

Argyll and Bute Council



Teaching and Learning 3 - 12



Oban, Lorn and the Isles Primary Schools 2014/15

Community Services: Education

Primary School Profiles: Oban, Lorn and the Isles

Primary School Roll (as at census) *						
Cluster Primary Schools	10/11	11/12	12/13	13/14	14/15	% change in Roll over 5 years ¹
Achaleven Primary School	8	0	4	5	9	12.5
Ardchattan Primary School	5	3	3	4	0	-100.0
Arinagour Primary School	25	30	27	30	24	-4.0
Barcaldine Primary School	23	21	17	10	4	-82.6
Bunessan Primary School	36	34	44	40	42	16.7
Dalmally Primary School	46	42	44	43	36	-21.7
Dunbeg Primary School	79	76	73	76	81	2.5
Easdale Primary School	33	29	28	33	26	-21.2
Iona Primary School	6	13	7	13	17	183.3
Kilchattan Primary School	6	6	5	5	9	50.0
Kilchrenan Primary School	10	10	8	7	4	-60.0
Kilninver Primary School	29	24	22	25	27	-6.9
Lismore Primary School	8	10	8	9	9	12.5
Lochnell Primary School	92	96	101	112	109	18.5
Luing Primary School	17	17	12	15	14	-17.6
Park Primary School	212	225	230	223	230	8.5
Rockfield Gaelic Primary School	37	34	37	40	48	29.7
Rockfield Primary School	272	285	298	304	320	17.6
St Columba's Primary School	85	83	81	78	83	-2.4
Strath of Appin Primary School	22	26	27	29	30	36.4
Strath of Appin Gaelic Primary School	5	6	4	4	3	-40.0
Taynuilt Primary School	88	81	81	83	91	3.4
Tiree Gaelic Primary School	22	22	21	22	23	4.5
Tiree Primary School	28	22	23	25	29	3.6
Total Roll for cluster	1156	1162	1171	1196	1235	6.8

Notes

* 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 2010/2011 to 2014/2015 and is not an average.

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

	10/11	11/12	12/13	13/14	14/15
Clothing and Footwear Grant (CFG) (number of pupils) ²	231	233	190	236	196
Clothing and Footwear Grant (CFG) (% of cluster school roll)	20.0%	20.1%	16.2%	19.7%	15.9%
Total CFG for Primary Schools in Argyll and Bute	1119	1118	947	1096	1113
Total CFG for Primary Schools as a % of total school roll in Argyll and Bute	19.2%	19.3%	16.6%	19.2%	19.2%

	10/11	11/12 ³	12/13	13/14	14/15
Free School Meals (number of pupils)	181	0	168	174	152
Free School Meals (% of cluster school roll)	15.7%	0	14.3%	14.5%	12.3%
Total Free School Meals for Primary Schools in Argyll and Bute	870	0	871	898	856
Total Free School Meals for Primary Schools as a % of total school roll in Argyll and Bute	14.9%	0	15.2%	15.8%	14.8%
National Average for Free School Meals for Primary Schools (%)	19.8%	22.6%	22.1%	22.0%	Not yet collated

Notes

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 2014-2015 data for CFG and Free School Meals (FSM) is to date (March 2015) and therefore may change as the year progresses.

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

National Averages for Free School Meals have been taken from 'Summary statistics for attainment, leaver destinations and healthy living, No. 3: 2013 Edition'

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

	10/11	11/12	12/13	13/14	14/15 ⁶
Attendance (% of cluster school roll) ⁴	95.34%	95.64%	95.12%	95.60%	94.76%
Unauthorised Absence (% of cluster school roll)	1.19%	1.10%	1.16%	1.09%	1.21%
Authority Average – (%) Primary Schools in Argyll and Bute	95.25%	95.74%	95.40%	95.87%	95.42%
National Average for both Secondary and Primary Pupils (%)⁵	0.75%	0.79%	0.87%	0.89%	0.89%
	10/11	11/12	12/13	13/14	14/15 ⁷
Exclusion Openings	18	6	2	6	2
Exclusion Incidents	5	1	2	3	1
As a % of Total Argyll and Bute Primary School Exclusion Openings	4.2%	1.6%	0.7%	3.0%	1.4%
As a % of Total Argyll and Bute Primary School Exclusion Incidents	5.0%	1.1%	10%	4.8%	2.9%

Notes

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 2011/2012 or 2013/2014 academic year.

6: Please note that attendance data for 2014-2015 is for the year to date and not a complete year. It is therefore subject to change.

7: Please note that exclusion data for 2014-2015 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.4 | 2013 Edition, 11th December, 2013 (amended 11th February 2014).

Primary School Profiles: Mull

Primary School Roll (as at census) *						
Cluster Primary Schools	10/11	11/12	12/13	13/14	14/15	% change in Roll over 5 years ¹
Dervaig Primary School	14	20	24	29	25	78.6
Lochdonhead Primary School	12	17	13	9	9	-25.0
Salen Primary School	28	30	26	27	33	17.9
Salen Gaelic Primary School	29	30	32	36	38	31.0
Tobermory Primary School	67	69	66	62	61	-9.0
Ulva Primary School	8	10	11	12	12	50.0
Total Roll for cluster	158	176	172	175	178	12.7

Notes

* 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 2010/2011 to 2014/2015 and is not an average.



