



# The Jotter

Bun Sgoil Bhaile a' Mhanaich

Term 2 2020-21

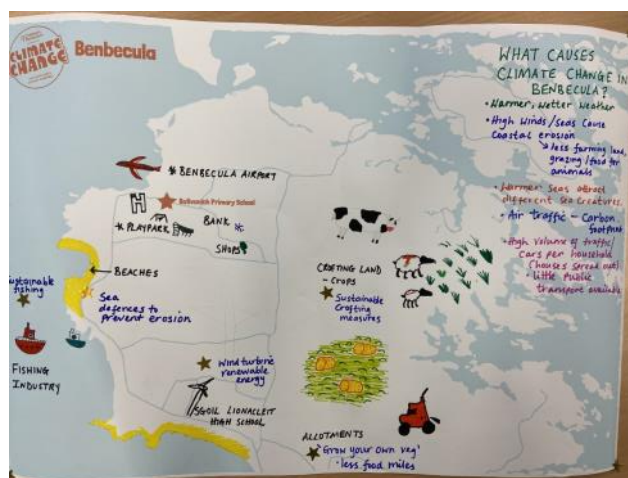
Term 2 news



## Children's Parliament

Sgoil Bhaile a' Mhanaich is privileged to be one of ten Scottish Schools, chosen to be part of the Children's Parliament Climate Change Assembly. Our MCPs have been busy researching the subject of Climate Change in our local area, and have featured in many short films and interviews detailing this - we were also proud to see them appear on the Gaelic News programme, An Là and the Scottish News, where they spoke of the issues our islands are facing due to Climate Change. Our 'Investigators' (Lana PG7, Margaret P7 and Seumas PG6) receive regular packages of research tasks and goodies - their favourites being their MCP T-shirts and their Mascot, 'Brochan' (named by Sgoil Bhaile a' Mhanaich). Our members regularly link in with other schools from throughout Scotland to discuss how they, as MCPs, can use their voices to fulfil their aspirations to make Scotland a better place.

Keep an eye out for Facebook updates on what our MCPs have been up to.



## Learning Journals

We hope you have enjoyed reading our new Online Learning Journals. The journals can be accessed easily through the link sent to you or through the app. Staff will continue to populate these journals on a regular basis and you will receive notifications of new content. We encourage all parents to engage with these journals and comment on or 'like' your child's work. We also invite you to share photos of your child's home learning or wider achievements by uploading this to their journal. Please contact the school if you have trouble logging in, and we can reset your link.



*Le creideas, urram agus le bhith cruthachail, thig adhartas.*

RELIEVE, RESPECT, CREATE, ACHIEVE

## New Pupils

We would like to extend a warm welcome to Aimee & Millie and Lachie & Lyle, whose families have recently move to our local area. We hope that you all enjoy your time in Sgoil Bhaile a' Mhanaich

## Christmas Events

Our Christmas events including the Hamper Prize draw and sales of school and nursery tea towels have raised the fantastic sum of £2500 for school funds. We would like to thank everyone who supported both events, and for the kind donations from parents and the wider community to our school hampers. Please visit our school Facebook page and website to see photos of both events.

Due to these unprecedented times, it was not possible for us to stage our own Panto this year. However, our pupils still had the opportunity to enjoy a 'virtual' panto experience of 'Jack and the Beanstalk' - complete with popcorn! The pupils thoroughly enjoyed their panto afternoon and plenty booing, hissing and "oh no he isn't!" could be heard from throughout the school.

PG5-7 have been very busy putting their artistic talents to use, by creating a Christmas-themed board. Our school's beautifully decorated board is on display at our entrance, and we will keep our fingers crossed that the judges recognise our hard work and creativity! This Council initiative was funded by Western Isles Lottery.

One of our School's annual Christmas highlights is our Carol Singing visit to Ospadal Uibhist is Bharraigh. We are so disappointed not to be able to visit this year, but will keep all the patients and staff in our thoughts and prayers throughout this Festive Season.

Our pupils enjoyed a delicious Christmas lunch on Wednesday 16th, and it was lovely to see them enjoying the day wearing their festive outfits. A huge thank you to our canteen staff for all their hard work.

