



The Jotter

Bun Sgoil Bhaile a' Mhanaich

January 2018

Term 3 news



Bliadhna Mhath Ùr

Happy New Year and welcome back to all pupils and staff. This term looks set to be a busy term with lots of exciting topics focusing on local and Scottish history. Please remember to keep an eye on our facebook page, our school website and twitter for regular updates.

Welcome

A special welcome to Mrs Mereoni Fraser who has joined us as class teacher PE6-7. We wish her every success in Uist and we are thoroughly enjoying working with her.

A special welcome back to Sandra MacIntosh our Gaelic language assistant. We are very pleased to have Sandra back in Balivanich.

Smoking Cessation

This Term Mairead MacDonald, NHS Western Isles, will deliver Smoking Cessation Workshops to our P6 and 7 pupils.

Remembering back to December...

Before Spring arrives we would like to thank all our pupils, parents, staff and families for all our successful Christmas activities. Sleeping Beauty, our Pantomime was thoroughly enjoyed by all the pupils and our rising stars in the Sgoil-Àraich showed their unique talents during their Sing-Along.

Our Pantomime, Christmas lunch, Christmas Card Project, Christmas Parties, Sing-Along, Carol Services and Carol Singing were all extremely well attended and supported by our families and the school community. We thank you all.



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

BELIEVE, RESPECT, CREATE, ACHIEVE

G3-5/E3-5:

Since returning to nursery after the festive season, we have started a new topic 'We are going on a bear hunt/Tha sinn a' dol a shireadh mathan', both 3-5 rooms are doing joint planning to learn new things during this topic. We are also adding in some local history to the children's learning, by talking about 'Hercules the bear' and his adventures in Uist in 1980. The children are really enjoying the topic and have been very interested in it. We have sent out some 'homework' for the children to ask members of their family if they have any recollection of Hercules being on the Island and if so to let us know. Anyone with any information is more than welcome to come in and talk to the children about it.

Transition to P1 started on the 16th January 2018, and those who are going to school this year are attending weekly visits to their new class and getting them prepared for starting in August 2018. Not long to go now!



G1-3/E1-3:

'Catriona air chuairt/Catriona goes on a walk' is the book the children in the baby rooms are focusing on just now. Lots of new vocabulary is being learnt in Gaelic and English, there is a focus on numbers, colours and opposites in the book. There are lots of describing words which we are learning too, to help build children's sentences.

The children from the nursery attend the library every Tuesday, where they get to borrow a book for a week, which they are really enjoying.

Pàrant is Pàiste/Mother and toddler group is now starting every Monday, 1:30-3:00pm in the English 3-5 room. Everyone is welcome, even if you don't have Gaelic. There will be information on Gaelic words/websites that you can access if you are interested in learning Gaelic. If you require any more information, please contact the school office or email: kpetrie1r@gnes.net

Sporting Achievements

North District Cross Country

On the 9th December 2017, Katie PG7, Iona, PE7 and David PE6 travelled to Gordonstoun to compete in the North Districts Cross Country. Our pupils did very well and thoroughly enjoyed this experience.

Superteams

On Sunday 11th February Thomas PG7, David PE6, Aaron PG6, Katie PG7, Isabel PG6 and Hope PE5 will travel to the Emirates Arena in Glasgow to compete in the Scottish Athletics Under 12s Superteams event. Good luck to you all - we look forward to hearing about the trip!

March Events

On the 10th March a number of our pupils will compete in the North of Scotland Primaries Cross Country Championship. This event will be held in Forres this year instead of Alness. We wish our pupils lots of luck!

