



Rothesay Joint Campus Rothesay Primary Dec '16



Welcome to our December Newsletter

As we come to the end of term, it is a chance to look back at the many exciting opportunities and achievements at Rothesay Primary. We have celebrated sporting success, an Argyll and Bute Silver Excellence Award and have continued to develop learning through community links with Mount Stuart, Rothesay Castle, Rothesay Library and Bute Museum. These partnerships are very important to us and deepen the learning for our pupils. A school should be at the centre; reaching out to work with others and inviting expertise in. We are very proud to work with parents, carers and our many different partners and wish everyone a very happy Christmas with best wishes for 2017!

Silver Award

Rothesay Joint Campus was delighted to win an Argyll and Bute Council Silver Excellence Award for their outstanding work with pupils from Syria. It is an award that has been achieved by everyone associated with the campus working together. Parents, carers, pupils, staff and other professionals united to offer a welcome to our new pupils and give them the best start possible in this, a new chapter in their lives. Chief Executive, Mr Clelland Sneddon, visited the school with Morag Brown to present the award and said he was very impressed with all our young people.



Miss Fisher, Abby and Shaun accept the Argyll and Bute Silver Award!

Wow what a busy few weeks we have had!

Topics covered this session were Halloween, Autumn, and Christmas. Please take a moment to look at our planning wall outside the Rainbow Room to see what we have been learning about.

Forest Schools is a wonderful learning experience where the children can risk assess and develop better awareness of their environment. A big thank you to Mount Stuart and Jessica and Gordon for all their help during our Forest School sessions.

Eco/Pupil Council Sale

The Eco Group and Pupil Council would like to say 'thank you very much' for helping us raise **£267.00**. Enterprise Day was very busy and the children were so excited about serving everyone. We made our own Christmas decorations, learned about using money, put prices on our stalls and developed our customer relations! Thank you so much to the people who donated raffle prizes. Chloe from P5 won the big teddy for Guess the Teddy's Birthday, Jessica from P7 guessed the closest amount to how many bottle tops and Jayden from the morning nursery session won guess where Santa's present was. Congratulations to them all!



Parents' Evenings

It was lovely to see so many parents and carers come along to parents' evenings to share the learning with their child/ren.

The Sleepy Shepherd

Our Nativities were a great success after lots of rehearsals and great excitement about performing on the big stage. The children enjoyed it so much, they are already planning their next performance - we will keep you updated! Thank you to Apple Tree nursery and the primary pupils who came along to our dress rehearsal. The fantastic sum of **£320** was raised through ticket sales and our raffle. Again, thanks to everyone who came along or donated raffle prizes.



Everyone performed well at our Christmas Sing-a-Long and Santa came to see us with gifts for all our children and our younger siblings. We had great fun at our parties with lots of dancing and games and of course delicious party food. It was also lovely to have the children who will start nursery in the new year, join us for our parties.

PATHS

PATHS has re-started for the preschool children. If you want to know more about PATHS speak to Mrs Shaw, Donna or Carol-Anne. We are going to work with Primary 1 on PATHS in the next term.



Time to decorate the Pre5 tree

Community Singing

On Wednesday 21st December we went out community singing. The morning children visited the residents at Ferfaad Court to sing our Christmas and Nativity songs. We always enjoy our Christmas visit to see all the residents and have planned regular visits to their Wednesday club in the new year. We are looking for parent volunteers who could help us take this initiative forward. If you can help please speak to any member of staff for more information so that we can start this link next term. The afternoon children visited Foley Court and then sang next to the Christmas tree in the town. Even the downpour didn't dampen our singing voices! Both sessions also sang in the Co-op and we would like to thank them for the lovely juice and biscuits we were given; it was very much needed after all that singing! The grand sum of **£47.41** was raised.

We look forward to welcoming Lachlan, Lonan, Hope and Ashley to our morning sessions next term and Gareth who joins our afternoon group.



Training courses attended this session by staff:

- Donna and Fiona attended The Scottish Learning festival at the SECC.
- Carol-Anne, Donna and Fiona have updated First Aid training.
- French twilight training attended by all staff.
- Carol-Anne and Maureen attended the Early Years Conference – Self-Evaluation: We are on a Journey.
- Fiona attended a course about Engaging Parents.

Primary 1 and 2/1 Nativity

We hope you all enjoyed the Primary 1 Christmas Nativity as much as we did! The boys and girls spent a lot of time rehearsing and quickly got to grips with everything they had to learn. We would like to thank the Rev Jones for letting us use the United Church of Bute - we think he enjoyed our singing, as he said we nearly took the roof off the church! We should also thank everyone who helped with the music and the costumes - the boys and girls looked just the part. Although a few children swapped parts for the day of the Nativity - here are our original photographs taken by Mr Morrison, complete with 'magic' backgrounds. These are still available to order through the school.



The collection raised £140 for Calum's Cabin - thank you.

Young Leaders at RPS

Jane Gillies has completed training with our young leaders in Primary 7 and they have been very busy running lots of different activities at lunch times including:

Monday - Power Hoop

Tuesday - Walk-a-Mile

Wednesday - Obstacle Course

Thursday - Californian Kickball

Friday - Basketball and Parachute Games

Our Rag Bag collections have funded the purchase of new playground equipment which will go out in the new year. We are looking forward to using new skipping ropes, long ropes, balls, catch-cups, hoops, flying saucers, space hoppers and footballs.

Attendance Procedures

It is parents/carers responsibility to inform the school if their child is to be absent. You may call the school after 8.30 to report a pupil absent, or send a note in advance for planned absences. Thank you for your co-operation in this matter.