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

	10/11	11/12	12/13	13/14	14/15
Clothing and Footwear Grant (CFG) (number of pupils) ²	13	9	8	8	5
Clothing and Footwear Grant (CFG) (% of cluster school roll)	8.2%	5.1%	4.7%	4.6%	2.8%
Total CFG for Primary Schools in Argyll and Bute	1119	1118	947	1096	1113
Total CFG for Primary Schools as a % of total school roll in Argyll and Bute	19.2%	19.3%	16.6%	19.2%	19.2%
	10/11	11/12 ³	12/13	13/14	14/15
Free School Meals (number of pupils)	14	0	13	13	9
Free School Meals (% of cluster school roll)	8.9%	0	7.6%	7.4%	5.1%
Total Free School Meals for Primary Schools in Argyll and Bute	870	0	871	898	856
Total Free School Meals for Primary Schools as a % of total school roll in Argyll and Bute	14.9%	0	15.2%	15.8%	14.8%
National Average for Free School Meals for Primary Schools (%)	19.8%	22.6%	22.1%	22.0%	Not yet collated

Notes

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 2014-2015 data for CFG and Free School Meals (FSM) is to date (March 2015) and therefore may change as the year progresses.

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

National Averages for Free School Meals have been taken from 'Summary statistics for attainment, leaver destinations and healthy living, No. 3: 2013 Edition'

Exclusion and Attendance Information for Mull Cluster

	10/11	11/12	12/13	13/14	14/15⁶
Attendance (% of cluster school roll) ⁴	96.15%	95.69%	95.68%	96.57%	95.81%
Unauthorised Absence (% of cluster school roll)	0.93%	1.37%	1.00%	0.94%	0.72%
Authority Average – (%) Primary Schools in Argyll and Bute	95.25%	95.74%	95.40%	95.87%	95.42%
National Average for both Secondary and Primary Pupils (%)⁵	0.75%	0.79%	0.87%	0.89%	0.89%
	10/11	11/12	12/13	13/14	14/15⁷
Exclusion Openings	0	0	0	2	0
Exclusion Incidents	0	0	0	1	0
As a % of Total Argyll and Bute Primary School Exclusion Openings	0	0	0	1%	0
As a % of Total Argyll and Bute Primary School Exclusion Incidents	0	0	0	1.6%	0

Notes

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 2011/2012 or 2013/2014 academic year.

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Introduction

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

This year there have been several changes of headship across the area. Minnie McLennan took up post at St Columba's Primary School in August 2014. Jackie McLarty became Headteacher at

Taynuilt Primary School in August 2014. Julie Watson took up post as acting Headteacher at Barcaldine Primary School in August 2014. Ulva and Lochdonhead became part of a shared headship arrangement in August 2014 under the leadership of Pauline Inglis. Kilninver and Craignish Primary School became a shared headship under the leadership of Berni McMillan in August 2014. Sue Hawkes took up post as headteacher at Bunessan Primary School in January 2015. Caroline Fothergill took up post as Acting Headteacher at Rockfield Primary School in April 2015 and Elaine Campbell took up post as Headteacher at Dalmally Primary School in April 2015.

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.

Olympic Medallist Visits Dalmally Primary School

In the Spring Term, Dalmally Primary School received a visit from an Olympian as part of their learning in Health and Well-Being. Aaron Moores, won a silver medal in the London 2012 Paralympic games competing in the 100m Backstroke S14 category. He was able to tell the pupils at Dalmally about the importance of exercise, his training routines and the experience of competing at the very highest levels. The children were inspired when they saw, and handled Aaron's medals.



Healthy Eating at Achaleven Primary School

As part of their project in Food and Health, the children at Achaleven Primary school learnt that it is important for everybody to eat five portions of fruit or vegetables every day. The children were involved in planning where their learning would take them and decided that eating five portions a day might be a problem for people who were not so keen on eating fruit and vegetables so they set about overcoming this problem. They used a method of learning called 'Thinking Actively in a Social Context' (TASC) which was originally developed by Belle Wallace in 2000 as a tool to help challenge and engage more able learners and put children more in control of their own learning. The TASC process was used by children who developed and used social and teamwork skills to gather information, identify what needed to be done and generate a number of possible ideas before selecting the best option and testing and refining their solution. The outcome was some very fine fruity treats that got even the most reluctant fruit eater excited about 5-a-day. More importantly, the children developed their talking and listening skills, writing skills and knowledge of the importance of a healthy balanced diet.



Strath of Appin Pre-5 Cycle



Strath of Appin Pre-5 unit and P1 pupils went on a long cycle ride on 17th Sept. The event was suggested by a pre-schooler who enjoyed cycling and as the school is next to the Route 78 track the group took full advantage of this. The children were joined by staff and parent helpers. The children completed a total of 6km, which was a brilliant effort. All children gained a real sense of achievement, enjoyed keeping physically fit and were very responsible whilst cycling as they had to be aware of other users of the track. Such risk management skills, motor skills and enthusiasm for cycling will help the children develop as independent cyclists, and perhaps as the next Sir Chris Hoy.

