

Merry Christmas



From all at the Ayrshire Hearing Impairment Service

## Foreword by Fiona Smith & Stacey McCann

Welcome to our Christmas newsletter. We are sure you would all agree that 2021 has been another challenging year! Our teachers of the deaf are desperate for things to return to normal, where we can work with our pupils without the covid restrictions. However, this pandemic remains and we must all do what we can to keep ourselves and our loved ones safe. I hope that the upcoming Christmas break will allow you all to rest and recharge, with the hope that we can return to some normality in 2022, when it is safe to do so.

### Service news:

We welcome a new staff member to our North Ayrshire team: Amy Kinnon, teacher of the deaf in training. Amy is delighted to join the service and very much looking forward to working with our pupils. Amy will work Tuesdays and Wednesdays, visiting some of our primary pupils.

We are thrilled that our wonderful British Sign Language assistant, Kat Bennett, is now a permanent member of our team. Kat has made such a positive impact on our service, delivering quality BSL support to our pupils, families, staff and schools. We are very lucky to have Kat on our team. Kat and I are currently working on an Ayrshire Hearing Impairment Service YouTube channel: 'AHIS Learn BSL'. This channel will be officially launched in January. Look out for the link!

### Deaf Awareness Training:

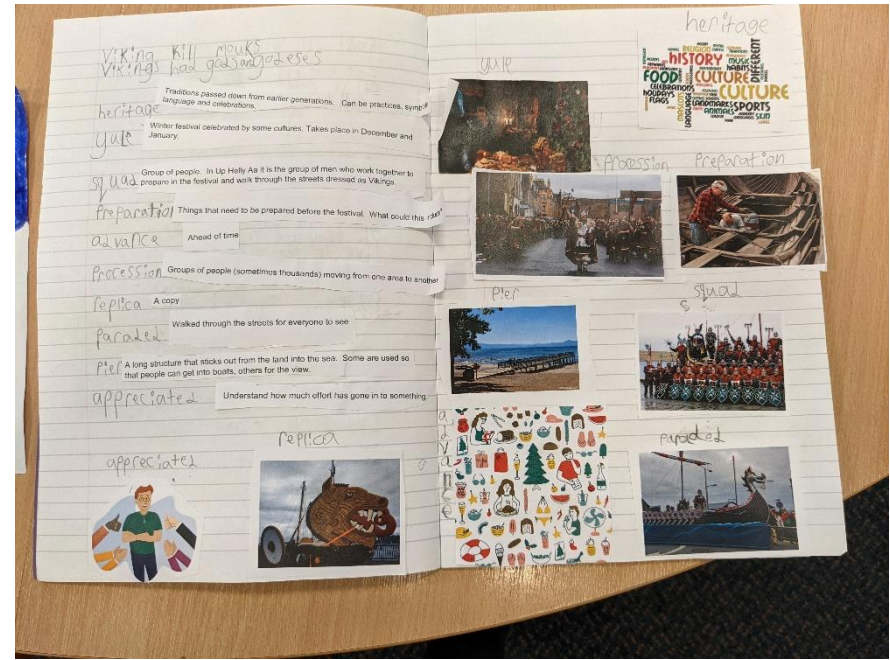
Our staff continue to deliver bespoke deaf awareness training to schools, colleges and universities. In January, we will visit the University of the West of Scotland to speak to student teachers in their final year, sharing deaf friendly teaching strategies. As part of our deaf awareness training, our pupils have created their own videos, highlighting important deaf awareness tips. We very much value the voice of our pupils; listening to their experiences has such a great impact.

### Contact us:

Please be assured that parents and schools may contact us at any time on [fiona.smith@eastayrshire.org.uk](mailto:fiona.smith@eastayrshire.org.uk) or [stacey.mccann@eastayrshire.org.uk](mailto:stacey.mccann@eastayrshire.org.uk)

May we take this opportunity to wish all of our children and families a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Best wishes,  
Stacey McCann & Fiona Smith



Logan Murray who is in P5 at Hillhead Primary has been working on his Viking topic. We looked at the Up Helly Aa celebration in Shetland and used this to learn new vocabulary. He finished his learning by creating a Viking battle scene! Great work Logan!



Rosie Parker who is in Primary 4 at Hillhead Primary recently won a Pupil of the week award for 'growing confidence and always trying her best'. Great work Rosie! (Rosie didn't want a picture)



Leo Flynn who is in Primary 4 at Dunlop Primary recently took part in the community pantomime. He looks fantastic at home getting ready and then on stage saying a line as a restaurant customer! What confidence Leo demonstrated, you're a star ★



Eilidh McGarry demonstrated excellent research skills to find out what she could about actress Rose Ayling-Ellis who was a competitor in this year's Strictly Come Dancing. She compiled it in a PowerPoint to share with her class and showed confidence while sharing her presentation. Well done Eilidh!



