

OUR CHILDREN...



THEIR FUTURE...

Community Services: Education
Primary Area Report: Bute and Cowal

Introduction

Within the Bute and Cowal area there are fourteen primary schools – three on Bute and eleven in Cowal. Nursery provision is provided in seven of these schools. Gaelic Medium education is provided at Sandbank Primary. This session there have been several staff changes in headship across the area. Cathleen Russell Head Teacher of Toward and Innellan Primary Schools took up the post of acting Head Teacher at North Bute Primary School in August 2016. This arrangement was to be in place for session 2016-2017 only and followed unsuccessful attempts to secure a substantive Head Teacher for the school. It has been decided to advertise for a Head Teacher for North Bute Primary and St Andrew's Primary as part of a shared headship arrangement. Following the resignation of the Head Teacher of Lochgoilhead Primary in October 2016 there has been an acting Head Teacher in place and the substantive post is currently being re-advertised. Mr Graham Dickie is currently the Acting Head Teacher of Sandbank Primary following the secondment of the previous Head Teacher into an Acting Education Officer role.

This report provides a range of key information about the schools in the area and highlights some of the wide and varied range of activities our young people have been involved in during session 2016-17.

The Standards and Quality report to Community Services, 8 December 2016 provided elected members with important information on the progress made in relation to education within all of Argyll and Bute.

Most recently (March 9 2017) the Community Services Committee paper – The National Improvement Framework for Scottish Education, provided an overview of the Primary achievement in Literacy and Numeracy for P1, P4, P7 in Argyll and Bute, Achievement of Curriculum for Excellence (CFE) Levels 2015/16 (Appendix B).

Additional and more detailed information about each school can be found in the school's Standards and Quality Reports. In addition each school's Improvement Plan outlines their main priorities for improvement. Most schools

have an active website where these documents can be accessed and further links or information can be obtained from the Head Teacher.

Primary School Profiles including cluster SIMD profile and achievement of a level data:

Table showing number of pupils at each SIMD level in each cluster area of Argyll and Bute.

Cluster	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Total
Bute	17	56	86	120	1	56	1	37	1	1	374
Cowal	93	77	76	188	285	128	20	1	1	1	868
H&L	54	111	117	3	349	47	326	293	359	109	1768
Islay				51		163	13				227
N Kintyre				1	1	98					100
S Kintyre		89	87	1	155	96	85				513
OLI		24	156	36	117	435	261	180			1209
Mid Argyll				50	133	218	194		1		596
Mull						137		83			220

Bute Cluster Primary School Profile 2016-2017

Primary School Roll (as at census) *						
Cluster Primary Schools	12/13	13/14	14/15	15/16	16/17	% change in Roll over 5 years ¹
North Bute Primary School	57	52	47	41	35	-38.6%
Rothesay Primary School	242	229	225	237	275	13.6%
St Andrew's Primary School	102	110	103	79	63	-38.2%
Total Roll for cluster	401	391	375	357	373	-7.0%

* Data for rolls provided at Census each year

¹ Please note the % change in Roll over 5 years shows the percentage change in roll figures from 2012/2013 to 2016/2017 and is not an average.

- The primary school roll on Bute has fallen by 7% over the past 5 years however there are significant falls in the rolls of North Bute and St Andrew's Primary Schools.

Footwear and Clothing Grant and Free School Meal Information for Bute Cluster

	12/13	13/14	14/15	15/16	16/17
Clothing and Footwear Grant (CFG) (number of pupils) ²	95	95	125	118	99
Clothing and Footwear Grant (CFG) (% of cluster school roll)	23.7%	24.3%	33.3%	33.1%	26.5%
Total CFG for Primary Schools in Argyll and Bute	947	1096	1113	891	801
Total CFG for Primary Schools as a % of total school roll in Argyll and Bute	16.6%	19.2%	19.2%	14.6%	13.8%
	12/13	13/14	14/15	15/16³	16/17
Free School Meals (number of pupils)	115	109	97	87	85
Free School Meals (% of cluster school roll)	28.7%	27.9%	25.9%	24.4%	22.8%
Total Free School Meals for Primary Schools in Argyll and Bute	871	898	856	675	666
Total Free School Meals for Primary Schools as a % of total school roll in Argyll and Bute	15.2%	15.8%	14.8%	11.1%	11.5%
National Average for Free School Meals for Primary Schools (%)	22.0%	20.6%	55.3%	54.1%	Not yet collated
National Average for Free School Meals for P4-P7 only (%)	Not collated	Not collated	Not collated	19.2%	17.9%

² 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 2016-2017 data for CFG and Free School Meals (FSM) is to date (January 2017) and therefore may change as the year progresses.

