



Rockfield Primary

Bun-sgoil Achadh na Creige

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Dear Parent/Carer,

Welcome to the Spring issue of our Rockfield Newsletter. I hope you will find lots of interesting reading within and that you are heartened by the learning that is going on within our school.

It has been a long term for both children and staff. We have worked closely with HMIE inspectors to drive forward our improvement agenda and are confident that we can continue to make Rockfield a great place to work and learn. The support of parents and staff are crucial to its success and as such I would like to express my thanks to all for their invaluable support this term.

I wish you all a very happy and restful Spring break and look forward to the exciting events of next term

Yours sincerely

Caroline Fothergill

Head Teacher

Dates For Your Diary

Monday 18th April

Thursday 26th - 28th April

Friday 29th April

Thursday 5th May

Friday 13th May

Tuesday 31st May

Wednesday 1st June

Monday 6th - 8th June

Friday 3rd June

Thursday 30th June

School opens

P7/6/5/G trip to Edinburgh

Highlands and Islands Music and Dance Festival

P7 visit from theatre company - 'The Journey'

P1-3 visit from theatre company

Sports Day

Reserve Sports Day

P7 High School induction days

Local Mòd

School closes at 1:00 p.m.



News Around the School

Stay and Play

Primary 1 held a very successful Stay and Play session in January. The children enjoyed having their parents and other family members in during Active Start to join in with lots of activities. It was lovely to see so many people come along to see how the children are learning through play.



Mastering Measure in Primary 2



As part of their Measure topic in Maths, Primary 2a decided to invite in a parent who could help them with their learning. Donald Campbell's dad talked to the children about how he uses his measuring skills in his job and showed the class how to use a ruler to measure different lengths and heights. He answered lots of questions and the class were very grateful for his help.

Church Visits

Earlier this month, Primary 3 pupils went on a trip to both Oban Parish Church and the Free Church in Rockfield Road. Mr Cameron and Mr Beaton gave very interesting talks about their churches and the children asked lots of fantastic questions about the buildings, God and the world in which we live. Primary 3 discovered that the Free Church has a long established connection with Rockfield and Mr Beaton said that he was very pleased to be continuing this. Mr Cameron told them that there used to be a bell in the Parish Church steeple which had been salvaged from a shipwreck! Everyone had a great time and found out lots of interesting information about the two local churches. Many thanks to the ministers for sharing their special stories and for answering all the questions!



Big Writing Celebration

Primary 4 had a lovely afternoon sharing their progress in writing with family and friends. The children had produced a Christmas adventure story and a detailed description of an alien encounter. Tea, coffee, juice and homemade shortbread were provided and enjoyed by everyone.



First Level Body Experts

Glasgow Science Centre visited the school to perform their 'Bodyworks' Tour to First Level classes. Primary 2 and 3 watched the 'Journey through the Body' performance and Primary 4 classes saw the 'Disgusting Digestion' show. The very informative performances were followed by an interactive exhibition session where children were able to experience the many machines used by the Science Centre to measure heart beat, reaction time, balance, etc. There was even a photograph aging machine to show the children how they might look in 10 years!



Mrs Jenny Love, a Science specialist, was also on hand to work with those classes that did not attend the exhibition. As the children were learning about the heart, Mrs Love showed them how to make a working pump. This proved to be an excellent way to illustrate the workings of the heart to all children.

Primary 2 welcomed a parent in to talk to them as part of their Human Body Interdisciplinary Learning topic. Iain Duffy's mum told the children all about her job as an A&E nurse and the children learned lots about different ways to keep their bodies healthy.

Primary 3 classes took an afternoon walk to the Lorn and Islands District General Hospital where they visited the A&E department, watched an x-ray being taken and discovered how the doctors treat broken bones. The children shared their knowledge with the hospital staff and asked very interesting questions.



Primary 4 classes walked to OHS in order to access a science lesson on digestion with Mrs Bruce in the Biology Department. They learnt how amylase breaks down starch as part of chemical digestion and that iodine turns starch black. They undertook a science experiment to illustrate this and also had an opportunity to make pool!

Space Discoveries at Tralee



P7/6/5G recently went to Tralee Beach to help them understand the enormity of the solar system and the distances between each planet. In class the children researched and produced fact files and scale pictures of each planet which, once laminated, they stuck onto garden canes. At Tralee they imagined that the sun was at one end of the beach and, using accurate pacing, they were able to place each planet in its orbit around the sun. The dwarf planet Pluto was almost at the other end of the beach, which was nearly 1km away. When the class looked back they weren't able to see any of the other planets at all! This exercise really helped everyone to understand just how vast the solar system and universe are.

After lunch there was a beach art competition to produce something connected to space. The pupils made the planet Mars out of seaweed and rock, a rocket out of sand and an alien using seaweed, sticks and sand. One team made a picture story of a moon, an asteroid and a rocket. The winning group, who worked exceptionally well as a team, made a spiral galaxy.



