

Barr PS and EYC Newsletter



March 2024

Term 3

We are three quarters of the way through this year's improvement plan, with the impact being seen throughout the school and nursery: please see our Twitter posts and blogs for more information.

Staff and pupils are focused on increasing reading for pleasure, and are always happy to talk about what we are reading. Check out the display board in the corridor for our recommendations. Hopefully we will achieve Core Reading Schools accreditation before the summer!

Work on the meta-skills framework continues, with the children working on collaboration through interhouse challenges; Lego club and clay pots! Our pupil committee members are developing their initiative and communication skills, with all children given the opportunity to inform national development work around meta-skills characters.

Weekly music lessons with Mrs Gibson are a hit, and the children shared their beautiful singing at the recent Easter Service: 'Celebrate' was my favourite!

British Science Week was an opportunity for the children to take part in a range of activities, from creating pendulums to representing time as Dr Who's Tardis! We definitely have a few budding scientists at Barr.

March

28th – Final P7 cluster transition visit

Close for the holidays at 2.30pm

April

15th – Return to school/EYC

16th – Bikeability level 2: P6+7

18th – Visit from Mrs McCormick, librarian

19th – Outdoor Day

22nd – Developing the Young Workforce Week

23rd - Bikeability level 2: P6+7

29th – Values Assembly

30th - Bikeability level 2: P6+7t

Community

We are really appreciative of the support we receive from our local community. From helping out in the school, to donating resources and time, we want to say a big thank you to:

Rachel (and her parents) for giving their time during electives and craft sessions

Sam and the gang for their gardening talents

Parent Council

Easter Tea fundraiser being held in the village hall, 12pm-3pm Saturday 30th March. Please come along and support. Donations of cakes and raffle prizes can be handed into the school office, thank you.

Social Media

Please keep an eye on the school website and Twitter account to find out more about what is happening in our school and EYC.

<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/sa/barrpsandeyc/>



@BarrPrimary





EYC and Class Blogs

Early Years Centre

This term in the nursery we have found great pleasure in feeding the birds that visit the school grounds. Our first job every morning is to put out some seed and wait for our regulars to arrive. We have a very friendly robin, a flock of colourful chaffinches, two blackbirds, a pair of collared doves and a shy dunnock. We sit and watch them have their breakfast through the window and when we go outside to play they don't fly away as they are used to us now and know they can rely on us for something good to eat!!

We have been enjoying some sensory art recently using shaving foam and food colouring to paint. We liked how the foam felt on our hands and arms, it was warm and soft. The best thing was watching it wash off under the tap. We also made a wonderful Easter bonnet with eggs, bunnies and colourful ribbon to decorate it. We have worn it every day since!

We had a three week block of PEEP this term and it was great to have friends from the wider community coming to join us again.

The climbing frame has been a very popular resource. We have used it to build our confidence in balancing, climbing and sliding down the slide. We have talked about managing risk and being safe while still challenging ourselves and this is working well. Our imagination has turned it into a train, a tractor, a house and even our toy horse has had many turns on the slide.

P1-3

Term 3 has been full of lots of fabulous experiences. Enjoy our highlight reel of this busy term.



PE

In this term's gymnastics, the pupils have enthusiastically engaged in mastering the fundamental skills of balance, rolling, and travel. They've delved into the intricacies of maintaining equilibrium during balance, executing controlled rolls on the mats, and exploring various movement patterns across the gym floor. With each session, they've demonstrated remarkable progress, not only in their physical abilities but also in their understanding of technique and coordination. It's truly rewarding to see their skill development, and hope to see their continued development.







Electives

In our school's array of elective offerings, pupils immersed themselves in a range of experiences that catered to their varied interests and talents. From constructing an amazing castle in Lego Club to honing survival skills in the great outdoors, baking delicious treats, unleashing their creativity in Art Club, and delving into the wonders of science in Science Club, our pupils eagerly explored new realms of learning and discovery. It was lovely to see them enthusiastically engage with their chosen electives, not only cultivating specific skills but also developing invaluable meta-skills such as teamwork, problem-solving, and communication. We're proud of their enthusiasm and dedication to trying new things.





