



# Elderbank Primary School and Early Years 2021-2022



## Term 1 and Term 2 Highlights

### Welcome!

We were delighted to open the doors to all of our new and returning pupils in August after a year which included a variety of school and remote learning. Once again, we would like to say how proud we are of the children in the way they have adapted throughout this time.

We continue to place their health and wellbeing as a priority and thank our families for their continued support.

### Early Years

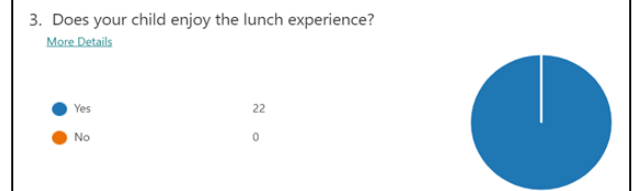
#### Lunch Bunch:

This session we have introduced an exciting addition to our Early Years routine, the introduction of a daily lunch provision. All of the children are provided with a two course lunch each session and this has proved to be a valuable experience which has provided a wealth of learning opportunities. This has developed a range of skills including social, communication, independence, table manners and tasting a range of new/different food.



#### Parent/carer comments:

"Nice variety of foods for children to explore new tastes. Additional benefit of seeing their peers try new/different food can encourage reluctant eaters to try them too."



"My child enjoys lunch very much and seems to be eating things he normally wouldn't in the house. He always mentions what he has for lunch and who he sits with to eat. It appears to be a good experience for him."



#### Quality Play Spaces:

This session the Early Years team have been focusing upon enhancing our learning environment and creating an interesting, natural and stimulating space which promotes curiosity, inquiry, peer interaction, social communication and incorporates all curricular areas across the playroom. The children's response has been extremely positive and they are eagerly engaging in a wide range of learning experiences through their play.



## Celebrating Positive Behaviour

Once again we have had to adapt the way in which we celebrate positive behaviour. The Captains and Vice-Captains have worked hard to ensure that celebrations go ahead despite restrictions.



House and Vice-Captains



### Term 1 winners were Culzean.

House Captains and Vice Captains decided on a Halloween theme for the treat. They shopped for treats, decorated the hall and helped with all the games. Our pupils had lots of spooky fun!



### The term 2 treat was a little different.

We weren't able to celebrate together so instead House Captains and Vice Captains delivered Christmas gifts to our winning Brodick pupils on Elderbank's sleigh. House Captains and Vice-Captains worked with Mrs Patterson to make our sleigh.



## Rights Respecting School



The members of the Rights Respecting School Committee

The Rights Respecting School Committee were delighted to achieve the UNICEF gold award.



We had a virtual meeting with the assessors from UNICEF and spoke about all of our learning about our rights as children here at Elderbank.



We also ran a poster competition for the whole school about the issue of littering in the sea and on land.

Poster entries

As a group we are going to be working with the Eco Committee to help tackle the issue of littering in our local community.



Judging the entries.



## Elderbank School Library

A great deal of work has been going into our school library. We were very fortunate to receive a donation of library furniture and books from our local Bourtreehill library, which has sadly closed, to update our school library.



Members of the library committee were able to thank Fiona and Debbie for their years of support and helped in the selection and moving of books and furniture to our school library.

The Library Committee also ran a successful design competition during Book Week.



"A P5 Pupil designed these characters as part of our book week competition. We liked them so much we are having them professionally printed so they can be used as library mascots. There is currently a vote for what they should be called."



"We have invested in lovely new wall graphics and furniture for our school library to help build a warm and cosy environment and will share pictures once everything is in place. We hope to have an official launch and invite some special visitors along."

-Elderbank Library Committee



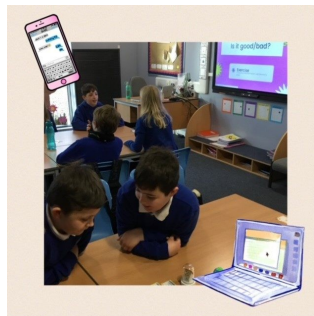
Another highlight has been the Bookbug sessions delivered in the Early Years Centre and P1 classes for Book Week in November. Mrs Bryson, our Area Inclusion Worker, delivered a fun, interactive story session with Bookbug and each child in P1 was gifted with a Family Book bag of goodies.



In term 3 Mrs Bryson is excited to be providing Bookbug sessions in some of the classes in Supported Learning as well as Creative Movement sessions.



In December, our Area Inclusion Worker had the privilege of devising and delivering Social Media Awareness Sessions to all Primary 6 and 7 classes. The sessions were fun and engaging, giving the children the opportunity to explore their own social media use and learn ways to keep themselves safe.



## Supporting our Community

Due to kind donations from staff and a grant from Cash 4 Kids, we were able to support many of our families in late December with food donations, gift donations and other offers of support that was welcomed at this time of year.



## Elderbank Pupil Council



The Pupil Council are always very keen to do their part to help the local community.

They helped to spread some Christmas cheer by running a Christmas raffle to raise money to purchase gifts for families in the local community. Along with the Christmas jumper event, the raffle raised an incredible total of £415!



## Elderbank Eco Committee

Led by our Eco Committee, the school gained its 3rd Eco-Schools Green Flag.



An Eco-Schools Green Flag rewards and acknowledges schools who have completed each of the Eco-Schools Seven Steps. The Seven Step framework, has been designed to place young people in control of environmental actions in their school, local community and beyond.

COP26 taking place in Glasgow meant there was a huge focus on Climate Change in term 2.



Primary 7 consider Climate Change

## Education Scotland Visit

In December we experienced a very positive visit from Education Scotland Inspectors. They toured the school, met with a staff focus group, a pupil focus group and our Senior Management team.



Pupils leading a school tour

The pupils were the stars of the day and left the visitors and Elderbank staff very impressed with their confidence and knowledge of the school and the curriculum.

We shared a lot of our experiences, challenges and positive outcomes of working through the pandemic.



## And finally...

In our push towards greater outdoor experiences and learning through play, inquiry and investigation, Elderbank has made great leaps in its staff training, gaining funding and obtaining resources.

As part of our continued Outdoor Learning here at Elderbank, we have invested in a Poly Tunnel. Through funding secured by our Head Teacher and from North Ayrshire's Learning for Sustainability Team, we will have designated areas for our Early Years children up to Primary 7 to plant and grow. We are very excited about developing this area and nurturing the plants we grow.



We have had lots of fun in our outdoor classroom with our new Loose Parts resources. P3P have created super obstacle courses, made dens and used available resources to make and play on a seesaw. Great fun was had by all!



Using loose parts to build a den and discussing the importance of risk assessing and using equipment safely to avoid injuries.



Primary 4 create a Viking longship with loose parts.



We were being caring friends as we supported each other round the obstacle course that we built using loose parts.

Primary 7 have an amazing Outdoor Experience at Dumfries House.