Junior Sports Leaders in OLI

Primary 7 Pupils across Oban, Lorn and the Isles have the opportunity to work with Active Schools to develop their sports and leadership skills. This consists of participating in training days and follow up visits to schools by Active Schools Coordinators who check on the progress of the young people. The skills developed are in organising others, planning and carrying out physical activity sessions and games, helping younger children to play, leadership and communication. Sports Leaders in schools have various opportunities to use and develop their skills, some at playtimes or other school times and some, such as the P7 Sports Leaders in Lochnell, lead after school sports clubs for younger pupils. These are great ways of getting younger pupils more active in their leisure time as well as developing a sense of responsibility in older pupils.



Barcaldine Primary School Supports Earth Hour During Their Health and Well-Being Conference

As part of a self-organised Health and wellbeing conference Barcaldine pupils and staff spent some time in the woodland exploring ways of creating and maintaining their positive mental and emotional wellbeing. They exercised, had fun with friends and also had some relaxing 'chill out' time spent in reflection and meditation. They appreciated being outdoors in the fresh air and daylight and made connections with the natural environment. This was all done without the need for electricity. This year WWF asked schools to focus on all the positive reasons to do something about climate change and challenged us to create special 'For the love of...' bunting to send a powerful message to decision makers as we head towards the next big climate change summit. Barcaldine pupils created their bunting outdoors in the woodland to celebrate the wonder of our planet and considered all of the things that make them happy that don't rely on electricity. When they



joined their bunting with neighbouring schools: Barcaldine, Achaleven, Lismore, Kilchrenan and Strath of Appin, it measured 14m in total. The Bunting was then sent to the WWF Earth Hour Bunting Challenge in an attempt to break the world record of 10 miles long. WWF's Earth Hour is a global annual event where hundreds of millions of people switch off their lights for one hour to show they care about our planet. It's about people from across the globe coming together to create a symbolic and spectacular lights out display and asking for change.

Teaching and Learning

Numeracy

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

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

We are numerate if we have:

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

'Sum dog' Millionaires in Lochdonhead

Lochdonhead Primary School took part in the recent Argyll and Bute Sumdog Maths Challenge. This was an online resource which allowed pupils across Argyll and Bute to challenge each other in mental maths, over the period of 1 week. Each pupil had to answer 1000 questions within a timed environment.

Though a small school, Lochdonhead were delighted to have won. Pupils made the following comments:

"I enjoyed the teamwork, helping and encouraging everyone to do their 1000 questions. We used Edmodo to motivate and encourage each other."

"Sumdog helped develop my maths skills and my resilience because I kept going and tried my best."



Arinagour's Annual Oban Trip Develops Numeracy Skills in Real Life Contexts

Each year, the Primary 5-7 children travel to Oban for a week of contextualised learning. Though rich in many learning opportunities, such as yachting, community links, learning about catering and hospitality, outdoor learning, coastal environments, the legacy of Katie Morag, orienteering and many other opportunities distinct to Coll, there are some things they have to travel to find such as a swimming pool or book shop. During the Oban trip, young people are given the opportunity to learn how to take responsibility for themselves

and each other as they stay in the Hostel (in preparation for High School) and they receive intensive swimming lessons at the Leisure Centre. However, the children waste no learning opportunities during the trip. They merge literacy and numeracy skills in the trip to Waterstones Bookshop where they each choose a book to read, make a literary critique and then use part of the school's budget to update its library based on the class' favourite titles. As well as this, the young people develop real-life numeracy and problem solving skills by

managing the shopping budget and balancing the need to make lunches for each day of the trip with the desire to spend money on luxuries.

This year's trip has taken on an additional dimension as older pupils have taken on the responsibility of planning the trip. From handling money, planning itineraries to communicating with ferry operators and making bookings, the children have put the literacy and numeracy skills they learn in the classroom into real life use. This has also given their teacher a chance to assess their progress in numeracy.

Teaching and Learning

Literacy

Language and literacy are of personal, social and economic importance. Our ability to use language lies at the centre of the development and expression of our emotions, our thinking, our learning and our sense of personal identity. Language is itself a key aspect of our culture.

Literacy is fundamental to all areas of learning, as it unlocks access to the wider curriculum. Being

literate increases opportunities for the individual in all aspects of life, lays the foundations for lifelong learning and work. The literacy experiences and outcomes promote the development of critical and creative thinking as well as competence in listening and talking, reading, writing and the personal, interpersonal and team-working skills which are so important in life and in the world of work.

Primary 1 Writer's Club in Lochnell Primary School

In January this year, the children and staff of Lochnell's Primary One class invited special guests to open their Writers' club. The club was the idea of children who were so proud of their ability to write stories and personal news and involves older pupils from the school coming to Primary 1 to explain what writing skills they have developed. The Primary 4 children have visited the class to share their knowledge of punctuation and grammar, leaving the younger children with the challenge of writing sentences with interesting connectives. This has led to an increase in confidence, enjoyment and skills of writing, not just in the Primary 1 children, but in all of the older children who have consolidated their own learning by sharing it with their younger friends.



