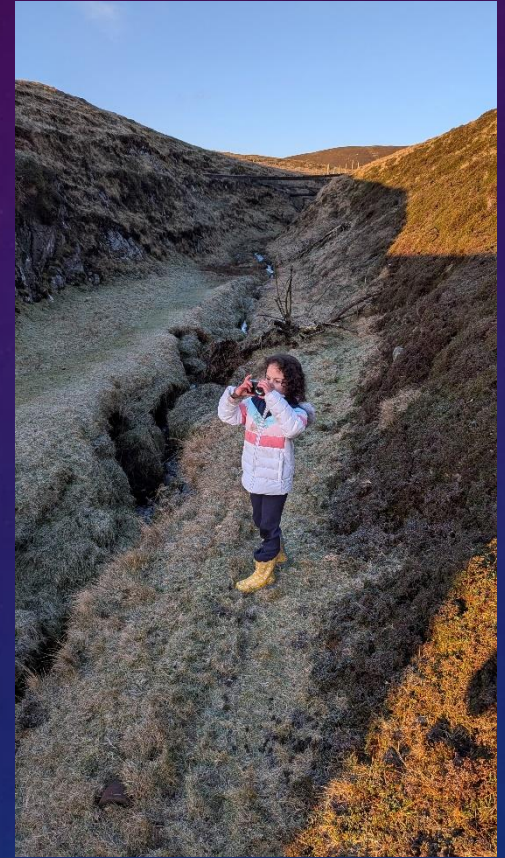


Children's Photography Project



Fair Isle Primary School

Fair Isle Primary School serves the community of Fair Isle; an isle of fifty people located roughly 24 miles off the southernmost tip of mainland Shetland.

We are currently a multi-composite class of three children: one P1, one P3 and one P6. For this reason, our “Photography IDL” was one that spanned age and stage with outcomes from Early, First and Second Level.

The lead practitioner was the Principal Teacher: Jonathan Pye.



Children with their cameras at the Fair Isle airstrip, awaiting our eight-seater plane coming into the island.

After the initial Peter Moorhouse training provided by Shetland Islands Council, we purchased three digital cameras from Amazon (other outlets are available). Given our small numbers, we were fortunate in being able to buy one for each of the three children. The cameras were 4K and 64.0 MP.



We began in class, exploring how to use our cameras, discovering the different functions and how to navigate menus and playback. There was lots of interesting discussion about how digital cameras have a singular purpose, unlike (for example) an iPad.



Our Photography IDL was introduced with the “Shetland – a sense of belonging” at the forefront of our minds. This was connected to our own unique setting and our sense of “place” here in Fair Isle. Children were asked to consider whereabouts in Fair Isle they would like to photograph: places or buildings that are important or have meaning to them and where they would like to travel “on location” to with their cameras. We produced a wall display where our pictures could go once we had taken and reviewed them.

The next slide is a screenshot from our IDL planning format. Given that this was a child-led project, there was always room for flexibility and the children taking their learning in different or more personalised directions. However, there are links to “E’s and O’s” as well as reference to how the project might complement work within the 4 capacities.





Fair Isle Primary School

IDL: Photography



What we will do and how we will do it

Outline of lessons with brief description of main learning/tasks involved.

1. Explore what photography is for and how it can help us be creative when exploring the world around us. Conduct initial drawings and look at how to use cameras.
2. Conduct planning on places in Fair Isle that individual learners would like to photograph (e.g. have an interest in for a specific reason).
3. Visit places, take photographs and evaluate them/select favourites back in class.
4. Involve Literacy outcomes as children produce leaflets or brochures (if the IDL leads them in that direction) with photographs of the shop, hall, Bird ~~Obs~~ haven, air strip, lighthouses all to feature.
5. Invite members of the community into school/go and visit them to ask questions about Fair Isle in the past to contrast and compare with photographs taken.
6. Produce finished pieces which include our photographs and share and celebrate the skills we have learned and how we have progressed along the way.

Other Curricular Links

Curricular area and short description of link

Literacy:
See Literacy planners for more detailed descriptions of the overlap within the I.D.L. Opportunities for child-driven learning regarding choices of places to photograph leading to differentiated research on these places. If places such as Bird ~~Obs~~ or Shop are chosen through a "tourist lens" then leaflets can be made and created for the tourist/cruise ship season ahead.