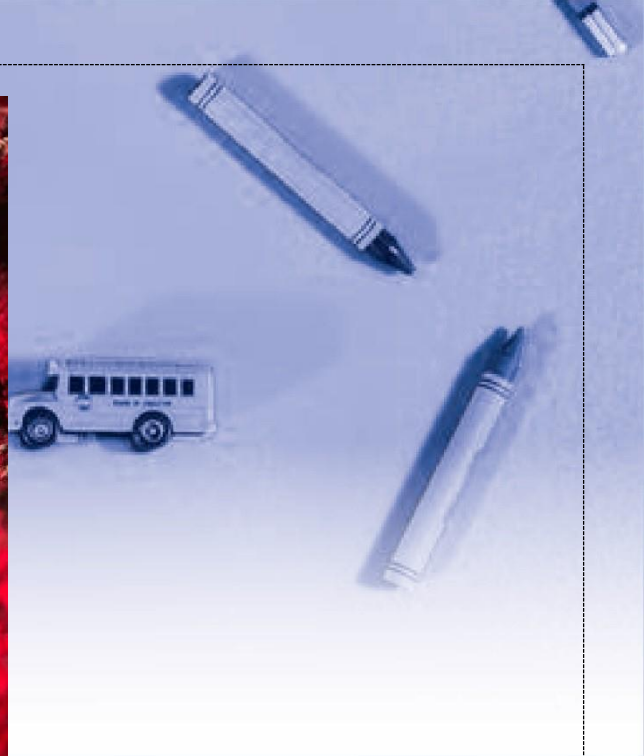




Burns Afternoon

What a bonnie day we had celebrating all things Scottish during our recent Scottish Day extravaganza! Our pupils truly embraced their Scottish spirit, channelling their inner bard as they recited Burns poems with flair. And let's not forget the highlight of the day – our scrumptious Scottish lunch, complete with the traditional Address to the Haggis delivered by one of our very own judges! Afterwards we got our dancing shoes on and danced with boundless energy and enthusiasm to a range of Scottish dances. It was a day filled with laughter, tartan, and unforgettable memories. Huge thanks to all who made it happen, and here's to many more ceilidhs and celebrations in the future!







Science Museum on Tour

Our pupils had an absolute blast recently when The Body Works on Tour sessions, presented by the Glasgow Science Centre, rolled into the village! It was an action-packed morning filled with hands-on, interactive activities that brought science to life in the most engaging way possible. From exploring the inner workings of the human body to unravelling the mysteries of biology and anatomy, our pupils were fully immersed in a world of discovery and wonder. Huge thanks to the Glasgow Science Centre for providing such an incredible learning experience, and to our pupils for their enthusiastic participation. Here's to more exhilarating adventures in the world of science!







Mental Wellbeing

In our ongoing commitment to supporting the mental wellbeing of the class, we've taken part in a series of sessions centered around the book "Be Calm" by Poppy O'Neill. These sessions have provided the children with invaluable tools and strategies to navigate and manage their emotions effectively. Through engaging activities and discussions, we have been learning various techniques to promote calmness and emotional resilience in our daily lives. It's been heartening to see them embrace these practices with enthusiasm and openness, fostering a positive atmosphere where everyone feels empowered to prioritise their mental health. We look forward to exploring more of Poppy O'Neill's work as we continue this journey.



Art

In a recent art lesson, P1-3 explored the captivating world of Japanese art, with a special focus on "The Great Wave Off Kanagawa." With enthusiasm and creativity, they delved into various drawing techniques and experimented with chalk pastels to recreate this iconic masterpiece. Guided by Miss Burton, they learned about composition, colour blending, and capturing movement and energy in their drawings. It was inspiring to see their dedication and talent shine through as they brought their interpretations of the Great Wave to life.



Safer Internet Day



Our pupils embraced Safer Internet Day with enthusiasm, participating in various activities designed to bolster their online safety skills. Following a whole-school assembly focused on digital responsibility, our pupils engaged in practical exercises to reinforce these important lessons. One activity involved testing the strength of their passwords by creating unique combinations and utilising a website to assess their security levels. This hands-on approach provided valuable insights into the significance of strong online security practices and the potential risks associated with weak passwords. It was a proactive and empowering experience, equipping our pupils with the knowledge and tools necessary to navigate the internet safely and responsibly.





