

# SIES NEWSLETTER

December 2021

Dear Parent/Guardian

As we draw swiftly towards the end of another term and another year, we can reflect on all our achievements and goals. 2021 has been a year of changes for Sir E Scott School. Over the year there have been happy times, sad times, times of excitement and times of challenge. One thing I can say with assurance is that we have experienced these things together as a school community and that we all support and care for one another. There is a real sense of togetherness here at Sir E Scott School and this is something to be cherished.

I would like to thank you all for your support over the school session, and wish you all the very best for 2022 and a very peaceful and happy holiday.

Up and coming events in January 2022:

- S2 Reports to Parents – Friday 28<sup>th</sup> January
- Senior Phase Prelims – Monday 17<sup>th</sup> January and Monday 24<sup>th</sup> January
- S2 Parents' Evening – Monday 31<sup>st</sup> January

Kind regards

*Robert Gillies*

ACTING HEAD TEACHER



Sgoil Àraich children waiting for Santa to arrive.

## SGOIL ÀRAICH

We started this term with one less member of staff as we sadly said farewell to Fiona last term, we have had different relief staff in to help which we have been very grateful for and the children have adapted fairly well to the changes but we can thankfully now look forward to having a new member of staff starting with us next term as Sean Martin was successful in interview and has accepted the vacant post.

### *Visit to The Distillery*



The children were given pumpkins from the distillery to design and carve so they could be displayed there. We talked about the shape and weight of the pumpkins and the children measured them using different measuring tools, i.e. rulers, cubes, string and measuring tapes. They then sorted the pumpkins from the smallest to the biggest. After that the children designed their pumpkins on paper and the children voted who their favourite design was, which was Jamie's. We carved the pumpkins using different shapes for each



one, squares, circles, triangles and rectangles and the last one was carved to Jamie's design. We kept the seeds and cooked them to have as part of our snack. Once the pumpkins were displayed at the distillery the children went to visit there in fancy dress and were very excited to receive sweets from the staff.

### *Guy Fawkes*

We then moved on to Guy Fawkes and learnt about fire safety and some of the children got to visit the Fire Station.

### *Remembrance Day*

The children also learned about Remembrance day and why people wear poppies, although it was a week later than usual due to staff illnesses. They enjoyed their walk to the war memorial to see all the names written there and the poppy wreaths places there and participated in making their own poppies.

### *Latha Na Gaidhlig*

For Latha na Gaidhlig Fiona came in to read the story of the 3 Billy Goats to the children, afterwards the children re-acted the story outdoors using the bridge on our play frame.



### ***St Andrews Day***

For St Andrews day the children came in wearing something tartan. They learnt about the country we live in. We looked at a map of Scotland and where we live.



### ***Outdoor Learning***

We have been using the outdoors as much as possible and the children have been enjoying collecting leaves and twigs on their adventures over the autumn months which they have used to make homes for dinosaurs indoors and outdoors. They also love running around in the open space of the football pitch, jumping in puddles and playing in the mud kitchen and climbing on rocks.

### ***Christmas***

The children went for a walk to see the Christmas lights the village and have been doing lots of different Christmas activities. The children learnt the song 'Rinn sinn bodach sneachda an-duigh' which was recorded and used for the virtual advent calendar on the school Facebook page for people to watch as we are unable to have our usual end of year performance this year again. On the last day of term, we will have a small Christmas party in the room where our own in house Santa will come to visit and deliver some presents.



### ***Illnesses***

We have had our fair share of illnesses this term so we hope the festive break will help us all to rest so we can all fully recover and that we can come back next term much fitter and healthier. We look forward to seeing you all back next term and wish you all a very happy Christmas and best wishes for 2022.

## PRIMARY/BUN-SGOIL



### Nollaig anns a Bhunsgoil/ Christmas in the Primary

Abair spòrs airson deireadh an teirm le na clasaichean Bunsgoil air fad an sàs ann an rudan spòrsail air na 12 feasgairean ron Nollaig! Tha sinn air a bhith a' leum air an trampoline, a' dannsa Schottische, a' dèanamh deuchainnean saidheans, a' cruthachadh rudan Nollaig agus a' sealltainn ar talantan!

