highlights the school's commitment to the wider community. A video of the performance can be viewed at <https://vimeo.com/195787214>

To celebrate their success, the P5 class were invited to a special event for all the national winners for 'Le jour de la Francophonie' (International Francophonie Day) on the 17th March at the University of Edinburgh. This is a special international day to celebrate the French language and francophone culture. The French Institute organised workshops for all the winners. These involved fun activities where the children found out about many francophone countries around the world. These workshops were conducted entirely in French and it was wonderful to see the children learning through total immersion in a different language. This experience really helped to build the children's confidence and gave them a wonderful opportunity to hear and use the language outside of the classroom.

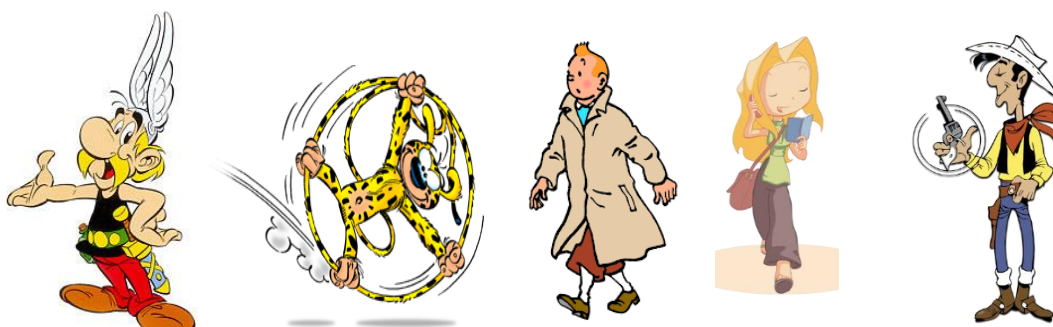


The workshops were followed by an awards ceremony where the class received a collection of beautiful French books. These will help to further motivate the children in their French learning. The day was rounded off by a delicious lunch offered by the French Institute and their partners.

The deadline for this year's competition will be at the end of **December 2017**. As this will be a busy time of year I would encourage all schools to film any French drama activity which they undertake between now and the end of the year and submit this as their entry for the competition.

## Transition projects

### P7/S1 French Comic Book Transition Project



Currently there are many clusters across the authority taking part in this transition project. Oban, Lorne & the Isles, Cowal, North Kintyre, South Kintyre and Mid-Argyll have all integrated this project into their transition process. Teachers' participation has been greatly appreciated and pupils have produced some fantastic pieces of work. Clusters are tailoring the project to fit their specific circumstances and make the project their own. The theme of comic books is being used during transition visits in many secondary schools and will be built on during the first term of S1. The clusters who have participated this year will be able to provide valuable feedback in order to develop the project further next year.

The Resources for this project can be found at <http://plplatform.net/> under **French Responsive Resources- Comics**. There are also additional resources under **from your colleagues**. The additional resources can also be found on [Sali 1+2 Language page](#) under **transition projects**.

# French Comic Book Transition Project



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Grace Baisley

## Pre 5/P1 Transition Project: The Gruffalo with French



Talking Pen French resources have been developed to tie in with this project. Sound files of a simplified French version of the Gruffalo are available on the [Sali 1+2 Language page](#) under **transition projects**. Practitioners can download the sound files onto their talking pens and sound activate their English version of the Gruffalo using the corresponding stickers. There are also simple dialogues which can be downloaded on to the pen and attached to a set of stick puppets using the corresponding stickers. These resources can also be created in Gaelic for any clusters who are teaching Gaelic in P1 and would like to become involved in the project. Please contact [Gwen.Mccrossan2@argyll-bute.gov.uk](mailto:Gwen.Mccrossan2@argyll-bute.gov.uk) for further information.

## Assessment Passports

Assessment passports available at <http://plplatform.net/> under **planning and associated resources**. These are now being used by many clusters as a transition tool. These passports allow secondary teachers to see what key language has been covered in P7, at a glance. This will also allow secondary colleagues to effectively build on the children's prior learning.

Within the primary school, these are a user friendly way of measuring pupils' progress and ensuring there are no gaps in their learning. These are useful documents to hand on to the teacher for the following year to ensure continuity for learners. They also provide an opportunity for parental involvement with language learning.

There has been very positive feedback from teachers about the value of these passports. Practitioners have found these to be an easy way of tracking their pupils' progress in language learning and involving the learners in this process.

