

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. Ms Julie Conlan was appointed as Acting Head Teacher at St Mun's PS in December 2017. The permanent position will be interviewed in May 2018. Mrs Brenda Reid was appointed as Head Teacher at Dunoon Primary School in January 2018. Ms Lisa Marle was appointed as Acting Head Teacher at Toward and Innellan Primary Schools in January 2018. The permanent position will be interviewed in May 2018. Mr James Houston was appointed as Head Teacher at Sandbank Primary School in February 2018. Ms Louise Nicol was appointed as Head of Campus of Rothesay Joint Campus in February 2018.

In January 2018 the official opening of the 'new' Kirn Primary School took place. The £9 million project is built on the existing site, with the 1881 Victorian building being retained and refurbished as part of Argyll and Bute Council's flagship school projects delivered in partnership with hub North Scotland Ltd and the Scottish Futures Trust through the Scottish Government's Schools for the Future Programme. Pupils and staff are now well settled in to the new Kirn and enjoying the bright new classrooms, an atrium library area, sports hall and a multi-use games area with a synthetic surface.

The Standards and Quality report to Community Services, 14 December 2017 provided elected members with important information on the progress made in relation to education within all of Argyll and Bute.

Most recently (March 15, 2018) 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 2016/17.

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 2017-18.

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.

Achievement of a level data June 2017

CLUSTER	STAGE ROLL	STAGE	ELT	ER	EW	N	ROLL	GLT	GR	GW
BUTE	59	P1	88%	76%	73%	88%				
	49	P4	88%	76%	71%	76%				
	57	P7	77%	58%	68%	47%				
COWAL	118	P1	82%	73%	71%	77%	*	83%	83%	83%
	127	P4	76%	70%	62%	65%	*	100%	0%	0%
	103	P7	67%	60%	49%	50%	*	60%	20%	20%
HALCO	254	P1	97%	94%	91%	93%				
	252	P4	92%	85%	81%	84%				
	232	P7	93%	83%	78%	85%				
ISLAY AND JURA	24	P1	100%	92%	79%	75%	*	100%	100%	100%
	34	P4	74%	68%	65%	71%	*	80%	80%	80%
	32	P7	88%	75%	72%	69%	*	100%	100%	100%
MID ARGYLL	72	P1	85%	78%	65%	83%				
	74	P4	84%	84%	72%	74%				
	83	P7	77%	70%	55%	65%				
MULL AND IONA	25	P1	52%	48%	40%	44%	*	25%	25%	25%
	28	P4	79%	75%	64%	93%	*	43%	43%	43%
	32	P7	88%	88%	69%	88%	*	100%	50%	50%
NORTH KINTYRE	17	P1	76%	76%	76%	76%				
	12	P4	50%	58%	58%	58%				
	18	P7	72%	78%	72%	50%				
OLI	162	P1	80%	79%	80%	80%	14	100%	93%	86%
	171	P4	79%	75%	67%	74%	10	100%	100%	70%
	141	P7	84%	84%	75%	87%	*	43%	57%	57%
SOUTH KINTYRE	69	P1	78%	78%	74%	78%				
	83	P4	73%	65%	59%	60%				
	68	P7	74%	76%	66%	69%				

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.

* Pupil numbers are suppressed

The data highlighted in green indicates that this is above the national average for this stage and curricular area.

- Pupils in P1 and P4 have outperformed the national average in listening and talking and numeracy in the Bute Cluster.
- The averages for pupils across the Cowal cluster are below the national average in

each curricular area.

- Curriculum for Excellence expectation or benchmark is that 75% 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.
- The path most children and young people are expected to follow through the above levels reflects the stages of maturation and how they engage with learning as they develop. Some children and young people will start learning at these levels earlier and others later, depending upon individual needs and aptitudes.
- The table below outlines the National expectations of when most children and young people may achieve each level:

CfE Level	Stage
Early	The final two years of early learning and childcare before a child goes to school and P1, or later for some.
First	To the end of P4, but earlier or later for some.
Second	To the end of P7, but earlier or later for some.
Third and fourth	S1-S3, but earlier or later for some.

Further information

2018 National Improvement Framework for Scottish Education –

<https://beta.gov.scot/publications/2018-national-improvement-frameworkimprovement-plan/>

Achievement of CfE Levels 2016/17 document -

<http://www.gov.scot/Resource/0052/00529096.pdf>

National Improvement Framework – 2017 Evidence Report -

<https://beta.gov.scot/publications/national-improvement-framework-scottisheducation-2017-evidence-report/>

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	14	51	113	138		47		28			391
Cowal	109	83	77	200	305	124	15				913
H&L	54	94	114	4	347	43	339	295	348	121	1759
Islay & Jura	10			43		144	19				216
Kintyre North				1	1	98					100
Kintyre South		92	90		157	96	88	2			525
Mid-Argyll	10	1		49	44	220	187		1		512
Mull						124		83			207
OLI	35	20	159	39	127	438	254	188			1260

- 45% of pupils in Bute and 29% of pupils in Cowal live in SIMD1-3. 7% of pupils in Bute live in SIMD8, and there are no pupils who live in SIMD 9 or 10 in Bute or Cowal.

Bute Cluster Primary School Profile 2017-2018

Primary School Roll (as at census) *						
Cluster Primary Schools	13/14	14/15	15/16	16/17	17/18	% change in Roll over 5 years ¹
North Bute Primary School	52	47	41	35	37	-28.85
Rothesay Primary School	229	225	237	275	286	24.89
St Andrew's Primary School	110	103	79	63	61	-44.55
Total Roll for cluster	391	375	357	373	384	-1.79

* 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 2013/2014 to 2017/2018 and is not an average.