Everyone had an amazing day and the opportunity to learn lots of interesting things about the solar system.



Chinese New Year

Back in February, Early and First Level classes celebrated the Chinese New Year festival in style. Many children came to school wearing the lucky colours of red and gold and everyone had the opportunity to take part in many different activities throughout the day. Primary 1 made dancing dragon puppets and painted blossom trees, while Primaries 1 to 4 took part in a variety of crafts, including making lanterns and painting their names using Chinese characters. Each class experienced a delicious Chinese food tasting session and, after carrying out a survey, Primary 3a discovered that prawn crackers came out on top as the overall favourite food tried on the day.



To finish off the fun-filled festival, the classes came together in the school hall to perform a gigantic dragon dance – ROAR!

World Book Day



A very enjoyable World Book Day celebration was held on Thursday 3rd March. Pupils and staff participated by dressing as their favourite fictional character and bringing in books to swap. Thank you to everyone who brought in books. Due to the fantastic response, every child from Primary 1 to 7 was given the opportunity to take a book of their choice home. The school would also like to thank the parents who came in to read stories to the Primary 1 and 2 classes. The day was a wonderful success.

Sports Relief

On Friday 18th March all pupils helped to support the Sports Relief charity. It was an action packed day kicked off by a whole school dance session at assembly. Even the teachers were getting their groove on! Dressed in their sports gear, each class took part in an energetic Zumba session followed by a mile walk around the school which P7/6/5G had marked out earlier in the week. Throughout the day, P7/6 and P7 pupils organised Beat the Goalie and Chair Hoopla challenges to raise some extra money. It was an exhausting but fun filled day which raised around £400 for the national charity. Well done and thank you to all the pupils and staff involved.



Clan Bunny Drive



Clan Captains organised an Easter Bunny Drive last week. Pupils from Primary 1 to 7 spent the afternoon in their clans, frantically rolling dice and creating their best bunny drawings. Prizes for the highest scoring players were awarded and everyone had a fantastic time.



Extra-Curricular Activities

Shinty Club



Over the last term, Rockfield won the indoor shinty league and went to Fort William for the National Shinty Sixes where they gave a very good account of themselves. Our other shinty teams performed extremely well in the indoor tournaments with Rockfield Rovers and the P3 team both coming second in their leagues. Well done to everyone!

Rockfield, Achadh Na Creige, Rockfield Rovers and Rockfield Rockets were in Lochgilphead recently for the final indoor tournament of the season. Again, all teams played well with Rockfield winning their league.

On Thursday 24th March the Tulloch League began at Taynuilt with the 9 aside team losing two and drawing two games. The team gave it their all and are looking forward to the next round on 12th May at Strachur.

After the holidays, the Rural Sixes will begin at Mossfield. The first round takes place on 29th April and more details will follow. A busy time for all our shinty teams!

Football Club

The Thursday Football Club for P7 and P6 continues to be a success and pupils are enjoying learning a number of new skills and techniques. The club will continue to run throughout next term.

Tag Rugby

Active Schools have organised a tag rugby club for Primary 4 and 5 pupils which takes place after school on a Monday. So far, there has been a very good turn out of pupils attending and hopefully the club will be part of the Tag Rugby Festival in May. More information about this will be available from Active Schools after the Spring holiday.

Chess Club

The Chess Club is currently taking part in the Delancy Chess Competition with the final round commencing after the Spring holiday. Some of the members will then qualify to go to the Mega Final in Glasgow. On Saturday 14th May the annual 'Chess for Kicks' day will be held and more information about this will be available after the holidays.



Choir

The Choir visited Eadar Glinn Residential Care Home to celebrate Robert Burns' Day at the end of January and performed a selection of Scottish songs, including two Burns' songs. It was a lovely visit and the residents joined in with the children as they sang their songs. The Choir is planning to make another visit before too long and, next time, the Folk Group and Whistle Club will join them. The children are keen to visit and entertain other community groups in the town.

Folk Group

The Folk Group meets at lunchtime on Wednesdays and is currently preparing two different pieces for the Music Festival.

Penny Whistle



The Whistle Group is open to pupils in P5-7, meeting at lunchtime on Tuesdays, and recently provided entertainment at the Daffodil Tea. The group is making great progress and is now combining tunes now to make up sets!

Fun-tastic Friday

Every Friday after school, a number of Primary 1 pupils are having great fun at the new Friday club run by Active Schools. Organised by coaches Lewis McFarlane and Sophie McInnes, the children have been learning how to play lots of different types of games each week.

Reading Rocks!

There has been a great turnout at the new Reading Rocks book club on Friday lunchtimes over the past few weeks! It's for P3-7 and anyone is welcome to take along their own book for a peaceful half hour of cosy, comfortable reading. Club members are also welcome to browse through all the lovely books in the school library – whatever their reading 'thing' is, they are bound to find something exciting to read there! Anyone who is interested in joining can ask Miss MacDonald for further details or just turn up at 12:45pm after lunch.