Recycling Assembly

We recently had the opportunity to deepen our understanding of environmental responsibility during a Recycling Assembly led by the council. With great enthusiasm, they learned about the importance of recycling and its positive impact on our planet. The highlight of the assembly was the introduction of our new school bins, which are part of our commitment to promoting sustainability within our school community. Through interactive discussions and engaging activities, our pupils gained valuable insights into the significance of reducing, reusing, and recycling waste. We're excited to embrace these eco-friendly practices and contribute to a cleaner, greener future for all.

Music

Our pupils had a blast delving into the world of music with Mrs. Gibson! They tapped their feet and clapped their hands as they learned all about beat and rhythm. With big smiles and even bigger enthusiasm, they geared up for the Easter Service, where they wowed us all with their rendition of "New Life." It was awesome to see their musical skills grow, and they truly shone on stage!





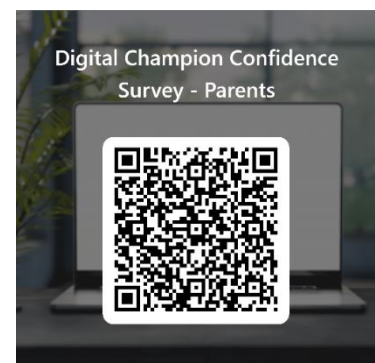
Digital Committee

Our Digital Committee has been hard at work enhancing our pupils' learning experiences by sourcing innovative resources from the Authority Digital Lending Library. Among the exciting additions are the Sphero Indis and the Early Years Big Box, both of which have brought immense joy and learning opportunities to our school. Recently, members of the committee spent time in the Early Years Centre, immersing themselves in interactive play with the pupil and exploring the different digital materials available, including the Code-a-pillar and the Blue Bots. Additionally, the Sphero Indis were utilised across the whole school, engaging pupils in activities ranging from creating patterns to measuring distances and identifying missing colours in sequences. It's fabulous to see our pupils actively engaging with these digital tools, fostering creativity, problem-solving skills, and a love for learning.





If you would be so kind as to take a few minutes to complete the survey by using the link, if you have not already: <https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=oyzTzM4Wj0KVQTctawUZKcngYsobNxFMgv2gNJguhQhUMkhaU1FGWEdNSk5DVUFON1hPQUdTUVhFSC4u> or scanning the QR Code it would be much appreciated. We hope to use the data from the different surveys to provide training, learning experiences and borrow equipment to explore from the SA Lending Library. We are also working on creating housekeeping guidance posters for the classes to ensure our digital equipment is kept safe.





Meta Skills

Our recent Meta Skills Assembly with Miss Burton was a blast! We introduced the 12 meta skills and got really into them by using Making Thinking Visible Routines. It was cool to see everyone getting involved in discussions and activities to explore each skill. We talked about how these skills are super important for school and life in general. As we keep working on developing these skills, we're getting ready to tackle whatever comes our way with confidence!





Chicka Chicka Bookclub

Excitement is buzzing as our Chicka Chicka Bookclub takes flight! Established as a Thursday lunchtime tradition, pupils have been keen to join in the literary adventures. Whether diving into the group book "Amari and the Night Brothers" by B.B. Alston or bringing along their own cherished reads, pupils are enjoying every moment spent in the cozy confines of our book club. The enthusiasm for the group book is infectious, sparking lively discussions and fostering a love for reading that's simply contagious. It's heartwarming to see our pupils embracing the magic of storytelling, and we can't wait to see the adventures that await in the pages of our next chapter!



Lego Club

We're thrilled to announce the launch of our newest lunchtime adventure: the Lego Lunch Club! Taking place every Wednesday, this club provides a creative haven where pupils can unleash their imaginations through the power of building. Whether crafting solo masterpieces or teaming up for collaborative creations, pupils are eagerly flocking to this exciting opportunity. The buzz of excitement is in the air as pupils work together, combining their talents and ideas to bring their visions to life brick by brick. It's incredible to witness the camaraderie and innovative designs emerging from this popular group, and we can't wait to see what awe-inspiring creations await in the weeks to come!