- The school roll for the cluster has fallen by 1.79% in the last 5 years. Although there has been an increase in enrolments in North Bute and Rothesay Primary schools.

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

	13/14	14/15	15/16	16/17	17/18²
Clothing and Footwear Grant (CFG) (number of pupils) ²	95	125	118	118	111
Clothing and Footwear Grant (CFG) (% of cluster school roll)	24.3%	33.3%	33.1%	31.6%	28.9%
Total CFG for Primary Schools in Argyll and Bute	1096	1113	891	910	875
Total CFG for Primary Schools as a % of total school roll in Argyll and Bute	19.2%	19.2%	14.6%	15.7%	14.89%
	13/14	14/15	15/16³	16/17	17/18²
Free School Meals (number of pupils)	109	97	87	79	75
Free School Meals (% of cluster school roll)	27.9%	25.9%	24.4%	21.1%	19.5%
Total Free School Meals for Primary Schools in Argyll and Bute	898	856	675	553	581
Total Free School Meals for Primary Schools as a % of total school roll in Argyll and Bute	15.8%	14.8%	11.1%	9.6%	9.9%
National Average for Free School Meals for Primary Schools (%)	20.6%	55.3%	54.1%	53.4%	Not yet collated
National Average for Free School Meals for P4-P7 only (%)	Not collated	Not collated	19.2%	17.9%	Not yet collated

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 2017-2018 data for CFG and Free School Meals (FSM) is to date (March 2018) 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'

- Pupils' uptake of clothing and footwear grant has declined in the last three years. However the percentage of pupils in Bute cluster who benefit from this still remains higher than the local authority average.

Exclusion and Attendance Information for Bute Cluster

	13/14	14/15	15/16	16/17	17/18⁶
Attendance (% of cluster school roll) ⁴	95.44%	94.98%	96.01%	95.3%	96.2%
Unauthorised Absence (% of cluster school roll)	0.55%	0.84%	0.82%	1.39%	1.19%
Authority Average – (%) Primary Schools in Argyll and Bute	95.40%	95.87%	95.52%	95.26%	95.27%
Unauthorised Absence - (%) Primary Schools in Argyll and Bute	0.87%	0.89%	0.98%	1.18%	1.03%
National Average for both Secondary and Primary Pupils (%)⁵	Not collated	93.70%	Not collated	91.1%	Not collated
	13/14	14/15	15/16	16/17	17/18⁷
Exclusion Openings	0	0	0	4	0
Exclusion Incidents	0	0	0	3	0
As a % of Total Argyll and Bute Primary School Exclusion Openings	0%	0%	0%	4%	0%
As a % of Total Argyll and Bute Primary School Exclusion Incidents	0%	0%	0%	10%	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.

- Attendance in the Bute cluster has increased this year, and remains slightly higher than the authority average.
- There have been no exclusions to date this year.

Cowal Cluster Primary School Profile 2017-2018

Primary School Roll (as at census) *						
Cluster Primary Schools	13/14	14/15	15/16	16/17	17/18	% change in Roll over 5 years ¹
Dunoon Primary School	192	196	203	188	189	-1.56
Innellan Primary School	13	8	11	19	26	100
Kilmodan Primary School	17	14	13	13	14	-17.65
Kirn Primary School	199	239	251	250	284	42.71
Lochgoilhead Primary School	28	22	27	24	26	-7.14
Sandbank Primary School	81	80	81	72	72	-11.11
Sandbank Primary School Gaelic Unit	40	39	40	42	38	-5
St Mun's Primary School	129	134	128	135	125	-3.1
Strachur Primary School	54	47	42	42	38	-29.63
Strone Primary School	30	26	31	25	30	0
Tighnabraich Primary School	30	30	28	31	38	26.67
Toward Primary School	37	31	22	25	30	-23.33
Total Roll for cluster	850	866	877	866	910	7.06

* 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 2013/2014 to 2017/2018 and is not an average.

- There have been overall reductions in the school roll in 8 of the cluster schools, although there is an overall increase in the total roll for the cluster.
- There has been a 100% increase in the school roll in Innellan Primary in the last 5 years.
- The greatest drop in school roll was in Strachur Primary.

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

	13/14	14/15	15/16	16/17	17/18²
Clothing and Footwear Grant (CFG) (number of pupils) ²	259	247	197	212	208
Clothing and Footwear Grant (CFG) (% of cluster school roll)	30.5%	28.5%	22.5%	24.5%	22.9%
Total CFG for Primary Schools in Argyll and Bute	1096	1113	891	910	875
Total CFG for Primary Schools as a % of total school roll in Argyll and Bute	19.2%	19.2%	14.6%	15.7%	14.89%
	13/14	14/15	15/16³	16/17	17/18²
Free School Meals (number of pupils)	194	187	83	135	142
Free School Meals (% of cluster school roll)	22.8%	21.6%	9.5%	15.6%	15.6%
Total Free School Meals for Primary Schools in Argyll and Bute	898	856	675	553	581
Total Free School Meals for Primary Schools as a % of total school roll in Argyll and Bute	15.8%	14.8%	11.1%	9.6%	9.9%
National Average for Free School Meals for Primary Schools (%)	20.6%	55.3%	54.1%	53.4%	Not yet collated
National Average for Free School Meals for P4-P7 only (%)	Not collated	Not collated	19.2%	17.9%	Not yet collated

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 2017-2018 data for CFG and Free School Meals (FSM) is to date (March 2018) 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'

- Pupils' uptake of clothing and footwear grant has declined in the last three years. However the percentage of pupils in Cowal cluster who benefit from this still remains higher than the local authority average.

