



SES NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2023

Dear Parent/Carer,

Welcome to our first newsletter of this academic year. It is hard to believe that we are now a term in to the school year, or that the end of this term marks a year that I have been in post as Headteacher of Sir E Scott. As I reflect on the past year, it is very much a story of change.

We have had significant change across our teaching staff, and within our wider leadership team across the school. Our school roll has grown significantly as we have welcomed a number of new children and families into our community.

As I spoke to a parent after the Secondary Prizegiving yesterday, they mentioned that they thought of Sir E Scott very much as a 'family'. I would agree that this is a feeling that we wish to cultivate and strengthen within our school. We are immensely proud of our pupils for the way they have welcomed new peers, being inclusive without a second thought and forming friendships which will continue to grow. This is partly due to the inclusive, inquisitive nature of children and young people but is also nurtured in homes, community groups, clubs and in school. Therefore families, community members and school staff deserve the utmost credit for supporting our young people to develop such important skills.

For myself, lots of the past year has been a time of observation and learning so that we may set a future direction for the school that prioritises our shared values. As we continue this journey of change, we are seeking the views of families about your child's experience in school. A questionnaire will come out very soon, and we would be very appreciative if this could be returned to us at your earliest convenience.

We are conscious that next term is a very busy one, with lots of dates for the diary. You can find a list of next term's key dates within this newsletter.

Finally, I wish all of our pupils, staff and families a very restful holiday. We look forward to welcoming pupils back to school on Thursday 26th October.

Le gach deagh dhùrachd,

Andy Murray

Head Teacher/ Ceannard na sgoile



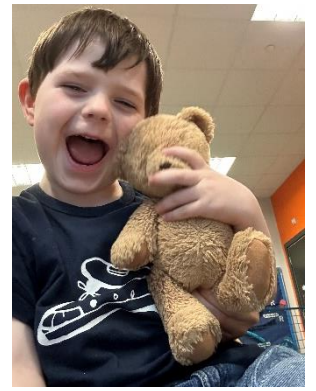
New P1 Pupils

We welcomed 11 new pupils to P1 in August, three children have joined the P1-3 English mainstream class with Mrs Mackinnon and eight children have joined the P1-2 Gaelic Medium class with Mrs Brown.



SGOIL ÀRAICH

We have been very busy this term! we have been making new friends, learning lots of new words in Gaelic. We have been doing the story of We're Going on a Bear Hunt and The Three Billy Goat Gruffs. We have also done a lot of cutting out and sensory play.



Tha sinn air a bhith gu math trang an teirm seo! tha sinn air a bhith dèanamh charaidean ùra, ag ionnsachadh tòrr fhaclan ùra sa Ghàidhlig. Tha sinn air a bhith a' dèanamh an sgeulachd gu bheil sinn a' dol a shealg mathan agus na trì gillean gobhar. Tha sinn cuideachd air tòrr gearradh a-mach agus cluich mothachaidh a dhèanamh



Obair Topaic/ Topic Work

Tha sinn air a bhith ag ionnsachadh mu dheidhinn a' bhodhaig anns a' bhun-sgoil. Seall air an obair miorbhailleach a rinn sinn!

In the Primary we have been learning about the human body. Look at our amazing work!