Park Primary Children Develop a Deeper Understanding of Books

During the Spring term, Primary 3 in Park Primary School have been learning all about stories and books. As part of their learning, they visited Waterstones and the Oban Library to find out how books are created and shared. Then they wrote their own stories and published them in book format. On Friday 27th March they hosted a book launch assembly for the rest of the school and lots of parents and other family members who came to share and celebrate the learning. It is really important that children learn where books come from so that they can see the link between their own writing and the popular books they find on their bookshelves at home or in school. In this way, pupils learn to see themselves as genuine writers, giving them the enthusiasm and confidence to write and get better at writing continuously.



Sensory Learning at Oban Joint Campus (Rockfield) Learning Centre

Sensory Learning at Oban Joint Campus (Rockfield) Learning Centre
Children in the learning centre have been having fun with sensory learning. They have continuous opportunities to interact with environments that gently use sound, feel, and light to stimulate pupils. Such sensory learning might include using a finger to write in foam, using special lamps, or getting out and about in the environment to touch, see and listen. Research has shown a strong link between sensory learning techniques and the cognitive development and well-being of children with a wide range of disabilities or learning impairments and sensory experiences have been demonstrated to increase concentration levels. As well as the learning benefits, and helping children to communicate, the activities are fun and the children love them.



Katie Morag Helps Dalmally Early Level Pupils Develop Literacy and Numeracy Skills

The pre-5 and P1 children in Dalmally used the stories of Katie Morag as a context for developing early literacy and numeracy skills. Through reading the stories with adults in school, and a visit to a post office to see how letters are sorted, they practiced talking and listening, reading and writing skills. They also developed counting and sorting; key skills in the early development of numeracy. As well as improving core skills, such an interdisciplinary approach to learning shows children that reading, writing, talking, listening, counting and sorting are all really important in life beyond school. The context of Katie Morag provided a stimulating and familiar storyline and characters to allow children's learning to build upon further proof that learning is fun.



Young Writers at St Columba's Primary School

In October, the pupils of P5/4 and P6/7 at St. Columba's Primary School entered the Young Writers 'Out of this World' poetry competition. They were asked to create an imaginative poem on any theme which demonstrated a command of ambitious vocabulary, imagery, similes, alliteration and other poetic techniques. P5/4 chose to base their poems on Space while P6/7 chose the theme 'Fireworks.' Every single entry from St. Columba's Primary School was selected for publication in a national poetry anthology which was released in January 2015. The teachers also received a letter, complimenting them on the style, imagination and writer's craft demonstrated by the children. This opportunity augmented the teaching and learning of poetry writing by providing a relevant context and purpose for writing, as well as celebrating and highlighting the high quality of the poems produced by children.



Teaching and Learning

Wider Achievement: Outdoor Learning and Eco Schools

Eco Schools Green Flags in Oban, Lorn and the Isles

Eco-Schools is an international award programme that guides schools on their sustainable journey, providing a framework to help embed these principles into the heart of school life. There are various award categories with Bronze, Silver and Gold celebrating schools who are beginning to embed sustainability into the heart of their school and Green Flags awarded to schools who have

used a framework to successfully embed the values of Eco Schools. Many schools in the area were awarded Green Flags this session including Dervaig Primary School which achieved its first Green Flag in October. One of the very fine ecological achievements Dervaig boasts is the success of their home grown produce. Onions and peas grown in raised beds in the school by pupils and staff gained 1st and 3rd place respectively at the Tobermory Horticultural Show. Park Primary school celebrated receiving its sixth Green Flag this session for its work over the last two years on the topics of litter, health and wellbeing and waste minimisation. The school was commended for integrating the Eco Schools programme thoroughly into the curriculum and calendar through events such as One Planet Picnic, Earth Hour and our Apple Days and Green Days. Regular beach cleans and promotion of Fairtrade were also mentioned as was our support of charities such as WWF, MCS and Send my Friend to School. The pupils were described as "truly responsible, global citizens".



Achaleven Outdoor Learning

Children at Achaleven have been adding to their outdoor learning space this session and have worked together and with staff and volunteers to create a 'mud kitchen' to encourage creative and cooperative play as well as social skills and talking and listening in pupils. The opening of the mud kitchen coincided with International Mud Day, an event organised by the World Forum Foundation to encourage children and early childhood professionals all over the world to celebrate and develop a love of nature and the outdoors. The grand opening of the Achaleven mud kitchen was an occasion for families and friends to learn more about how the school's outdoor environment is used to teach curricular skills as well as a growing knowledge and awareness of ecological issues. Outdoor Learning is a regular feature of the curriculum at Achaleven Primary School and children and staff get out and about in all weathers. One of the outdoor learning highlights of the year was building dens from natural materials found in local woodland. As well as learning technology skills, pupils were also developing their teamwork, leadership and communication skills as well as demonstrating how confident they are becoming.



One Planet Picnic

The One Planet Picnic initiative is part of the Keep Scotland Beautiful Eco-Schools programme and Clean and Green Legacy 2014. It is designed to raise awareness of where food comes from, and how it is produced.



