

Teaching and Learning 3 - 12



Oban, Lorn and the Isles Primary Schools 2015/16

# Primary School Profiles: Mull

Primary School Roll (as at census) *						
Cluster Primary Schools	11/12	12/13	13/14	14/15	15/16	% change in Roll over 5 years <sup>1</sup>
Dervaig Primary School	20	24	29	25	23	<b>15.0%</b>
Lochdonhead Primary School	17	13	9	9	9	<b>-47.1%</b>
Salen Primary School	30	26	27	33	33	<b>10.0%</b>
Salen Gaelic Primary School	30	32	36	38	43	<b>43.3%</b>
Tobermory Primary School	69	66	62	61	62	<b>-10.1%</b>
Ulva Primary School	10	11	12	12	8	<b>-20.0%</b>
<b>Total Roll for cluster</b>	<b>176</b>	<b>172</b>	<b>175</b>	<b>178</b>	<b>178</b>	<b>1.1%</b>

\* Data for rolls provided at Census each year

<sup>1</sup> Please note the % change in Roll over 5 years shows the percentage change in roll figures from 2011/2012 to 2015/2016 and is not an average.

## Footwear and Clothing Grant and Free School Meal Information for Mull Cluster

	11/12	12/13	13/14	14/15	15/16
Clothing and Footwear Grant (CFG) (number of pupils) <sup>2</sup>	9	8	8	5	14
Clothing and Footwear Grant (CFG) (% of cluster school roll)	5.1%	4.7%	4.6%	2.8%	7.9%
<b>Total CFG for Primary Schools in Argyll and Bute</b>	<b>1118</b>	<b>947</b>	<b>1096</b>	<b>1113</b>	<b>954</b>
<b>Total CFG for Primary Schools as a % of total school roll in Argyll and Bute</b>	<b>19.3%</b>	<b>16.6%</b>	<b>19.2%</b>	<b>19.2%</b>	<b>16.5%</b>
	11/12 <sup>3</sup>	12/13	13/14	14/15	15/16 <sup>4</sup>
Free School Meals (number of pupils)	0	13	13	9	10
Free School Meals (% of cluster school roll)	0	7.6%	7.4%	5.1%	5.6%
<b>Total Free School Meals for Primary Schools in Argyll and Bute</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>871</b>	<b>898</b>	<b>856</b>	<b>761</b>
<b>Total Free School Meals for Primary Schools as a % of total school roll in Argyll and Bute</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>15.2%</b>	<b>15.8%</b>	<b>14.8%</b>	<b>13.1%</b>
<b>National Average for Free School Meals for Primary Schools (%)</b>	<b>22.6%</b>	<b>22.1%</b>	<b>22.0%</b>	<b>20.6%</b>	<b>55.3%</b>

<sup>2</sup> Clothing and Footwear Grant (CFG) is not shown as a National Average as each authority set their own criteria and therefore cannot be compared accurately. Please note that 2015-2016 data for CFG and Free School Meals (FSM) is to date (March 2016) and therefore may change as the year progresses.

<sup>3</sup> Please note that Free School Meals data was not collated by Argyll and Bute for the year 2011/2012

<sup>4</sup> On 5 January 2015, the Scottish Government launched the extension of free school meals eligibility to include all children in primary 1-3.

National Averages for Free School Meals have been taken from 'Summary statistics for attainment, leaver destinations and healthy living, No. 5: 2015 Edition'

## Exclusion and Attendance Information for Mull Cluster

	11/12	12/13	13/14	14/15	15/16 <sup>7</sup>
Attendance (% of cluster school roll) <sup>5</sup>	95.69%	95.68%	96.57%	95.72%	95.47%
Unauthorised Absence (% of cluster school roll)	1.37%	1.00%	0.94%	0.97%	1.41%
<b>Authority Average – (%) Primary Schools in Argyll and Bute</b>	95.74%	95.40%	95.87%	95.48%	95.45%
<b>Unauthorised Absence - (%) Primary Schools in Argyll and Bute</b>	0.79%	0.87%	0.89%	0.94%	0.88%
<b>National Average for both Secondary and Primary Pupils (%)</b> <sup>6</sup>	Not collated	93.60%	Not collated	93.70%	Not collated
	11/12	12/13	13/14	14/15	15/16 <sup>8</sup>
Exclusion Openings	0	0	2	0	0
Exclusion Incidents	0	0	1	0	0
<b>As a % of Total Argyll and Bute Primary School Exclusion Openings</b>	0	0	1%	0	0
<b>As a % of Total Argyll and Bute Primary School Exclusion Incidents</b>	0	0	1.6%	0	0

<sup>5</sup> Authorised absence includes bereavement, short – term exceptional domestic situations, religious observance, weddings of immediate family. Unauthorised absence includes truancy, unexplained absence and most family holidays during term time. Attendance and absence is outlined in Management Circular 3.03.