*The end of a busy term and lots of fun in the primary classes for the last 12 afternoons before Christmas! We have been jumping on the trampoline, dancing a Schottische, conducting science experiments, getting crafty and showcasing our many and varied talents!*

### Air An Trampoline/ Festive Fun Days: Trampoline Afternoon

Our favourite memory is when the whole class went on the secondary trampoline. It was so fun and we all went up high. We also had the scooter boards, they were fun to play on and there was a ping pong table.



Seall cho àrd 's a bha sinn a' leum!

*Look how high we were jumping!*

Our favourite part about this term was Day 2 of the 12 Days of Festive Fun, when we did Trampolining, Ping Pong, and Scooter-Boarding. We really enjoyed Ping Pong, whacking the ball back and forth. We loved Trampolining and jumping high and Star Jumping. Scooter-Boarding was really fun too, because we went SWOOSH!

### Panto Fèisean nan Gaidheal

Fhuair a h-uile clas cothrom am Panto "Ùisdean agus am Fìdhlear Seunta" aig Fèisean nan Gaidheal a choimhead. Bha e gu math èibhinn agus chord e rinn gu mòr. *Each clas had the chance to watch this year's Fèisean nan Gaidheal's Panto online. It really made us laugh and we thoroughly enjoyed it.*



## Dinnear Nollaig/ Christmas Lunch

Abair gun d' fhuair sinn ar deagh bhiathadh air latha an Dinnear Nollaig anns a' Chanteen.

*We were very well fed in the canteen on the day of our Christmas lunch.*



## Dannsa/ Dancing

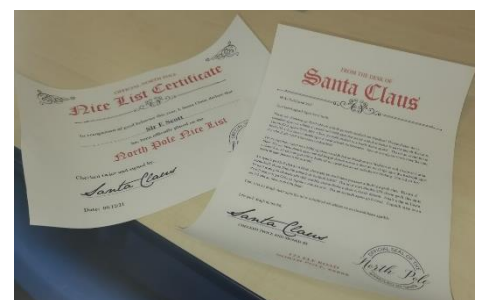


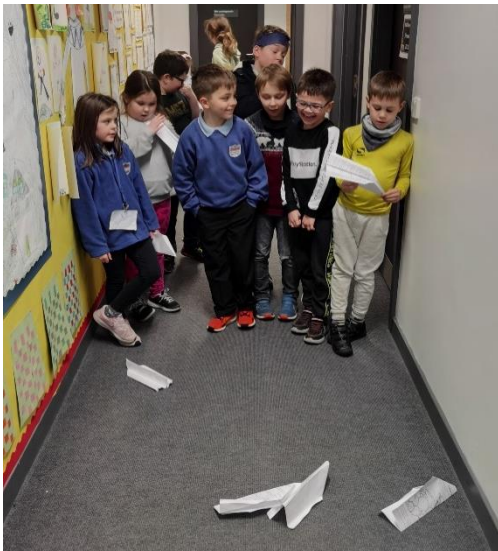
Bha sinn ag ionnsachadh Dannsaichean Cèilidh agus abair gu robh sinn a-mach à anail as a dheidh! *We had a go at some Cèilidh dancing and it was quite a workout!*



## Litir bho Bodach na Nollaig/ Letter from Santa

Bha sinn air bhioran nuair a fhuair a h-uile clas litir sònraichte bho Bodach na Nollaig. Bha e ag radh gu robh sinn uile air an liosta mhath (gu ruige seo co-dhiu!) Thug e suim airgid dhan a h-uile clas airson a chosg air rudeigin a chòrdadh riutha agus a bhiodh fèumail anns a' chlas aca. Chuir sinn liostaichean air ais thuige le na bha sinn ag iarraidh. Saoil dè thig air ais? *We were really excited when each class received a letter from Santa and a certificate to say that we were on the good list (well, so far anyway!) Santa gave each class a sum of money to get suitable presents for their class which could be enjoyed by everyone. We sent him our lists and look forward to seeing what we get back.*





## Deuchainnean Saidheans/ Science Afternoons

Bha feasgairean saidheans againn far an robh sinn a' coimhead air mar a dhèanadh sinn deuchainn cothromach agus ag ionnsachadh an cànan agus am pròiseas a tha a dhìth oirnn nuair a tha sinn a' dèanamh deuchainn saidheans.