Health and Wellbeing:

Use of place and context involved in reshaping V.V.A

Photography (linked to the local context).

EARLY/1st/2nd Level

How will the learning outcomes be assessed?

Aim to bundle Es & ~~Qs~~ and link assessment to Benchmarks

- Shared drive of photographs and child-driven display of selected pieces. Potential individual albums for printed photographs.
- Literacy work evidenced in jotters (see "Other Curricular Links").
- Leaflets prepared for summer season.

Resources

- Cameras purchased using funds from cruise ships sales so children have that individuality and freedom when progressing through the unit.
- Books detailing "Fair Isle in the past" for photograph contrast and inspiration for children.
- Enrichment visits to interview older members of the community (or to invite them into the building for conversations).

Learning Outcomes

Codes and Descriptors

Social Studies: "People, Places and Environment".

SOC 0-07a, SOC 1-07a, SOC 2-07a.

"I explore and discover the interesting features of my local environment to develop an awareness of the world around me."

"I can describe and recreate the characteristics of my local environment by exploring the features of the landscape."

SOC 0-08a, SOC 1-08a, SOC 2-08a&b.

SOC 0-09a: "I have experimented with imaginative ways such as modelling and drawing, to represent the world around me, the journeys I make and the different ways I can travel."

SOC 2-10a & SOC 1-11a.

Science: "Topical Science"

SCN 0-20a, 1-20a, 2-20a.

I can talk about science stories to develop my understanding of science and the world around me.

I have contributed to discussions of current scientific news items to help develop my awareness of science.

Through research and discussion I have an appreciation of the contribution that individuals are making to scientific discovery and invention and the impact this has made on society.

Skills Ladder Links:

Taken from First Level Portfolio. See individual ladders for differentiated outcomes and evidence of children's reflective learning.

Successful Learners

Sharing Learning: I can **show** that I think about what I have done and **identify** how I could do it differently.

Make Links: I can **make links** between things.

Responsible Citizens:

Explore a Question: I can do a project about something and give myself a question to find out about before I start.

Confident Individuals

Take Creative Risks: I can be **creative** across my learning by being **confident to try something different**.

It was fascinating taking a step back and observing the children “let loose” with their cameras (when the erratic winter weather allowed us to explore outside). Initially, we did not focus on one particular area of our isle. It was interesting to note that children were keen to take close-up pictures of nature such as frosty rivers but wider landscape photographs as well.



Quotes...



Frosty River

"I love the way the water looks on this picture I have taken."



Frosty Vegetation

"I love the ice crystals that have formed on the grass and leaves."



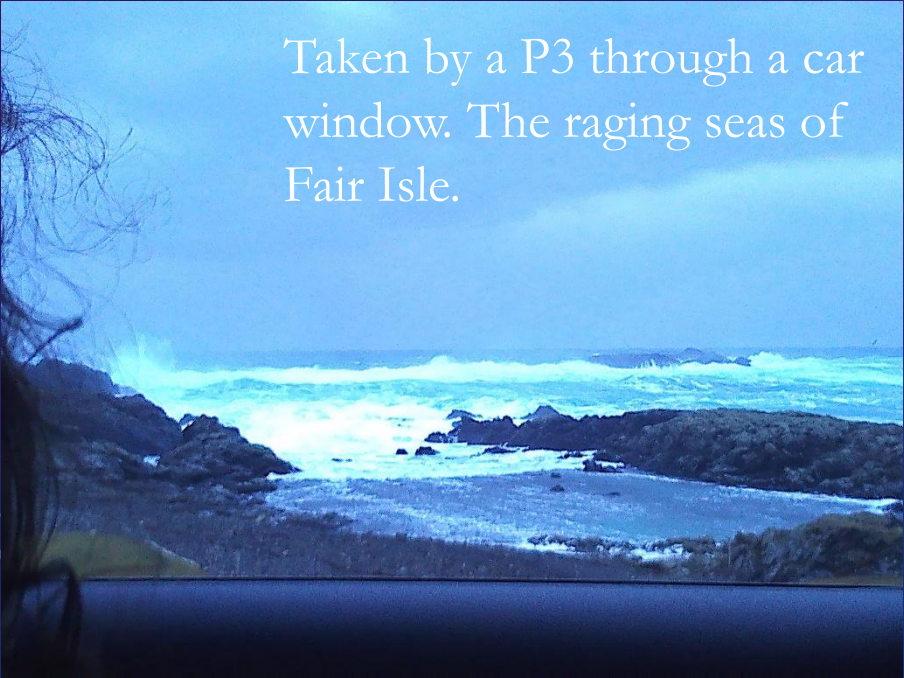
Take-Off

Our plane taking off. "I like the colour of the sky behind the plane with the different blues."

