

Merry Christmas



From all at the Ayrshire Deaf Education Service



### **Season's Greetings from Fiona Smith**

This foreword will be my final one as I retire this Christmas. There are too many people to thank so I'll just say that I have had the most rewarding career in deaf education working with the very best children, parents and staff. Now I look forward to a very happy retirement looking after my grandchildren.

I prepared for retirement by dropping to two working days per week this session and many of you will already know my successor, Stacey McCann, who has been leading the service. Throughout deaf education in Scotland, Stacey is a respected professional with years of experience working with deaf children and families here in Ayrshire. Along with my wonderful memories, I take away the knowledge that I leave the service in safe and caring hands.

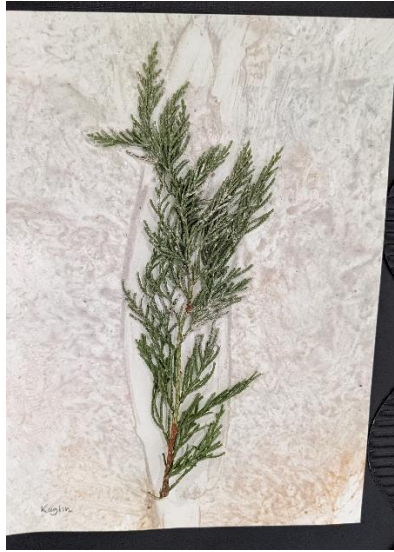
Our teachers and our BSL tutor have been working very hard to boost attainment for our pupils in the wake of the recent pandemic. We engage in continuous specialist training and improvement to offer the best support we can. We want children and families to feel that they can approach us at any time and that their wishes will be heard and acted on.

Our aim is that our deaf young people will move on confidently to positive destinations after the school years. For past pupils, I would like to highlight that Ayrshire Deaf Club in Crosshouse is offering Deaf Social Nights for over-18s. They also help with Driving Test theory revision sessions.

As I bid an extremely fond farewell, please be assured that parents and schools may contact Stacey McCann at any time on [stacey.mccann@eastayrshire.org.uk](mailto:stacey.mccann@eastayrshire.org.uk). May I take this opportunity to wish all of our children and their families a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Very best wishes,

Fiona Smith



Kaylin (S1 QMA) created this beautiful art work when learning about the stone age. The class made paint using crushed berries! Well done Kaylin!



David



David (Park School) listened to lots of instructions to complete this Christmas tree.

Amara (Park School) listened to lots of instructions and practised her cutting skills to make this beautiful angel.





Amy (P4, Annick PS)  
wrote a lovely  
snowflake poem.



Jackson (at the front)  
met Santa for the very  
first time this year.



Leighla looking lovely  
in her pretty dress.  
She loves playing with  
baby dolls.



Vienna-Reign on her 3<sup>rd</sup> birthday.

Lucy (S3) wrote a persuasive essay about the topic of online teaching during lockdown versus in-person teaching in school. She focussed on the experience of deaf children and explained the difficulties they faced during online teaching. Her English teacher was very impressed.

She is proud of herself for passing all her Nat 4 assessments (and so are her mum & teachers).



Thomas met Santa's elves.



Caden (P5) and his class are rehearsing the musical 'The Lion King' with Scottish Opera. He plays one of the lions in the pride.

Our BSL tutor Kat will teach them sign language for one of the songs.

Caden is looking forward to learning about the Scottish Wars of Independence after Christmas.