*We had 2 Science afternoons where we conducted different experiments in our classes. We looked at the language and process needed when conducting a fair test.*

## Obair-Ealain Nollaig/

Abair gu bheil sinn air a bhith trang a' cruthachadh rudan agus a' dèanamh dealbhan Nollaig. Tha na clasaichean againn air an deagh sgeadachadh agus tha cuid de na rudan a' rinn sinn ri fhaicinn an an taigh faisg oirbh pèin! *We have been busy creating a variety of Christmas crafts and drawings. Our classrooms are decked out with our artwork and some of these masterpieces can even be seen in a house near you!*



## DE THA DOL COMPETITION

Primary pupils participated in the annual De Tha Dol Front Page Cover Competition. The overall winner was Uilleam Macleod P3. The Runners up were Fraser Morrison P2GM, Joey Macleod P3GM, Donnie Macleod P6, Jasmine Macleod P6.



Congratulations to Uilleam and all the runners up. Their pictures will appear in the latest edition of the De Tha Dol.



## FAREWELL

The P1-3EM class had a farewell party for Ariana Nistor P2. Ariana and her family are moving to the mainland and we wish them all the very best for the future.



## SPECIAL VISITORS

### *Christmas Elf*

We had couple of special visitors to the school on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> December. A special Christmas Elf delivered gifts to the Primary Classes. Rather than pupils receiving individual gifts this session, pupils chose games that they would enjoy in their classes.



### *Elsie Seonag Mackay*

Ms Jenny Stokes brought 6 week old Elsie Mackay to the school carpark to meet staff. Unfortunately, due to covid restrictions she was unable to come into the building. It will not be long before she in enrolling in the Sgoil Àraich.





## S2 PUPILS LEARN ABOUT COMMUNITY LED DEVELOPMENT



During November S2 pupils used time in Geography and Science to take part in an engagement project developed by Community Land Scotland. The pupils were introduced to the concept of community land ownership and given the opportunity to develop potential projects on a fictional estate. They visited development sites such as the Monan wind turbines, Ceann nan Ora Housing, Buna HEP scheme and the Urgha business units to see for themselves how the community land owner has developed projects in North Harris. The project finished with successful presentations from the S2 pupils. Many thanks to Community Land Scotland and the North Harris Trust for their support with this.



## TREE PLANTING IN THE SCHOOL GROUNDS

The Rural Skills class had some primary helpers giving them a hand planting trees during the last week of term. Mrs Mackinnon's P1-4 EM class came down and did a great job digging and planting about 30 new trees into the school grounds. Hopefully they will be able to watch them grow during their time in the school. The trees were donated to the school by the Conservation Volunteers charity and included Rowan, Bird Cherry, Crab Apple, Field Maple and Goat Willow. Thanks everyone!



## DEASBAD-SGOILE

Bha deasbad gu math soirbheachail againn anns an sgoil air Diciadain 24 an t-Samhainn. Ghabh fichead sgoilear pàirt anns an deasbad agus bha gach deasbad aig ìre gu math àrd. Chòrd an latha ruinn gu mòr agus tha sinn an dòchas gum bi cothroman Gàidhig mar seo aig sgoilearan anns na bliadhnaichean ri thighinn.

A-measg na cuspairean a bha sgoilearan a' deasbad air an latha bha:

- Cha bu choir a bhith coimhead ri ola tuilleadh. Tha sinn ann an saoghal ath-nuadhachail
- Tha coimpiutairean nas eifeachdaiche na tidsearan
- Tha turasachd air fàs a bhith na thrioblaid anns Na Hearadh agus chan ann na bhuannachd
- Tha na dh'ionnsaicheas tu air taobh a-muigh na sgoile nas fheumaile na foghlam san rùm-sgoile
- Cha robh ginealach a-rìamh cho fortanach ris a' ghinealach dom buin mise.



Rinn na sgoilearan obair ionmholta ann a' bhith ag ullachadh oraidean a bha inntinneach, ealanta, èibhinn agus fiosrachail. Tha sinn an dochas mar Roinn gum bi cothrom aig moran aca fhathast a bhith a gabhail pàirt ann an deasbadaidh nàiseanta. 'S iad Niall Macleòid agus Emma Passmore a bhuannaich aig deireadh an latha, ach bha na comharran a choisinn na sgiobaidhean gu math faisg!