Quotes...

And more
quotes...

There was a period in January of essentially three weeks of non-stop winds ranging between 30mph and 60mph so we had to be patient. So instead, we thought more about the specific places of interest to us and how we might put our photographs to use with a final project. Here is what we decided...



Taken by a P3 through a car window. The raging seas of Fair Isle.

P6

In P6, the plan is to take photographs of the iconic Fair Isle landmark, Sheep Rock, from a variety of angles and create a leaflet with a set of suggested walks (complete with maps) for visitors to our isle where they can enjoy viewing (although not trying to walk onto) the inaccessible Sheep Rock. These leaflets will proudly be on display in the newly reopened Bird Observatory for anyone to read. What a fabulous concept.

P3

A different plan here with photographs focussed on the airstrip here in Fair Isle with the plane taking off and landing, along with the refurbished waiting room in the airstrip building. This will then be magically turned into a "Welcome to Fair Isle" poster for anyone to take when they first land here. A brilliant idea.

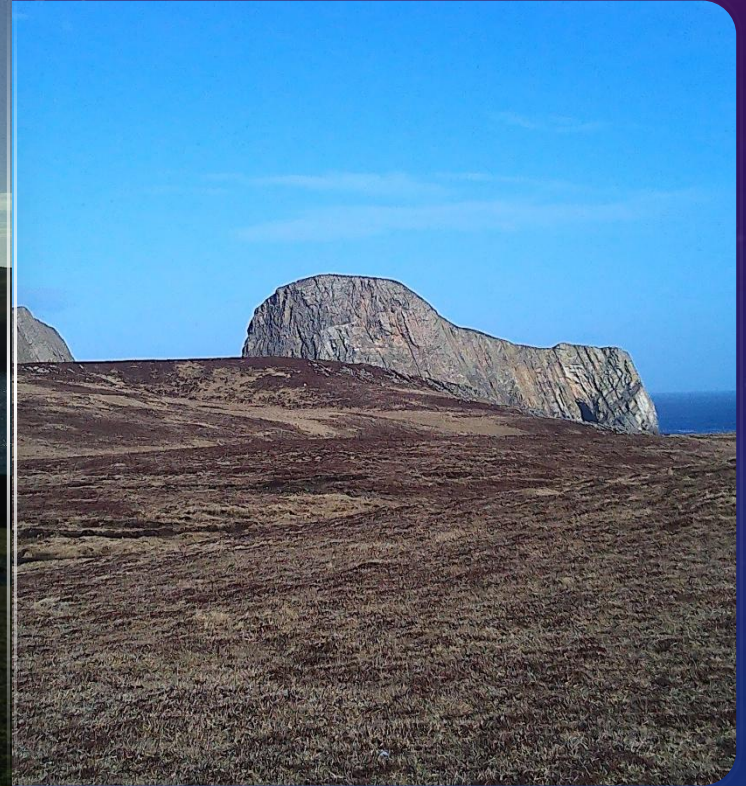
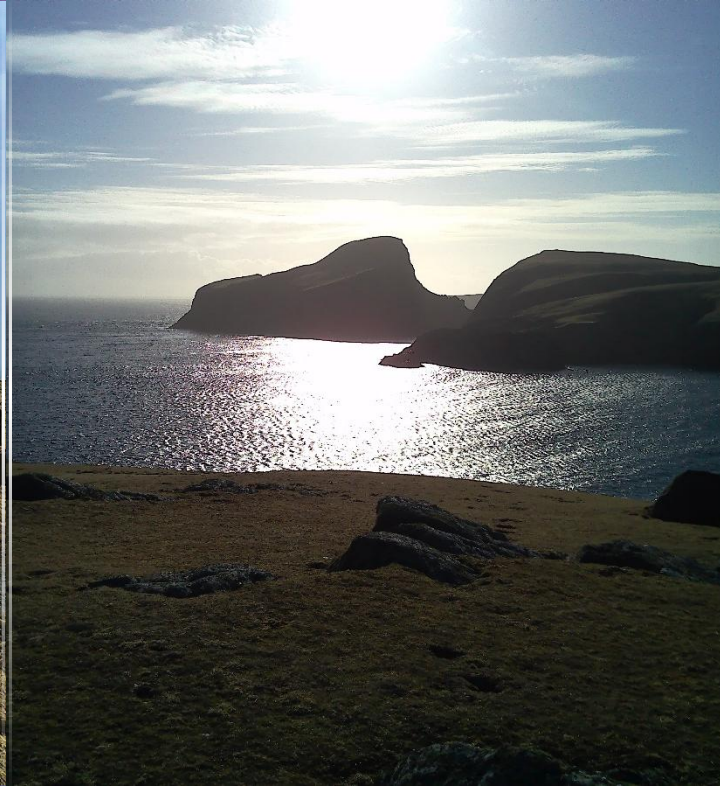
P1