One example of a school embracing this was Strath of Appin Primary School whose picnic took the form of a Harvest lunch where all the children and staff in the school were invited to enjoy fabulous foods that had been freshly prepared in the school kitchen.

All of the dishes included ingredients that had been sourced and produced locally. The food experiences included leek and potato soup, salmon, eggs, Highland beef, seasonal vegetables (grown in the school grounds), bramble and apple crumble, honey and oatcakes which were made by Primaries 1, 2, and 3. The children thoroughly enjoyed their lunch and were able to appreciate the importance of sustainable, Scottish food in a healthy diet.

Teaching and Learning

Wider Achievement: Community Partnership

Salen, Lochdonhead and Ulva Join Forces for Salen Health Day

Primary 6 pupils from Salen, Lochdonhead and Ulva Primary schools treated all staff and pupils to a lunch of locally produced food as the highlight of Health Day where the theme was Healthy Eating. They took over the school kitchen for the morning and, under the guidance of sous chef Michael Shannon from the Western Isles Hotel, assisted by staff from the school kitchen, they prepared and served a feast of wonderful Mull produce which had been kindly donated by local producers.

The schools would like to thank all the local producers for giving the pupils this opportunity to use and enjoy fresh local produce.

Other Health Day events included the children being trained in Heartstart emergency lifesaving skills, Local experts speaking about the importance of healthy eating, staff from the Glasgow Science Centre telling the pupils all about “disgusting digestion” and “a journey through my body”, The Head Gardener from Torosay Gardens, teaching the children how to sow and grow courgettes, Zumba routines and the children producing a huge map of local produce, showing what a variety of delicious foods are produced on Mull.



Iona Primary School and Abbey Partnership

Iona Primary School works closely with staff at Iona Abbey each winter, to provide baking and cooking lessons. The kitchens at the Abbey are an ideal size to accommodate the children and Headteacher, Katharine Elwis, works closely with one of the parents who is a cook at the Abbey, to plan for and track progression within the subject. The Abbey is quite in the winter months and so an ideal arrangement has been established between the community and the school to work together for the sake of the children who wouldn't otherwise be able to access a working kitchen during school time. The foods prepared tie in to the overarching theme that the children are working on. For example, this year, it was 'Global Citizenship' and so the foods the children planned and prepared were from all around the world. Cooking is one of the highlights of the School calendar and the children clearly enjoy what they are doing, whilst learning essential skills.

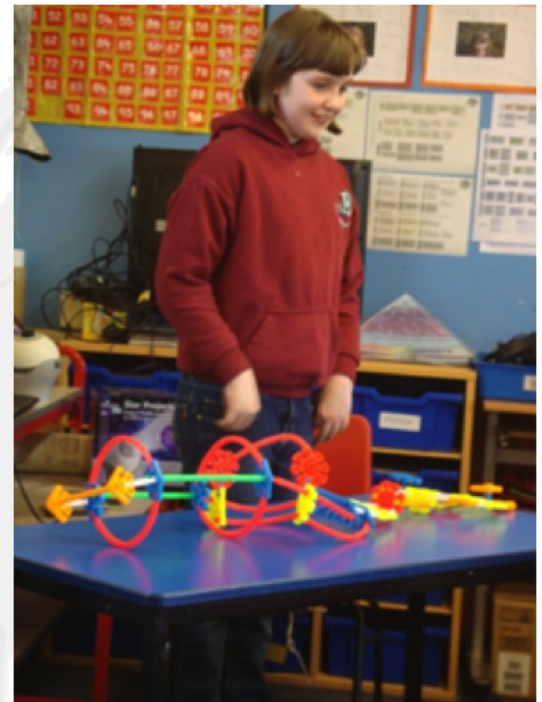


Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths Partnerships

This term, pupils at Ulva have been investigating the role of engineers and have taken part in the Scottish Engineering Special Leaders Award, answering the question, “If you could be an engineer in Scotland – what would you do?” This involved many skills for learning, life and work including;

- researching different types of engineering and identifying some famous engineers
- questioning a visiting engineer to deepen their understanding of this career path
- discussing, planning, designing and creating a prototype of their invention
- demonstrating their learning by creating their answer to the question with a picture, a written report and PowerPoint to support their invention
- presenting their invention to parents.

The parents enjoyed the opportunity to hear the exciting inventions the pupils created for the future and were very impressed with the quality of the pupils’ work. Even our Primary 1 pupil created and shared his PowerPoint with a little assistance. The inventions created included, a bridle for sensing the mood of your horse, a robotic cleaner, a food generator a wood burning log store for trees that hadn’t been cut down but had fallen down naturally and an audio TV. remote control that is powered by grass.