Daibhidh Moireach

Anns na clasaichean Gàidhlig bho chionn ghoirid, bha tòrr againn ag ullachadh airson deasbad na sgoile. Gach bliadhna, b' àbhaist do sgioba bhon sgoil a bhith a' gabhail pàirt anns an Deasbad Nàiseanta ach, air sgàth 's gun robh seo air a chur dheth le trioblaidean COVID, bha sinne mar sgoil fhathast airson deasbad a chumail airson beagan eòlais fhaighinn air na sgilean a bhiodh feum againn air airson an Deasbad Nàiseanta.

An cuspair a bha agamsa agus aig Ellie ri mholadh 's e "Tha turasachd a' fàs gu bhith na thrioblaid agus chan ann na bhuannachd"

Tha a bhith a' gabhail pàirt ann an Deasbad a' leasachadh na sgilean sgrìobhaidh, labhairt agus rannsachaidh againn. Bha e uabhasach soirbheachail dhuinn agus chòrd e rinn gu mòr!



Bha sinn uile beagan nearbhach mu dheidhinn a bhith seasamh air beulaibh daoine agus a' bruidhinn ach bha e gu math spòrsail! Tha sinn uile an dòchas gum faigh sinn an cothrom a dhèanamh a-rithist an ath bhliadhna!

Emma NicSuain agus Ellie-Ceit NicIain S4

Ghabh sinne pàirt san deasbad a bh'againn san sgoil am bliadhna. Thug e dhuinn barrachd misneachd anns an labhairt agus anns a' chòmhradh Ghàidhlig againn. B'e ullachadh math a bh'ann ma bha sinn airson a dhol chun an Deasbad Nàiseanta an ath bhliadhna ach 's e tòrr spòrs a bh'ann cuideachd. Ghabh clasaichean bhon chiad bhliadhna suas chun an t-siathamh bliadhna pàirt san deasbad agus bha na h-argamaidean gu math soirbheachail.



B'e cuspair an deasbaid againne:

- Cha bu chòir a bhith coimhead ri ola tuilleadh. Tha sinn ann an saoghal ath-nuadhachail.

Le cuideachadh bho Mrs Maclean agus Mgr Moireach, dh'ullaich sinn na h-argamaidean againn ann an dòigh inntinneach, fiosrachail agus cuideachd beagan èibhinn. Bha an deasbad fhèin againn air Diciadain 24 an t-Samhainn agus ghabh fichead sgoilear pàirt anns an deasbad gu lèir.

'S e sgil mhath a th'ann a bhith a' deasbad ann an Gàidhlig, agus cuideachd ann am Beurla. Thug seo dhuinn cothrom na sgilean againn a leasachadh. 'S

urrainn dhuinne a th'ann an Nàiseanta 5 cuideachd an deasbad a chleachdadh airson labhairt san deuchainn Ghàidhlig againn.

Bhuannaich Niall Macleòid agus Emma Passmore an deasbad air fad agus fhuair iadsan bocsa seoclaidean mar dhuais! Fhuair a h-uile duine eile a ghabh pàirt seoclaid mòr an duine! 'S e cothrom spòrsail agus buannachdail a bh'anns an deasbad agus chòrd e rinn uile gu mòr!

Eilidh NicDhòmhnaill agus Isla Scott S4



## MUSIC NOTES

### *Instrumental Lessons Timetable*

Instructor	Instrument	Days
Mr MacIver	Guitar and Keyboards	Monday, Wednesday, and Friday,
Ms Macdonald	Piping	Tuesday
Mr Woods	Wind Instruments	Thursdays,
Ms Young	Pipe Band Drumming	Thursdays
Mr Johnstone	Strings-online	Fridays

Pupils must remember their instruments on lesson days and check their timetables in advance. All instructors now have MS teams set up for their students, and timetables are on display outside the music room. Ms Holmes can also help with any problems accessing timetables etc. If you cannot practice at home for any reason, please see Ms Holmes, who will arrange access to practice facilities in school for you.

### *Ensembles and Groups*



Ceilidh Band is running after school on Fridays from 1.45-3 with Mr Maciver and Ms Holmes. Band is on Thursday lunchtimes with Mr Woods and Ms Holmes, 12.45-1.10, and is open to all wind players. We are looking at partnership projects across the authority when COVID restrictions allow, so please watch this space for further updates! In addition, music club runs on Tuesdays from 12.45-1.10 with Ms Holmes (drums) and Sarah Helfrich (guitar). This seeks to offer pupils opportunities in areas for which we do not presently have dedicated visiting tuition. Junior choir has now restarted in primary on Wednesdays, and we are looking into how best to start up senior choir ASAP within current restrictions.

