

People Directorate

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Dear Parent / Carer

### LEARNING FOR SUSTAINABILITY AWARDS – HIGHLY COMMENDED

We're delighted to let you know that Connecting Classrooms Scotland, India Cluster have been recognised as highly commended, in the Learning Community Award category in the Daily Record and Education Scotland Learning for Sustainability Awards 2021. Six Scottish schools are involved in this cluster: Colmonell Primary School, Ballantrae Primary School, Kirkmichael Primary School, Straiton Primary School, Anderston Primary School and St Denis Primary School. As a Scottish cluster group, we have linked with a cluster group of schools from Mumbai in India, to explore sustainability issues.

#### **Background:**

Our connection with India began just over a year ago. It has not been without its challenges, but we continue to focus on solutions. Throughout the project, teachers and children have been incredibly creative in their approaches. We are finding a range of ways to connect digitally, whether it be through Teams, Zoom, Whatsapp etc. Now that relationships have been created and there is a strong degree of reciprocal trust and respect between schools and nations, our project is beginning to find its wings and we are now off the ground. We learn so much from each other and are inspired by each other. This is not a project with a beginning and an end, but an evolving process: in itself, we are trying to make it sustainable.

Primary 4-7, Mr Low and Mrs Brown have been learning about Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 14; **Life Below Water**. Pupils developed a good understanding of how plastic enters and moves around the ocean as well as different approaches to tackling the problem. Pupils worked creatively and collaboratively to raise awareness of the problems around plastic in the ocean and used innovation and problem solving to find a solution. We shared our work and learning with our partner school and received evidence of their work around SDG 14.

Through our partnership, the pupils have learned about different cultures and shared videos and power points about their own cultures and daily lives. We have had an insight in to life and school in India through videos, which has been very interesting for the children. We have a whole school project plan for the year to help further develop our partnership, including learning about festivals, celebrations and culture in both countries.

Some of our senior pupils represented the school a few weeks ago, delivering a presentation to Education Scotland.

We have also explored Sustainable Development goal 5: **Gender Equality**. Children explored examples of Gender equality and inequality and discussed gender stereotyping. Children have developed citizenship skills by learning about children's rights and bringing about positive

change. They have developed critical thinking skills by considering different perspectives and develop understanding of the causes of and potential solutions to the challenge of gender inequality in different contexts.

Overall, our partnership within the cluster has been an amazing experience for all. It has allowed pupils to make connections with other children throughout Scotland and the world to learn about and develop respect for different cultures. Pupils are also sharing and celebrating our own country and culture as well as developing key skills for life, learning and work, such as digital literacy and critical thinking. Most importantly, it is encouraging our pupils to learn about and tackle the SDGs together.

Congratulations to all pupils and staff who contributed to this award.

Our letterhead is updated and we look forward to receiving our certificate to commemorate this achievement.

Winners and those who have been highly commended will be announced in the Daily Record within the next week.

In the meantime, head over to [www.learningforsustainabilityawards.co.uk](http://www.learningforsustainabilityawards.co.uk) where the full list of winners is displayed now.

Thank you.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Yvonne Templeton".

Yvonne Templeton  
Head Teacher