<sup>6</sup> Attendance, Absence and Exclusion information is now collected on a biennial basis and was **not** collected for 2011/2012, 2013/2014 or 2015/2016 academic year.

<sup>7</sup> Please note that attendance data for 2015-2016 is for the year to date and not a complete year. It is therefore subject to change.

<sup>8</sup> Please note that exclusion data for 2015-2016 is for the year to date and not a complete year. It is therefore subject to change.

National Averages for Attendance have been taken from Summary Statistics for Schools in Scotland, No.6 | 2015 Edition, 9th December, 2015.



# Primary School Profiles: Oban, Lorn & The Isles

Primary School Roll (as at census) *						
Cluster Primary Schools	11/12	12/13	13/14	14/15	15/16	% change in Roll over 5 years <sup>1</sup>
Achaleven Primary School	0	4	5	9	10	<b>150.0% **</b>
Ardchattan Primary School	3	3	4	0	0	<b>-100.0%</b>
Arinagour Primary School	30	27	30	24	23	<b>-23.3%</b>
Barcaldine Primary School	21	17	10	4	4	<b>-81.0%</b>
Bunessan Primary School	34	44	40	42	39	<b>14.7%</b>
Dalmally Primary School	42	44	43	36	38	<b>-9.5%</b>
Dunbeg Primary School	76	73	76	81	82	<b>7.9%</b>
Easdale Primary School	29	28	33	26	28	<b>-3.4%</b>
Iona Primary School	13	7	13	17	15	<b>15.4%</b>
Kilchattan Primary School	6	5	5	9	6	<b>0.0%</b>
Kilchrenan Primary School	10	8	7	4	4	<b>-60.0%</b>
Kilninver Primary School	24	22	25	27	30	<b>25.0%</b>
Lismore Primary School	10	8	9	9	8	<b>-20.0%</b>
Lochnell Primary School	96	101	112	109	114	<b>18.8%</b>
Luing Primary School	17	12	15	14	8	<b>-52.9%</b>
Park Primary School	225	230	223	230	241	<b>7.1%</b>
Rockfield Gaelic Primary School	34	37	40	48	49	<b>44.1%</b>
Rockfield Primary School	285	298	304	320	316	<b>10.9%</b>
St Columba's Primary School	83	81	78	83	81	<b>-2.4%</b>
Strath of Appin Primary School	26	27	29	30	30	<b>15.4%</b>
Strath of Appin Gaelic Primary School	6	4	4	3	5	<b>-16.7%</b>
Taynuilt Primary School	81	81	83	91	83	<b>2.5%</b>
Tiree Gaelic Primary School	22	21	22	23	36	<b>63.6%</b>
Tiree Primary School	22	23	25	29	28	<b>27.3%</b>
<b>Total Roll for cluster</b>	<b>1162</b>	<b>1171</b>	<b>1196</b>	<b>1235</b>	<b>1278</b>	<b>10.0%</b>

\* Data for rolls provided at Census each year

<sup>1</sup> Please note the % change in Roll over 5 years shows the percentage change in roll figures from 2011/2012 to 2015/2016 and is not an average.

\*\* Please note that the % change in Roll for Achaleven is shown over 4 years from 2012/2013 – 2015/2016 as % change cannot be calculated when the original number is 0.



## Footwear and Clothing Grant and Free School Meal Information for Oban, Lorn and the Isles

### Cluster

	11/12	12/13	13/14	14/15	15/16
Clothing and Footwear Grant (CFG) (number of pupils) <sup>2</sup>	233	190	236	196	170
Clothing and Footwear Grant (CFG) (% of cluster school roll)	20.1%	16.2%	19.7%	15.9%	13.3%
<b>Total CFG for Primary Schools in Argyll and Bute</b>	<b>1118</b>	<b>947</b>	<b>1096</b>	<b>1113</b>	<b>954</b>
<b>Total CFG for Primary Schools as a % of total school roll in Argyll and Bute</b>	<b>19.3%</b>	<b>16.6%</b>	<b>19.2%</b>	<b>19.2%</b>	<b>16.5%</b>
	11/12 <sup>3</sup>	12/13	13/14	14/15	15/16 <sup>4</sup>
Free School Meals (number of pupils)	0	168	174	152	137
Free School Meals (% of cluster school roll)	0	14.3%	14.5%	12.3%	10.7%
<b>Total Free School Meals for Primary Schools in Argyll and Bute</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>871</b>	<b>898</b>	<b>856</b>	<b>761</b>
<b>Total Free School Meals for Primary Schools as a % of total school roll in Argyll and Bute</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>15.2%</b>	<b>15.8%</b>	<b>14.8%</b>	<b>13.1%</b>
<b>National Average for Free School Meals for Primary Schools (%)</b>	<b>22.6%</b>	<b>22.1%</b>	<b>22.0%</b>	<b>20.6%</b>	<b>55.3%</b>

<sup>2</sup> Clothing and Footwear Grant (CFG) is not shown as a National Average as each authority set their own criteria and therefore cannot be compared accurately. Please note that 2015-2016 data for CFG and Free School Meals (FSM) is to date (March 2016) and therefore may change as the year progresses.