The passports are available in French for P1-7 for Year 1, 2 & 3 and in Gaelic for Year 1.

# New Resources

## Sali 1+2 Languages page

### New Tabs on the Drop-Down Menu

**Transition Projects:** There is now a tab to access all additional resources relating to the transition projects discussed above.

**Sound files for books:** This tab allows you to access sound files for the books which are contained in your Primary Language Learning pack. These sound files can be downloaded directly onto your talking pen from this page. There are also instructions about which labels and start arrows correspond to which book. Once you attach the self-adhesive labels, your books will **talk** in conjunction with the pen!

## Story/Topic Sacks

There are now PLL (Primary Language Learning) Story/Topic sacks available for all clusters

### French:

- Wolf sack
- French Phonics Pots
- Itchy Bear sack
- Uki
- Time
- Handa's Surprise
- Very Hungry Caterpillar

### Gaelic:

- Catriona the Cat
- Animals
- Talking Bear

### Gaelic/French:

- Dragon puppet
- Goldilocks and the three bears Puppets
- Elf puppet
- Creative writing set
- Three little pigs
- Fairy tales



If you would like to borrow one of these resources ask your local language leader and they will arrange this.

## **Conference: Gaelic in a 1+2 Approach to languages**

Over 50 teachers and 30 local authority representatives took part in the GLL Conference on the 3rd March 2017 in Stirling. Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills, John Swinney, addressed the conference and restated the Scottish Government's support for Gaelic education in all of its forms.

Maryse Payen-Roy from Glasgow City Council opened the conference with a look at practical approaches to Gaelic teaching in the classroom. Donald Morrison, Chief Executive of Stòrlann, provided an overview of the 'Go! Gaelic' resource and Maeve MacKinnon presented an update from Education Scotland on the resources available to support Gaelic in the primary setting.

The rest of the day was devoted to four workshops:

- Go!Gaelic – resource overview (Stòrlann)
- Go!Gaelic – module delivery (Yvonne Forrest and Jackie Mullen)
- nursery and early years support (Mary Morrison, Bòrd na Gàidhlig)
- practitioners' experience (Rachel Neilly, Gartcosh Primary and Helen McNight, Knightswood Primary)

### **Fèisgoil - Blasad Gàidhlig- Islay visit**

Just before the Easter holidays there was an intensive Gaelic learning week in Islay and Jura schools. This initiative was delivered by Fèisean nan Gàidheal. The aim was to support as many children and staff as possible with their Gaelic learning. Linda MacLeod, the Gaelic tutor visited all the schools on the Islands during the week. Her focus was to help staff build confidence in their ability to deliver Gaelic as L2.

These sessions took place during class time, with the class teacher. This was a great training combination for Islay and Jura as it avoided traveling off the islands and having to find class cover.



Last week, Islay also had training from Jackie Mullen a tutor from Stòrlann during their inset day. Jackie is a tutor for the national Go!Gaelic training held in Stirling. She was able to provide support for staff and work closely with local language leader, Maggie Maclellan in order that she may provide further training in the use of Go!Gaelic to her colleagues.

## **Training**

### **Open University Training course for beginners**

SCILT (Scottish Centre for Languages) have designed an innovative and flexible distance learning course combining language learning and pedagogy with the Open University. We would like to offer primary teachers within Argyll & Bute the opportunity to participate in this course.

The course is comprised of 5 units, each lasting 6 weeks. The language component accounts for four weeks per unit, delivered by the OU with one week per unit being given to pedagogy/methodology delivered by the SCILT team, and a further week for consolidation/reflection/assessment.

SCILT will be working very closely with the participants and their schools to gather feedback and monitor the impact that it is having. As it is delivered through distance learning, the



participants will have flexibility to undertake their learning at a time and place that best suits them and is particularly helpful for those who live and work in rural communities. Furthermore, access to the on-line tutor will give participants the confidence that beginners require and there will also be online support so that they can meet, share and exchange ideas with each other. There will be regular formative language assessments carried out by the OU and the pedagogy will be assessed by the completion of a reflective journal. The language component will take participants from absolute beginner to A1 (SCQF 5) and the pedagogy will be benchmarked at SCQF 11 (masters level). If successful, the idea is to offer an additional programme at a more advanced level the following year for those who wish to continue.

Currently there are discussions with GTCS about accreditation for the programme that would lead to professional recognition for those who successfully complete the course. Additionally, as the course content is being delivered by the OU and SCILT, you can be assured of the consistency and high quality of the input.