### *Hogmanay Show 2021*



Our pipers (and possibly a drummer or two) will be taking part in the Hogmanay Show 2021 as part of the Lewis and Harris Youth Pipe Band. Catch them on BBC Alba on 31<sup>st</sup> December! Their director is our piping tutor Ms Ashley Macdonald, and we are delighted to see our young people having these opportunities provided to them.

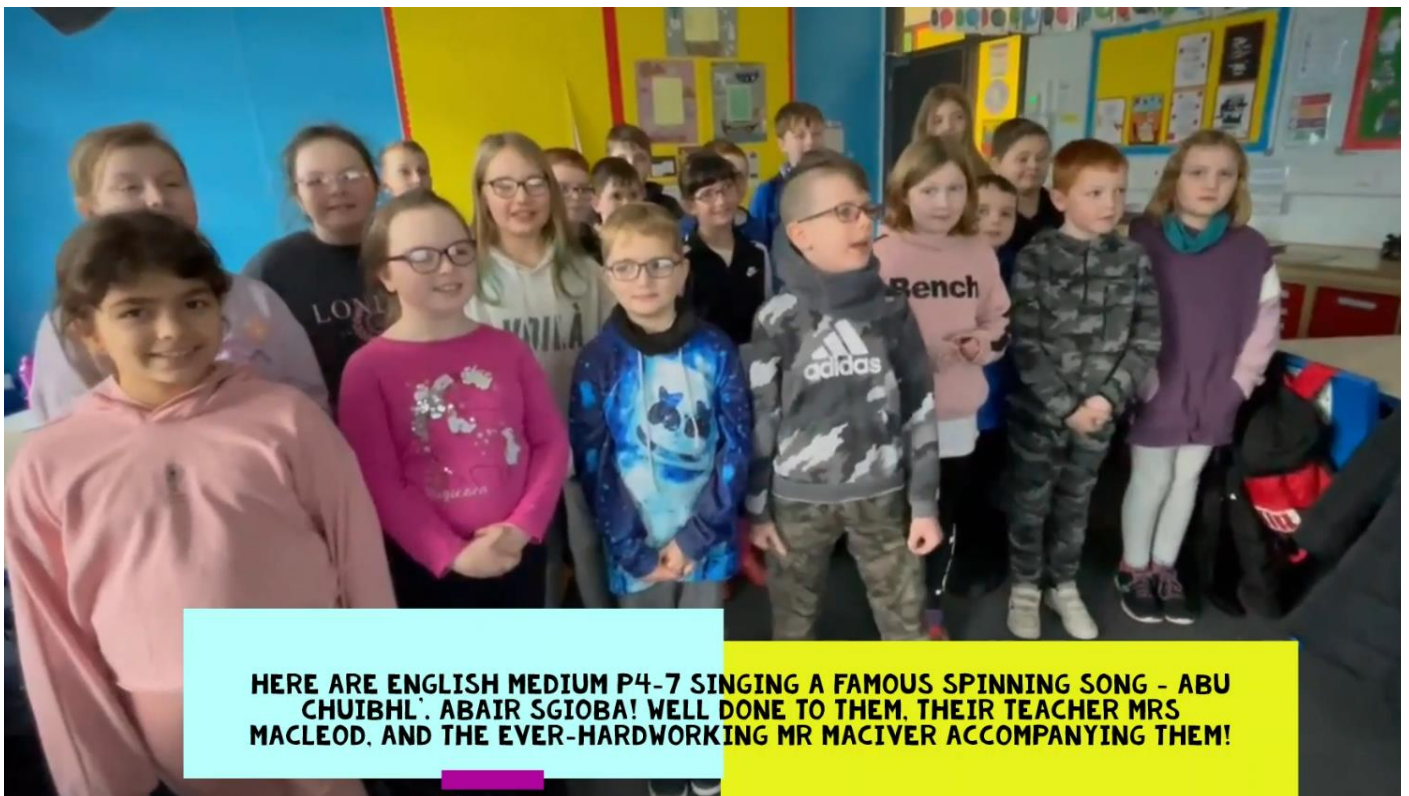
### ***Gaelic Songwriting Success***

Isla Scott, S4, has been working on a Gaelic Songwriting project with none other than Mary Ann Kennedy! Isla has worked incredibly hard, and this work has paid off as she has now been approached by Wee Studio for further recording work. We hope this is a first step on a very exciting musical journey for Isla and are all very impressed with her for managing this alongside a hefty S4 workload. Abair superstar!