³ 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. 6: 2016 Edition'

Exclusion and Attendance Information for Bute Cluster

	12/13	13/14	14/15	15/16	16/17 ⁶
Attendance (% of cluster school roll) ⁴	94.63%	95.44%	94.98%	96.01%	95.07%
Unauthorised Absence (% of cluster school roll)	0.35%	0.55%	0.84%	0.82%	1.23%
Authority Average – (%) Primary Schools in Argyll and Bute	95.74%	95.40%	95.87%	95.52%	95.60%
Unauthorised Absence - (%) Primary Schools in Argyll and Bute	0.79%	0.87%	0.89%	0.98%	1.09%
National Average for both Secondary and Primary Pupils (%)⁵	93.60%	Not collated	93.70%	Not collated	Not yet collated
	12/13	13/14	14/15	15/16	16/17 ⁷
Exclusion Openings	23	0	0	0	0
Exclusion Incidents	8	0	0	0	0
As a % of Total Argyll and Bute Primary School Exclusion Openings	7.7%	0%	0%	0%	0%
As a % of Total Argyll and Bute Primary School Exclusion Incidents	11.4%	0%	0%	0%	0%

⁴ 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.

⁵ Attendance, Absence and Exclusion information is now collected on a biennial basis and was **not** collected for 2013/2014 or 2015/2016 academic year. It will be collected at the start of 2017/2018 session for 2016/2017.

⁶ Please note that attendance data for 2016-2017 is for the year to date and not a complete year. It is therefore subject to change.

⁷ Please note that exclusion data for 2016-2017 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.

Bute Achievement of Level June 2016:

	Stage Roll	Stage	ER	EW	ELT	N	roll	GR	GW	GL&T
Bute	42	P1	76%	76%	76%	86%				
	55	P4	55%	45%	55%	53%				
	53	P7	74%	72%	87%	68%				
Cowal	122	P1	68%	68%	75%	80%	9	67%	78%	100%
	125	P4	72%	62%	76%	72%	6	67%	67%	83%
	136	P7	69%	58%	71%	61%	6	67%	67%	83%
Islay	22	P1	68%	68%	82%	82%	2	100%		100%
	33	P4	64%	42%	67%	58%	2	100%	100%	100%
	41	P7	66%	66%	73%	29%	2	100%	100%	100%
Mid Argyll	76	P1	71%	70%	82%	79%				
	69	P4	78%	71%	65%	62%				
	90	P7	76%	66%	76%	67%				
Mull	32	P1	56%	56%	59%	81%	12	83%	75%	92%
	36	P4	69%	56%	81%	64%	7	71%	57%	86%
	28	P7	71%	61%	86%	71%	4	100%	25%	75%
N Kintyre	15	P1	73%	73%	73%	73%				
	16	P4	13%	13%	6%	0%				
	14	P7	64%	64%	64%	0%				
OLI exc Mull	188	P1	72%	73%	73%	87%	14	100%	100%	100%
	164	P4	71%	61%	74%	61%	3	67%	50%	67%
	154	P7	77%	72%	82%	62%	3	70%	50%	90%
S Kintyre	80	P1	80%	70%	70%	73%				
	62	P4	63%	56%	65%	73%				
	67	P7	64%	64%	64%	64%				
MAKI	193	P1	75%	70%	76%	76%		100%		100%
	180	P4	64%	56%	60%	59%		100%	100%	100%
	212	P7	69%	65%	71%	54%		100%	100%	100%
OLI	220	P1	70%	71%	71%	86%	26	94%	91%	97%
	200	P4	71%	60%	75%	62%	10	69%	54%	77%
	182	P7	76%	70%	83%	63%	7	79%	43%	86%
C&B	164	P1	70%	70%	76%	82%		67%	78%	100%
	180	P4	67%	57%	69%	66%		67%	67%	83%
	189	P7	70%	62%	75%	63%		67%	67%	83%
HALCO	275	P1	91%	87%	96%	92%				
	230	P4	83%	79%	90%	81%				
	244	P7	81%	78%	89%	77%				
NATIONAL		P1	81%	78%	76%	85%		82%	81%	87%
		P4	75%	69%	69%	81%		79%	76%	87%
		P7	72%	65%	75%	77%		72%	72%	80%

NOTES:

ER English reading, EW English writing, ELT English Listening and talking N Numeracy

GR Gaelic reading, GW Gaelic writing, GLT Gaelic Listening and talking.