This year the course can be offered in French, German and Spanish. Argyll & Bute council will cover the tuition fees for 10 applicants. However, as this is a considerable investment, it is important that you are fully committed to this training when you express your interest. If you would like to take up this training opportunity please contact Gwen McCrossan [gwen.mccrossan2@argyll-bute.gov.uk](mailto:gwen.mccrossan2@argyll-bute.gov.uk) by Friday 18<sup>th</sup> June 2017.

## **Beginners' training opportunities in French and Gaelic**

A beginners' twilight training programme will be offered to those practitioners who need to build confidence in using the key language of **Year 1** of the PowerLanguage Platform. This training will provide plenty of opportunity for repetition and a focus on pronunciation of this language in order to build participants' confidence.

This programme of training is progressive. Therefore training is now also available to support practitioners with the key language of **Year 2** of the PowerLanguage Platform. If you are interested in signing up for twilight sessions for either Year 1 or Year 2 Key Language please contact Gwen McCrossan.

There will also be twilight sessions available for training in Gaelic for beginners and using the *Go!Gaelic* resource. Please contact Gwen McCrossan to express your interest in this training.

## Links with Amiens

A schools partnership has been established between Argyll & Bute and Amiens in France. We currently have Tayvallich and Furnace Primary Schools partnered with schools in France. If you are interested in setting up a partnership with a French school please contact Gwen McCrossan. This contact could be very simple, for example sending postcards or it could involve video conferencing. Schools can decide what suits them best.



**Furnace Primary School**



**Ecole Primaire M. Petitpas**

## Student Teacher Visit

This year there is the possibility of hosting a French student teacher for a visit in your school. Kirn Primary School hosted Julie-Camille a student teacher from Amiens in February. This was a highly successful visit. Teachers were able to compare the differences and similarities between the education systems in France and Scotland, while pupils had the fantastic opportunity to learn about French culture from a real French person. Julie was able to contribute to the delivery of French lessons within the school and teachers greatly appreciated her linguistic ability. Overall, this visit provided a wonderful opportunity for pedagogic and cultural exchange. If you are interested in hosting a French student teacher in your school please contact Gwen McCrossan.

[gwen.mccrossan2@argyll-bute.gov.uk](mailto:gwen.mccrossan2@argyll-bute.gov.uk)

## Examples of good practice

### Nos Monstres qui habitent à Dalintober!



A beautiful wall display showing a French project from Dalintober Primary School based on the story *Va-t'en Grand Monstre Vert!* which is available in all clusters. The children developed their knowledge and understanding of facial features and colours in French.

# Technical Troubleshooting List

## Talking Pens:

Sometimes when the pen is attached to a computer to download sound files it is not recognised. This is due to a *windows 10* update. If this happens take out one of the batteries. To do this you need to remove the outer sleeve to access the battery compartment. No screwdriver required!

If you still have difficulties try changing USB port.

## Milo CD-ROMs:

Due to an Adobe Flash Player update the video content is distorting.

If the videos distorts when playing on your computer, please do the following:

Play the video,

Right click on the video,

Select settings,

Click display tab (Normally the first along the bottom),

Remove tick from enable hardware acceleration,

Click close and exit the program or video,

Restart computer,

Go back into the disc menu and try again.

This should solve the problem.

## Login Details for online resources

### PowerLanguage Platform: French, Gaelic, Spanish and German

<http://www.plplatform.net/>

Username: Argyll-Bute

Password: Argyll-Bute1

### GrowStoryGrow:

<http://www.growstorygrow.com/>

Username:gsg461

Password: gsg461

### Go!Gaelic:

<http://go-gaelic.scot/>

This is a free government funded resource for teaching Gaelic.

This website is full of useful resources: PowerPoints, videos, songs and printables to support the teaching of Gaelic as L2 or L3.

### SEN Teacher:

<http://www.senteacher.org/worksheet/99/Word-And-Picture-Cards.html>

This link takes you to **Literacy Printables : Picture Cards** where you are able to create your own dice inserts which will fit the foam dice in your PLL resource pack, if you do please click **share** and others can access them. When you click the button **load cards** you will find pre-made cards in the **languages** section. The ones which have been made specifically for Argyll & Bute teachers have A&B next to the title.

## Language Leaders Contact details

### Mid Argyll

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### Islay

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### Oban, Lorne and the Isles

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### Mull

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