<sup>3</sup> Please note that Free School Meals data was not collated by Argyll and Bute for the year 2011/2012

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National Averages for Free School Meals have been taken from 'Summary statistics for attainment, leaver destinations and healthy living, No. 5: 2015 Edition'



## Exclusion and Attendance Information for Oban, Lorn and the Isles Cluster

	11/12	12/13	13/14	14/15	15/16 <sup>7</sup>
Attendance (% of cluster school roll) <sup>5</sup>	95.64%	95.12%	95.60%	95.02%	94.57%
Unauthorised Absence (% of cluster school roll)	1.10%	1.16%	1.09%	1.26%	1.31%
<b>Authority Average – (%) Primary Schools in Argyll and Bute</b>	95.74%	95.40%	95.87%	95.48%	95.45%
<b>Unauthorised Absence - (%) Primary Schools in Argyll and Bute</b>	0.79%	0.87%	0.89%	0.94%	0.88%
<b>National Average for both Secondary and Primary Pupils (%)</b> <sup>6</sup>	Not collated	93.60%	Not collated	93.70%	Not collated
	11/12	12/13	13/14	14/15	15/16 <sup>8</sup>
Exclusion Openings	6	2	6	2	5
Exclusion Incidents	1	2	3	1	1
<b>As a % of Total Argyll and Bute Primary School Exclusion Openings</b>	1.6%	0.7%	3.0%	1.8%	14.3%
<b>As a % of Total Argyll and Bute Primary School Exclusion Incidents</b>	1.1%	10%	4.8%	3.7%	10.0%

<sup>5</sup> Authorised absence includes bereavement, short – term exceptional domestic situations, religious observance, weddings of immediate family. Unauthorised absence includes truancy, unexplained absence and most family holidays during term time. Attendance and absence is outlined in Management Circular 3.03.

<sup>6</sup> Attendance, Absence and Exclusion information is now collected on a biennial basis and was **not** collected for 2011/2012, 2013/2014 or 2015/2016 academic year.

<sup>7</sup> Please note that attendance data for 2015-2016 is for the year to date and not a complete year. It is therefore subject to change.

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National Averages for Attendance have been taken from Summary Statistics for Schools in Scotland, No.6 | 2015 Edition, 9th December, 2015.





# Introduction

Within the Oban, Lorn and the Isles area there are 26 Primary Schools including mainland schools stretching from Appin to, Kilninver and Dalmally. Our island schools are situated on Mull, Iona, Tiree, Coll Colonsay, Seil, Luing and Lismore. There is secondary school provision in Oban, Tobermory and Tiree. Nursery provision is provided within several of these schools and Gaelic medium education is provided at Salen, Tiree, Rockfield and Strath of Appin Primary Schools. This year there have been several changes of headship across the area.

Christine MacLean has been appointed as acting headteacher at Strath of Appin Primary School and Lynn Sinclair has taken on the role of headteacher at Dalmally Primary School as part of a shared headteacher arrangement with Inveraray Primary School. Sheena Nisbett has been acting headteacher at Iona Primary School since January and Tricia Evans became headteacher at Dervaig School in September. Myra MacArthur will be retiring as headteacher of Tiree High School in June 2016.

## Teaching and Learning

### Health and Wellbeing

Learning in health and wellbeing ensures that children and young people develop the knowledge and understanding, skills, capabilities and attributes which they need for mental, emotional, social and physical wellbeing now and in the future. Learning through health and wellbeing enables children and young people to:

- make informed decisions in order to improve their mental, emotional, social and physical wellbeing
- experience challenge and enjoyment
- experience positive aspects of healthy living and activity for themselves
- apply their mental, emotional, social and physical skills to pursue a healthy lifestyle
- make a successful move to the next stage of education or work
- establish a pattern of health and wellbeing which will be sustained into adult life, and which will help to promote the health and wellbeing of the next generation of Scottish children.

### Mull Schools' Rugby World Cup

In September, staff and pupils at Salen Primary School were inspired by the Rugby World Cup, to host a competition of their own. The pupils from Salen, Lochdonhead and Ulva Primary Schools chose to represent Australia, Japan, Scotland, South Africa and, the eventual Mull World Cup winners, Ireland. They enjoyed learning about the cultures of participating countries, learning about the history of the Rugby World Cup, and particularly enjoyed consolidating and enhancing their tag rugby skills. Pupils practiced their rugby skills during their PE lessons and the relevance of shadowing such a prestigious worldwide event enhanced their enjoyment and levels of participation.