Curriculum for Excellence expectation or benchmark is that 80% of pupils will achieve the level appropriate for their stage. Due to the small sample size it is important to note that the data may vary considerably from year to year and that caution should be used when making comparisons between schools or with national data.

Further analysis of different cohorts such as gender, pupils with additional support needs and level of disadvantage is a development area.

This was the first year of collection of this data and the exercise helped the education department understand that whilst there was a reasonably good level of confidence that teacher judgements were sound and based on a wide range of assessment evidence there was still work to be done in this area.

Individual school data can be made available for elected members own use in connection with their role however as the pupil numbers involved are so small great care must be taken to avoid identification of pupils and for this reason the data is suppressed by Scottish Government and not for publication.

Increased support for teachers staff in understanding standards and assisting with further development of a range of assessment evidence will lead to more robust data in future years

Cowal Achievement of Level June 2016:

	Stage Roll	Stage	ER	EW	ELT	N	roll	GR	GW	GL&T
Bute	42	P1	76%	76%	76%	86%				
	55	P4	55%	45%	55%	53%				
	53	P7	74%	72%	87%	68%				
Cowal	122	P1	68%	68%	75%	80%	9	67%	78%	100%
	125	P4	72%	62%	76%	72%	6	67%	67%	83%
	136	P7	69%	58%	71%	61%	6	67%	67%	83%
Islay	22	P1	68%	68%	82%	82%	2	100%		100%
	33	P4	64%	42%	67%	58%	2	100%	100%	100%
	41	P7	66%	66%	73%	29%	2	100%	100%	100%
Mid Argyll	76	P1	71%	70%	82%	79%				
	69	P4	78%	71%	65%	62%				
	90	P7	76%	66%	76%	67%				
Mull	32	P1	56%	56%	59%	81%	12	83%	75%	92%
	36	P4	69%	56%	81%	64%	7	71%	57%	86%
	28	P7	71%	61%	86%	71%	4	100%	25%	75%
N Kintyre	15	P1	73%	73%	73%	73%				
	16	P4	13%	13%	6%	0%				
	14	P7	64%	64%	64%	0%				
OLI exc Mull	188	P1	72%	73%	73%	87%	14	100%	100%	100%
	164	P4	71%	61%	74%	61%	3	67%	50%	67%
	154	P7	77%	72%	82%	62%	3	70%	50%	90%
S Kintyre	80	P1	80%	70%	70%	73%				
	62	P4	63%	56%	65%	73%				
	67	P7	64%	64%	64%	64%				
MAKI	193	P1	75%	70%	76%	76%		100%		100%
	180	P4	64%	56%	60%	59%		100%	100%	100%
	212	P7	69%	65%	71%	54%		100%	100%	100%
OLI	220	P1	70%	71%	71%	86%	26	94%	91%	97%
	200	P4	71%	60%	75%	62%	10	69%	54%	77%
	182	P7	76%	70%	83%	63%	7	79%	43%	86%
C&B	164	P1	70%	70%	76%	82%		67%	78%	100%
	180	P4	67%	57%	69%	66%		67%	67%	83%
	189	P7	70%	62%	75%	63%		67%	67%	83%
HALCO	275	P1	91%	87%	96%	92%				
	230	P4	83%	79%	90%	81%				
	244	P7	81%	78%	89%	77%				
NATIONAL		P1	81%	78%	76%	85%		82%	81%	87%
		P4	75%	69%	69%	81%		79%	76%	87%
		P7	72%	65%	75%	77%		72%	72%	80%

NOTES:

ER English reading, EW English writing, ELT English Listening and talking N Numeracy

GR Gaelic reading, GW Gaelic writing, GLT Gaelic Listening and talking.

Curriculum for Excellence expectation or benchmark is that 80% of pupils will achieve the level appropriate for their stage. Due to the small sample size it is important to note that the data may vary considerably from year to year and that caution should be used when making comparisons between schools or with national data.