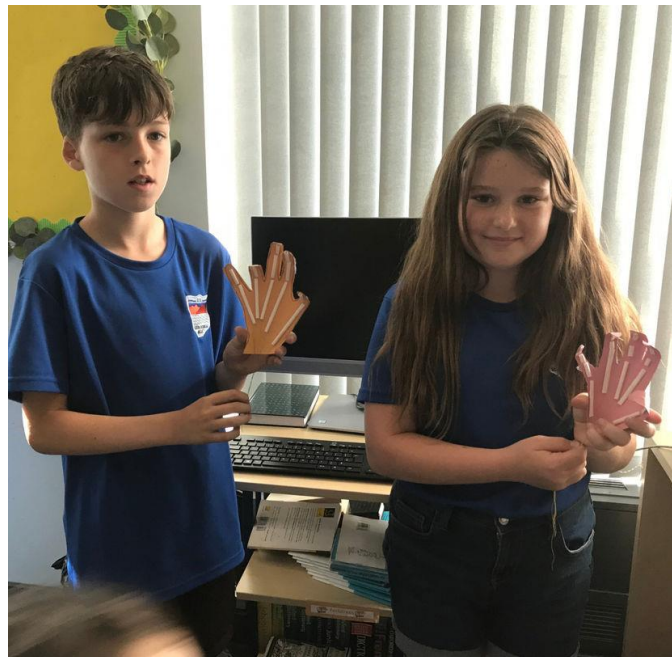
Clas GM 1-2



Clas GM 3-4



Clas GM 5-7



P1-3 GL Class



We began our topic in class by looking at the human body using the story “Funnybones” as our inspiration.

We all love this story in class as we follow the antics of big and little skeleton.

We made moving skeletons using art straws and we thought they looked very effective on black paper!

Here’s another look at the human body – this time after discussing the different shapes it can make.

Notice our figures don’t have any actual faces, as we were more interested in shapes and gestures. We worked with chalk and charcoal.



We were inspired by Alberto Giacometti, the Swiss sculptor and painter.

We love the music “Fossils” from Carnival of the Animals” and so during one of our literacy lessons we wrote words to describe this piece of music.

We did come up with quite a few and displayed them on these skeletons that we made by paper folding!

We used tissue paper to make these beautiful hearts. They accompany our work on the job of the human heart.



Heather brought in her blood pressure monitor. Cooper is busy having his blood pressure taken.

He is busy looking at the screen hoping he has a healthy blood pressure!

P4/5 GL Class

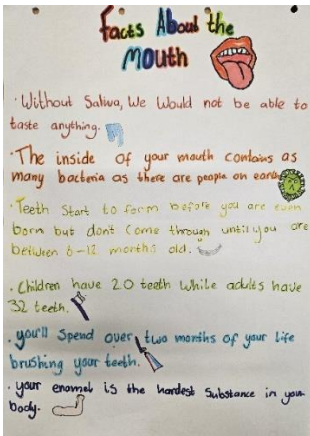


P6/7 GL Class

We learned that our brain controls the rest of our body, including controlling our thinking, memory movements, senses and speech. We made brain hats as a fun activity to help us understand what the different parts of our brains do.



We learned about the human skeleton too. Did you know that the adult human skeleton has 206 bones? We made up songs to help us remember the 206 bones in our body and we made and painted bones. We borrowed skeleton Bob from McCrick to make learning about the different bones enjoyable. Poor Bob's injuries include broken toes, missing teeth and a cracked cranium!



We have each researched a different part of the human body and we are sharing our learning with the rest of the class. After the holidays we will be finishing off our topic with fun experiments, including those that will help us to learn more about our senses.



P5 Kodaly

Kodaly was really fun! We learnt the Wellerman and then we performed it. We also learnt 'we will rock you' and performed it in front of everyone at Sgoil nan Loch.

Seachdain sa chaidh bha sinn aig Codalay agus bha sinn a' seinn We Will Rock You agus Wellerman. Aig Codalay bha torr spors againn. Chaidh sinn a-muigh cuideachd. Tha Codalay a' cordadh rinn uile.



P1-4 Worker of the Term

Congratulations to George Jardine who is the Worker of the term. George has been working with bigger numbers this term. His writing content has been excellent and he reads consistently well. Well done George, keep up the good work!

P5-7 GIRLS FOOTBALL FESTIVAL

The P5-7 girls travelled up to Back football club indoor arena during 'women in sports week' to practise their football skills. The football festival was such a friendly and fun experience for the girls. They were given the opportunity to play for their school but were also teamed up with girls from other schools to build friendships and new experiences. The girls had a great day out developing their skills and many goals were scored!