# Oban Inter-Schools Athletics

## Competition

March saw the annual Inter-schools Athletics competition at Atlantis Leisure. The competition was broken down into a Rural Schools challenge and an Oban Schools challenge, with the three top teams from each of these events going through to the final. The pupils were able to participate in a wide variety of events and really enjoyed being part of teams. The eventual overall winners were Rockfield Primary School.



## Daily Exercise

All schools in the Oban Lorn and Isles area are now achieving the Government's target of two hours quality Physical Education per week. Many schools are going beyond this and using daily exercise to enhance pupils' physical, emotional and mental well-being. One example is the work undertaken at Barcaldine Primary School who, since January, School have been completing a daily mile on foot, and recently on bike for the Big Pedal. Before undertaking this exercise, pupils used maps to plan three different routes from the school. Pupils converted miles to kilometres and then measured the routes on the maps, using the scale. On one of the routes we tested our calculations by actually measuring it on the ground, and marking every 100m. One teacher, Ms.Campbell has been conducting a research project into the effects of daily exercise on short term memory using the Digit Span test and will analyse results as part of her Masters Degree in Education.



# Teaching and Learning

## Literacy

Language and literacy are of personal, social and economic importance. Our ability to use language lies at the centre of the development and expression of our emotions, our thinking, our learning and our sense of personal identity. Language is itself a key aspect of our culture. Literacy is fundamental to all areas of learning, as it unlocks access to the wider curriculum. Being literate increases opportunities for

the individual in all aspects of life, lays the foundations for lifelong learning and work.

The literacy experiences and outcomes promote the development of critical and creative thinking as well as competence in listening and talking, reading, writing and the personal, interpersonal and team-working skills which are so important in life and in the world of work.



## Early Years – A great start to Literacy

Parents and children joined Oban and Lorn Nursery and P1 staff on Thursday 8th October for a celebration of their joint transition project based around Julia Donaldson's much loved book, 'The Gruffalo'. This literacy based project was started in nursery during the summer term with Early Learning Childcare staff following the children's interests through various engaging learning experiences both indoors and outdoors. During the summer holidays there was continuity for the project with a Bookbug Session for new P1 children at Oban Library and community involvement with shops displaying some of the work done by local nurseries and displaying Gruffalo good luck posters for all children starting P1. In August, primary schools built on this successful project where children were comfortable and secure in their knowledge of the book and the characters and ready to engage in further learning to progress their skills. The celebration event afforded an opportunity for parents to see the continuity and progress across Early Level, they were able to chat to staff and view the learning on storyboard



displays and in floorbooks and there was even a Gruffalo den constructed by Stramash, the outdoor nursery. For the children, there was a Gruffalo hunt to take part in and tactile playdough and collage materials for the children to make some of the characters. There were book prizes in return for adults and children telling us about their favourite storybooks and a Bookbug Session where staff, parents and children joined the Early Years Team in Gruffalo themed songs and rhymes and a very participative reading of the popular Julia Donaldson book. Feedback from parents for this inaugural joint transition event was very positive:

“Great to see how the Gruffalo project has progressed to their leaning at school, I think it helps in their transition to work on a subject they are familiar with”

“Very good idea, both children had so much fun – informative of work done”

“We liked the Gruffalo hunt and seeing what other schools had done, we loved the Bookbug Session”

“Great to see how the various nurseries interpret the project, a great event for catching up with old friends and seeing all the hard work that has been done”

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## Strath of Appin Primary School Literacy and Drama

Primary 4-7 pupils from Strath of Appin Primary School wrote and performed a play called 'Troy Story' at the North Lorn Drama Festival. Adjudicator Nat Little congratulated the pupils on an excellent play which was 'word-perfect' with great team work, a 'real credit to Community Drama'. Particular highlights included the choreography, sound effects, costumes and the 'funeral scene'. The children had worked hard on the play focussing on voice projection and use of expression in movement. As well taking home silverware and the plaudits of the adjudicator, the pupils furthered their writing and performance skills.



## Taynuilt pupils' novel approach to reading

Children at Taynuilt Nursery have used their design skills and recycling ethos to create the perfect place to read and hear stories. They collected the empty bottles from their snack each day for a whole year and started the first layer in October. Described as looking like an igloo, an ice castle, Santa's grotto, and an animal den, the milk bottle igloo is the perfect place for children to use their imaginations to create stories of their own. Their recent topic "Caring and Helping our Environment" gave the children a clear focus on how they can reduce, reuse and recycle everyday objects. Their more recent topic was Storytime which led them into World Book Week and to a BookBug Session as the topic celebration.



## Rockfield Celebrate World Book Day



Rockfield Primary School held a very successful World Book Day celebration on Thursday 3rd March 2016. Pupils and staff participated by dressing as their favourite fictional character and bringing in books to swap. They gathered so many books that every child from Primary One to Primary Seven was given the opportunity to take home a book of their choice. Hailed by staff and parents as a wonderful success, the event helped nurture a love of reading for pupils that will last through life. World Book Day is celebrated in many schools in the Oban Lorn and the Isles Area each year and raises the profile of reading for pleasure as well as providing books for pupils.