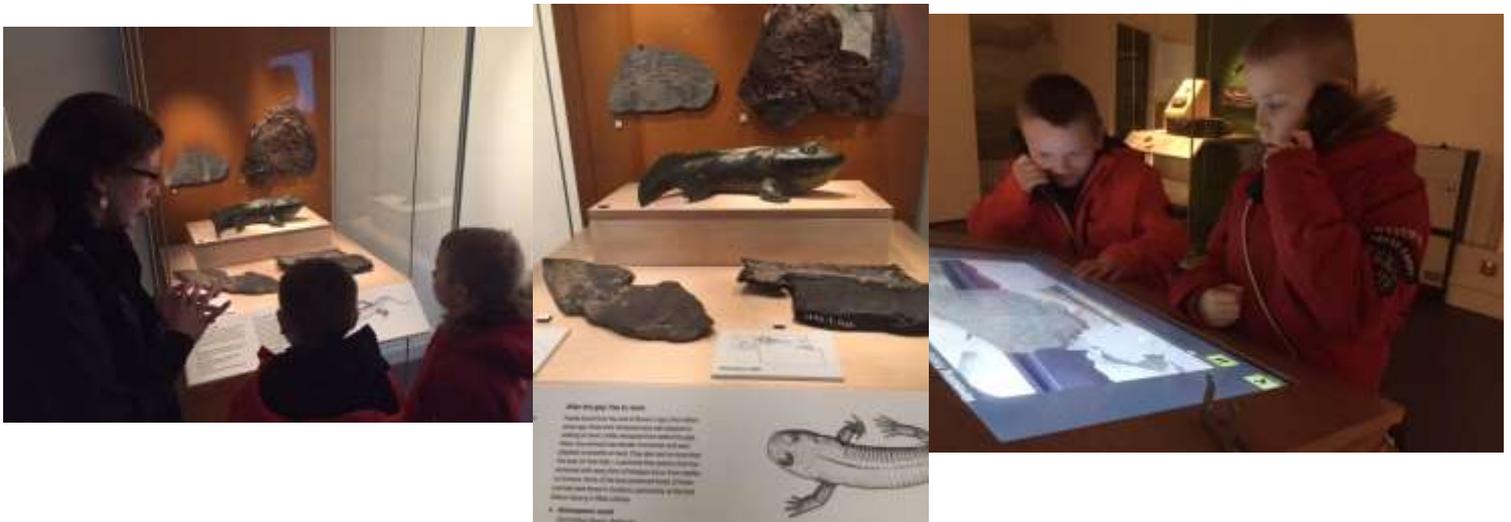
On that same day, Katie PG7 and Thomas PG7 will travel to the Emirates Arena to compete in the Under 13s Indoor Championships. This opportunity comes from regularly attending training with North Uist Amateur Athletics Club.

A special thank you to all the staff and parents who help prepare the children to compete in these events



Fossil Hunters

Below are some pictures showing a recent trip to the Fossil Hunters Exhibition at Museum nan Eilean.



Lunchtime Activities

As an Active School, we at Sgoil Bhaile a' Mhanaich know the importance of leading and maintaining a healthy lifestyle. With this in mind, the Health and Wellbeing Committee has set up a Lunchtime Basketball Club (Tuesday). The Club is available for pupils in Primary 5-7 and is led by Mrs MacGillivray. Hope to see you there!

In addition to physical activity, we are also offering a Lunchtime Reading Club (Monday, Wednesday and Thursday). The club is available for all pupils and is led by Attainment Officers, Celia and Louise. It has proved to be very popular!

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

BELIEVE, RESPECT, CREATE, ACHIEVE

Community Links

Partnership with Parents

Our parents are very important to us and the school. We are always looking for ways to improve our work and welcome any suggestions. Please use our 'Green for Growth' and 'Tickled Pink' jotters in the foyer to share your thoughts on what works well and areas for improvement.

Lots of excellent feedback and brilliant ideas have already been shared and as a result of one request, a Parent is Pàiste group started on Monday 29th January, 1:30-3:00pm! Kayleigh Petrie will be leading this weekly mums and tots group and it will be held in the E3-5 nursery room.