On the 5th of October there was a girls' football tournament for the 5-7 pupils in our school. So many people made so many new friends from other schools. Everyone did so well and scored so many goals and everyone was so kind. The staff members were so encouraging. Some pupils were not sure about it, but ended up loving it. There was very good teamwork from our school and all the other schools. They were trying really hard. At the end everyone was exhausted. We are so proud of everyone, they worked so hard. Thank you so much everyone that contributed.
Penny Maclean & Rosie Morrison P6

SECONDARY ACTIVITIES



Last week was Women and Girls in Sport week and as ever we had a great turnout at lunchtime from the girls who enjoy playing basketball the most!

We would like to say well done to the boys who take part in football representing Harris and Aths in the U13 , U15, U18 leagues.



Each week SES pupils travel to Stornoway to join the Lewis and Harris Youth Concert band. We are really proud of their commitment and appreciate Mr Wood's hard work. Well done Anna, Darren and Hannah!



Iceland Trip

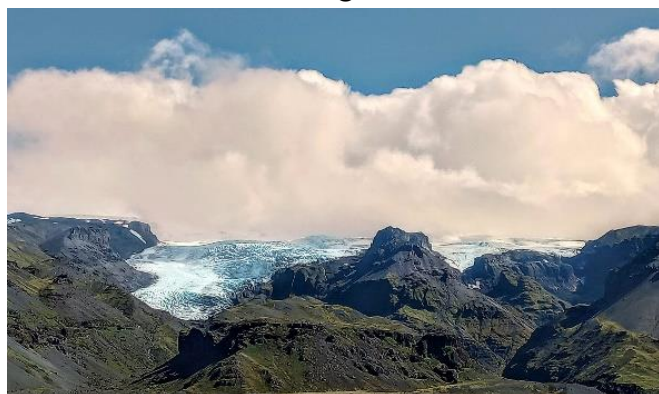
A group of 13 senior SES pupils enjoyed a fantastic expedition to Iceland during from the last week of term. Landing at Keflavik Airport in the morning of Saturday 24th June the pupils' adventure began with a visit to the lava flows from the recent eruptions



(2022!) at Fagradalsfjall volcano. Pupils were able to get onto cooled lava and explore the brand-new rock. An afternoon visit to Seltun geothermal area allowed pupils see both solfataras and fumaroles, aka; bubbling mud pools and steaming hot springs.



Day 2 began with a walk into Reykjadalur thermal river. Following a cool and wet first day the warm waters provided a welcome introduction to the soothing effects of geothermal heating in Iceland - the main difficulty was getting back out! A long drive east to Svinafell took the pupils past Skogafoss waterfall, where the volume of water tumbling off the raised coastline was immense. An evening walk out from the campsite took pupils to a remarkable viewpoint where they could glimpse the first glaciers of the trip.



Day 3 started with a boat trip around Glacier Lagoon amongst newly calved icebergs, a definite trip highlight. The return journey west was interrupted by an Arctic Fox, an encounter which was fleeting but will live long in the memory. The improved weather gave views of the spectacular outwash plains and cliff lines which mark the south coast of Iceland. A short visit to the black beach at Vik broke up the drive into Iceland's Golden Circle where afternoon visits to Geysir (the village with an erupting hot spring which lent it's name to all the others) and Gullfoss (massive waterfall) brought pupils into contact with the main tourist sites and the huge numbers of visitors at each. The day ended in thermal baths in Laugervatn where a little bit of luxury in the spa was most welcome.



Our final day in Iceland took us to the continental divide at Thingvellir, the historic site of Iceland's original parliament. Here you can view the rift created as the North American plate and Eurasian plate pull apart. An afternoon spent in Reykjavik allowed a little of time for pupils to buy some souvenirs. A final swim and sauna was an unexpected bonus right next to our last campsite.



Many thanks to Kirsty Brien, expedition leader, for offering us the opportunity to explore Iceland. Her experience and skill in planning and leading the trip meant the pupils were able to enjoy the very best of Iceland.