## Fair Trade Fortnight at Achaleven

Achaleven Primary School decided to use the context of Fairtrade fortnight to teach literacy skills alongside baking and the importance of buying Fairtrade products. During Fairtrade Fortnight's Big Breakfast they opened the school to everyone in the village and, as well as making the lovely flapjacks, pancakes and muffins for our guests, we greeted them on arrival, helped serve and washed up. They had been learning all about the importance of buying Fairtrade products so decided to make leaflets and a wallboard to inform their visitors which they read over a cup of Fairtrade tea or coffee. All schools now use relevant contexts such as this to teach elements of literacy as it helps pupils understand the importance of effective communication and helps to make learning enjoyable.





# Teaching and Learning

## Numeracy

Being numerate helps us to function responsibly in everyday life and contribute effectively to society. It increases our opportunities within the world of work and establishes foundations which can be built upon through lifelong learning. Numeracy is not only a subset of mathematics; it is also a life skill which permeates and

supports all areas of learning, allowing young people access to the wider curriculum.

We are numerate if we have:

developed the confidence and competence in using number which will allow individuals to solve problems, analyse information and make informed decisions based on calculations.

## Oban Maths Festival



Ten primary 7 pupils from Rockfield Primary School were among pupils from all over the area who participated in the Oban High School Maths Festival 2016. The ten pupils were put into teams consisting of two S1 ex-Rockfield pupils and two P7 Rockfield pupils. The competition was split into two parts and one of the Rockfield teams won one section, after a closely fought tie breaker question, which saw another Rockfield team come second. Pupils gained a sense of the fun that can be had in maths as well as working former pupils from their school.

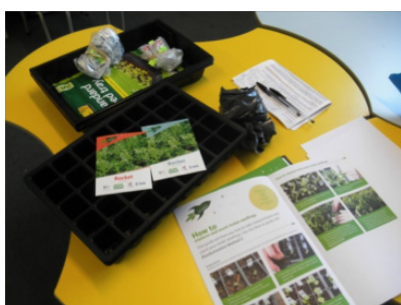
## Telling the time in Appin

Pupils at Strath of Appin Primary School's Early Level class used a trip to their neighbouring school at Lismore to learn about the importance of telling the time and using timetables. They caught the 9.30 am passenger ferry from Port Appin to Point on Lismore. The children enjoyed their 10 minute ferry journey, particularly when the ferry caught the waves of another boat. They then travelled by minibus to Achnacroish, where they met up with the children from Lismore Primary School's Pre 5 Unit. The children participated in a range of energetic outdoor activities in their new learning environment. The activities provided opportunities for exploring, experimenting, discovering and risk taking – together and on their own. The children thoroughly enjoyed their trip to Lismore and there are plans for everyone to meet up again in the future.



## Rocket Seeds at Lochdonhead and Ulva Primary Schools

Both schools taking part in a national experiment, linking with NASA and the Royal Horticultural Society. Rocket seeds were taken into space by British astronaut Tim Peake and have returned to Earth with the Russian cosmonauts. The schools have been sent a packet of these seeds along with a packet which has not been sent into space and pupils shall grow both, carefully



identifying any changes or differences. They are involved in a national experiment, growing these seeds in school, taking recordings and contributing their results to a national data bank. These results include; counting, working out percentages, measuring and calculating the average/mean. The pupils will further develop their understanding about carrying out experiments and randomisation. Needless to say, the pupils are very excited and have found a whole new reason to learn and apply these vital numeracy skills.

# Eco/Outdoor Learning

## Luing Primary School Receives Another Green Flag

The children of Luing Primary School were very pleased to be awarded their fourth Green Flag. They learnt about Energy, Food and Farming, and Litter. The award of the flag came following a wealth of eco learning activities including learning about Seaweed with the Scottish Association of Marine Science and a Beach Clean. Green Flags are awarded by Eco School's Scotland in recognition of schools' dedication to learning about and taking action on ecological issues. It takes 2 years and lots of work to achieve a flag.



Early day motion 1249 - UK Parliament Page 1 of 1

[www.parliament.uk](http://www.parliament.uk)

**Early day motion 1249**  
**PARK PRIMARY SCHOOL OBAN ECO-COMMITTEE**

Session: 2015-16  
Date tabled: 14.03.2016  
Primary sponsor: O'Hara, Brendan  
Sponsors: Oswald, Kirsten | McNally, John | Day, Martyn | Law, Chris | McLaughlin, Anne

Total number of signatures: 9

Day, Martyn	Docherty, Martin	Law, Chris	McLaughlin, Anne
McNally, John	O'Hara, Brendan	Oswald, Kirsten	Stephens, Christopher
Thewiss, Alison			

That this House recognises the great work being done by all the pupils of Park Primary School in Oban, particularly those on the school's Eco-Committee who have been working so hard to make, not just their school but their town, Argyll and Bute, Scotland and the wider world a cleaner, healthier and safer place in which both people and animals can live; and congratulates the work of the staff, most notably Head Teacher, Miss Carney, and Deputy Head Teacher, Mrs Bissett, in making Park Primary School a six-time Green Flag Award winning school.