Books are bliss – come and join us!



Sporting Achievements

Athletics

Rockfield competed in and won an inter-school athletics competition held recently at Atlantis Leisure. The competition was broken down into a Rural Schools challenge and an Oban Schools challenge, with the three top teams from each of these events going through to the final. The pupils were able to participate in a wide variety of events and really enjoyed being part of a team. A fantastic result!



Gymnastics



Rockfield sent a team to the Gymnastics Festival held in Oban High School on 9th March. They gave a fantastic performance and came in second in the team competition. Sean Campbell, Primary 7/6/5G, won first place for his individual performance. Congratulations to the all the athletes.

Cricket

On the 25th February, Primary 7 pupils participated in the Cricket Competition organised by Active Schools. Rockfield entered seven teams, all of whom played with great enthusiasm. Robbie MacKay was nominated as boy of the match.



Maths Fest 2016



Ten Primary 7 pupils participated in the Oban High School Maths Festival. The pupils were placed in teams of four with S1 ex-Rockfield pupils. The competition consisted of two parts with one of the Rockfield teams coming first in one section, after a closely fought tie breaker question, which saw another Rockfield team coming in second. What a great result! Thanks again to Oban High School for organising this event.

Football Trip

Eight lucky pupils from Rockfield went on a football trip to the North East of England. Pupils from Park, Saint Columba's, Dunbeg and Lochnell also went along.



The pupils left early on a Friday morning and arrived for a tour of Sunderland F.C.'s Stadium of Light, where they met their coaches for the Saturday football training sessions. After checking into the hotel, the groups went bowling on Friday evening.

It was an early rise on Saturday morning and after breakfast, everyone travelled to a football training centre in Newcastle, where they had a chance to show off their football skills and learn some new ones from the professional Sunderland F.C. coaches. That afternoon, the groups went to Saint James' Park to watch Newcastle F.C. lose 3:1 to Bournemouth F.C. When the game was over, everyone got on the bus back to Oban and arrived home at midnight. It was a busy and very exciting two days.



Daffodil Tea

It was time to splat, hook and roll again at this year's Daffodil Tea. Along with delicious home baking, nail bar and face painting, there was a 'create zone' where children could devise a chick and egg Easter scene on a plate, a spin a prize stall and a treasure hunt on a map overseen by a real-live pirate! Of course there were also the regular challenges of splat the rat, hook a duck and the egg-roll egg-travaganza. As a special treat, both the Choir and Tin Whistle group delightfully entertained the crowd during an exciting Easter egg hunt. There were some very imaginative entries to the up-cycling competition and a special raffle for a signed football strip and ball.



Over £1360 was raised and this money will support every class in their activities during the summer term. Thank you to everyone who helped on the day and for those who came along to support the event.



Highlands and Islands Music and Dance Festival

The annual music festival takes place at the end of April and lots of pupils will be taking part again this year on Friday 29th April. P1, P1G, P2, Sgoil Àraich and the morning Pre-Five group will all be performing different action songs at the Corran Halls as part of the Schools' Day. Rockfield's folk group and choir will also be performing at the Corran Halls later the same day, so it's all go to get ready! Further information on arrangements for the day will be available nearer the time. Words for festival songs are now on the school website and can be found in the 'Songs' or 'Choir' section of the music page.

Pupil Council

Rockfield's Pupil Council has been hard at work this past term. They spent some time creating possible vision statements and held a vote to decide which statement best summed up their role in the school community. The chosen vision was:

You think the future – we'll make it happen!

The council members were also busy gathering information from their peers about 'What's Hot and What's Not at Rockfield'. The responses were mainly positive with a good number of suggested ways the pupils think the school could be improved. The council will be discussing a number of these suggestions over the coming term.



Used Stamp Collection



P3 continue to collect used postage stamps for a charity which seeks to help improve the quality of life and development potential of orphans in some of the most deprived parts of the world.

You can help by tearing around the used stamps from your letters and birthday cards and sending them into school.

Music on the School Website

A 'Relaxing Music/Mindfulness' folder has been added to the 'Music' section of the school website, which is located within the 'Class Pages' section. A few of the pieces, which the children have been listening to during Music lessons, are already available. The classes are really enjoying the opportunity to slow up, listen and respond by discussing their thoughts and feelings. The folder will have new pieces added to it as the children are introduced to them. There are many similar pieces online by searching for 'relaxing music for children', 'mindfulness music' or something similar. You may like to relax too and see where the music takes your thoughts - the children's responses are fascinating!



Keep up to date with school news and events by visiting:

www.rockfieldprimaryschool.co.uk

Important school letters can be found on the website's Notice Board.

Please remember, school closes on Friday 1st April and re-opens on Monday 18th April 2016.

Happy Spring Break