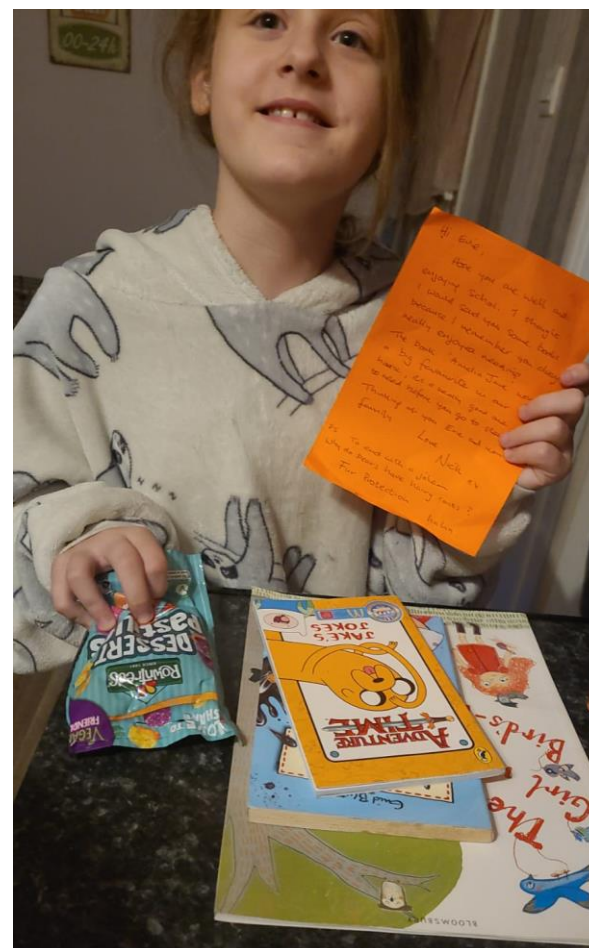
Krystian (S1) is proud to be in the school football team. He enjoys playing badminton in P.E. and watching his family's country Poland play in the Football World Cup.



Blaire (2 ½ years old) loves all creatures great and small, cake and 'fashion'. She gets excited by anything up in the sky from a bird to helicopters to the moon!



Charlotte (2) loves being able to hear and singing Christmas songs.



Evie (P5, Lochnorris PS) received a lovely gift through the post from her former Teacher of the Deaf. She had written a letter to him to share some sad news and look at her face here! She loves her new books and of course enjoyed the sweets.





Molly (age 4) has been working very hard this year. She has been learning about all of the parts of her hearing aids - tubing, mould, battery, ear hook. In addition, Molly has been learning to identify the initial/end sounds in a variety of CVC/CCVC/CVCC words. Below, Molly has created a beautiful festive picture and was very excited to show off her masterpiece. Well done, Molly!





Antonia (S4, Greenwood Academy) completed her homework challenge for Home Economics and made delicious garlic bread.



Antonia (S4, Greenwood Academy) Showcasing her delicious dishes in Home Economics. Carrot & courgette soup with Melba toast - yum! Great job, Antonia!



Emilie (P3, Ayr Grammar PS).  
Emilie played the role of Jill in  
their Christmas performance of  
Jock and the Beanstalk.



Thomas (Abbey EYC) took part in  
the Nursery outdoor carol singing  
for parents, followed by hot  
chocolate and mince pies.



My name is Millie. I am in S6 at Kyle Academy in Ayr. One of my achievements this year is being a prefect - my role involves helping younger pupils and assisting at parents' evenings. I do enjoy the role of being a prefect 😊

Jokes by Craig (P7, Ayr Grammar)

Why does everyone love Frosty the Snowman?

He's cool!

Why was the little boy so cold on Christmas morning?

Because it was Decembrrrrrrr!

What do gingerbread men use when they break their legs?

Candy canes!



Some of our secondary pupils attempted a trip to the cinema to see Black Panther but, unfortunately, the cold snap of weather broke the heating at the Odeon so we headed to Burger King for an early lunch. The pupils still enjoyed catching up with their peers and tried to make the most of it.



Some of our signing pupils had a lovely trip to LA Bowl in Ayr. This was kindly funded by a donation from some churches in Ayr. Miss Philips was the star of the day. We had a ball!





Jack (S2) plays wheelchair basketball for Lothian Phoenix in Livingston. This year he was selected to represent Scotland in the U14s team at the National Junior Championships at Worcester University. At the end of the championships, Scotland U14s finished in 3<sup>rd</sup> place, so Jack and his team mates were awarded a bronze medal. Well done, Jack!





We had lovely meal out at La Dragon in Kilmarnock to celebrate Fiona's retirement and we thought it was only right to share a wee moment of the evening! We will all miss Fiona in our team as she has been a wonderful leader but she is fully deserving of a happy and healthy retirement.