Exclusion and Attendance Information for Cowal Cluster

	13/14	14/15	15/16	16/17	17/18⁶
Attendance (% of cluster school roll) ⁴	95.70%	95.16%	95.04%	94.91%	94.07%
Unauthorised Absence (% of cluster school roll)	0.79%	0.96%	1.11%	1.39%	1.11%
Authority Average – (%) Primary Schools in Argyll and Bute	95.40%	95.87%	95.52%	95.26%	95.27%
Unauthorised Absence - (%) Primary Schools in Argyll and Bute	0.87%	0.89%	0.98%	1.18%	1.03%
National Average for both Secondary and Primary Pupils (%)⁵	Not collated	93.70%	Not collated	91.1%	Not collated
	13/14	14/15	15/16	16/17	17/18⁷
Exclusion Openings	35	50	25	36	3
Exclusion Incidents	11	9	7	9	1
As a % of Total Argyll and Bute Primary School Exclusion Openings	17.3%	43.9%	51%	37.1%	15.8%
As a % of Total Argyll and Bute Primary School Exclusion Incidents	17.7%	33.3%	53.8%	31.03%	16.7%

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.

- Attendance in the Cowal cluster has decreased slightly this year, and remains slightly lower than the authority average.
- There has been a reduction in the number of exclusion incidents this year, and is slightly lower than the authority average.

Early Years Update

Children and families within Bute and Cowal access Local Authority Early Learning and Childcare (ELC) offered as either a morning or afternoon session.

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. At present, children aged three and four and some two year olds access 600 hours of ELC per year. An ELC Delivery Plan has been developed to plan the implementation of 1140 hours of ELC in Argyll and Bute. As part of this plan, a survey was carried out to find out what parents wanted to help shape future provision in Argyll and Bute. A total of 577 parents responded, with 58% of parents showing a preference for ELC provision which follows the school year – eg. a pattern of provision which follows the school day during term time. 40% of parents wanted ELC provision across the year – both within the school term and during the holidays. This data was able to inform the development of the proposed Argyll and Bute ELC delivery model:

Local Authority Proposed ELC Delivery Model

When developing a service model for ELC for local authority provision, the following elements were taken into consideration:

- The needs of parents and families within ELC clusters across Argyll and Bute.
- The sustainability of partner providers which provide much valued wraparound childcare within the towns and surrounding areas of Argyll and Bute.
- The sociodemographic profile of each of the ELC clusters.
- Projected economic development within ELC clusters.

This information was gathered through a robust mapping exercise within each of the localities of Argyll and Bute. It was then used as a basis for proposing two service models for local authority ELC expansion:

Model One - ELC provision which matches the school day, offering term time provision and totalling 30 hours per week – this model will be used in smaller settings where it would not be financially viable to open for extended hours. This model will also

be used if there are partner providers within the local area which already offer wraparound ELC provision and there is sufficient capacity to meet local need.

Model Two - ELC provision which runs from 8.30 – 5.30 every day, throughout the year, offering flexibility of uptake this model will be used in larger local authority settings where there are no partner providers offering wraparound ELC within the local area and there is a demand for such provision.

Phasing Delivery of ELC in Bute and Cowal

It is important to 'test' plans for delivery of ELC in 2020. As stated in previous reports, the Scottish Government is funding two 1140 hours trials in Argyll and Bute – one in Tobermory and one in Tiree. Additional capital and revenue funding from the Scottish Government will be utilised to phase increased ELC hours to a range of settings across Argyll and Bute over the next three years.

Again we looked at the following elements in planning to phase our expansion of ELC within Argyll and Bute:

- The needs of parents and families within ELC clusters across Argyll and Bute.
- The sustainability of partner providers which provide much valued wraparound childcare within the towns and surrounding areas of Argyll and Bute.
- The sociodemographic profile of each of the ELC clusters – using the SIMD profile of each nursery.
- Projected economic development within ELC clusters.
- Availability of workforce.

Plans for the phased expansion of ELC also include the use of partner providers, local authority providers and childminders when increasing provision to 1140 hours. So far, clusters of settings within Bute and Cowal and Mid Argyll have been used which have met the criteria listed above and were ready to begin implementation with minimum changes to provision. Settings engaging in this first phase of expansion as of January 2018 are as follows:

Isle of Bute Cluster

Rothesay Pre5 Campus – Term time 9.00am – 3.00pm Monday to Friday.

Rothesay Playgroup – Term time 9.00am – 3.00pm Monday to Friday.

Apple Tree Nursery – 50 weeks 2 sessions per day 4.5 hour sessions.

M Williams Childminder - Term time Monday to Friday to suit parents.

Cairndow Cluster

Strachur Primary Pre5 – Term time 9.00am – 3.00pm Monday to Friday.

Cairndow Community Childcare – flexible model to suit individual to parents 48 weeks per year.

Home 2 Home Childminders - Term time Monday to Friday to suit parents.

J MacDonald Childminder - Term time Monday to Friday to suit parents.

Learning from ELC Phased Expansion

- Rothesay Campus have been working with Education Scotland using the Children's Voice to evaluate Partnerships within the 1140 hours.
- At least one parent from a Partner Provider is saving around £180 per month by accessing the 1140 hours.
- Rothesay Campus ELC are accessing beach school twice a week, forest school once a week and the Library twice a week.
- Strachur ELC are joining the Elderly Hub weekly in the Memorial Hall for snack and keep fit.
- Four childminders are delivering ELC in a 'blended' model.
- We know of one parent who has accessed a short course and has now started up her own small business.
- Cluster transition meetings have been held with childminders and nursery.
- As parent confidence grows with the capability and adaptability of the settings providing 1140 hours the uptake continues to grow - for example, one child initially accessing two full days is now using four full days.
- Services provided feedback that children and staff have really enjoyed the first term and children are thriving.
- We have worked closely with our catering colleagues who are providing a popular hot food service, accommodating paid and free school meals.