Further analysis of different cohorts such as gender, pupils with additional support needs and level of disadvantage is a development area.

This was the first year of collection of this data and the exercise helped the education department understand that whilst there was a reasonably good level of confidence that teacher judgements were sound and based on a wide range of assessment evidence there was still work to be done in this area.

Individual school data can be made available for elected members own use in connection with their role however as the pupil numbers involved are so small great care must be taken to avoid identification of pupils and for this reason the data is suppressed by Scottish Government and not for publication.

Increased support for teachers staff in understanding standards and assisting with further development of a range of assessment evidence will lead to more robust data in future years

Cowal Cluster Primary School Profile 2016-2017

Primary School Roll (as at census) *						
Cluster Primary Schools	12/13	13/14	14/15	15/16	16/17	% change in Roll over 5 years¹
Dunoon Primary School	191	192	196	203	188	-1.6%
Innellan Primary School	14	13	8	11	19	35.7%
Kilmodan Primary School	19	17	14	13	13	-31.6%
Kirn Primary School	177	199	239	251	250	41.2%
Lochgoilhead Primary School	26	28	22	27	24	-7.7%
Sandbank Primary School	80	81	80	81	72	-10%
Sandbank Primary School Gaelic Unit	43	40	39	40	42	-2.3%
St Mun's Primary School	148	129	134	128	135	-8.8%
Strachur Primary School	67	54	47	42	42	-37.3%
Strone Primary School	32	30	26	31	25	-21.9%
Tighnabruaich Primary School	26	30	30	28	31	19.2%
Toward Primary School	29	37	31	22	25	-13.8%
Total Roll for cluster	852	850	866	877	866	1.6%

* Data for rolls provided at Census each year

¹ Please note the % change in Roll over 5 years shows the percentage change in roll figures from 2012/2013 to 2016/2017 and is not an average.

Footwear and Clothing Grant and Free School Meal Information for Cowal Cluster

	12/13	13/14	14/15	15/16	16/17
Clothing and Footwear Grant (CFG) (number of pupils) ²	223	259	247	197	186
Clothing and Footwear Grant (CFG) (% of cluster school roll)	26.2%	30.5%	28.5%	22.5%	21.5%
Total CFG for Primary Schools in Argyll and Bute	947	1096	1113	891	801
Total CFG for Primary Schools as a % of total school roll in Argyll and Bute	16.6%	19.2%	19.2%	14.6%	13.8%
	12/13	13/14	14/15	15/16 ³	16/17
Free School Meals (number of pupils)	185	194	187	83	154
Free School Meals (% of cluster school roll)	21.7%	22.8%	21.6%	9.5%	17.8%
Total Free School Meals for Primary Schools in Argyll and Bute	871	898	856	675	666
Total Free School Meals for Primary Schools as a % of total school roll in Argyll and Bute	15.2%	15.8%	14.8%	11.1%	11.5%
National Average for Free School Meals for Primary Schools (%)	22.0%	20.6%	55.3%	54.1%	Not yet collated
National Average for Free School Meals for P4-P7 only (%)	Not collated	Not collated	Not collated	19.2%	17.9%

² 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 2016-2017 data for CFG and Free School Meals (FSM) is to date (January 2017) and therefore may change as the year progresses.

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National Averages for Free School Meals have been taken from 'Summary statistics for attainment, leaver destinations and healthy living, No. 6: 2016 Edition'

Exclusion and Attendance Information for Cowal Cluster

	12/13	13/14	14/15	15/16	16/17 ⁶
Attendance (% of cluster school roll) ⁴	95.18%	95.70%	95.16%	95.04%	95.26%
Unauthorised Absence (% of cluster school roll)	0.88%	0.79%	0.96%	1.11%	1.13%
Authority Average – (%) Primary Schools in Argyll and Bute	95.74%	95.40%	95.87%	95.52%	95.60%
Unauthorised Absence - (%) Primary Schools in Argyll and Bute	0.79%	0.87%	0.89%	0.98%	1.09%
National Average for both Secondary and Primary Pupils (%)⁵	93.60%	Not collated	93.70%	Not collated	Not yet collated
	12/13	13/14	14/15	15/16	16/17 ⁷
Exclusion Openings	41	35	50	25	10
Exclusion Incidents	8	11	9	7	4
As a % of Total Argyll and Bute Primary School Exclusion Openings	13.8%	17.3%	43.9%	51%	55.6%
As a % of Total Argyll and Bute Primary School Exclusion Incidents	11.4%	17.7%	33.3%	53.8%	57.1%

⁴ 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.