## Park Primary Pupils Action on Eco Issues

Following last year's award of a sixth Green Flag, Park Primary School's Eco Committee shows no signs of slowing down. The Eco Schools programme is thoroughly embedded into the curriculum and calendar through events such as One Planet Picnic, Earth Hour and our Apple Days and Green Days. Regular beach cleans and promotion of Fairtrade have also been integral to the work of the school. In March, Brendan O'Hara (MSP) met with the Eco Group and was so impressed that he proposed an Early Day Motion in Parliament to commend the work of Park Primary School's Eco work.

## Achaleven Primary School Teaching in Nature

Teachers at Achaleven School are working toward a certification in Teaching in Nature (accredited by the General Teaching Council of Scotland). As part of the course, they have to teach out in the environment so staff and pupils jumped in a minibus and set off for Balmaha Visitor Centre on Loch Lomond in April. This project involves the children completing challenges and earning 'badges'. The whole process is designed to eventually lead onto participation in the John Muir Award Scheme. Part of gaining their first badge was thinking about what they need to take with them and assessing their own risk. P3 and 4 have written very full and detailed reports of our visit and they can be read on the school website at [www.achaleven.argyll-bute.sch.uk/news/getting-back-nature](http://www.achaleven.argyll-bute.sch.uk/news/getting-back-nature)





# Outdoor Learning at Barcaldine

Like most of the schools in Oban, Lorn and the Isles, Barcaldine is in a prime situation for outdoor learning. They have access to both the shore and the woodlands within easy walking distance. Over the past year, a range of curricular activities have been experienced, including maths, technology, science, RME, HWB, spelling and expressive arts. For example, the pupils worked together, with some help from Rory (FCS), to fell a small birch tree, transport it to our woodland school site, measure it, saw it, construct and tie it to build a log bench. Pupils are aware of seasonal changes and are tracking the bud development of various trees species. Pupils have also enjoyed learning about religious events by cooking pancakes in the forest, taking time to be peaceful and reflective in their 'Magic Spots' and rolling hard-boiled eggs, dyed with onions skins. They have discovered maths everywhere, especially shapes and angles. In the school grounds, pupils have been practising their spelling words in sand, water and chalk. They have built stick skeletons and explored with their senses when learning about our bodies. They have used both the school grounds and the woodlands to develop orienteering skills. As responsible citizens and effective contributors, Barcaldine Pupils and staff took part in the beach clean for the Queen's 90th birthday.



## Contributions to Charities

### Rockfield Donates Backpacks to Mary's Meals

In February 2016 Bill Clifford, a guest speaker from Mary's Meals, came and spoke to the Primary 7 class about the ways in which the Mary's Meals charity helps children. After the visit the Primary 7 pupils asked if they could take part in the Mary's Meals Backpack Project. The project supports children who do not have basics like pens and notepads and enables them to attend school and gain an education that can



help them escape from poverty when they grow up. The class sent letters out to the whole school asking pupils and parents to help in donating the following items:-

notepads, pens, pencils, crayons, erasers, rulers, sharpeners, pencil cases, towels, shorts or skirt, t-shirt or dress, flip-flops or sandals, soap, toothbrush, toothpaste, small ball, spoons and backpacks. The response was overwhelming. The class then sorted the items into backpacks and made a total of fifty seven. Bill Clifford returned to the school to collect the backpacks and told the pupils more about the children they will help. For many children, a Mary's Meals backpack will be they only gift they'll have ever had.





## Salen Primary and Pre-School's 'Wear to Scare'

The children of Salen Primary School and Pre-school held a Wear to Scare day for Halloween to raise funds for Save the Children. The children and staff came to school dressed up for the day and staged a magnificent parade in the hall. The school hall had been spookily decorated for the village Halloween party organised by the local SWRI. It was the perfect venue for a quick parade and collection which amounted to £80



