

Proud Teacher Moment

Mrs Young principal teacher of Newmiln's Primary School in East Ayrshire wanted to offer her John Muir Award group the opportunity to complete their Award during lockdown. The feedback from pupils showcases the hard work and enthusiasm Mrs Young has put in and the learning opportunities offered.

Why John Muir Award? - The group had shown interest in Outdoor Learning in the past. *"The Award's Conserve Challenge promotes simple concepts of personal responsibility and making a difference. Our aim was to have the group take responsibility for the outdoor area attached to school grounds making it a nice space to learn. We hope by encouraging this task, skills such as working together, understanding their strengths, and considering other's views would be developed. Conservation work carried out giving a sense of achievement and pride for what had been accomplished."* Mrs Young

Lockdown



With schools closing abruptly wrapping up of the Award was offered as part of the home-schooling opportunities pupils were offered. Self-evaluation and feedback can be seen in these quotes from John Muir Award 4 Challenge Review.

"I have also learned that stamping on the ground makes worms come closer to the surface, because the noise of the stamping makes the worms think it's raining and they come up for a drink, animals such as seagulls will stamp their feet on the ground so

"I feel happy learning about different things, and we were helping the wildlife and always cleared up after ourselves" (Lewis)

"We had a litter pick to clear up all the rubbish so that it was clean for all the animals and bugs"

the seagulls eat them"

Family Involvement

Parental involvement at Newmiln's Primary School is always encouraged.

David a parent helper also completed his John Muir Award alongside the group supporting not only pupils but Mrs Young too.

"We looked around the wildlife and I didn't like the fact that people didn't take responsibility for picking up after themselves and their animals."

"After learning these things, I was always keen to go home and share my experiences with my dad. Still, even during lockdown I have been continuing to teach my parents,

and younger sister – things they can do to help the local wildlife, even just whilst out a walk with the dogs"

For more information on how you can get involved in the John Muir Award [John Muir Award](#)

East Ayrshire's Learning Outdoor Support Team also has lots of local information on the Award and how you can achieve this during COVID19 here [John Muir Award in school](#) or contact eastayrshire@johnmuiraward.org

Mrs Young used the 4 Challenge Review remotely as part of the school's home-schooling and as a tool for the group to recall what they had achieved during their weekly sessions. The review is an ideal way for Award participants to evaluate for themselves if they have met the four challenges of the Award e.g. To gain a John Muir Award everyone meets Four Challenges – Discover, Explore, Conserve, Share A Four Challenge Review can help Award participants review and demonstrate that they have understood and successfully met the Award Challenges. Capture informally through group and individual discussion. Use pictures and drawings, write on flip chart, or a combination of these. Or just have a chat. <https://www.johnmuirtrust.org/john-muir-award/key-documents/downloads>

Thanks to Mrs Young and pupils for sharing their story.