⁵ Attendance, Absence and Exclusion information is now collected on a biennial basis and was **not** collected for 2013/2014 or 2015/2016 academic year. It will be collected at the start of 2017/2018 session for 2016/2017.

⁶ Please note that attendance data for 2016-2017 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.

Early Years Update

Early Learning and Childcare

Children and families within Bute and Cowal mainly access Local Authority Early Learning and Childcare (ELC) offered as either a morning or afternoon session. In order to meet the childcare needs of our parents, we are expanding flexibility of local authority ELC and currently are piloting a more flexible model of provision to offer 600 funded hours across different times and days.

ELC is also provided by Voluntary and Private operated groups in addition to Local Authority Services. The 3rd sector are in a position to provide 'wrap around' Childcare for Parents who wish to purchase hours to allow them to work, attend college etc.

Community Childminding is a service which is provided for children following a referral from Health or Social Work; it is designed to be an early intervention to support families predominately for children aged less than 3 years. Partner Childminders can also provide ELC for eligible children aged 2 years.

Proposed expansion of ELC

The Scottish Government is proposing to increase the number of ELC funded hours to 1140hrs per year from 2020. The Early Years' Service is currently working with ELC providers to look at what we need to do to ensure there is sufficient provision in place by 2020. Parents will also be consulted to find out what they want and need.

Scottish Governments 1140hrs Trials

Argyll and Bute have been successful in securing funding to support Trials for implementing 1140hrs, the learning from the Trials will be shared with other Local Authorities and will possibly impact on delivery models across Argyll and Bute.

For more information on expansion of ELC contact:

Alison MacKenzie – alison.mackenzie@argyll-bute.gov.uk

Workforce Development

We had a number of CPD courses in Bute and Cowal including:

Pediatric First Aid

Childminders Network Meeting

Attachment with Tina Hendry

Speech, Language and Communication Development

Using Music to Improve Numeracy & Literacy

Book Bug, Effective Gifting

For more information on EY workforce Development and transitions, please contact Linda Burgar –

linda.burgar@argyll-bute.gov.uk

ELC -Learning and Development

As part of the Education Strategy 'Our Children, Their Future' an Early Years 'Learning and Development Framework has been developed to provide strong and consistent guidance on learning and development from birth through to a child starting school. Every setting and childminder is being issued with this guidance and providers are encouraged to use this tool as part of their self-evaluation, along with 'Building the Ambition' and 'How Good is our Early Learning and Childcare?' Members of the central support team use the Framework as a key document as part of their support visits, focusing on 'Environment', 'Experiences' and 'Interactions'. Data is also used to analyse the quality of provision with

progress being tracked through 'Care Inspectorate' and 'Education Scotland' inspections. Twice a year the local authority gathers data in relation to 4 year old children's progress within their developmental milestones, and this is used to target resources more effectively. Teams are being trained in the use of improvement methodology to support their own improvement journeys – being clear about how they know a change has led to an improvement.

As well as tracking progress in children's learning outcomes, practitioners in nurseries also track each child's progress within their developmental milestones. We know that most children achieve their milestones as a matter of course. However, some children might need a little extra help or time to achieve theirs. The milestones we track are:

- Social, emotional and behavioural
- Speech and language
- Cognitive and sensory
- Fine motor skills
- Gross motor skills

There are a total of 15 settings across Cowal and Bute who provide Early Learning and Childcare (ELC) to our 3 and 4 year olds. 6 are Partner Providers and 9 are Local Authority settings. 13 out of our 15 ELC settings in Cowal and Bute are graded 4 or above by The Care Inspectorate.

The Early Years' Service gathers data twice a year to find out how children are progressing within their milestones. Developmental Milestone data was returned for 192 children.

111 (58%) children are achieving all their 4-5 milestones by end December 2016.

135 (70%) children have achieved their Social, Emotional and Behavioural 4-5 milestone by end December 2016.

121 (63%) children have achieved their Speech and Language 4-5 milestone by end December 2016.