Next Steps

Plans are in place to phase in the expansion of ELC to more settings across Argyll and Bute in preparation for full implementation in August 2020. However, this will be dependent on receiving the appropriate funding from the Scottish Government.

For more information on expansion of ELC in Bute and Cowal, please contact Ailsa Dominick – ailsa.dominick@argyll-bute.gov.uk
[For information on the expansion of ELC across Argyll and Bute, contact Alison MacKenzie-
Alison.mackenzie@argyll-bute.gov.uk](#)

Workforce Development

The Early Years Service offers all practitioners free access to a wide range of professional development training – ranging from centrally based training days in Inveraray to support sessions within and across ELC settings.

We also held a number of CPD courses locally across Bute and Cowal:

- Paediatric First Aid
- Bringing Picture Books to Life
- Literacy and Numeracy Twilights
- Childminder Network Meetings

In addition to the above CPD opportunities, the Early Years Service offered local training around Bookbug and held 'Bookbug Explorer Effective Gifting' sessions in Rothesay and Dunoon.

Building our ELC Workforce

The Service is currently working in partnership with Argyll and Bute's Learning and Development Team, Skills Development Scotland (SDS) and secondary schools across the local authority to deliver a Foundation Apprenticeship in Social Services Children and Young People (SSCYP). There will be 10 places available initially, starting in August 2018. Timetabled into students' choices for S5 and S6, year 1 will comprise 5 units towards the national progression award and year 2 will include nursery placements for 1 day each week.

A bid has also been submitted to SDS to deliver 6 Modern Apprenticeships in SVQ3 (SSCYP). Commencing in August 2018, this will be offered as a two year apprenticeship where students are supernumerary and paid a salary as they work towards their Practitioner qualification within Local Authority nurseries. In future years, if a student successfully completes the Foundation Apprenticeship in S5 and S6, he or she could subsequently complete the Modern Apprenticeship in one year. The Early Years Service will also be working with Argyll College and the Council's Lead Officer 16+ to raise the profile and attractiveness of the sector and actively increase diversity.

For more information on EY workforce Development and transitions, please contact Linda Bugar – linda.bugar@argyll-bute.gov.uk

Family Learning

The following regular family groups are on offer to parents by the local authority across the Bute and Cowal area:

- Roots of Empathy (delivered within some schools in the Bute and Cowal Area to children in Primary 1-3).
- Bookbug.
- Psychology of Parenting Programme (PoPP).

- ‘Help Your Wean to Toilet Train’ - packs of books were delivered to every nursery and Parent and Toddler Group in Cowal along with supporting information/play sessions for parents and children.
- ‘Bute’s Big Bedtime Read’ - bookcases and packs of books were delivered to all the nurseries to support early literacy and family learning.

Cowal Family Pathway – ELC

We are working on:

- Continuing to develop sharing of information between health visitor and ELC manager prior to children starting ELC.
- Work closely with Health Visitors as part of ‘Health Visiting Pathway’ developments.
- Further developing the Argyll and Bute ‘ELC Learning and Development Framework’ within ELC settings.

For more information on Family Learning in the Bute and Cowal area, please contact Ailsa Dominick – ailsa.dominick@argyll-bute.gov.uk

ELC - Learning and Development

As part of the Education Strategy ‘Our Children, Their Future’, the Argyll and Bute ‘ELC 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 has been 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

The Early Years Service gathers data twice a year to find out how children are progressing within their milestones. In Bute and Cowal, the data shows us that 38% of our four year olds had already met all of their developmental milestones by the end of December 2017.

There are currently 15 settings which provide ELC throughout Bute and Cowal. At the end of March 2018, 80% had been graded '4' (good) or above as a result of Care Inspectorate inspections.

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.

Some developments in the cluster for health and wellbeing this session included the following:

- Twilight sessions were held across cluster schools to introduce 'Connections' PE resource, with staff taking part in practical activities to experience some of the activities.
- 'Connections' is an up to date PE resource for schools to support staff across different levels of knowledge and confidence to ensure that children receive the high quality experiences in physical education that will help them develop the skills, knowledge, confidence and motivation for lifelong physical activity.
- This session, support was given to schools to develop 'Better Movers and Thinkers' as an approach to teaching and learning in PE. 'Better Movers and Thinkers' represents an evolution in PE as we learn more about the process of learning and the links between movement and academic achievement. Some schools are now using this approach across other aspects of teaching and learning. Lochgoilhead Primary have been developing this and working with Parklands School to help develop this for pupils with more complex needs.
- At the February 2018 INSET day schools across the Cowal cluster focused on developing PE approaches including 'Better Movers and Thinkers', and the "Connections" Pack with staff participating in practical sessions to see what it felt like to be the learner.
- This session, P6 pupils across the cluster were involved in the drama production, 'Smoke Free Me', with follow up lessons by class teachers, after the production to emphasis and discuss further the topics from the drama.