The school received the following feedback from the Project Coordinator for the Primary Engineer Leaders Award:

“We attempt to be totally impartial and neutral in our dealings with the entries, but we could not let the opportunity pass to mention our delight at the brilliance of all of the designs - they were excellent - and so, all 8 of your school’s entries will be awarded the highest mark, a Distinction grade. My colleagues and I were impressed by the high level of entries from your school - the innovation of thought, the quality of illustration and the breadth of knowledge shown in the entries was fantastic. As well as achieving the highest grade, all of the entries have been shortlisted for the class/year specific prizes as judged by a group of engineering experts. As part of the certification process and, because of their letters of application, all of your students can rightfully say they are now very much Leaders for STEM.” Chris Noone, Institute of Primary Engineers

Rockfield and St. Columba’s Partner to Remember



In the run up to Remembrance Day 2014, schools across Oban, Lorn and the Isles renewed partnerships with local churches and The Poppy Appeal to remember those fallen in conflict. This year’s was a particularly poignant one as the Nation remembered the events of exactly a century ago. One such remembrance activity occurred when all of the pupils in St Columba’s Primary School and Rockfield Primary School were invited to create or design a flower in memory of someone or something special to them. Some of the designs that came in were very creative and they were used to create a Garden of Remembrance within the Assembly Hall. Both schools also came together for a Remembrance Day service which was led by Rev Dugald Cameron.

STEM Project in Partnership With HIE

This session, Lochdonhead Primary School has been sector leading in the areas of Technological developments in Society and ICT to enhance learning. Since November, the whole school has been working on a Highland and Island Enterprise STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) project, 'Apps for Good', and through our technology curriculum the pupils have been challenged to reflect, explore problems and interrogate issues, events, people and products. Pupils have investigated how technological problems in the past have been solved and used this knowledge to apply problem solving in other areas, when designing and building their apps for the future. This challenging, effective, experiential approach has allowed our learners to apply skills and knowledge, which has deepened and progressed their learning across the curriculum. Apps for Good has provided the opportunity for pupils to learn within a context which mirrors the reality of professional engineering; involving real life problems which require research, providing solutions and applying new knowledge and through evaluations, improving their designs and solutions. The pupils have also learnt a great deal about QR codes (quick response codes) and they have created their own QR codes linked to the apps they have designed.



This Quick Response (QR) Code is for Lochdonhead's '5-aday' app.

Community Links at Lochdonhead Primary

In January 2015, Lochdonhead Primary School started a Parent and Toddler Group. There is no pre-school provision in the area and we have a number of children within the age range of 0-5 who live in our community. This group has now run successfully every Friday afternoon within the school, regularly having 6 children and 5 parents. It provides an opportunity for members of our community to see the work of the school, develop a sense of belonging as well as allow the toddlers a safe environment for learning and exploring their world. Additionally, the parents enjoy playing with their children and chatting over a cuppa. We were very grateful to Alison MacKenzie, Principal Officer of Early Years, Argyll and Bute for supporting this venture and providing us with wonderful resources. We were also very fortunate that Babs Whyte, our Active Schools Co-ordinator spent a session working with the parents, generating some ideas for active movement. Now that the weather is calmer and more appealing, the toddlers can enjoy playing in the playground and planting seeds in our greenhouse. We asked the parents what they thought of the arrangement and they said, 'Brilliant', 'There is a good variety of toys for them. Different things every week', 'It's a lovely bright space for them to play'.



Luing Primary School and the Atlantic Islands Centre

All of the pupils of Luing Primary School were invited to visit the building site of the Atlantic Islands Centre in Cullipool. In preparation of this, they compiled a long list of questions. On arrival they were met by Andrew Pinkerton, the project development manager, Shona Cameron the architect, and Neil the site manager from McLeod Construction. All children were given a high visibility jacket and a hard hat to wear. They then ventured into the building taking great care not to stand on the underfloor heating pipes, Andrew explained the layout and then answered lots of questions.

Shona talked about her drawings and plans. Neil listed all the work still to be done and explained which tradesmen would carry out the different tasks. Neil was also asked about the completion date!



The children then went to Cullipool Hall to inspect a model of the finished building and to put forward their ideas about what should be included in the centre, some more feasible than others. The children are now working on a list of food that they would like to be served in the cafe.

The visit represents the link between the project and the school as an integral part of the community as well as showing pupils that their voice is an important one in local projects such as this.

Teaching and Learning

Wider Achievement: Contributions to charities

Coffee Morning at Taynuilt Primary School and Nursery

One way that schools and Pre-5 Units are seeking to align children's goals and link up learning opportunities is by hosting parent events such as coffee mornings. Many schools across Oban, Lorn and the Isles have done this to give pupils a chance to practice writing skills (by making invitations and advertising the event), talking and Listening Skills (as they greet and serve guests and visitors), numeracy skills (as they cost for the event and handle money) and entrepreneurial and charitable skills (as they come up with and execute ways of raising money). These events can be as rewarding for young people as they are for charities and the guests who attend them. One such Coffee Morning was hosted by Taynuilt Primary School and Pre-5 Unit and raised £251 for the McMillan Cancer Charity.



Barcaldine Text Santa

The annual Nativity Performance was used as an opportunity to build skills and abilities in more than just drama and music this session. Children at Barcaldine had taken their hand to set design and solved problems of how to change scenery by putting giant shepherd and King cut-outs onto wheels! They also invited families and friends to join them in the local church for a an evening filled with fun, carols, the Nativity performance and a family quiz. The evening helped raise £74.80 for the STV's 'Text Santa' appeal, a initiative that supports a range of worthy causes including Mari Currie Cancer Research and Alzheimer's Charities.