Christmas Eve Quilt Angels

10 girls from Balivanich School volunteered with girls from 2 other local schools, to form the Uist Christmas Eve Quilt Angels, whereby they worked tirelessly from August until December making quilts for all the patients and residents of the Uist & Barra Hospital and the Trianaid and Sacred Heart Care Homes. On Christmas Eve, all the girls dressed up in festive costumes to deliver the quilts in person, which were gratefully received, whilst singing Christmas Carols.



Eco Committee



The Eco Committee are planning to decorate our school shed as they think it looks a bit boring! We would appreciate donations of spare paint (the more colours the better), varnish and any spare plywood you have in your lofts, sheds or garages. Please leave any donations at the Janitor's office. Thank you. We can't wait to start!



Safer Internet Day 2018



This takes place on Tuesday 6th February with the slogan **"Create, Connect and Share Respect: A better internet starts with you"**. We will share what we do to mark this day in next month's newsletter.

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

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Making Literacy fun...

Our 'Rhyme a Month' is receiving a fantastic response from our school community! Try this rhyme at home with your child and we will do it as a whole school at our end of month assembly. We are never too old or young for a nursery rhyme!

Sing a song of sixpence



Sing a song of sixpence,
A pocket full of rye.
Four and twenty blackbirds,
Baked in a pie.
When the pie was opened
The birds began to sing;
Wasn't that a dainty dish,
To set before the king.

The king was in his counting
house,
Counting out his money;
The queen was in the parlour,
Eating bread and honey.

The maid was in the garden,
Hanging out the clothes,
When down came a blackbird
And pecked off her nose.

There was such a commotion,
that little Jenny wren
Flew down into the garden,
and put it back again.



School Uniform

We keep a range of uniform in stock in the school. Please call in to the office to purchase items or to pick up an order form/price list. We also have some second hand items on our 'Swap Shop' rail in the hall, please help yourselves to anything there. We would be delighted to have any items your child has outgrown!

Sgoil Bhaile a' Mhanaich Dress Code

Coloured tights will not be part of the school uniform code and we ask all parents to note that, in line with all other schools in the local authority, no items eg. school bag, lunch bag, jackets, hats etc containing football logos will be allowed.

UNIFORM FOR GIRLS

- Navy or light blue jumper (with or without school logo)
- Navy cardigan (with or without school logo)
- Light blue polo-shirt (school logo optional)
- White or light blue blouse/shirt
- School tie
- Navy skirt/pinafore dress/ trousers/shorts (no jeans/leggings/joggers)
- Light blue gingham dress
- Plain navy tights
- Black school shoes or plain black trainer style shoes.



UNIFORM FOR BOYS

- Navy or light blue jumper (with or without school logo)
- Navy knitted tank top
- Light blue polo-shirt (school logo optional)
- White or light blue shirt
- School tie
- Navy trousers/shorts (no jeans/joggers)
- Black school shoes or plain black trainer style shoes



PE Uniform

- PE t-shirts (light blue or navy with or without logo)
- Navy shorts

In the event of inclement weather, children may wear black boots or wellington boots to school but these must be stored in a bag and school shoes worn whilst inside the building. Pupils may also change into their football trainers during break and lunchtimes.

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

BELIEVE, RESPECT, CREATE, ACHIEVE

Emerging Literacy - Raising Attainment in Literacy

Our Primary 1 pupils have been taking part in the Northern Alliance Emerging Literacy Project. This project has focused on developing phonological awareness and pre-handwriting skills. As a result our Primary 1 teachers have introduced a number of activities into the classroom focusing on developing fine motor skills and phonological awareness e.g. rhyme awareness and rhyme production.

In a short space of time some of our P1 pupils have had a significant increase in their phonological awareness score! This project has been rolled out across the school and nursery rooms and staff are planning lots of activities taking into account the guidance from the Emerging Literacy project.

If you are interested in further information please have a look at www.highlandliteracy.com for ideas and resources.

An Cuan Sgìth

An Cuan Sgìth is a two year visual arts exchange project between pupils from Bunsgoil Shlèite, Skye and Sgoil Bhaile a' Mhanaich. The sketchbooks, framed A1 drawings, large scale charcoal compositions and a film of the project will form the exhibitions that express their artistic and physical journey, in Taigh Chearsabhagh, North Uist and Sabhal Mòr Ostaig, Skye.