Makaton

Pupils and staff in Primary 2 have been learning a third language - as well as English and French, they are learning Makaton! Makaton is a spoken sign language that has finger spelling as well as special signs for words and phrases. Children in the nursery are also learning Makaton and we will continue to develop this throughout the primary.

Rotary Club Photographic Competition

The Rotary Club very kindly supported Primary 6 and 7 pupils from across the island schools to go out into the community to take photographs. The pupils then had to enter what they thought were the best photographs into a competition. We were delighted when Rothesay Primary pupil Jessica Timms was announced as the winner! Jessica won a digital camera kindly donated by the Rotary Club and Michaela MacDuffie received a gift as runner up. Rothesay Primary would like to thank the Rotary Club for their support in this initiative. There is no doubt we now have some budding photographers!



Jessica and Michaela receive their prizes from the Rotary Club.

Parental Involvement

Homework Consultation

Our thanks to the group of parents who came into school to help us review our homework policy. After further consultation with all parents the feedback was that:

The majority of parents/carers thought Homework Challenges should discontinue.

The majority of parents/carers would like homework to reinforce literacy and numeracy.

Reading homework should continue.

The majority of parents/carers would like to get all the homework on a Monday - especially in the upper school where pupils often have to balance homework with clubs.

A web page with links to support learning would be useful.

Above all, homework should be manageable and stress free!

This feedback will inform our new homework policy which will be implemented in the new term.

Parents' Evenings

We were delighted with a very high attendance at parents' evenings and would like to thank parents/carers for their continued support.

Feedback from parents/carers was very positive regarding the opportunity to discuss pupil progress in private. This is something we will continue.

If you were unable to attend, remember that you can organise an appointment with your child's teacher through the school office.

Look out for new Curriculum Flyers in January which will outline the learning planned for the spring term.



Mrs Shaw would like to thank the young pipers and drummer who played so well (despite the weather) at our P1 Nativity. It is great to see the future of the Pipe Band is in good hands!



Snow White

Our pupils enjoyed a Christmas treat funded by the Parent Fund Raising Group, when the Shoogalie Road Theatre Group brought 'Snow White' to the school on Friday Dec 16th. Out thanks to the PFG for their continued support.

Head lice can't be prevented but regular checking ensures early detection and treatment if necessary. The best detection method is wet combing. Parents and carers should aim to check their children's hair once a week during hair washing. You need your usual shampoo, ordinary conditioner and a louse detection comb. Remember that you are looking for living, moving head lice – the only evidence that your child has a head lice infection. Visit your pharmacist for more information.

Bookbug Family Gifting Bags

Primary 1 recently enjoyed a week of stories and activities planned and led by S2. The initiative was led by the English Department using the Bookbug Gifting Bags for Primary 1 pupils. S2 spent time introducing the primary pupils to the different stories and through active learning, built up an understanding of characters and plots. Miss Robertson and Miss Allan said that their pupils really enjoyed the project and that one pupil had asked if they could work with S2 every week!



Eco Schools... Dec 2016



Primary 5 enjoyed making delicious smoothies with Liz Adams from Mount Stuart. The children wrote their own recipes and then perfected them! Most of the fruit was shop bought but some was from our own school garden.



Next Rag Bag collections:
Please donate old wearable
clothing, paired shoes, handbags,
ties and belts

School Calendar

School calendars cost £3 and are still available but be quick if you want to get one! The calendars have photos of every class and both pre5 sessions. Mrs Blair in the school office will be happy to help.

Again, our thanks to the Parent Fundraising Group for creating the calendar which raises funds for the little 'extras' like our Christmas Panto.

Important Dates

School closes for Christmas - Dec 23rd
School re-opens - Jan 9th at 9.10am
Primary 1 Enrolment Week - 16 - 20th Jan
Parent Council Meeting - 7th Feb at 7.00pm
Mid term holiday - school closes 8th Feb
In-service day for teachers - 9 and 10 Feb
School re-opens - 16th Feb
Pre5 Enrolment Week - 20 - 24th Feb
Valentines Disco - 22nd Feb
Parents' Evenings - 1st and 2nd March
World Book Day - 2nd March
Easter Service - 31st March
Easter Holidays - 31st March
School Re-opens - 18th April

Primary 1 Enrolment

Parents and carers are invited to come to school on week beginning 16th January 2017 between 10am and 3.00pm. Please ask for Mrs Shaw.

Each child will receive a Welcome Pack and you will be given a tour of the campus by the Pupil Council.

*If your child **does not** attend a nursery on Bute, please bring a copy of your child's birth certificate - thank you.*

We look forward to welcoming our new families in January.

**P7
Swimming
starts on
Friday
20th
January**



Rothesay Primary wish all our families, friends and partners a very happy Christmas and peaceful New Year.



Late News Holiday Dates

TERM	BREAK	DATES OF ATTENDANCE	
First			14 & 15 August 2017 Teachers' In-service Days
		Open	16 August 2017 Pupils Return
	October	Close	6 October 2017
		Open	23 October 2017
		Close	24 November 2017
			27 November 2017 Teachers In-service Day
		Open	28 November 2017
	Christmas	Close	22 December 2017
Second		Open	8 January 2018
		Close	9 February 2018
			15 & 16 February 2018 Teachers' In-service Days
		Open	19 February 2018
	Spring	Close	29 March 2018
Third		Open	16 April 2018
	May	Close	4 May 2018
		Open	8 May 2018
		Close	29 June 2018