### ***Advent Calendar***

We were unable to have an in-person concert this year due to COVID restrictions, so instead the Music dept opted for something a little bit different. Every child in the school, from Sgoil Araich to S6 has had the opportunity to participate in our musical advent calendar. Check out the SES Facebook page for a wonderful array of musical items (festive and non-festive) posted daily by Mr Johnson to brighten the December darkness.



### ***Outer Hebrides Young Musician of the Year***

Open to all school aged Western Isles musicians, Western Isles Young Musician of the Year takes place in Stornoway on 26<sup>th</sup> February 2022. Classes are arranged in instrument groups according to the following age categories; primary, junior (S1-S3, and Senior S4-S6. Interested musicians should contact their instrumental/vocal teacher or Ms Holmes for details as to how to apply.

## MENTORS IN VIOLENCE PREVENTION

Mentors in Violence Prevention is a peer mentoring programme that gives young people an opportunity to explore and challenge the attitudes, beliefs and cultural norms that underpin gender-based violence, bullying and other forms of violence. MVP is a relatively new programme to Sir E Scott, having only been run once before in 2019 by last year's S6 group who delivered it very successfully to the S4s at the time. Next term, MVP will be delivered once again by a group of S6 pupils – Scott Murray, David Golish, Sarah Helfrich and Emma Passmore. The group completed two full days of MVP training in October with the help of Mr Johnson and Isabel Steele to prepare them for delivery of the programme.

MVP addresses a range of behaviours including name-calling, sexting, controlling behaviour and harassment, and uses a 'by-stander' approach where individuals are looked on as active bystanders with the ability to challenge violent behaviour of their peers in a safe way. The aim of the programme is to educate young people on how to positively influence the attitudes and behaviour of their peers.

When the programme was first run at SES in 2019, evidence of the impact of MVP was gathered through staff feedback, attitude questionnaires and focus groups, with both the mentors and mentees reporting that they were now more aware of the issues related to violence, gender-based violence and bullying. They also reported being more knowledgeable about their options as a bystander and ways to safely challenge unacceptable behaviour. The programme is also an excellent way for mentors to improve their confidence and enhance a range of skills such as team-work and presentation skills.



At Sir E Scott, our hope with running the MVP programme is not only to educate our peers about violence and ways of challenging behaviour, but also to improve ethos within school and reduce barriers between older and younger pupils. MVP will be delivered to the S3 group at SES after the Christmas break by the S6 MVP mentors who are all very excited by this opportunity!  
Sarah Helfrich, S6

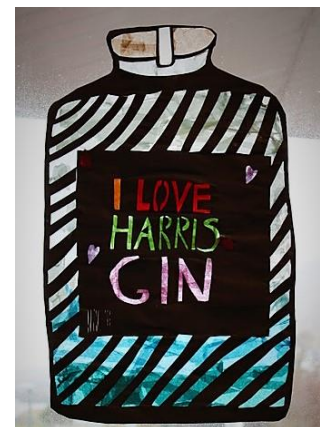
## S1 COP 26 PROJECT

The current S1 worked on a group project during COP26 with the theme –Designing a Community for the Future. Run by Western Isles Libraries in conjunction with Architecture and Design Scotland, the class was thrilled to learn that they had won a School Achievement Award for their work ‘Our Vision for a Greener Harris’. To top it off, Rosie Macrae won an individual Certificate of Commendation for her concept of a home on stilts which would rise and fall with the tide as needed.

Every member of the class developed their own ideas to use the natural assets around us to live in a more sustainable way. Ideas ranged from the radical – using communal spaces between homes for utilities like community cars and laundry and food storage / sharing, to the easily achievable, for example only buying meat and seafood produced locally and planting edible only gardens, as well as every kind of renewable energy. The judges have given excellent feedback on each pupil’s contribution giving food for thought for the future. Fantastic teamwork everyone!