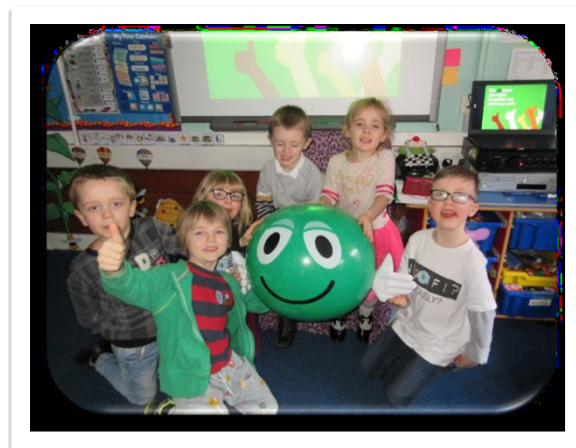
Inter-schools volleyball tournament

Cowal cluster schools hold an annual inter-schools volleyball tournament. This year Strachur Primary were crowned the winners.



'Speak out Stay Safe'

In January 2018 pupils at Lochgoilhead Primary received a very important visitor from the NSPCC. Buddy from the 'Speak Out, Stay Safe.' programme led a workshop and assembly to raise awareness of the importance of being kind and looking out for each other. Other important issues covered included understanding that ChildLine is always there to support every child.



'Better Movers Better Thinkers' (BMT)

Pupils at Lochgoilhead Primary School were trained in BMT programme which challenges a wide range of skills with regard to mental agility, coordination and concentration with research firmly supporting the benefits of this programme not just in PE but in the classroom across all curriculum areas. Every year group from the Pre-5s through to Primary 7 were able to participate in a session led by Rona Young, PE Lead Officer for Argyll and Bute Council.



'Childsmile'

At Strachur Primary School Fiona Duncan, Oral Health Improvement Practitioner visited both primary classes to talk about dental hygiene. No visit from Fiona is complete without a demonstration of how to brush your teeth with 'Puff the Dragon'.



The children learned about the amount of sugar and acid in drinks - even flavoured

water. We discussed sugary snacks and learned the best time to have these.

GIRFEC

In February Strachur PS pupils worked in house groups to learn more about “Getting It Right for Every Child” (GIRFEC). Pupils explore the 7 wellbeing indicators - Safe; Healthy; Achieving; Nurtured; Active; Respected; Responsible and Included led by Mrs McKellar.

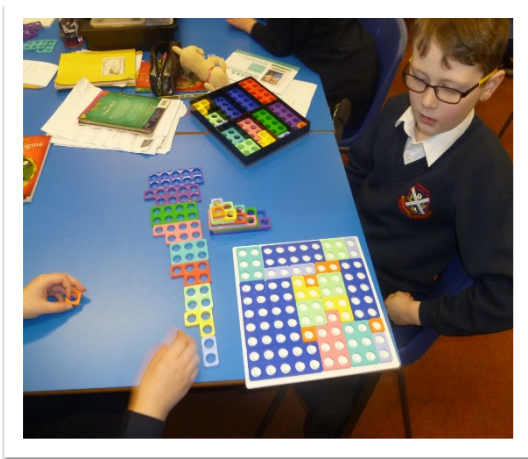


Numeracy

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.

In September 2017 the Authority commenced a Numeracy pilot, working with West Dumbarton, focusing on the Stages of Early Arithmetical Learning (SEAL) with 10 schools across the Authority. Within Cowal; Dunoon, Sandbank and Kirn Primary Schools are involved in this pilot. The training focuses on the pedagogy supporting the early acquisition of numeracy skills. The Authority have purchased resources to support schools with effective numeracy strategies including Number Talks and Numicon. Training for these resources has been offered to all schools through school visits and our twilight programme, tailored for each Cluster. In the Bute and Cowal area, 6 primary schools are currently using Numicon resources provided by the authority to support their pupils. Many of our schools took part in Maths Week in September 2017, making maths engaging and fun.

Numicon



This session Dunoon Primary invested in Numicon training and resources to support numeracy teaching and learning across the school. The aim is to embed the use of Numicon in primaries 1, 2 & 3, while the older classes will use it to introduce new learning in specific areas of maths. All class teachers and support staff attended a full days training in February.

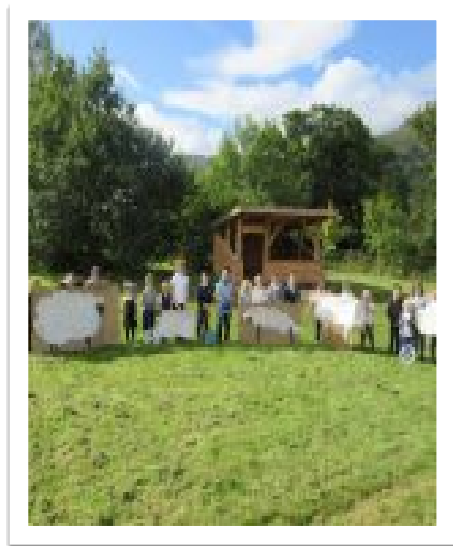
'Math – No Problem'



At St Andrews and North Bute Primary Schools on Bute a new approach to numeracy and mathematics has been introduced this session. "Math - No Problem" (sometimes called Singapore Maths) is a programme designed to focus on a conceptual understanding of mathematics and encouraging a love of maths.



As part of 'Maths Week' pupils across the primary at Rothesay primary took part in a school challenge. Pre-five pupils counted leaves at Mount Stuart; P2 pupils measured their height with duplo blocks and P6 pupils worked out how many shoes were needed to fill the classroom - the answer was **928** shoes. They calculated the area of the classroom using shoes and then with metre sticks worked out the actual area.



Lochgoilhead Primary School participated in Maths Week with some exciting enquiry based learning. As soon as the pupils arrived on Monday morning, they attended an assembly where they were all invited to help solve a problem. The grass surrounding the school was too long and needed to be ready by Friday for a sports event. In the end, the pupils agreed that the local farms held the answer and that sheep could be brought in to help. This raised many further questions as the groups had to now work out how many sheep would be needed as well as what type of sheep would be best. The trundle wheels helped each group work out the measurements required to then calculate the area.

