



The Jotter

Bun Sgoil Bhaile a' Mhanaich

Term 3 2020-21

Term 3 news



Return to school for all pupils!

As we welcome all our pupils back to school and nursery full time, 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 challenging third term of remote learning. Our pupils have adapted well to learning through Vscene and Teams and continue to amaze us with their resilience and excellent 'can do' attitude to their learning this session.

Parental feedback gathered has been overwhelmingly positive with an average rating of 4.4 out of 5 given by parents for the content, timing, resources and communication throughout this period of school closure. Further information regarding feedback will be published on the school website.

Staffing

We bid farewell to Sharon Clark who leaves to start her new role as Training Officer next term. We wish her the best of luck in her new job.

We also welcome Stephanie MacPhee and Natasha MacPherson to our nursery rooms.

Archeology Wokshops

PG5-7 and PE6-7 have taken part in a series of workshops with local archaeologists Emily, Jake and Becky. The team are working on a virtual reality archaeology project which will design a series of VR apps to enable people to view prehistoric sites along the Hebridean Way. As part of the project our pupils have been asked to help with the design of some of these apps. This project has tied in nicely with their historical topic based on the Vikings.



Holiday e-safety

As we approach a holiday period, we would like to remind parents of the importance of remaining vigilant of their child's online activity. Gaming is loved and enjoyed by many children especially through the holidays. It can be a way for them to be social, learn new skills, develop team work and relax. However, gaming also comes with risks for children. It can be difficult to keep up with the latest games and how they work. Find out about key safety concerns and how you can support happier, safer gaming for your child from the following link. <https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/articles/gaming/>

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

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ABC Band - Scottish Schools Freestyle Competition

Balivanich Primary School's "ABC" Band Enters "World's Biggest School Pipes Band On Line Event"

The Scottish Schools Pipes and Drums Trust (SSPDT) support Piping in schools throughout Scotland with help towards tuition costs, loans of instruments, grants to help purchase equipment etc. Their slogan reads "Every School Needs a Pipe Band". Due to Covid restrictions their annual schools' championship is being held this year as an on-line event. For the first time ever, this Freestyle competition is open to Primary schools.

Schools Piping Instructor Esther MacDonald recently encouraged pupils at Sgoil Bhaile a' Mhanaich to form a small band and to submit an entry.

The timescale has been very short, and with Covid restrictions on singing, and the blowing of instruments in schools, combined with Piping Tutors not being allowed into schools to teach, but having to provide on-line lessons, since Christmas, it has been an extra challenge to get a performance together. Pupils have worked very hard to produce an entry - they have even set up lunchtime practices by themselves and given up their evenings and weekends in order to improve enough to manage an entry. Balivanich School and Parent Council have been very supportive, and local businesses have assisted with the purchase of E Chanters for tuition in Western Isles schools during Covid restrictions. MacInnes Bros. Builders assisted with the purchase of T shirts for the new Band and its members. Special thanks must go to Culla Creations for the fabulous job they made of filming the entry - thanks Matt!

Pupils themselves have had a great buzz out of it all - it has certainly brightened up the school day a touch over the last few weeks. Comments from Band members include:

"It's the first time I've done anything like this - I have been playing the chanter for two and a half years but I have never joined with other instruments"

"I feel amazing to be in the Band - it's good to play music with my classmates and I'm excited about it all"

"I'm really enjoying it, and it's much more interesting to play with others instead of just on my own."

"It's a really good opportunity and it makes me want to practice"

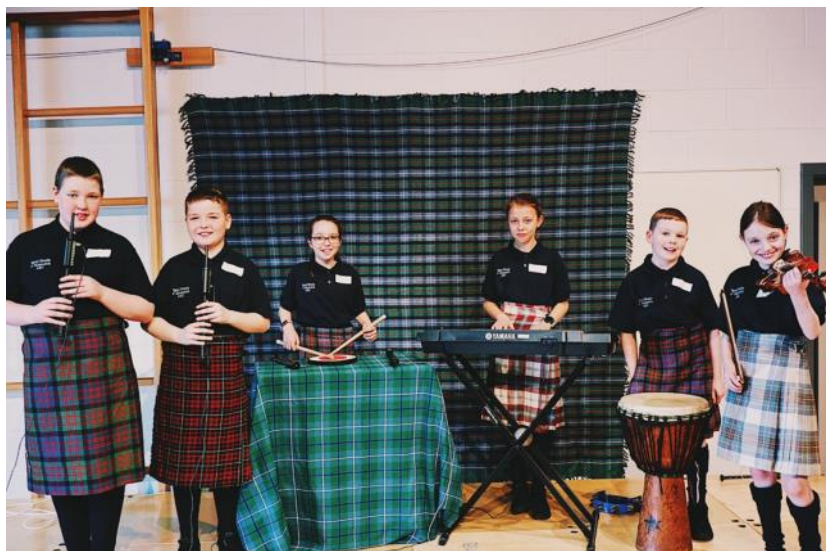
"I love the music and it's a surprise to be in a Band"

"This is my first time playing with others - it's new and it's fun"

Tunes for the set are - the Dark Island, Kalabaken, and Donald MacLean's Farewell to Oban. The performance is called "An t Eilean Dorcha"

Shortlisted films will be publicised on social media during weekend beginning Friday 26th March, and voting for the people's choice section takes place on Sunday 28th March via the pipe bands for schools Facebook page.

Sgoil Bhaile a' Mhanaich are the only school in the Western Isles entered this year, so please do support us and give us your vote! Thank you.



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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

12 April 2021 - Term 4 commences

20 April - P7 Sgoil Lionacleit Guidance Team visit

26/27 April - P6/7 Bikeability Level 2 training

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.

Sgoil Lionacleit Guidance department to visit P7

The guidance team will visit our P7 pupils early next term (April 20th) and chat with them about what Secondary school is like and answer any questions they may have about the move.

Transitions

Nursery transitions continue to take place on a weekly basis. Mrs Findlay has been spending time with both pre-school groups up until the end of term 3 where Mrs MacKay and Miss MacIntyre will then take over to work with the groups on Literacy and Numeracy activities.

Learning Journals

Pupil learning journals continue to be populated by staff showing a selection of children's learning from the term. It's wonderful to see the amount of wider achievements being shared by parents, we look forward to seeing what our pupils get up to over the holidays.

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