British Science Week

During British Science Week, our pupils embarked on an exciting journey through time as they explored a variety of time-related tasks. From outdoor adventures building a spectacular array of loose parts, including iconic structures like Big Ben, a Tardis, and the Eiffel Tower, to delving into the mechanics of time with pendulums constructed from weights and string, our pupils embraced every moment with enthusiasm and curiosity. The week was filled with thrilling discoveries and collaborative efforts as pupils worked together to tackle challenges and unravel the mysteries of time.





Play

Our pupils have been having a blast with block play, creating their own version of China right here in our classroom! From epic temples to bustling airports and even majestic dragons, their imagination knows no bounds. We've spruced up our play area to make it even more inviting, reminding us of all the cool stuff we have to play with. Using a floorbook to jot down their adventures, they're not just playing - they're learning and expanding their creativity along the way. Plus, we've added a bunch of new books to our library area, giving everyone a chance to explore new worlds and ideas. It's been a whirlwind of excitement and discovery, and we can't wait to see what they come up with next!



Screen Awareness Week

It's been a fun-filled Screen Awareness Week here at our school! Instead of staring at screens all week, our pupils have been getting active and enjoying the great outdoors. We've swapped our usual Go Noodle dance sessions for a Daily Mile Run, and everyone's loving the change of pace. It's been awesome to see them reconnecting with each other and having a blast without screens. As we encourage finding balance in our digital lives, we're proud of how our pupils have embraced this screen-free week with energy and enthusiasm.



Planting

Students have been getting their hands dirty planting with Mrs. McIlwraith. They each planted personal sunflowers to take home, and Mrs. McIlwraith reminded them of the importance of talking to and singing to their plants to help them grow – it's all about that green-thumb TLC! We're eager to hear all about the progress of their sunflowers and have encouraged them to share updates on the Learning Journals. Additionally, students also had the rewarding task of transplanting previously planted plants into larger pots, as they've been making amazing progress and are ready to spread their roots in bigger vessels. It's been heartwarming to see our students nurturing their plant friends and embracing the joys of gardening.



Barr Book Borrow Barrow

Check out the latest addition to our school - the Barr Book Borrow Barrow, courtesy of Mrs. McIlwraith! Now, during breaks and lunchtimes, students can grab a book and enjoy reading outdoors. It's a fantastic way to encourage a love of reading and turn our school into a real Reading School. With books readily available in our outdoor spaces, students can dive into exciting stories and let their imaginations soar while soaking up some sunshine. It's initiatives like this that make learning fun and memorable!



ECO Warriors



Our parents have been very helpful this session in helping with the landscaping of our school garden, helping getting it ready for our planting project.



The Eco-Warriors have been planting lots of flowers and vegetables getting them ready to put into our school garden. We are looking forward to trying our tasty tomatoes and crunchy cucumbers.

We have also been working hard to promote recycling within the school and have started using our new recycling bins.

P4-7

Easter Service

The Senior Class and Mrs McBirnie were responsible for leading our Easter Service. It is always such a nice opportunity to gather with the families and community in Barr Church. Our school captains, Grace and Rhys, led the service. We retold the 'Story of Easter' in a short drama piece about a very special Easter egg hunt. Ivy, Ollie and Jack delivered a special Easter message through the poem – 'God's Upside-Down Ways'. Both the juniors and seniors showcased their Easter songs they have been learning with our music specialist Mrs Gibson and we joined together for the grand finale - 'Celebrate'.



World Book Day

On Thursday 7th March, we celebrated World Book Day 2024. We had an array of creative costumes and participated in a bookmark hunt and a carousel of book activities: - making book marks, block book scene builds, ChatterPix book recommendations, character animation, personal reading and a bumper book quiz!