PRIZEGIVING CEREMONY

The annual Prizegiving ceremony was held on Wednesday 11th October. Our guest speaker was Mr Mark Brown who also presented the prizes. Congratulations to all the prize winners and indeed to all the pupils who work hard to the best of their ability.

We had amazing performances from the Piping/Drumming Group, Alt, Fiona Langley, Darren Campbell all performed at the assembly, as well as both the Junior and Senior Choirs.

Congratulations to Isla Scott recipient of the Alex John Macleod Memorial Dux and Eilidh MacDonald, recipient of the Proxime Accessit Award.



PRIZEWINNERS LIST



Harris Tweed Authority Prizes for Progress	: Secondary 1 – Alana Stark
	: Secondary 2 – Domhnall MacRae
	: Secondary 3 – Jonathan Mackinnon
	: Secondary 4 – Emma MacSween
	: Secondary 5 – Grace Campbell/ Ellie-Ceit Johnson & Kyle MacIennan
Saltire Award	: S3 Year Group
John Muir ‘Discovery’ Award	: S1 Year Group
Duke of Edinburgh Silver Award	: Alasdair Langley
Macaskill Builders Class Prize – Secondary 1	: Ava Globe
Bank of Scotland Junior Dux Prize – Secondary 2	: Esme Brien
Harris Hotel Class Prize – Secondary 3	: Isobel Craig
Royal Bank of Scotland Intermediate Dux Prize ~ Secondary 4:	Kitty Johnson
Alick Buchanan-Smith Citizenship Award	: Natalie Maclean
Effie MacSween Prize for Sir E Scott Gaelic Ambassador	: Isla Scott
Volunteering Centre Award for Volunteering Excellence	: Isla Scott
Sport Harris Prize for Adventure Sports & Physical Education :	Kieran McNally
Donald Morrison Award for Hospitality	: Grace Campbell
James Macintosh Memorial Award for Gaelic Learners	: Nathan Coghill
John MacIver Award for Creativity and Innovation	: Dylan Brown
John Masterson Prize for Group Music Making	: alt
Harris Arts & Heritage Award for Music	: Isla Scott
An Comunn Gàidhealach prize for Gàidhlig	: Isla Scott
Lewis Carpet Award for Modern Languages	: Isla Scott
Andrew Beattie Award for Physics	: Alasdair Langley
Creative Writing	: Eilidh Macdonald
Margaret Macarthur Award for Mathematics	: Alasdair Langley
Scotia Pharmaceuticals Award for Chemistry	: Nathan Coghill
Harris Fish Farming Award for Biology	: Eilidh Macdonald
Herald Newspaper Award for English	: Eilidh Macdonald
Tarbert Tenants' Association Proxime Accessit Award	: Eilidh Macdonald
Alex John Macleod Memorial Dux Prize	: Isla Scott



Royal National Mod

We wish all our pupils who are participating in the Royal National Mod in Paisley all the very best, and we hope they enjoy the experience. Thank you to Jayne MacDonald, Conductor and the Mod Parents Committee for their hard work

Gur math a thèid dhan a h-uile duine agaibh a bhios a' farpais aig a' Mhòd ann am Pàislig an ath-sheachdain. Cumaidh sinn ar sùilean a-mach gus am faic sinn sibh air an T-Bh le na duaisean agaibh!



BLYTHSWOOD SHOEBOX APPEAL



Once again, the school will be supporting the Shoebox Appeal this year. Pre-wrapped empty boxes with leaflets

will be available from the school foyer for collection. We are grateful to parents who have provided the pre-wrapped boxes and to all who support this worthy appeal.

Checklist for suitable items is below, please note no chocolate sweets. Further information can be found on <https://blythwood.org/shoeboxappeal/>

6 steps to bring happiness

1 Find: Find an average-size shoebox. Decide who to fill it for; a child, a teenager, a man or a woman.

2 Wrap: your box and lid separately so that the lid can be removed without tearing the paper.

3 Pack: Gather the items, remove all plastic and cardboard packaging and pack into the box. Please choose items that will last rather than those with a short life and can't be recycled.