The exhibition is open in Taigh Chearsabhagh until 24th February 2018 and will then move to Skye. The film created is available on the school website and definitely worth a watch!

For more information follow the link: http://www.juliebrook.com/pdf/An_Cuan_Sgith.pdf

Below are comments from some of the pupils:

'S'e an rud a b'fheàrr leam mun phroiseact An Cuan Sgìth nuair a bha sinn ann an Uig air a chidhe a' deànamh dealbh. Fhuair sinn cothrom sealladh ùr a pheantadh le peant- uisge.

Chòrd e rium gu mòr nuair a bha sinn a peantadh còmhla ri ar caraidean ùr bho Sgoil Shlèite. Bha Julie, Cath agus Kate a sealltainn ciamar a tha sinn a measgachadh dhathan.

Tha mi a-nis ag iarraidh tuilleadh ealan a' dheànamh còmhla ri Julie Brook agus tha mi ag iarraidh a bhidh nam dhealbhair nuair a tha mi nas sinne.' *Kirstie PG5*

"I found it very exciting seeing my artwork up at Lochmaddy." *Brooke PG6*

"Bha na dealbhan uabhasach math agus tha mi ag iarraidh seo fheuchainn a rithist." *Grace PG6*



Ceann, gualain, gluinean, cas

Ceann, gualain, gluinean, cas, gluinean, cas
Ceann, gualain, gluinean, cas, gluinean, cas
Suilean, cluasan, sron agus beul
Ceann, gualain, gluinean, cas, gluinean, cas
Ceann, gualain, gluinean, cas, gluinean, cas.



How to Make a Lava lamp

You will need:

Vegetable oil
Food colouring
Water

Plastic bottles (with a lid)
Alka-Seltzer or effervescent vitamin C tablets

This is how you make it:

Pour water into the bottle so it is a quarter full, add a few drops of food colouring and add glitter to finish. Fill bottle almost to top with the vegetable oil (use a funnel) and let the mixture separate. Break up the effervescent tablets and drop into the mixture (don't replace the lid!)



What's happening?

Oil is less dense than water so it sits on top of the water and food colouring mix which separates into 2 layers. The effervescent tablets dissolve in the water and react to make bubbles of carbon dioxide gas which rise to the surface, release the gas and fall again.

Pantomime

On Wednesday the 13th of December 2017 the pupils of Sgoil Bhaile a' Mhanaich performed a pantomime Sleeping Beauty. All the pupils worked very hard. We hope you all enjoyed the show and thank you all for coming!



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

BELIEVE, RESPECT, CREATE, ACHIEVE

Contact details...

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Please note our Emergency Telephone Number

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

Dates for the diary

6th February—Worldwide Safer Internet Day
7th February—In service (school closed for pupils)
8th, 9th, 12th February—Holiday
14th February—Ash Wednesday
15th—Smoking Cessation Workshops (P6/7)
26th Feb - 11th March—Fair Trade Fortnight
1st March—World Book Day
5th - 9th March—Book Fair
12th - 18th March—British Science Week
27 March—Easter Bonnet Parade (Pre-schoolers/P1 - 2)
Thursday 29th March—School Closes

Monday 16th April—School opens for Term 4

Healthy snacks

As a health promoting school, can we remind parents to provide their child with a healthy snack and freshly filled water bottle each day. Bottles of water are available to purchase from the school cafeteria. We offer toast to all pupils at break times at a cost of 50p per week. Our Health & Wellbeing Committee will soon be delivering some exciting news about their healthy tuckshop idea!



Follow us on Twitter:
@SgoilBalivanich



Facebook:
Sgoil Bhaile a' Mhanaich

Early arrivals

Can we remind parents that pupils should not arrive in school any earlier than 8:30am as there is no supervision until this time.