Pupils also had a fun-filled day on Friday 18th at their Classroom Parties, and were delighted that Santa managed a window visit to each class.

At this time of year, our P1/2 classes and P7 narrators would traditionally have been involved in staging our Nativity. This year we have created a Virtual Nativity - huge thanks go to Matt Campbell from Culla Creations for his creative vision, and to Rev. Drew Kuzma and Fr. Colin MacInnes for their input. We will share the link for this before the end of term and know you will love it as much as we do!

We will also be sharing an informal Christmas powerpoint, showcasing the wealth of Christmas crafts and activities taking place within the school building. (let's see if you can guess who the narrators are!)

## Staffing

This term we bid farewell to Ms Dolina MacLennan who has been covered the absence/amended duties of Mrs Fiona MacInnes in the PG3/4 class. Mòran taing airson a h-uile sian.

We have also had the pleasure of welcoming and bidding farewell to Miss Annamarie Beaton and Mrs Amy Roberts, Postgraduate students with UHI, who were completing placements in PE1-3 and PE4/5 classes. We look forward to welcoming Miss Beaton back for her second placement in January.

## **Retirement**

It is with heavy hearts that we say goodbye to Chrissie, our Janitor. Chrissie worked as part of the Sgoil Bhaile a' Mhanaich staff team for 29 years—first as a kitchen assistant and latterly as janitor. We will miss Chrissie so much, but hope that she will now have a well-earned rest. We will be organising a collection for Chrissie in the New Year, and parents will be invited to contribute if they wish.



## **Sacraments**

Congratulations to Molly Walker, Ailean MacAulay, Peter MacGillivray, Shonnie Graham and Angus Buchanan, who received their First Holy Communion at the Parish of St. Mary's on Saturday 12th December. Thank you to Kay-Marie MacInnes and Agnes MacInnes for helping the children in their preparations.

## **Book Week Scotland**

All our P1-3 pupils were delighted to receive Book Bags during Book Week Scotland. This is an important initiative which encourages a love of reading from an early age.

## **Là na Gàidhlig**

On Wednesday 20th November we celebrated the authority's annual Là na Gàidhlig. We celebrated the Gaelic language throughout the school and nursery. There is always a big focus on oral language and vocabulary within our nursery and school. Our classes had the opportunity to take part in a virtual interview/concert with Robert Robertson from Tidelines.

## **MOWI**

Huge thanks go to MOWI for funding our new wet weather clothing. Our pupils have been kept cosy and dry during wet play/lunch times.

## **No Need to Speed!**

Many of our classes marked British Road Safety Week from the 16th-22nd November. Our pupils took part in marches in our local community, and created persuasive posters to encourage road users to do so safely.





## Contact details...

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**Please note our Emergency  
Telephone Number**

(To be used if Main School  
Line is unavailable) - 603018



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Le Creideas, urram agus le bhith cruthachail thig adhartas

## Dates for the diary

**6th - 8th January 2021 - School open for key workers**

**11th - 15th January - School opens (online learning)**

**18th January proposed pupil return to school (TBC)**

**10<sup>th</sup> February - School closed to pupils (Staff inservice)**

**11<sup>th</sup> - 15<sup>th</sup> - February School closed (Long weekend)**

**Enrolment for new P1s - February, dates TBC**

**26<sup>th</sup> March - School closes Easter Holidays**

### Parents' Evening

Our recent telephone Parents' Evening was well attended and gave parents the opportunity to discuss their child's progress and also identify next steps. Thank you to all our parents for your continued support in your child's learning.

### Online Safety

May we remind parents/carers of the importance of keeping pupils safe online. More information can be sought from the following websites:

[www.thinkuknow.co.uk](http://www.thinkuknow.co.uk)

[www.nspcc.org.uk](http://www.nspcc.org.uk)

### Virtual Fun Run

Well done to those who took part in our School's Virtual Fun Run. We raised a total of £1055.45

### Children in Need

Our Fundraising Pyjama Day raised £250. Thank you for supporting such a worthwhile Charity.

May we take this opportunity to wish all our families a

Happy Christmas and a Peaceful New Year.  
Thank you for your continued support.

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