



The Jotter

Bun Sgoil Bhaile a' Mhanaich

Term 1 2020-21



Back to school

As we enter our last week of term 1, we would like to thank our pupils, their families and our team of staff at Sgoil Bhaile a' Mhanaich and Sgoil Araich Bhaile a' Mhanaich for their continued support during a very unique first term at school. Our pupils have been absolutely amazing at adapting to new rules and protocols and are to be commended on their resilience and excellent 'can do' attitude to their learning this session.

More recently these protocols and measures have been more important than ever. Our thoughts and prayers are with the members of our island community affected by Covid-19 at this time. We wish them all a speedy recovery. We would also like to thank the number of parents who have expressed their thanks, well wishes and kind words to our staff. We appreciate each and every one of these messages.

Covid-19 Symptoms

□ a high temperature - this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (37.8°C or higher)

□ a new, continuous cough - this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)

□ a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste - this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal.

If you believe that any member of your household is displaying any of the symptoms of Covid-19 described above, you must act promptly.

□ Self-Isolate: All members of the household must immediately self-isolate. Children in the household must not be sent to school or nursery.

□ Ask for a Test: All members of the household with symptoms should be referred for a Covid-19 test. Telephone 01851 601151

Inform: Ensure that you promptly notify employers and any schools or nurseries that your household is self-isolating and awaiting testing.



Blythwood Shoebox Appeal

The 2020 Shoebox Appeal is still taking place this year. Our pupils will continue, as they do each year, to learn about this important charity and the work they do.

Unfortunately, we have received guidance that the school is unable to accept filled shoeboxes for the Blythwood 2020 Shoebox Appeal.



If Families still wish to support this event a leaflet/check list can be downloaded on the Blythwood website and the link to donate directly can be found at <https://blythwood.org/donate-to-shoe-box-appeal/>

Maths Week Scotland

Our pupils' love of Numeracy and Maths was further reinforced tlast week through lots of exciting activities throughout the School and Nursery. Pupils explored Maths as part of their immediate environment, working in the garden and using their maths in real life contexts.



Hallowe'en

Unfortunately, due to current restrictions, our annual Hallowe'en parade for parents will not take place this year. However, pupils are invited to come to school on Friday 30th October dressed in their Halloween outfits. They will take part in Halloween themed activities within their classrooms including some fun activities in the afternoon.



Bikeability

Our P6 and P7 pupils have been developing their cycling skills this term. PE6-7 completed their bikability assessments and received their certificates last month. This month PG6-7 will do theirs.

School Christmas fundraiser Project

Last year it was suggested by pupils and parents that the school choose a new fundraising project for Christmas instead of the Christmas Cards. This year we will be creating Self Portrait Tea towels featuring drawings from all children in the nursery and school. School tea towels are not only practical but can also be kept as a keepsake. Our Junior Leaders will be organising this project and will let you know further details after the October holiday.

Zoolab

Children returned to school on Thursday to be treated with an online animal workshop hosted by Zoolab. Infant classes were taken on a wicked witchy adventure with Zog and her menagerie who joined her on her broom whilst middle and upper stages learned about different habitats around the world and were introduced to animals who are considered the strongest survivors. Our pupils loved these workshops and have learned a lot of new vocabulary as you can see below...



Radan sa Chas!

Dh'ionnsaich clas 5-7 Gàidhlig tòrr mu dheidhinn diofar beathaichean agus habitats air a chiad là den Dàmhair.