## Dervaig Primary School Pitches in to help

In the 2016 Spring Term the children at Dervaig Primary School decided they wanted to not only raised money for others through Sports Relief, but also for their local pitch. The Village Hall and the pitch are very important as they are where PE is taught. A community member suggested that it was time to fund raise for a new multi games surface to make the pitch more suitable and safer for a wider variety of sports. The Pupil Council took a leading role in organising an event in which everyone could take part. They decided that a sponsored walk of 8 miles from Dervaig to Tobermory would be the fund raising event and half the funds would go to the pitch and half to Sports Relief. The children devoted time out of school to the cause as well. They got together with lots of children from Dervaig community, including pre-school and High School and parents to make a video to tell everyone about their fund-raising event and why they wanted to raise as much money as possible. The children were interviewed and they were able to give very convincing reasons why they wanted a new surface on their local pitch. In addition to the children training using a Mile a Day in school, a number of them also trained out of school to get fit for the walk, including Primary 1 pupils and their families. A buzz of excitement went around the walkers

as they gathered at the start of the walk. All twenty-two pupils participated, accompanied by twenty-two adults (which included three grandparents) and three dogs. Along with support vehicles, including an electric car the walkers set off. The pupils had decided that wanted to combine the walk with litter picking. Seven full bin bags later and the children were well on their way to Tobermory. The first walkers reached the finish in about 2 ½ hours, with the final, litter picking finishers coming in at about the 3 hour mark. Forty four 5 to 75 year olds collectively walked over 350 miles and collected a grand total of £2050. Everyone was so pleased with this achievement, a real team effort. The children continue to be part of the fund raising and will have a real sense of community and ownership when the new pitch surface is laid and ready to use.



# Barcaldine Primary School's Contributions to Charities

Barcaldine Pre5s and parents joined with Primary staff and pupils to raise money for the British Heart Foundation. Everybody dressed in red for a day and raised their heart rates by walking around the red route at Sutherland's Grove which, incidentally is almost shaped like a heart. Afterwards they enjoyed healthy homemade red tomato soup and tomato bread. A total of £70.27 was raised for the Wear It. Beat It. BHF Fundraising campaign. £100 was also raised for the Oban Mountain Rescue Team from Barcaldine primary School's Christmas performance at the local church.



## Lochnell Pupils Recycle Toys

Pupils at Lochnell primary school decided to recycle their toys by donating them to a sale in school. They helped sort, price and sell the toys to one another and guests in order to raise a wonderful £165.56 for Children in need in November.



# Community Partnership

## Barcaldine Community Links

The community of Barcaldine are great supporters of the primary school and vice versa. In August the community organised a football tournament and fun day at the school, which was very well attended, to raise money for our shared goal posts. The school's Christmas Show at the local church was a great success with past pupils and local pre-5 children also playing roles in the performance. The school also supports the community by entertaining the residents of the Lynn of Lorne Care Home at Christmas time. Over 300 stones were painted at school for the Barcaldine Community Association Egg Hunt at Easter. The pupils and pre-5 children set up an efficient production line to get the job done. In May the community and school are coming together to hold an afternoon of fun eco-themed events, called 'T in the Barc'. Local volunteers are organising mosaic workshops, up-cycling crafts, games and music.





## Lochdonhead Community Cafe

Pupils at Lochdonhead Primary School have been organising a Community Café at the school so that the community can come together for tea and snacks. The cakes have so far been home made by parents and grandparents which has given them a chance to be even more involved with the school and their children. In the future pupils are planning to make their own cakes, giving them more chances to learn about food technology and aspects of maths. Every café session is different and pupils make up questionnaires so that people can write what they think about the café so that it can improve. So far there has been a lot of positive feedback e.g. "Everything is great". People have come from as far away as Surrey and London to visit the community café which is very good. Over the last 4 months they have raised £ 669.21 Pupils have also made wild bird lardy balls, fudge and poetry books to sell and have also sold biscuits, daffodils, hand knitted chicks, toys and jigsaws. With the proceeds, they have bought a banner to advertise the café, tables and chairs and accessories like vacuum jugs etc. for the café to help improve it. The café has been praised by local residents and is on the last Tuesday of every month.



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## Rockfield Choir Cheers the residents of Eader Glinn

Rockfield School Choir visited Eadar Glinn Residential Care Home to celebrate Robert Burns Day recently and performed a selection of Scottish songs, including two Burns songs. It was a lovely visit and the residents joined in with the children as they sang their songs. The choir is planning to make another visit before too long and next time the school's Folk Group and Whistle Club will go too .



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## Achaleven Primary School's Village Horticultural & Flower Show

Pupils at Achaleven enjoy participating in the village show as they feel that the school is at the heart of their community. Not only do they enter produce, but they like to challenge learners to exhibit their creative skills. This year's challenge was to create a painting of the seashore following their Beach School activities, and to create a garden on a plate. Some ideas were very ambitious, but after much planning and tweaking everybody produced some amazing gardens. Carrots, cucumbers and potatoes grown by the pupils at school were all entered into the show – the carrots were particularly well-received. The school and pupils received a range of awards including a first and second place for their carrots and a third place for their cucumbers.