## CHRISTMAS BAUBLES



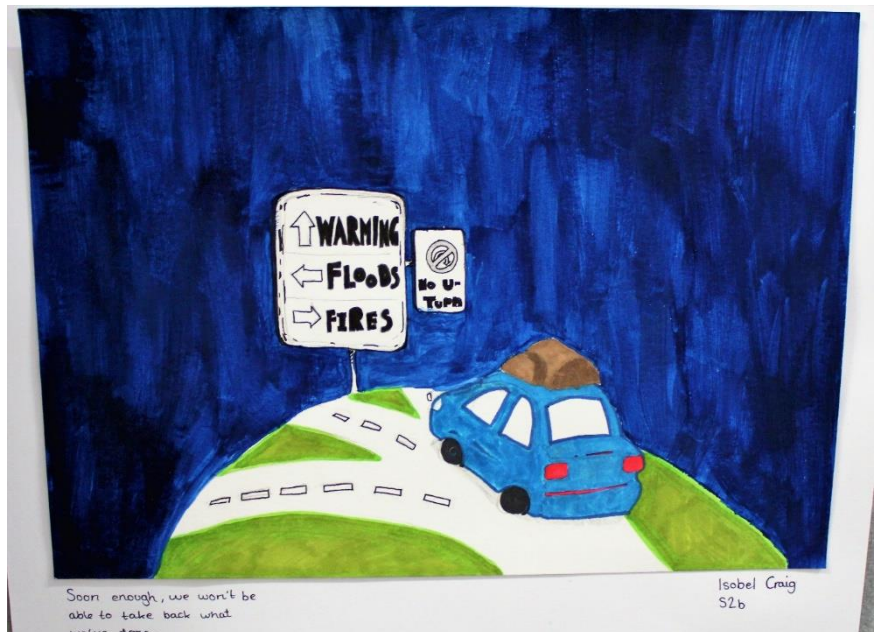
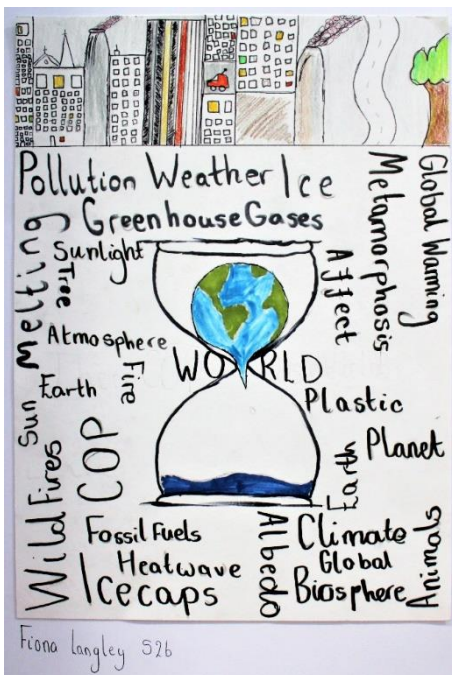
With some spare time available after project work was completed, S1 and S3 turned their hands to some decorative work to brighten up the window facing west. The theme was ‘Christmas in Harris’ and didn’t they do a fab job?





## S2 COP 26 PROJECT

S2 pupils made some great images as a response to the COP 26 conference in November. Imaginative, urgent and a snapshot of how pupils feel at the present time about the climate issue, how it could affect them in future and a call to action for change.



### S3 COP26 WORK

At the same time as the COP 26 Climate Conference was taking place in Glasgow, S3 pupils were examining the work of Icelandic art superstar Olafur Eliason. The class studied his very unusual approaches to making art and learned about his Little Sun project which aims to provide small solar lights to developing countries. These help with health, educational and social outcomes for people of all ages, but perhaps for children most of all. We would like to do a small fundraising project in the summer term to fund a few of these lights. Watch this space!



### S4 PRINTMAKING

Earlier in the term, S4 Art and design pupils spent a few periods working on mixed media prints. The process involved creating a colourful ‘under painting’ with a darker print on top. The results are very textural and decorative.



## ART COURSEWORK

Naomi Mackay in S5 continues to impress with a high standard of work towards her Higher Art and Design. Her Expressive theme looks at the coastal landscape around Harris but, rather than just focus on a perfect scene, Naomi is adding some of the detritus that our eyes perhaps edit out: the plastic bottles, mechanical items and –now- PPE. This is an interesting body of work which shows Naomi's technical skill well.