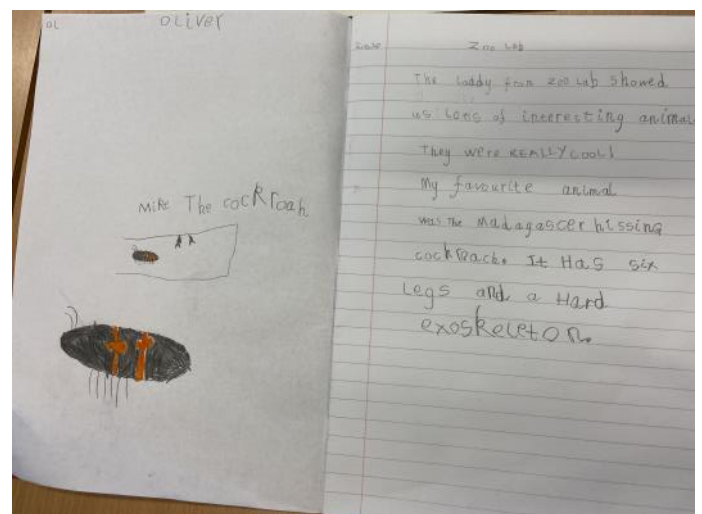
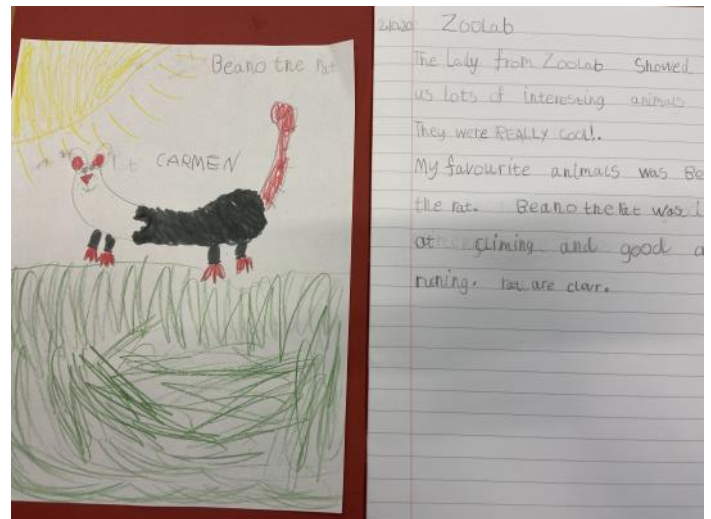
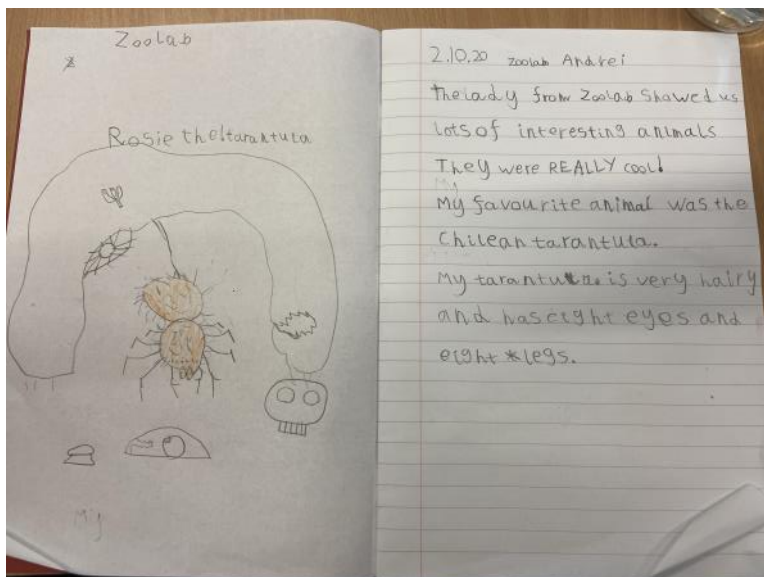
Chleachd sinn Teams airson bruidhinn ri Zoolab Ranger agus sheall i tòrr beathaichean dhuinn. Chunnaic sinn Madagascan Hissing Cockroach, Chilean Rose Tarantula, a bha mòr agus gaoisideach, agus Corn snake, a bha beag, caol agus orains.

Dh'fhreagair an Ranger a h-uile ceist againn agus dh'ionnsaich sinn tòrr fiosrachadh ùr agus inntinneach mu dheidhinn beathaichean de gach seòrsa.

"Chòrd e rium a bhith ag ionnsachadh tòrr rudan ùra ach cha do chòrd e rium an Hissing Cockroach fhaicinn" thuirt Anna.

An-dè bha sinn a' coimhead air Zoolab agus chunnaic sinn tòrr beathaichean inntinneach mar tarantula agus losgann. Dh'èist sinn ri stòiridh eibhinn mu dheidhinn Zog agus an sguab. Dh'ionnsaich sinn gu bheil ceudan fiacalan air teanga seilicheag agus gu bheil còrr is 400 cnàimh ann an nathair! Chòrd e rinn gu mòr, bha e cho spòrsail.

Patricia, Ruby agus Jack PG2



Pupil Voice

As a school, we continue to create opportunities for pupils to develop their leadership skills as well as encourage all pupils to express their views and opinions on a range of subjects. Each class has chosen 1 or 2 representatives to join our Junior Leadership Team. These representatives work alongside the school management team on improvement projects and report on their class committee work.



Our projects this year include: organising a school fundraiser self portrait tea towels for the Nursery and the School; to continue to create new approaches to improve our school through the internal use of The Bubble Box; to use How Good is OUR School? to support our school's self-evaluation activities and to report on the school's work in maintaining its Eco-schools status and apply for our next green flag.