130 (68%) children have achieved their Sensory and Cognitive 4-5 milestone by end December 2016.

130 (68%) children have achieved their Fine Motor Skills 4-5 milestone by end December 2016.

130 (68%) children have achieved their Gross Motor Skills 4-5 milestone by end December 2016.

For more information on ELC Learning and Development, please contact – Kathleen Johnston –

kathleen.johnston@argyll-bute.gov.uk

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

Active Schools Sports Day



Cowal Highland Gathering Stadium was the venue for the Active Schools Sports Day. This year they decided to change the format of the annual sports event to increase participation within the local primary schools. The day began with the 50m and 75m sprints followed by field events such as shot putt, caber, long jump and hammer. The day was well supervised by Sports leaders from Dunoon Grammar School who were excellent with the primary school pupils ensuring they were enjoying the events. The Dunoon Primary team was made up of 10 pupils chosen from P5 and P6 and under the watchful eye of Mrs Peek arrived enthusiastically, looking forward to the events. The behaviour of the pupils was tremendous and on such a sunny day there were lots of smiling happy faces. Team DPS were triumphant in winning the shield this year and they were presented with another shield which is to be kept by the winning school. Well done Team DPS!!



St Andrew's Primary School 'Going for Gold'



St Andrew's Primary School has been recognised with a prestigious national award for innovation and achievement in delivering physical education and extra-curricular sport.

The sportsScotland Gold School Sport Award was presented to staff and pupils by the sportsScotland Partnership Manager.

The School Sport Award is a national initiative that is designed to encourage schools to continuously improve physical education and sport. The Award also encourages sporting links between schools and the communities around them. The aim is to put sport at the heart of each school and its wider community.

The school's pupil led Health and Wellbeing Group ensure that the school focuses on being healthy and active. They represent pupils' views and drive what the school does; including lunch-time clubs, after-school clubs, parental involvement, sports days and celebrations of achievements.

In celebration, every pupil in the school was gifted a gold coloured t-shirt with the school's badge on the front and the sportsScotland gold logo across the back. The school's Parents Group generously donated the funds to pay for them.

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.

Rothesay Primary Recycling Centre

The pupils at Rothesay Primary have been recycling cardboard, plastic bottles and packaging from their snacks, to help gain points for their school houses. The eco committee monitor the collections and weigh these on a Friday before the points are collated. However, if there is something in a bin that cannot be recycled (the eco committee have a do's and don't poster beside the bins) then that House is disqualified!! Recycling has never been such fun!

their parent or carer and bring it into school to be judged by our very own Mary Berry and Paul Hollywood (Mrs Speirs and Mr Moore!)

Pippa was our overall star baker, baking a chocolate cake complete with little pigs on top! Tiffany, Cameron, Lachlan, Kirsty and Jake all won 'top baker' their categories.

Thank you for the support from parents and carers at home – this was an excellent effort!



The Great Strachur Bake Off



Last week pupils took part in a numeracy homework project with a difference! They were asked to bake something at home with

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.

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- **Tighnabruaich Primary School celebrate Roald Dahl Day**
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- Tighnabruaich Primary School celebrated Roald Dahl Day in style. The pupils have been learning about Roald Dahl and sharing some of his stories since the beginning of term and were able to take part in lots of fun activities with their parents. Almost everyone came to school either dressed up as a Roald Dahl character or wearing something yellow (Roald Dahl's favourite colour). We even had a visit from Mr Twit in the afternoon! We hope you enjoy looking at some photographs that show what fun we had together.



Sandbank Stops, Thinks, Remembers.



Primary 6/7 exhibited their Remembrance Day work to the school at Sandbank Primary's Assembly. Their display highlighted the Scots who have won Victoria Crosses, and after being used in the service was put on display in both Kirn and Sandbank Parish Churches on Remembrance Sunday. Six of the school's House Captains (on left) represented the school, along with the head teacher, at the parade and act of remembrance at the war memorial at Lorenzo Point on the Sunday, laying a wreath from the school.

Strone and Kilmodan Primary Schools celebrate all things Scottish



Pupils at Strone and Kilmodan Primary Schools have been enjoying a week long curriculum programme to celebrate Scottish heritage. On Monday 28th November Kilmodan pupils joined Strone pupils for the day. In the morning the children participated in a number of activities learning traditional Scottish songs, poetry and art.