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 and lays the foundations for lifelong learning and work. Literacy promotes 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.

In June 2017, the Authority launched a Literacy pilot, focusing on the Early Acquisition of Literacy (for further information refer to ABLE2 website, <https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/glowblogs/able/>). This project focuses on the importance of providing opportunities to develop the early skills for reading and writing, including listening, talking, engaging with music, movement and memory and engaging with stories. One school in Cowal is taking part in this pilot, Tighnabruich Primary. The feedback gathered so far from staff, parents and pupils has been very positive.

In January 2018, we launched a Northern Alliance Literacy Pilot which involves 13 schools across the Authority. This project involves P1 classes and the approaches used share many similarities with Authority guidance. Five schools are taking part in this pilot from Bute and Cowal: Kirn, St Muns, Rothesay, Tighnabruaich and Strachur.

Accelerated reading at Kirn PS

In December 2017 Kirn Primary introduced Accelerated Reading ('AR') in the upper classes, a new approach to teaching and learning of reading which is designed to improve reading enjoyment while ensuring that pupils are reading books at the right level for them. AR is a computer programme which helps teachers manage and monitor children's independent reading practice. Preliminary results demonstrate that AR had led to high levels of pupil engagement and an increased reading age among pupils in a 3 month period.



World Book Day 2018

At Dunoon Primary School pupils took up the challenge of dressing up as their favourite book characters to celebrate World Book Day.



'Paws and Read'

In Rothesay Joint Campus Primary School pupils were visited by Rhodri Therapy Dog to help support their reading as part of the 'Paws and Read' project. The basis of this project is that through contact with a suitably calm dog, children can benefit educationally and emotionally. By having a 'Reading Dog' at Rothesay Primary School, the aim is to encourage the children who are less confident when reading to enjoy reading to a friendly audience. By taking part in such an activity, those children who are vulnerable or hesitant can look forward to reading and see this special time as a treat.



Author visit at Innellan PS

In Autumn 2017 Innellan primary were learning about Ancient Scotland for their Interdisciplinary Learning topic, including learning about the history of our local Argyll and wider Scotland area from the Stone Age to the Iron Age. The class was so excited to learn about a newly released book this year by a local Gourock author called Meghan Murray. Meghan's book, 'Maggie and the Magic Bookcase – The Prehistoric Chronical'. As all the children thoroughly enjoyed the book, pupils invited Meghan to visit the class to share her inspiration for the story and passion for local history. A great morning was had by all, and the pupils asked excellent questions as well as shared a good deal about what they had also learnt about local history.

1+2 Languages

The Language learning: 1+2 approach is now well underway in the Bute and Cowal clusters

- All primary schools are delivering French as L2 from P1 onwards.
 - Sandbank PS, Tighnabruaich PS and Strachur PS are delivering Gaelic as L3.
 - Kilmodan PS and Strone PS are planning to introduce L3 Spanish through an IDL project in April 2018.
 - The other schools in the area are in the planning stages of implementing L3 from P5 onwards.
 - All 3 primary schools on Bute are delivering French as L2 from P1 onwards.
 - Rothesay Joint Campus (primary) are delivering blocks of Italian, Arabic and Spanish as L3. North Bute PS are delivering Spanish as L3.
- The cluster has a Language Leader, who supports local schools and holds termly Languages cluster meetings.
- During 2017/18 the cluster has been offered various training options:
 - In an inter-authority collaboration, Maryse Payen-Roy, staff tutor for Glasgow City Council delivered a series of twilight sessions for beginners (Jan 2017).
 - Teachers participated in French beginners' (Year 1 Key Language of PLS) twilight sessions during Sept 2017. This block of 4 sessions was delivered via VC.
 - French (Year 2 Key Language of PLS) twilight sessions were delivered in Cowal in Nov 2017.
- One teacher from Cowal is enrolled on the French Open University pilot course for primary practitioners. This course is designed for beginners and is offered for French, Spanish and German. Based on feedback, this training opportunity will continue to be offered in 2018/19
- Two teachers from Cowal have completed the GLPS 18 day course, in Stirling, this year. This training opportunity will continue to be available next year.
- A teacher from Cowal accessed Gaelic beginners' training, via VC, when this course was being delivered in Oban.
- One teacher from Bute is enrolled on the French Open University pilot course for primary practitioners. This course is designed for beginners and is offered for French, Spanish and German. Based on feedback, this training opportunity will continue to be offered in 2018/19.
- RJC has hosted a French student teacher for a two week placement in Feb 2018. This was organised in conjunction with our French local authority partners, Amiens.
- In 2017, Kirn PS hosted a French student teacher for a 2 week placement. This was organised with our French local authority partners, Amiens. This was a very successful visit and a similar visit is taking place on Bute in 2018.
- The Cowal area took part in the P7/S1 French Comic Book Transition Project in 2017 and will continue to build on this in 2018. There is a positive relationship between the primary and secondary sectors within the area. This joint project has helped to build effective transition links, in conjunction with sharing assessment passports and regular communication during cluster meetings.



Every year, the French Institute of Scotland organises 'le concours de la francophonie': a national French drama competition for learners across Scotland. This competition is designed to value creativity in French and allow a large participation of all primary and secondary schools. Learners are invited to film a short piece, dialogue, song, or play in French. The competition is organised in two phases: local authorities choose their local champions and then a national jury selects the winners. This year the P1 class of Kirn Primary School won second place in the National French drama competition.



