

Innellan & Toward Primary School Newsletter

February 2016

I would like to welcome Ben to Innellan Primary and hope he will be very happy with us. He and his family have just moved here from Tasmania and I am sure you will all make them feel welcome. I would also like to welcome Mr Wakefield back (He is mobile but he has to be careful and not walk over rough terrain for a few more weeks.) and to especially thank Mrs Findlay for teaching his class for a couple of days each week.

Cathleen Russell
Head Teacher

Working Wednesdays

As part of the science topic pupils are doing this term on micro-organisms P4-7 have visited Dunoon Grammar School Science department where they have been setting up some experiments and studying the results. They may be more assiduous in their hand washing in future as they get and study the results of their experiments.

With the support of Gary and Steven P4-7 are undertaking in a block of lessons on computer coding using Kodu. This is where they learn how to write basic computer code to design a virtual world, place objects throughout the world and get the objects to interact in different ways depending on the types of instructions they create. Hopefully by the end of a 6-week block the pupils will have managed to design a fairly complex computer game.

Wider Achievement

Many of the children have already achieved their Bronze award and some are working towards their Silver. They all have jotters to record what they are doing and it is hoped that they will record the activities that they decide to undertake in imaginative and varied ways. The teachers talk to the children about their progress each week and share ways in which they could record, improve and get support in achieving their targets.

Transition – P7 pupils

P7 pupils and their parents have all been invited to information events at Dunoon Grammar School. The schools are also organising various events to enable P7 pupils from across Cowal opportunities to get together. The first of these events this term is the inter-school volleyball competition (more information to follow). There will also be a Jobs Fair this term in Dunoon Grammar School on 18th March and we will take P7 pupils to allow them to see what job prospects there are and give them the opportunity to begin to think about the type of job they would like to do when they leave school, college or university.

Beach Schools P1-3



These were very successful and even although the weather was cold the children managed to achieve a lot in each session. Unfortunately we had to postpone a couple of sessions but we will reorganise them for later this term.

Golf Tournament

P6/P7 pupils from Innellan and Toward Primary Schools took part in a Golf Tournament at Blairmore and Strone Golf Club. They joined teams from Sandbank, Strachur, Strone and Tighnabruaich, organised in partnership with the golf club, Mrs Daw from Strone Primary School and Active Schools Co-ordinator Mr Andy Trull.



SSPCA

One of their officers came to speak to the children about the variety of wildlife in the area. They had to try and identify their footprints and what the young of the various animals are called. The children were very good at this and managed to identify most species. As a result of the visit the pupils decided to make the SSPCA one of the charities that they wanted to support at Christmad and they gave them a donation of £20 as part of the collection that was made at Toward Church.

Forest Schools

We have been working closely with Mudskippers and once a month both schools and Mudskippers have a combined Forest School session. This term we are basing our activities on the Gruffalo stories and the children have been enjoying a whole tranche of activities linked to the stories.



Cowal Speakers Club

Luca represented both schools at the final this event this year. He spoke well and passionately about bagging Munro's. All the senior pupils wrote and performed speeches and many were thought provoking and interesting. Rory's speech was about his Uncle Paul and it was so informative that it was published in the local paper.

Book fair

We managed to sell over £300 worth of books which gave us a commission of over £300 of books to divide between the 2 schools and the pre-5 unit. This is an excellent scheme that allows us to top up libraries with new and exciting titles.

Christmas

As always this was a very busy time for us all. The children were great and the combining of the 2 schools to put on a play worked well and it enabled us to have 2 performances (one a matinee and one an evening performance) thus allowing as many people as possible the opportunity to come along. The children enjoyed learning and singing the songs for the play – Ned's Christmas Discovery. We were able to again



support some charities from the money we raised and divided the monies that we took at the door between Toward Church, Dunoon Food bank and the SSPCA. The stalls were the children sold their goods made about £120 for each school. Thanks to everyone for their generosity to the charities and the schools.

Carol Singing

Both schools went Carol Singing to Morrison's and to Dalriada Grove. As always they were well behaved and well received as they sang the songs they learnt for the Christmas Play.

Charities

The pupils have also been very generous in their donations to Children in Need and the Clown Doctors through the school collections that they had for 'Wear it Red' and 'Christmas Jumper Day'.

Computer Club

Computer club will begin after Easter Holidays - it will be on a Wednesday and will be based in which ever school we are in for Wow Wednesday. Cost will be £1 per session and is only open to P4-7 pupils.

Dates for your Diary

17 February	Working Wednesday - Toward
18 February	In-service Day – School closed to pupils
19 February	Holiday
23 February	Swimming - Toward & Innellan P4-7 (10.45 -11.30am) – 6-week block
23 February	Pupil led Parent evening 4-6pm (Appointment times will be issued)
24 February	Working Wednesday - Toward
2 March	Working Wednesday – Toward
2 March	Volleyball Competition (some P7 pupils)
3 March	Gaelic Singers (Ingrid and Anne)
9 March	Working Wednesday - Innellan
16 March	Working Wednesday - Innellan
18 March	Job Fair P7 - Dunoon Grammar School
21 March	Parent evening - Innellan 3-5.30pm (Appointment times will be issued)
23 March	Working Wednesday - Innellan
25 -28 March	Easter weekend
30 March	Working Wednesday - Innellan
2 - 17April	Spring break