4 Check: On the checklist, tick the items you have put in your shoebox and note any that are not on the list.

5 Donate: Secure the ticked checklist to the outside of the shoebox lid using sticky tape. Detach the donation envelope as instructed and place on top of the items inside your box.

6 Deliver: Secure the lid with rubber bands. (Custom regulations require Blythwood Care to check the contents of your box) Deliver your box to your local collection point.



For Christmas delivery your shoebox should be at your church, school or other collection point during the last week of October/beginning of November

Checklist

Please tick items included and firmly secure this list on your shoebox lid.

ESSENTIAL ITEMS (ALL ITEMS MUST BE NEW)
Please include the following items highlighted in red opposite.

Toiletries (NO TALCUM POWDER)

- ☐ Shampoo/Shower gel
- ☐ Face cloth/ Moist wipes
- ☐ Deodorant
- ☐ Moisturising Cream
- ☐ Comb/Brush
- ☐ Sanitary Products
- ☐ Shaving foam/Razors

Miscellaneous

- ☐ New Make-up
- ☐ Sewing Equipment
- ☐ Household Candles
- ☐ Screwdrivers/Pliers
- ☐ Household products

Stationery

- ☐ Pens/Pencils/Sharpener
- ☐ Notepads/ Colouring books
- ☐ Rulers/Rubbers

Clothes and other Items

(T-shirts/Pyjamas/ Jumpers/Shirts) etc

- ☐
- ☐
- ☐
- ☐

- ☐ Toothbrush and Toothpaste
- ☐ Hat, scarf, gloves
- ☐ Soap
- ☐ Underwear/ Socks/Tights
- ☐ Small Toy*
- ☐ Sweets*

NOTE* Small toy for boys and girls such as, cars, dolls, balls.

A small gift for teens and adults. Please only include new items.

* (No chocolate or any other food) 'Best before' date no earlier than 31 March next year. No loose sweets, lollies or undated bags of sweets.

Do not include used or damaged items; war related items such as toy guns or knives or military figures; hand-made or knitted stuffed toys; chocolate or any food other than sweets. Chocolate Eclairs and Chocolate Limes are not allowed; books that are mainly words should also not be included.

Please tick the box next to who the box is for and the age of the female or male you have filled this box for:

☐ Female ☐ Male

- ☐ Preschool age.....
- ☐ Primary age.....
- ☐ Teenager age.....
- ☐ Adult age.....
- ☐ Elderly age.....

Shoeboxes should be returned to the school foyer no later than Friday 27th October.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

EVENT	DATE
School Opens for Pupils	Thursday 26 th October
Secondary Social Event	Friday 27 th October
Blythwood Shoebox Deadline	Friday 27 th October
School Halloween Lunch	Tuesday 31 st October
Primary Interim Reports	Thursday 2 nd November
Whole School Harvest Assembly & Donations to local foodbank	Friday 3 rd November
S1 Parents Evening	Monday 6 th November
Primary Parent Meetings	Thursday 9 th November
Remembrance Day Assembly	Friday 10 th November
Primary Sharing our Learning	Friday 17 th November
Latha Na Gaidhlig	Thursday 23 rd November
School Closes (Mid term holiday)	Thursday 23 rd November
School Opens	Tuesday 28 th November
S2 Parents Evening	Tuesday 5 th December
SA & Primary Show/Panto (Evening)	Thursday 7 th December
SA & Primary Show/Panto (Morning)	Friday 8 th December
School Christmas Lunch	Wednesday 13 th December
Primary Christmas Party	TBC
Secondary Social Event	TBC
Christmas Assembly	Wednesday 20 th December
Christmas Jumper Day	Thursday 21 st December
School Closes for Staff and Pupils	Thursday 21 st December