At Rothesay Joint Campus pupils and staff in Primary 2 have been learning a third language - as well as English and French, they are learning Makaton. Makaton is a spoken sign language that has finger spelling as well as special signs for words and phrases. Children in the pre-five unit are also learning Makaton with plans in place to continue to develop this throughout the primary stages.

Digital Learning

This session pupils from nine cluster primary schools have had training sessions from the Digital Learning Team led by Gary Clark. The sessions have included learning on Stop Motion and Green Screen, SPRK+, Painting & Parrot Mini-drones, Lego and Book Creator. Since January 2017 the Digital Learning Team has visited every primary school in Bute and Cowal.



In September 2017 pupils from Dunoon Primary School attended the Scottish Learning Festival to showcase their mobile app called “Our Children Their Future” which provided information about Argyll & Bute Council’s Education Service Vision and Strategy. The pupils spoke confidently to members of the public and explained how they created the app.

In December 2017 pupil Digital Leaders from Kirn PS, Tighnabruaich, Innellan, St Muns, Dunoon Primary, Sandbank and Strone and Kilmodan Primary Schools attended a Digital Leaders Event in the Burgh Hall Dunoon when they learned about SPRK+, LEGO, Kodu, Minecraft, BBC micro:bit, Book Creator and Green Screen. This whole day session enabled the Digital Leaders to return to their schools and share their learning with younger pupils.

In January 2018 Strachur pupils in Primary 4-7 experienced an interactive stop animation workshop. They also had a go at using green screen and then shared what they had learned with the P1-3 class.



Outdoor Learning

Providing more outdoor learning opportunities at Lochgoilhead Primary was a key initiative this session. Pupils have been working closely with Ardroy Outdoor Learning Centre and are taking part in the John Muir Discovery Award. Pupils have been learning about local wildlife and learning about 'food webs'.

Kilmodan, Toward & Innellan and Tighnabruaich Primary Schools pupils have regular opportunities throughout the session to take part in Forest Schools outdoor learning.



At Toward Primary School sessions have included picking brambles, making fires, pitta pizzas and building willow structures in the field next to the school.



At Rothesay Joint Campus Primary pupils have had opportunities to learn outdoors including: Forest Schools at Mount Stuart, Beach Schools at Etrick Bay; Young Leaders – playground activities at lunch breaks; Ardentenny Outdoor Centre for P7; Numeracy, literacy frequently taught outdoors; Eco Day – outdoor activities (willow work, bug hotels, composting, wormeries); BBC Big Bird Watch.

Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM)

In March 2018 pupils in Lochgoilhead PS started to prepare for UK Waste Week. P1 to P7 pupils went on a fact finding mission by hunting round the school for 10 Fact Cards that had been hidden. The cards related to research sheets that each pupil had been given. Prior to the fact finding hunt, everyone had to 'guesstimate' what they thought the answers might be. The findings were simply staggering when it was revealed how much food and packaging is wasted across the UK on a daily and annual basis. The children took home advice sheets and tips on how to reduce waste.

At Kilmodan Primary School pupils learned this session about Chemical and Physical reactions. They tried several different science experiments to learn about the differences between chemical and physical reactions.



On Bute pupils in St Andrews and North Bute primary schools pupils have learned engineering skills this session working on making either a shoe box car or a battery operated wooden car from scratch.



Developing the Young Workforce

Kilmodan and Strone Primary Schools joined forces this session to organise a 'World of Work' project involving the local business community.

- Whitton's of Strone gave the children a variety of hands on practical skill workshops of carpentry, plumbing, bricklaying and electrical work all within the school grounds.
- Hunters Quay Holiday village welcomed Strone Primary to show off the many jobs on offer at the village.
- Colintrave Hotel welcomed Kilmodan pupils and demonstrated the many skills required to work in the hospitality industry.
- The curator of the Castle Museum in Dunoon came to visit Strone Primary.
- A visit to the Colintrave Heritage centre with a local tour guide was organised for the Kilmodan Primary children.
- Young entrepreneur Sam Colley of SAMTEQ visited with Louisa Grant from the Majestic Line to illustrate just how these local, small businesses grew into national and internationally renowned companies.
- A local hairdresser and beauty therapist visited each school demonstrating practical activities within each workshop.
- Kilmodan Primary were also treated to a really interesting workshop from the Dunoon Observer.

Through this project pupils from both schools developed skills for learning, life and work and were given the opportunity to engage and create networks with members of our local business community which will hopefully in the future help children to be able to identify career choices and job opportunities within the Cowal area.



Expressive Arts

In November 2017 Sandbank Primary School held their annual school art show with the focus this year being on Scottish artist and autumn themed art. Every art piece had a unique style.



The children of Toward Primary School performed the fantastic show 'Lights, Camel, Action' for their Christmas performance. Lights, Camel, Action is based around the idea of the BBC – the 'Bethlehem Broadcasting Company' – recording a special edition of their dance show in the very stable where Jesus was born. The children really engaged with the

songs and script and it gave them a great opportunity to showcase their talents.

