

# The Jotter









Term 4 2020-21

#### Eco/Health Week

Our annual eco/health week took place during the week of 31st May. A variety of activities were organised. Starting with the Parent Council Fun Run on the 31st May, which for the first time involved our whole school and a change of venue. Pupils ran their usual 3km distance along the Airport Beach



in glorious sunshine. Pupils took part in community litter picks as well as different health promoting activities such as gardening and cycling. On Wednesday 2nd June

the whole school (in their bubbles) climbed to the top of Rueval. Again, we were blessed with beautiful sunshine for the day.

#### Partnership working

PG5-7 have recently been involved in co-designing lesson plans with the RSPB and have been contributing their ideas for a national learning resource for all primary school nationally - and it'll be available in both Gaelic and English. The class had to vote on what they thought was the best way to learn about a topic, in this case, seabirds - and then design how they could best put these into interesting lessons for everyone. It was a lot more complicated than we all realised at the beginning, however, they had many great ideas and we're looking forward to seeing some of them in the RSPB pack due out towards the end of the year.

#### Successful Transitions

Primary 7 pupils visited Sgoil Lionacleit for the four days 17-22nd June whilst Nursery pre-school pupils continued their transition programme by joining their future P1 class for two full days on 17th/18th June.

Pupils in all other classes also 'moved up' for the two days. Feedback from all pupils was very positive. We are looking forward to seeing them progress to the next stage of their learning journey. Parents of our future P1 pupils joined us virtually for an information workshop and found out about our curriculum. Next session we will hold further parental workshops for our new P1 parents to ensure our pupils are settling into their P1 class.



#### RSHP IDL topic —Fas fallain

During this term, our pupils have engaged in lots of new and interesting learning through our most successful Fàs Fallain topic.

Classes learned about lifecycles of both plants and animals; some classes observed and recorded the life cycle of a butterfly first-hand and watched beautiful butterflies emerging from cocoons. There were also some very lively tadpoles resident in our classrooms! Our older pupils applied their knowledge of the lifecycles and reproduction of plants to making comparisons with these of humans.

A huge focus for our whole school was the anticipation - and finally the hatching - of our seven gorgeous chicks (each class had the opportunity to name a chick). Luckily for us, many hatched during the school day, giving us an insight into this magical occurrence. Our PG5-7 pupils have worked tirelessly to ensure that the chicks live in the

lap of luxury. We have to admit that they are now becoming slightly 'flappy' and need a lot of extra supervision!

Our pupils have also learned lots about the function of the skeleton and major organs, with many classes producing some fantastic pieces of functional writing based on their learning, such as: Information Leaflets and A Recipe for a Human Body - did you know that the human body has 15 trillion cells, 10 million miles of DNA and 5 million hairs?

This fantastic topic also provided an opportunity for us to showcase the work of the 4 Uist Primaries on RSHP (Relationships, Sexual Health & Parenthood). Pupils reinforced their learning of our uniqueness and strengthened their knowledge of their growing bodies, by naming different body parts and learning where living things come from, grow, develop and are nurtured.

Fàs Fallain is definitely one of our "best topics ever!"

Here are some of our pupils' comments:

"Bha e math a bhith ag ìonnsachadh mu dheidhinn rudan a bhios a' fàs agus a bhith a' deanamh experiments" Cameron PG4

"Chòrd na dealain-dè is iseanan rium!" Mairead PG4

"I enjoyed growing my sunflower - mine grew really tall!" Elizabeth PE5

"Now I know what plants need to grow" Charlotte PE4

"I loved writing a recipe about the human body" Evie PE5

#### Contact details...

Head Teacher: Mrs Anne Graham Balivanich Primary School Balivanich Benbecula HS7 5LA

Phone: (01870) 604886

E-mail:

balivanichschool@gnes.net

#### Please note our Emergency Telephone Number

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



## Dates for the diary

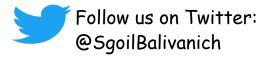
Monday-Wednesday 9th-11th August—Staff INSET Days

Thursday 12th August - School Open (Staff & Pupils)

#### 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.



# Facebook: Sgoil Bhaile a' Mhanaich

#### Summer activities

Please visit our website, facebook page and twitter account to see pictures of our summer activities!



Le Creideas, urram agus le bhith cruthachail thig adhartas

### <u>FunRun</u>

We would like to thank everyone who donated to our annual Parent Council Fun Run.