House Teams help develop opportunities for year groups to work together, encourage children to support one another, it gives the children a strong sense of responsibility and belonging and provides them with a range of additional activities to take part in. Our school House Teams are Rueval, Eabhal and Beinn Mhor and this year's house captains from P7 and vice house captains from P6 have been selected by their houses. They will help organise events where pupils have the opportunity to win house points for their team and work towards winning the House Cup at the end of the year.

House Captains and Vice captains for 2020-21



Parents' Evening

Parents' evening telephone calls will take place on Tuesday 17th November 2020. This is an opportunity for parents to discuss their child's progress. Appointment times will be issued nearer the time. If the proposed time is unsuitable please notify the school office to arrange for a convenient time to speak with your child's teacher or Nursery Key Worker.

Parent Council

Our Parent Council met for their virtual AGM on Monday 21st September at 6pm. We would like to thank last year's Parent Council members for all their hard work, many of which remain on the Parent Council again this year. Our members are...

Katie Mary MacPherson (Chair)

Lynnsay Stewart (Vice chair)

Oni Fraser (Treasurer)

Nicola Mackenzie (Secretary) noas@btopenworld.com

Anne Graham (Head Teacher) agramham1p@gnes.net

Kirsty Brennan (Depute Head Teacher) kbrennan1b@gnes.net

Fiona MacInnes (Staff/Parent)

Mickey MacCormick (Grandparent)

Kenneth MacDonald (Parent)

Amy Roberts (Parent)

Sarah Reap (Parent)

Helen Bagley (Parent)

If you have any queries or issues you wish to be highlighted or discussed at any future Parent Council meetings, please get in touch with a member of the Parent Council.

Parent Council Fun Run

Our annual Parent Council sponsored Fun Run will look slightly different this year. Throughout the month of October, nursery and school pupils and their families are invited to run the equivalent to our normal 3km run at a place and time of their choosing and then send us evidence of this this happening (photos, video clip, strava data etc) Sponsor forms will be sent home this week to families to gather sponsors, medals will be awarded to all pupils who complete the run by Saturday 31st October. Why not make your run even more exciting by dressing up! We look forward to seeing your photos!

Emerging Literacy – a whole school and nursery approach...

Emerging Literacy methodologies and resources have been embedded across the school and nursery ensuring that appropriate foundation pre-reading and pre-writing skills are planned for and developed.

Making Literacy fun...

There are a lot of benefits of teaching your child nursery rhymes from a young age; one being their cognitive development. The repetition found in the rhymes are good for your little one's brain and teaches them how language works while also building on their memory capabilities. In addition, nursery rhymes also help to develop inferencing skills - both when encountering new words and in reading comprehension later in life.

Nursery rhymes are also really important for speech development. They can help young children develop auditory skills such as being able to tell the difference between sounds and develop the ear for the music of words. Rhymes also help children to articulate words, practise pitch and volume, and enunciate early by saying them over and over again.

Why not try some of these traditional rhymes at home with your child. We are never too old or young for a nursery rhyme! Why not try to find out the origins of the rhyme as many are based on historical fact.

Sing a song of sixpence

Sing a song of sixpence a pocket full of rye,
Four and twenty blackbirds baked in a pie,
When the pie was opened the birds began to sing,
Oh wasn't that a dainty dish to set before the king?

The king was in his counting house counting out his money,
The queen was in the parlour eating bread and honey,
The maid was in the garden hanging out the clothes,
When down came a blackbird and pecked off her nose!



Little Miss Muffet

Little Miss Muffet sat on a tuffet,
Eating her curds and whey,
Along came a spider, who sat down beside her,
And frightened Miss Muffet away!



Jack and Jill

Jack and Jill went up the hill
To fetch a pail of water.
Jack fell down and broke his crown,
And Jill came tumbling after.

Up Jack got, and home did trot,
As fast as he could caper,
He went to bed to mend his head,
With vinegar and brown paper.

Contact details...

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Mrs Anne Graham

Depute Head Teacher
Mrs Kirsty Brennan

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Please note our Emergency Telephone Number
(To be used if Main School Line is unavailable) - 603018



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Dates for the diary

Thursday 8th October - Last day of Term 1

Thursday 22/23 October - INSET days for staff

Friday 23rd October—School reopens for pupils

Friday 30th October - Class Hallowe'en Parties

Tuesday 17th November - Parents Evening

20th - 23rd November - School closed

Tuesday 22nd December - School closes

Free School Meals/Uniform Grants

If you think you may be entitled to free school meals or uniform grants for your child, please call in to the School Office for a form.

If you need help with forms either the school or Citizen's Advice are available to assist.



Le Creideas, urram agus le bhith cruthachail thig adhartas

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BELIEVE, RESPECT, CREATE, ACHIEVE