Evie Hall in Primary 4 at Lochnorris PS loves to wear stickers on her Cochlea Implants is definitely getting into the Christmas spirit with these Grinch ones!



Graeme is in S4 at Ardrossan Academy. This year Graeme is studying bike Maintenance, which involves stripping bikes, cleaning the parts and rebuilding them.

Graeme is also studying Horticulture, BSL and PE. His favourite subject is PE. When Graeme leaves school he wants to have his own business and earn lots of money.



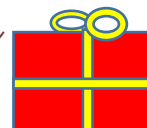
A

tree filled  
with candy canes,  
baubles, beautiful bright  
lights and a  
sparkly gold star at the top.  
Lots of presents wrapped in  
colourful wrapping paper with  
reindeers, snowmen and Santa finished with  
a big shiny bow.

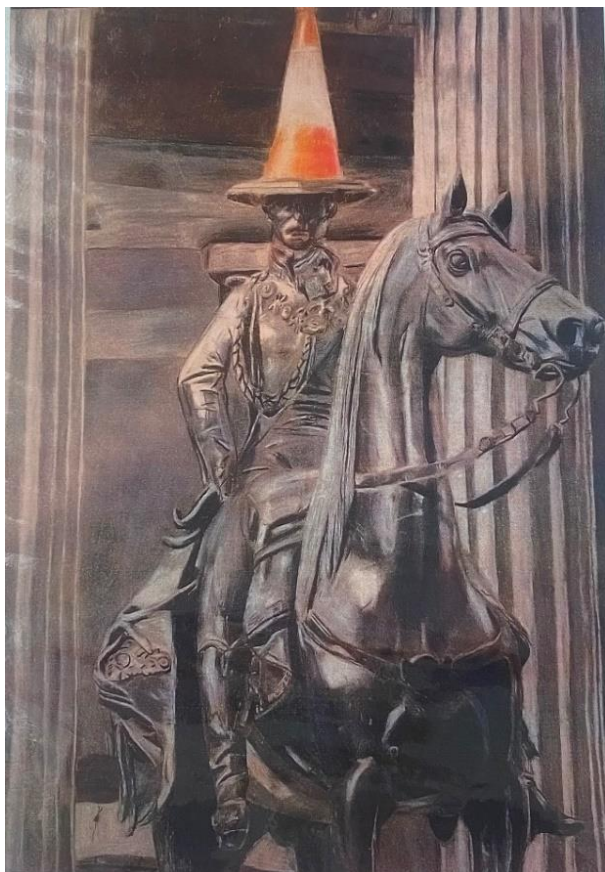
Children are playing in the snow  
building snowmen and having snowball  
fights. You can hear them giggling and laughing  
enjoying Christmas time.  
Families making food, eating together and pulling  
Christmas crackers.



Christmas is the  
most amazing  
day of the year!



Hayden T (S2)



Demi Fitzsimmons, S5 at Greenwood Academy, has produced this magnificent piece of art work. Demi's picture depicts the famous Duke of Wellington statue, in Glasgow. Demi achieved an A for her Higher Art – what a fantastic accomplishment. Well done, Demi!



Cieran Darroch, S4, cooked up a storm last week as part of his Nat 5 cookery assessment. He made Chilli Meatballs with rice and poached pears with chocolate sauce. Delicious!





David Cowan, 2nd Year at Park School. David attending a Christmas Lunch at Kilmarnock Football Club. Here he is with his favourite player Chris Burke.

Lewis Hutton S6 at Greenwood Academy achieved top marks in his music technology Nat 5 prelim. Well done Lewis, we're so proud of you!!!

Congratulations to Arianna (P1) who has learned all her sounds and numbers! She likes it when her teacher uses the Roger Touchscreen.

Billy (15) has learned new skills and vocabulary though the construction course at Ayrshire College.

Thank you to Lucy (S2) for talking to Krystian (P7) when visiting St Joseph's Academy and thank you to Mrs Hoy for showing us around the school.

Thank you to all the parents and children who have been taking up the auditory verbal therapy sessions with Larissa. Your time and effort are greatly appreciated!

Caden (P4) has enjoyed playing basketball, rugby and football during special P.E. sessions with a sports coach. He is proud of himself for being able to tell the time in Numeracy. Caden has asked Santa for two new games for his X-Box.



Some festive cheer from Casey (P4)



Thomas (4) with his naughty elf Jeff Jingles. He is hoping Santa will bring him a Go-Kart so he can be a racing driver!