# Creative Arts in Schools Team (CAST)

Each year CAST secures funding from Education Scotland via the Creative Learning Network Scheme to run professional learning sessions for school staff. These take the format of free twilights covering a variety of arts related topics. Each session last two hours and offers the chance for anyone working within Education to brush up their expressive arts skills. Each twilight is run in 8 different centres throughout the region offering the chance for most to attend an event close by. This year we have had record attendances at the following:



## RAISING LITERACY ATTAINMENT THROUGH FILM

Participants were introduced to a series of tools including the 3Cs (character, colour, camera) and 3Ss (story, setting, sound), which build teachers' ability to help their learners contextualise and decode film, learning key literacy skills such as inference, deduction and analysis which can be applied to film and other texts.

## GARAGEBAND & I.T. IN THE MUSIC CLASSROOM

Using the technology available, participants learned to track progress and develop musical ideas. This session increased confidence and opened the door to the benefits of using technology in a meaningful way to enhance musical learning.

## TEACHING SCREEN PRINTING

Screen printing is a fascinating process which may engage and excite those pupils who don't see themselves as artistic. Participants were introduced to the basics of screen printing and how to use printing to fulfill some of the significant aspects of learning within art and design.

## MUSIC & HEALTH AND WELLBEING

"Let Children Teach" Allowing children to direct and plan their own learning in music offers challenges. However, the benefits of this ownership can result in greater connection to meaning, enhanced creativity, and accelerated learning of skills amongst other things.

## GET EXCITED ABOUT SCULPTURE AND 3D

During this session participants were shown how to introduce sculpture to pupils in a way that will enable them to understand the elements involved in producing 3D artwork within the 'expressive' element of the art and design curriculum. It captured the excitement of creating within this genre and encourage your pupils to develop a curiosity about the arts.





# School Contacts:

School	Contact	Position	Address	Phone No.
Achaleven Primary	Sharon Burt	Head Teacher	Achaleven, Connel PA37 1PH	01631 710529
Arinagour Primary	Aileen Cook	Head Teacher	Arinagour, Isle of Coll, PA78 6TA	01879 230376
Barcaldine Primary	Julie Watson	Acting Head Teacher	Barcaldine, Connel, PA37 1SG	01631 720391
Bunessan Primary	Susan Hawkes	Head Teacher	Bunessan, Isle of Mull, PA67 6DL	01681 700283
Dalmally Primary	Lynn Sinclair	Acting Joint Headship with Inveraray	Dalmally, Argyll PA33 1BE	01838 200359
Dervaig Primary	Tricia Evans	Head Teacher	Dervaig, Isle of Mull, PA75 6QW	01688 400227
Dunbeg Primary	Sine T MacVicar	Head Teacher	Dunbeg, Connel, PA37 1QF	01631 564781
Easdale Primary	Stephen Glen-Lee	Head Teacher (Joint Headship with Luing)	Easdale, Oban, PA34 4RF	01852 300243
Iona Primary	Sheena Nisbet	Head Teacher	Isle of Iona, PA76 6SJ	01681 700348
Kilchattan Primary	Gillian MacKenzie	Head Teacher	Isle of Colonsay, Argyll, PA61 7YR	01951 200340
Kilchrenan Primary	Graham Dickie	Head Teacher	Kilchrenan, Taynuilt, PA35 1HD	01866 833312
Kilninver Primary	Bernadette McMillan	Head Teacher (Joint Headship with Craignish Primary)	Kilninver, Oban, PA34 4UT	01852 316236
Lismore Primary	Catherine Davies	Head Teacher	Isle of Lismore, Oban, PA34 5UG	01631 760258
Lochdonhead Primary	Pauline Inglis	Head Teacher (Joint Headship with Ulva Primary)	Lochdonhead, Isle of Mull, PA64 6AP	01680 812473
Lochnell Primary	Shirley Matheson	Head Teacher	Lochnell, Ledaig, Connel, Argyll PA37 1QS	01631 720300
Luing Primary	Stephen Glen-Lee	Head Teacher (Joint Headship with Easdale)	Isle of Luing, PA34 4TY	01852 314245
Park Primary	Gillian Carney	Head Teacher	Kerrera Terrace, Oban, PA34 5AU	01631 563941
Rockfield Primary	Caroline Fothergill	Acting Head Teacher	Oban Primary Campus, Soroba Road, Oban, PA34 4SB	01631 568090/ 568091
Salen Primary	Mairi Maclean	Head Teacher	Salen, Isle of Mull, PA72 6JL	01680 300348
St Columba's Primary	Michaelina MacLellan	Head Teacher	Oban Primary Campus, Soroba Road, Oban, PA34 4SB	01631 568092/ 568090
Strath of Appin Primary	Christine MacLean	Head Teacher	Strath of Appin, Appin, PA38 4BG	01631 730345
Taynuilt Primary	Jaqueline McLarty	Head Teacher	Taynuilt, Argyll, PA35 1JE	01866 822343
Tiree HS Primary	Myra McArthur	Head Teacher	Isle of Tiree, PA77 6XA	01879 220383/ 220790
Tobermory HS Primary Dept.	Craig Biddick	Head Teacher	Tobermory, Isle of Mull, PA75 6PB	01688 302062