Houses are really important here in Fair Isle. Sometimes, we are even referred to as our house names (something quite common to Orkney and Shetland). In P1, we are going to take pictures of our own houses and the houses of our friends and think and write about why they are important to us. This is a lovely project.

Read the full blog at: [Our Photography Topic Continues.](#) |



Beautiful snaps from our P3 child in preparation for his welcome poster that would go in the newly refurbished airstrip building.



The iconic “Sheep Rock” of Fair Isle. All photographs taken by P6 children

Well, apart from this photograph that was taken by the Principal Teacher of us all with Sheep Rock in the background.



We have decided not to include pictures taken by our P1 child to protect the identity of the house they live in and the houses of other children in the school. We hope you understand. They were fabulous photographs though!

Free range roaming
Fair Isle children in
the glorious January
morning sunlight.



Welcome to Fair Isle



This magical island with only
fifty permanent residents.

Written by **** - aged ****
Fair Isle Primary School.

Excerpts
from work
completed
by our
children
after taking
photos.

The places in this wonderful island that I recommend seeing or visiting:

Stackhoull Stores: You should visit the shop if you are after some snacks. You will meet the welcoming Robert and fantastic Fiona our shop keepers.

Visit the Obs: Relax at the palatial bar with comfortable sofas. The staff at the Obs are friendly and know lots about Fair Isle's birds and wildlife.

Also, if you have children you should visit the community playground and play on the fun equipment.

Walk 3: Fancy the South End?

Again this walk will start and end at the Bird Obs. This is the hardest walk in this leaflet and it may take the whole afternoon. In total be prepared to walk about seven to eight miles. When you come to a cross-roads, turn left towards a green building with a red door, when you pass that you will see the community playground and about 20 meters ahead of you you will see a dirt track on your left. Walk down the dirt track until you see a metal gate with a stile next to it. Clime over the stile and follow the fence and there you have it - a brilliant view of Sheep Rock. You can then follow the dirt track past the windmills and down to the south end where you can see the museum and South Lighthouse.

Walk 1: Puffins and Sheep Rock

Fancy a short walk with a chance to see puffins? This linear walk will take roughly 15 to 30 minutes. It is a fairly easy walk for all family members. You will need to wear boots, beware of the cliffs. Also you can take binoculars. This walk will have stunning views and if you are very lucky you might see whales or orcas. The only thing to avoid is the sheep poo.

As mentioned, the photography IDL gave us opportunities to produce some beautiful writing that developed the children's sense of voice on our island.

The impact of the project was interesting to observe. From some lovely learning about how “home” through to leaflets and posters, all children were able to pick a subject which fascinated them and which gave them a chance to explore their interests. It was important, too, that any outcome linked to the photography IDL was meaningful hence why the “Suggested Walks” leaflet and the “Welcome to Fair Isle” poster will be on display for visitors to pick up and read as the Bird Observatory reopens and tourists and visitors return to the island. Children see their writing as having a purpose, along with the photographs they have taken.



Moving forwards, there is no reason why digital cameras cannot play a role moving forward in our setting. They are now there and accessible to the children to use within class.

It connects the children to the natural world around them and, with the island about to bloom again and seabirds return; there will surely be more scope to take our cameras “out and about” and use them to enrich our learning.

Indeed, when we went on one of our enrichment trips to mainland Shetland, the children wanted to take their cameras on the trip with them so they could photograph the isle as we left on the plane.

So we did...





A thank you from our expert photographers. You are always welcome to visit us. The sun is (almost always) shining in Fair Isle.