



Foreword by Fiona Smith:

As we approach the summer break, we can look back on a busy and productive school year. As Covid-19 restrictions eased, our teachers of the deaf and our Sign Language Assistant were able to move from remote support to in-person contact with our pupils. During periods of lockdown our staff were in contact with you, our parents and carers, by telephone and email. Please be assured that we remain keen to hear from you and that your views help to shape the support which we offer your children and young people.

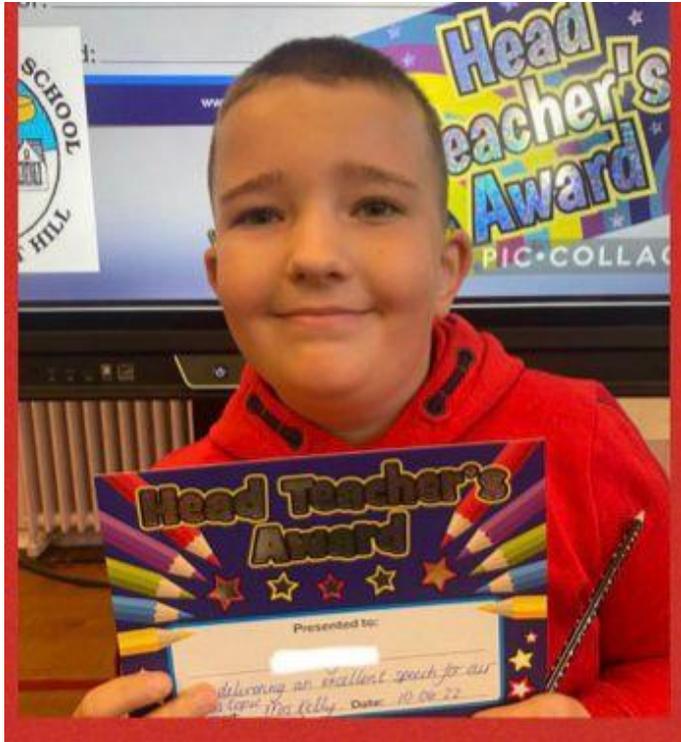
Over the past session I have reduced my working hours to two days and Coordinator Stacey McCann leads our Ayrshire-wide service for the majority of the week. Next session, teacher of the deaf Amy Kinnon will remain with the service for two days per week in North Ayrshire and we look forward to welcoming her for an additional one day in South Ayrshire.

We have cautiously reintroduced our social events and thanks are due to Kenny Fraser who brought together deaf young people from across the central belt and West of Scotland for a primary schools' football festival in May. He also helped to organise a secondary schools' football tournament in June, which was won by Ayrshire team West United. Kenny, along with Chantal McFeely, Ruth Nicoll, Larissa McColgan and Claire Douglas, has been a mentor to a trainee teacher of the deaf over this past session. Ayrshire teachers of the deaf are much in demand to share their expertise with other local authorities.

This year, secondary school pupil Lauchlan Connelly was nominated for the Graeme Gray Award for Achievement. Rosie Parker was awarded the Graeme Gray Award for Achievement for the primary school sector. Congratulations also go to Demi Fitzsimmons who won this year's Gerard R McGowan Award for Creativity.

I would like to offer my thanks to Lesley Wright who collates this newsletter and our blog. I can recommend accessing this blog throughout the year for useful information and updates. Please also check out our YouTube channel featuring our BSL Tutor, Kat Bennett, on <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCKLMX9yCsdPIATHrDE1p51g>

I wish you and your families all the very best this summer and may I please remind you of my new email [fiona.smith@eastayrshire.org.uk](mailto:fiona.smith@eastayrshire.org.uk) on which I can be contacted at any time.



Leo (P4) from Dunlop Primary School received a Head Teacher Award for a fabulous speech he prepared about the 1970s as part of the Royal Jubilee celebrations. Leo was very animated and conversational in his speech and didn't have to use the notes he had prepared – WOW Leo!



Naomi took part in a dance show at the Palace Theatre in Kilmarnock for 3 nights in June. She performed 8 dances, including a technique solo. Naomi had 8 different costumes for her performances which were very colourful! Her family went to see her on the first night. Naomi is performing as part of the CCDS Dancing School in Stevenson.



Eilidh (P7) from St Patrick's Primary in Auchinleck has grown in confidence this year. So much so that she participated in some dancing competitions and even won this big trophy!



Some of our younger pupils made some new friends at the recent Primary Football Festival at Rugby Park in Kilmarnock.



Evie (P4) and Levi (P3) from Lochnorris Primary School had a super day at the Primary Football Festival. They had both been a little apprehensive but showed more confidence as the day went on. Well done!



Jaiden (P6) from Patna Primary School was really proud of himself with the hard work he had put into his maths. He was really pleased to be awarded a certificate.



David (S2) from Park School pictured here with his medal from the Secondary Football Tournament. Well played, David!



Demi (S6) from Greenwood Academy painted this! What an amazing talent!

Holly has enjoyed being House Captain at St Anthony's this year and is looking forward to new challenges as she moves to Secondary School. She wishes everyone a Happy Summer!

Good luck to Krystian, P7, who will start S1 at St Joseph's Academy in August.

Congratulations to Lucy & Francesca, S3 at St Joseph's Academy, for passing their 'Introduction to BSL'. A BIG thank you to Kat for teaching them.

Good luck to Jordan, who will start P1 at Corsehill PS in August.



Rachel, S1, Marr College won a local competition at Collier and Brock vets in Troon. This lovely picture of her dog Winston is now on display in the vet waiting room! Congratulations Rachel!



Jackson got dressed up for the Jubilee party at nursery.



Dad, did you steal my processor?  
Rory, aged 2 ½, is curious about his dad's new tattoo of a cochlear implant.



Jackson, aged 2, is having lots of fun with his toy baby. Go **up, up, up** the steps and .... **down** the slide.



Caden & Casey, both P4, had a great football day at Rugby Park.



Thomas, aged 4, loves going to Farm School and learning about animals.



Caden, aged 9, at the wedding of his mum and stepdad.



Owen is looking forward to his 3<sup>rd</sup> birthday. He loves singing and playing with cars.



A HUGE WELL DONE 🙌 to Rosie, Primary 4 at Hillhead Primary School, who was presented with the Graeme Gray Award for Achievement. Rosie has worked really hard on developing her reading and writing skills this year. She has also developed a keen interest in learning British Sign Language and has been sharing what she has learned with her class. What a star 🌟! Keep it up Rosie! 😊🏆



Demi (S6) from Greenwood Academy receiving the Gerard R McGowan Creativity Award from the Ayrshire Hearing Impairment Service. Demi is a fantastic artist and most deserving of this award.