A Scottish themed lunch of haggis, neeps and tatties was served before welcoming Paraig MacNeil, a Scottish storyteller to each class. Paraig brought to life folk tales for all to enjoy.



On Wednesday Regan Johnson from Children 1st, Scotland's National Children's charity visited the pupils to talk about the work the charity does and how our fundraising helps children around the country. Pupils came to school dressed in tartan for the day and raised £26 for the 'Kilts for Kids' part of the charity.

Teaching and Learning

Digital Learning



On Tuesday 4th October Steven Simpson from the Argyll and Bute Council Learning Technologies Team came into our school to show our P7 class how to use Minecraft Education Edition. The session was very interactive and we had lots of fun learning this new skill. We were able to challenge each other in the same world which had been created by Steven.

What an opportunity to learn more exciting concepts and increase our knowledge and develop our Digital Skills. Dunoon Primary would like to thank Steven for all his hard work with the P7 class.

Outdoor Learning

Harvest Time At St Andrew's

Primary 3/4/5 at St Andrew's Rothesay, have had a very busy start to Autumn. They worked on the school allotment and were amazed at the range of vegetables that had grown over the summer months: carrots, potatoes, beetroot, parsnips and the most enormous cabbages they had ever seen.



They made some delicious soup which all pupils were very glad to eat on a wet, blustery day. There was enough left for parents to sample at 3pm. The children also made chutney which they will sell to help fund resources to ensure that, next year, they can grow an even bigger crop of food! Everyone is

very proud of their hard work. They had no idea when they planted the seeds, just how much fun they would have and how much they would learn!

North Bute Primary is Wild about Scotland.



North Bute Primary School had a roaring time when the Wild about Scotland Bus came to Port Bannatyne. The RZSS experts taught our pupils about the skull structure of our native wildlife. We all learnt about conservation that is happening here in Scotland and the children were able to have all of their scientific questions answered. Thanks to the bus we now have so much to investigate ourselves. The children have been inspired to be biologists. Our school quiz was amazing with everyone involved using their new knowledge to gain team points, and win the game. Well done Team Wolves, who won by a whisker!

Perfect Potatoes at Strachur Primary



Pupils have been busy picking perfect potatoes, enormous cabbage and delicious cherry tomatoes from our polytunnel – all the hard work has paid off! Thank you to Mr Burke for his expertise and commitment to our school. Also thank you Mrs Speirs in the kitchen for preparing the vegetables to serve in the lunch hall.



Third Green Flag for Dunoon Primary!



Dunoon Primary had been awarded its' third Green Flag.

The school were congratulated for a great whole-school effort in renewing their Green Flag status, during which they monitored progress well and shared their successes with the wider community via the school blog and newsletter. The Eco Committee were very impressed with community litter picking activities and especially the school's sterling work to clean and adopt the West Bay Beach, giving a great example to our neighbours of our commitment to keeping the local environment tidy and welcoming. Clearly, Eco is thoroughly integrated into the curriculum and calendar via our focus on Outdoor Learning, our participation in the Beach School initiative and John Muir Award, and events such as Active Health Week

Teaching and Learning

Community Partnership

Grandparents' Day at Rothesay Primary Pre5



The boys and girls at Rothesay Primary Pre5 were delighted to welcome lots of grannies, grandpas, papas, grans, pops, nans and nanas to their nursery recently. As you can see, all the visitors were keen to join in the fun from painting to play dough to singing and dancing! They thought the nursery was a great place to learn and make new friends. Georgia's gran wrote a lovely letter asking for another visit soon!

Kirn Primary School



The Contractor building the new Kirn Primary School invited pupils to design posters which would be enlarged and placed on the hoardings outside the building site. Last Thursday the winners, accompanied by the nursery pupils, visited the site to see their pictures being displayed. While there, the pupils helped plant bulbs at the front of the Site Office. Thank you to the contractor for giving the pupils of Kirn Primary and Early Learning and Childcare the opportunity to be involved in this exciting project.



The Pied Piper at Lochgoilhead



The audience were wowed when the children of Lochgoilhead Primary School performed the play 'The Pied Piper' on 21st December, 2016. After the show there were mince pies and tea/coffee or juice. We also sold some Christmas crafts we had made. A total of £183 was raised for school funds. Both children and adults put in an enormous amount of work into it. The Pied Piper was a big success.