At Lochgoilhead Primary School pupils were treated to a masterclass in Scottish folk music. The sound of the accordion

filled the school and had everyone tapping their feet. The children also participated in a selection of ceilidh dances and the whole session lasted 90 minutes.



filled the school and had everyone tapping

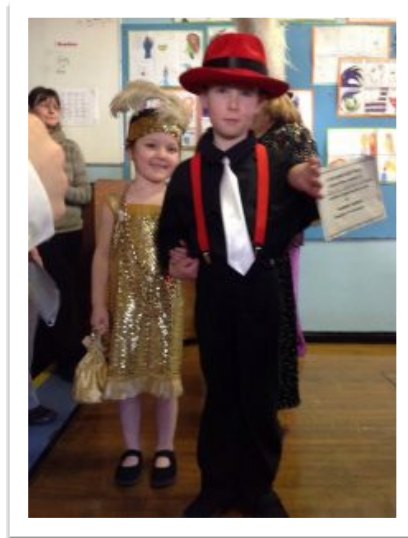


In January 2018 the upper school classes at Sandbank Primary treated guests to an afternoon of Scottish celebrations last week. The Gaelic P 4-7, P5 and P6-7 classes joined forces to wow the audience with an array of performances, including

bag pipes, fiddle, drums, piano, chanter, poetry recitals and highland dancing. One highlight of the afternoon was a rendition of the Gaelic song 'Seallaibh Curaigh Eoghainn' by mainstream and Gaelic children, and a trio of tunes from pipers.

Primary performed 'Mystery at Magpie Manor', a show set in the 1920's. Lord Pica and Lady Pica and their flapper daughters and grandmamma have to save their Manor house so they plan to sell the family silver. During the auction the family silver gets stolen. A fantastic learning experience for all pupils who performed the show in both a matinee and evening performance.

In February 2018, pupils at Strone



Interdisciplinary Learning

In October 2017 schools from across Cowal participated in the 'Call to Arms' exhibition in the Dunoon Burgh Hall which commemorated the centenary of the mobilisation of troops from Cowal in the Great War. The exhibition featured museum exhibits, research documents and school projects. The two days of the conference features film shows, a concert, a theatre show, School workshops and finally a parade over the week.



As part of the exhibition local schools were invited to design WW1 relics. P6 Pupils from Dunoon Primary School were presented with their prizes by Lord Robertson and the Queens Executive Lord Robert Stewart.



Community Partnership

Pupils at Strachur welcome community members from the Rotary in Dunoon in for a lunchtime chess club every second Monday.



Closer link have been fostered this session with community partnerships and Lochgoilhead PS including the following: link with Ardroy Outdoor Learning Centre, Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park; Lochgoilhead Fire Service and local police. Local community members have offered to share their time, experience and expertise with visits this session from local artists, gardeners, sailors and a digital artist who worked on the recent Star Wars film.

At Tighnabruaich Primary School community partnerships are being fostered with Kilfinan Forest , the local Art Gallery, Kames Hotel, Botanica, RNLI, the Horticultural society, Art club, Tighnabruaich Sailing school, the local dementia group, Church, Halfwayhouse.

At Rothesay Primary School community partnerships have been fostered with many organisations providing innovative and exciting learning opportunities for pupils including: class visits to the Mount Stuart archive; regular visits to the Bute Museum; Emergency Services visits to local branches (police, fire service, ambulance service & coastguard); Youth Forum visits discussing Year of the Young People; Fine Futures 'Bute Produce' visits and consultation with CBS construction and links with the Rothesay Pavilion.



At Kirn Primary School community partnerships have continued to be developed this session

- Following the official opening of the new school the local community were invited into to have a tour of the building.
- Members of the Rotary club support the lunch time chess club each week. This has gone from strength to strength and children of all ages access this club.
- Plans are being developed to work with the Men's Shed and local firm Architeco in developing the school grounds, following the move into the new building.
- Links with our local business partner and West Coast Motors creating a Bus Route Food trail to be launched this Spring as part of a successful Food for Thought grant. Staff and pupils were invited to make a presentation about this recently at the Scottish Parliament.
- At Christmas the Community Lunch was a great success, welcoming around 70 local people to enjoy class performances and Christmas Lunch.
- Close links are being developed with EnviroKirn.
- Close links are being with Cowal Carers who come in regularly at lunchtimes to support our pupils.
- Pupils from Dunoon Grammar School are timetabled to support in classes as part of their work experience programme.

Charities

In Strachur Primary the Pupil Council did a fantastic job organizing and running the Spring Tea in March 2018 raising £104.63 for The Autistic Society. Pupils also raised £38.56 for Sports Relief with the Pupil Council taking the lead, organizing various sporting activities outside in the afternoon.



At St Mun's Primary School pupils worked hard during Lent 2018 to raise money for two important charities: SCIAF and The Cowal Hospice Trust. Each class chose their own activities to raise money which included an Easter Egg Tombola; a Bring and Buy Sale; competitions; an Easter Egg Hunt; creation and sale of a Recipe Book and hosting a Coffee Morning for parents of the school and parishioners of Our Lady and St Mun's Church.

Kirn Primary School pupils raised funds this session for a variety of charities including Olly's Wee Bothy (£700); Children in Need (£574.42) and Poppy Scotland - £122.72. At Christmas pupils delivered Christmas gifts 'Love in a Box' to some of the elderly people within the Kirn Community.

School Contacts

School	Head Teacher	Telephone No
Dunoon	Brenda Reid	01369 704159
Innellan	Lisa Marle AHT	01369 830560
Kilmodan	Victoria Greenway AHT (Joyce Hawkin substantive HT)	01369 820280
Kirn	Kirsteen MacDonald	01369 702509
Lochgoilhead	Martin Coogan	01301 703338
North Bute	Andy Ridgeway	01700 503728
Rothesay	Louise Nicol	01700 503227
Sandbank Gaelic Medium	Jamie Houston	01369 706350
Sandbank	Jamie Houston	01369 706350
St Andrew's	Andy Ridgeway	01700 503123
St Mun's	Julie Conlan AHT	01369 703643
Strachur	Julie McKellar	01369 860293
Strone	Joyce Hawkin	01369 840242
Tighnabruaich	Fiona Hamilton	01700 811413
Toward	Lisa Marle AHT	01369 870259