Taynuilt's Africa Project

During the first part of the Spring Term, Taynuilt Primary School's Interdisciplinary Project used the theme of Africa to bring together skills and capacities from a range of subject areas. By developing and using literacy skills to research and present information about African Geography, culture, flora and fauna, as well as enterprise and numeracy skills to raise money for the Pelandaba Orphan's Charity which pays for Zimbabwean orphans to go to school. Pupils across the school worked together to create a better sense of school community and created fantastically executed pieces of artwork in a variety of media.

As well as raising over £900 for the charity, the children further developed a sense of the hardships that young people in other parts of the world face and how we can each take a part in making the world a better place.

The project had the benefits of helping develop pupil's confidence, sense of responsibility and ability to find and report information. They also developed a better knowledge of how to design and run fundraising events.



Mary's Meals at Lochnell Primary School



This academic session, the children at Lochnell Primary School welcomed visitors from the Charity, Mary's Meals who showed the boys and girls some of the ways that the charity helped people across the world. They learnt that £12 could help feed a child for a whole year and decided that they would like to help as many children as possible. They used the annual Nativity play as the opportunity and children organised a silver collection and special raffle and raised £247.66 and after a few calculations realised that they had raised enough money to feed 20 children throughout 2015.

This was a great example of self-motivated children taking a lead in charitable works.

Teaching and Learning

Learning Contexts

Themed Learning Weeks at Lismore Primary School

At various planned times of the year, entire weeks are given over to short life interdisciplinary projects at Lismore Primary School. Two such weeks so far this year have been 'USA Week' and 'Roman Week' where children have learnt and developed skills and knowledge in core curricular areas as well as learning factual information about the themed topic.

During USA Week, children used a variety of sources from books and the internet to research facts about the USA. They used literacy skills to find and interpret information, numeracy skills to understand data (such as population densities and currency rates) and design skills to present the facts in fun and interesting ways. One such outcome was the creation of USA Top Trump Cards that can be played to have fun and revise key pieces of knowledge and the creation of films which demonstrated the pupils' ability to perform and report as well as handle the technical aspects of media creation. The



culmination of the week was a Thanksgiving Celebration where the children learnt about the history of the founding of the USA.

In Roman Week, the focus turned to classical history, civilisations and Roman Mythology. The culmination was the children performing the Roman legend of Androcles and the Lion at the North Lorn Drama Festival. During the week the children learnt about many aspects of Roman life including the language, food, the Army and even bathing habits, allowing them to make comparisons between the life of Roman children and their own. In learning some Latin words and phrases, the pupils were able to explore the origins of modern English words and their meanings

and translating simple Latin texts into English enhanced their own writing skills. The children learnt about the science and methods of archaeology, giving them an insight into how real historians discover the secrets of the past.

Dalmally pupils draw inspiration from accomplished illustrators

Earlier in the school year, the BBC hosted an 'Authors Live Event' featuring illustrator and author, Nick Sharrat (famed for his illustrations of Jacqueline Wilson's books). Many schools in the area took part in the event and created drawings in Nick's style following on-line demonstrations and the BBC featured efforts from some OLI schools on their website. After the Author's Live event, Dalmally invited another illustrator, Tom Heard, to come to the school and work with the pupils. He helped the children build upon their growing drawing skills by showing them new techniques. It was really helpful in the children's learning in art, but the visit and Authors Live event also gave an insight into some of the avenues open to young people who want to develop a career in the arts as well as acting as genuine inspiration to all of the pupils.

Iona Primary Pupils Get Political

Building upon last year's overarching Learning Theme, 'Scotland Then and Now', and taking advantage of the huge level of interest in the Independence Referendum, Iona primary school decided to develop children's literacy skills and knowledge of social studies by holding their very own referendum.

The upper primary had to convince the lower primary which way to vote. They designed leaflets and researched the campaign promises and then we had a hustings and a ballot with Councillor Mary Jean Devon acting as the Presiding Officer and counting the returns.

Ms Devon said she was very impressed with the children's ability to articulate and debate political ideas whilst respecting each other's point of view. On an earlier visit, MSP Jean Urquart took part in a debate with the children and she said of P1, "The youngest pupil defined the referendum superbly well, and the range of questions and argument was very well articulated.

I really enjoyed the visit. "

Katherine Elwis (Iona Primary School's Headteacher) said, "The day was exciting and tense and it just goes to show what Primary School children can do when you have high expectations. The pupils' debating ability also stems from the embedding of Philosophy skills throughout the school."

The project helped develop core skills as well as respect for one another and the ability to see both sides of a contentious point.



Cooperative Learning meets History at Park Primary School

Earlier in the school year, children from Primaries 2 and 3 at Park Primary School used the context of learning about castles to develop literacy, social and team-working skills. The Topic of 'Castles' is a traditionally popular one for children in Primary schools, but more than ever, teachers are skilled at using traditional topics to frame learning opportunities in a range of curricular and key skill areas. The children at Park used a learning technique called 'Cooperative Learning' which provides a very structured way for children to work, and learn, together. Each member of a learning team brings their own skills and knowledge so that the whole becomes greater than the sum of its parts – children are genuinely interdependent.