Big Success for Kilmodan Primary

Kilmodan Primary School has been successful in securing a £12,000 bid from the Tesco Bags for Help project. The funding will enable the community and children to work with a skilled Craft Maker and Learning Facilitator to design a fully functional, creative outdoor learning space to be used by both the school and the wider community. The design process will be supported by a series of active outdoor workshops. The facilitator, community and children will learn and communicate together in a fun way, working together to develop a design that meets all their needs. The brief is a covered, raised, wooden Crannog style structure, a multi-functional play and creative space which will have climbing and activity space built into it.

The structure will be used for outdoor performances, meetings and creative activities, which will increase and augment community integration, cohesion and intergenerational learning and thus the well-being of all involved.

Strone Primary School Christmas Show



Pupils from Strone Primary School performed their Christmas Show 'Away with the Manger' to a full house of parents, families and friends from the local community on Wednesday 14th December. A nativity tale with a comic twist, 'Away with the Manger' gave the children a chance to show off their acting and singing talent, with some great comedy moments, which had the audience crying with laughter. The hard work and hours of rehearsing led by teachers Ms Maclean and Ms Morrison clearly paid off as the feedback was fantastic with many saying the show was the 'best yet'. Once again the creative partnership of Mrs Daw and Mrs Kerr wowed the audience with their brilliant scenery and costumes, which helped bring all the characters to life.

St. Mun's Singalong in the Supermarket!



Children from Primaries 5, 6 and 7 along with their teacher, Mr Brown, enjoyed entertaining Morrison's customers with a range of Christmas Carols.

Teaching and Learning

Contributions to charities

Strachur Primary raises £348.10 for MacMillan



On Friday 30th September Strachur Primary held a MacMillan coffee morning. Primary 1-4 baked fruit loaf that week and Primary 5-7, fairy cakes. These were sold alongside many donations of cakes and home baking from staff and the wider school community. Primary 5-7 served all morning and were delighted with the final total of £348.10 for this very worthwhile cause.

Children in Need Fundraiser at Toward Primary School



Pupils and staff from Toward Primary School dressed up in spots on Friday 18th November 2016 to raise funds for Children In Need and raised £90.65.

Children in Need at Dunoon Primary!



On Friday 11th of November Mrs Macdonald and P7 launched their Children in Need fundraising activities for 2016. During the following week they sold raffle tickets for a Build A Bear Labrador, encouraged pupils to enter the draw a “Sporty Pudsey” Competition and sold Pudsey and Blush badges and bookmarks. On Friday the 18th of November they organised a non-uniform day when pupils could choose to wear something sporty, spotty or yellow in return for a donation to Children in Need. They also held a Big Bake Sale and Pudsey Product Sale.

The total raised in Dunoon Primary on Friday 18th November was the amazing sum of £1015.25 but last week another donation of £2 was received, making our final total £1017.25!!

Mrs Macdonald and P7 would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who supported their fundraising activities.

School Contacts:

School	Head Teacher	Telephone No	Roll (Sept 2016)	Projected Roll	
				17 - 18	18 - 19
Dunoon	Elaine Stewart	01369 704159	188	187	182
Innellan	Lori Radford (Acting) Cathleen Russell- Substantive HT	01369 830560	19	25	32
Kilmodan	Joyce Hawkins	01369 820280	13	12	13
Kirn	Kirsteen MacDonald	01369 702509	250	264	256
Lochgoilhead	Vacancy	01301 703338	24	27	27
North Bute	Helen Hebdon (Acting)	01700 503728	35	39	39
Rothesay	Julie Fisher	01700 503227	278	267	266
Sandbank Gaelic Medium	Graham Dickie (acting)	01369 706350	42	38	37
Sandbank	Graham Dickie (acting)	01369 706350	72	72	65
St Andrew's	Jacqui Shields (Acting)	01700 503123	62	65	58
St Mun's	Lorraine Fisher	01369 703643	135	135	139
Strachur	Julie Henry	01369 860293	42	39	36
Strone	Joyce Hawkins	01369 840242	42	26	36
Tighnabruaich	Fiona Hamilton	01700 811413	31	35	40
Toward	Jaimie Gerrish (acting) Cathleen Russell- Substantive HT	01369 870259	25	27	30