Outdoor Play Day (February)

We linked our monthly outdoor play day in February to Children's Mental Health Week and the theme of 'My Voice Matters'. Our morning session involved a visit to the park & MUGA where we rotated between free-play and team-building tasks (where communication was key!). Midday, we returned to school and participated in communication activities including: - Pass the Phrase, Pictionary and directional games. We worked co-operatively in the afternoon with the loose parts to convey feelings/emotions, made a A-Z list of 'mindfulness' strategies and enjoyed yoga, forest-bathing and meditation.

Rights Respecting School Update

The Rights Respecting Committee are on their journey for gold recognition. We are currently working through the Outright Campaign 2023/24 - learning how climate change threatens children's rights and how we can protect them. We intend to host a World of Water take-over afternoon next week and are planning whole-school activities for Earth Day on 22nd April. Lately, we held a competition for a new school 'Rights Respecting' mascot and also audited the school displays to include the most suitable UNCRC article and Global Goal.



Inter-house Challenge

With pupil interest in mind, our Term 3 inter-house challenge had a 'Pokémon' twist. In celebration of Pokémon day on 27th February, pupils were tasked with designing up to 3 new Pokémon characters that had to represent their house in some way. The teams used air clay to make models of their creations and had to complete a Pokémon card to go with the design. Very well done to Rowantree on coming 1st with their evolutions: - Leafy, Bushy & Woody.



Music with Mrs Gibson

Primary 4-7 are loving their Tuesday music sessions with Mrs Mhairi Gibson. This term, pupils have been learning to play the tuned instrument 'Boom-whackers' as well as developing their singing technique for our Easter performance. We are encouraged to self-evaluate our performances and have been developing our use of musical terminology. Mrs Gibson always makes our session so much fun with games like 'Pass the Beat' - where we must control tempo and accuracy.



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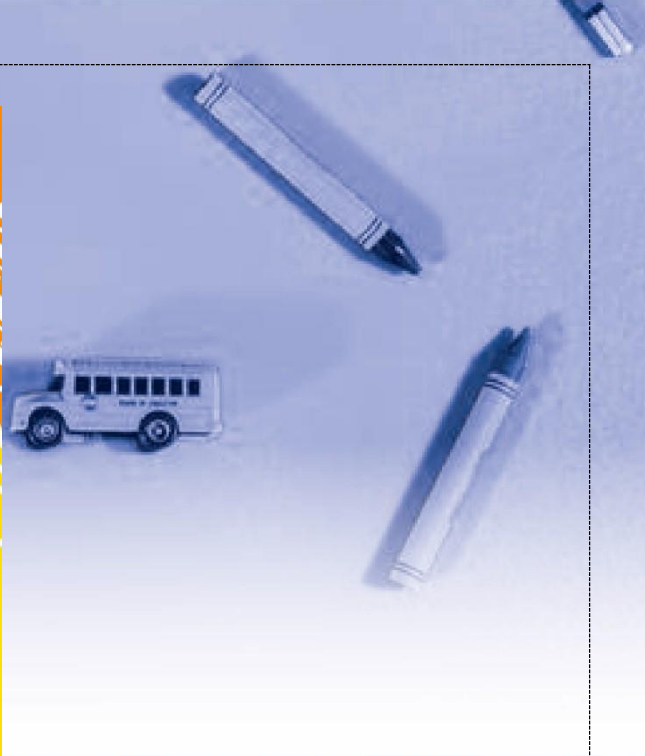
Early into term 3, Primary 4-7 cracked the secret code to reveal their topic – ‘Roman Invasion of Britain’. We started our learning journey discovering the Celts and life in the Iron Age before investigating how the Romans built their empire and conquered parts of Britain. We particularly enjoyed exploring how the Roman army was organised. We role-played as Roman soldiers and learnt Latin commands. Most recently, we have begun to look at life for Roman soldiers and settlers in Britain. We tried making coil pots in a similar fashion to the Romans.



Easter Crafts with Rachael

A huge thank you to our parent, Rachael Warner, and her lovely parents who gave up their time to come in for a fun-filled afternoon of Easter crafts with the whole school. Pupils loved creating little pom-pom birdies and nests. They worked in their houses to craft large wooden bunnies for our garden then enjoyed a woolly worm hunt in the rain to feed their birds. What a fabulous afternoon we all had!





Mrs McBirnie