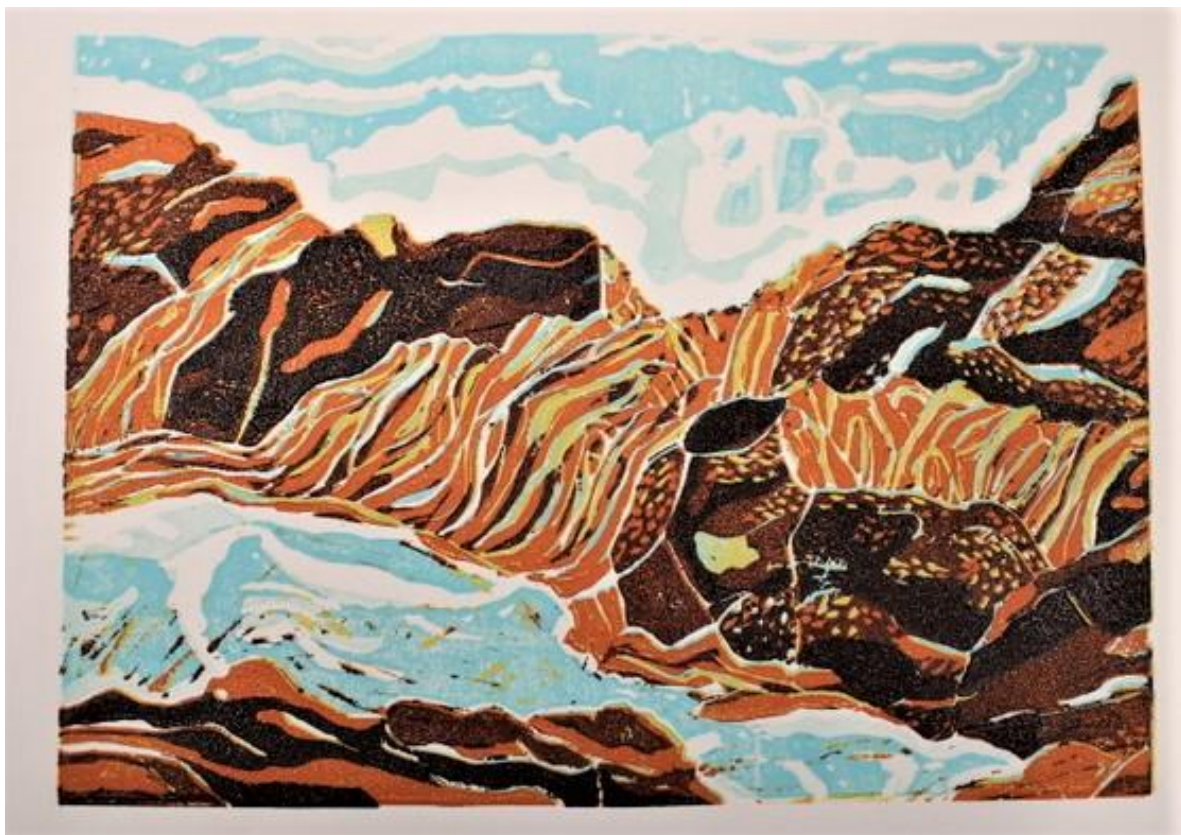
A selection is pictured below.



*Sketchbook Pages*



*Painting on Board*



*Lino Print Developing the Image*



## BLYTHSWOOD SHOEBOX APPEAL

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the Blythwood Shoebox Appeal, once again the school collected 100 boxes for this worthy cause. Many thanks to the parents who provided the boxes which were pre-wrapped. Niel Macleod and Matthew Morrison helped wrap some of the boxes and we are grateful to them for their help.



shoeboxappeal.org

EDUCATION COMMUNITY  
BLYTHSWOOD  
CARE  
GOSPEL

SHOE BOX APPEAL

Give a precious gift this Christmas

Thank you for filling shoeboxes  
*Sir E Scott School*  
100 boxes

Transforming lives through Christian care for body and soul

Registered charity no. SC048001 Company no. 583493

*Nollaig Chridheil agus Bliadhna Mhath ùr dhuibh uile.*