After using Cooperative Learning in class to examine a range of castles and the structure of local Dunstaffnage Castle, children visited the site allowing them to identify the structures of the castle and the purpose each part of it was designated to. The children also really enjoyed merging their new knowledge with imagination to describe what life might have been like for those living in the castle hundreds of years ago.



Teaching and Learning

Creative Arts in Schools (CAST)

Dalmally and Dunbeg sign up for samba.

The rhythmic sound of surdo drums, agogo bells, tamborims and ganza shakers playing together will be heard throughout school grounds during the spring and summer terms. A Youth Music Initiative music practitioner is leading various sessions in school prior to delivering a performance. They are focussing on teaching samba rhythms using a range of Brazilian instruments. The children will have the opportunity to increase their listening and playing skills, and work collaboratively to create interesting and fun compositions. The session leaders ensure the experience is lively, fun and enjoyable.

The annual samba drumming project for p5-7 is delivered by a music specialist, focusing on rhythm using Brazilian percussion instruments. In the last week of the block the children will have an opportunity to perform either to other pupils or an invited local audience.

The sessions comprises a consecutive six week block of approx 1 hour-long sessions (depending on numbers) programmed to fit the school's timetable between January and June 2015.

Playing samba increases pupils' playing and listening skills whilst taking part in collaborative music making giving pupils a chance to enjoy the pleasure of performance in a collective music situation. This project has often been expanded to include a rich variety of cross-curricular CfE opportunities inc. expressive arts, social studies and languages.

It is funded by Creative Scotland Youth Music Initiative funding which is an annual grant that the council's music service receives to enable delivery of music to P5. It is a targeted fund for Scotland's 32 local authorities with £8 million being distributed based on a Scottish Government formula.

Primary 7/6 at Dalmally took part in 6 weeks of Samba Drumming Lessons with Instructor Jenny England. On the last week it was over to the pupils for SHOWTIME and they showcased their newly acquired skills to the rest of the school and their parents. Pupils certainly developed confidence and musical talent!



School Contacts:

School	Contact	Position	Address	Phone No.
Achaleven Primary	Sharon Burt	Head Teacher	Achaleven, Connel PA37 1PH	01631 710529
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Barcaldine Primary	Julie Watson	Acting Head Teacher	Barcaldine, Connel, PA37 1SG	01631 720391
Bunessan Primary	Susan Hawkes	Head Teacher	Bunessan, Isle of Mull, PA67 6DL	01681 700283
Dalmally Primary	Elaine Campbell	Acting Head Teacher	Dalmally, Argyll PA33 1BE	01838 200359
Dervaig Primary	Julia Hogg	Head Teacher	Dervaig, Isle of Mull, PA75 6QW	01688 400227
Dunbeg Primary	Sine T MacVicar	Head Teacher	Dunbeg, Connel, PA37 1QF	01631 564781
Easdale Primary	Stephen Glen-Lee	Head Teacher (Joint Headship with Luing)	Easdale, Oban, PA34 4RF	01852 300243
Iona Primary	Katherine Elwis	Head Teacher	Isle of Iona, PA76 6SJ	01681 700348
Kilchattan Primary	Gillian MacKenzie	Head Teacher	Isle of Colonsay, Argyll, PA61 7YR	01951 200340
Kilchrenan Primary	Graham Dickie	Head Teacher	Kilchrenan, Taynuilt, PA35 1HD	01866 833312
Kilninver Primary	Bernadette McMillan	Head Teacher (Joint Headship with Craignish Primary)	Kilninver, Oban, PA34 4UT	01852 316236
Lismore Primary	Catherine Davies	Head Teacher	Isle of Lismore, Oban, PA34 5UG	01631 760258
Lochdonhead Primary	Pauline Inglis	Head Teacher (Joint Headship with Ulva Primary)	Lochdonhead, Isle of Mull, PA64 6AP	01680 812473
Lochnell Primary	Shirley Matheson	Head Teacher	Lochnell, Ledaig, Connel, Argyll PA37 1QS	01631 720300
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Park Primary	Gillian Carney	Head Teacher	Kerrera Terrace, Oban, PA34 5AU	01631 563941
Rockfield Primary	Caroline Fothergill	Acting Head Teacher	Oban Primary Campus, Soroba Road, Oban, PA34 4SB	01631 568090/ 568091
Salen Primary	Mairi Maclean	Head Teacher	Salen, Isle of Mull, PA72 6JL	01680 300348
St Columba's Primary	Michaelina MacLellan	Head Teacher	Oban Primary Campus, Soroba Road, Oban, PA34 4SB	01631 568092/ 568090
Strath of Appin Primary	Marissa Melville	Head Teacher	Strath of Appin, Appin, PA38 4BG	01631 730345
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Tobermory HS Primary Dept.	Craig Biddick	Head Teacher	Tobermory, Isle of Mull, PA75 6PB	01688 302062
Ulva Primary	Pauline Inglis	Head Teacher (Joint Headship with Lochdonhead)	Ulva Ferry, Isle of Mull, PA73 6LT	01688 500246