



# Rockfield Primary

*Bun-sgoil Achadh na Creige*

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***Dear Parent/Carer,***

As we approach the end of 2015, we look back on a busy first term here at Rockfield.

Along with our up and coming festive celebrations, the children have been busy in all areas of the curriculum and we would like to take this opportunity to share some of the learning experiences and activities which the classes have been involved in.

The next few weeks will be full of Christmas celebration and we ask that you please note the 'Dates For Your Diary' section below. Further information for some of these events will follow in due course.

I would like to thank staff, parents and children for their warm welcome since taking up the permanent post of Head Teacher.

On behalf of everyone at Rockfield Primary, I would like to wish you all a very happy and healthy festive season.

*Caroline Fothergill*

Head Teacher

## **Dates For Your Diary**

**Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> December**  
**Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> December**  
**Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> December**  
**Friday 11<sup>th</sup> December**  
**Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> December**  
  
**Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> December**  
  
**Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> December**  
**Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> December**

**Holly Tea in the campus assembly hall 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.**  
**Early Years Nativity 9:45 a.m.**  
**P4 Christmas Party p.m.**  
**P5 Christmas Party p.m.**  
**P3 Christmas Party p.m.**  
**Christmas Lunch**  
**P2 Christmas Party p.m.**  
**P6/7 Ceilidh 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.**  
**P1 Christmas Party p.m.**  
**End of Term Service 9:45 a.m. in Glencruitten Road Church**  
**School closes at 2:30 p.m.**



## News Around the School

### Primary 1

This term Primary 1 have been learning all about pirates! They have found out what pirates did and what they looked like, as well as learning about life on board a pirate ship. The children have drawn treasure maps and written about the treasure they found and have begun writing their own pirate adventure story. The role play area has been turned into a pirate ship, allowing lots of imaginative play to take place.

They visited the local library for a special Bookbug session all based around pirates. The children really enjoyed the songs and stories and received a special Bookbug bag of goodies at the end.



Primary 1 are busy rehearsing for their Nativity play alongside the children in the nursery. This year's performance is called 'A Little Nativity' and is filled with catchy songs and festive cheer!

### Primary 1G



Primary One Gaelic are looking at floating and sinking as part of their science topic on forces. They are also studying "Pirates" as their I.D.L. topic.

The children talked about what things they might find on a pirate ship, before designing a ship with everything it needed. From their plans, they then designed and built pirate ships using Duplo. The class then took the water tray outside and tested their pirate ships to see which could stay afloat the longest.

### Primary 2

The Primary 2 classes welcomed some visitors from SAMS. The children learned all about life in the Arctic. They learned how the Scientists from SAMS travel both to the Arctic and around the ice and snow to conduct their experiments. They saw lots of photos of animals and had a chance to examine the clothing and equipment needed to survive in such a cold climate.



### Primary 3

Primary 3 have thoroughly enjoyed learning about the Polar Regions this term. The children investigated the similarities and differences between the Arctic and the Antarctic and discovered how living things survive in both areas. To help them on their polar adventures, the classes welcomed the scientists from SAMS who told them all about life in the Arctic. They brought along all of their equipment and the children were lucky enough to try some of it on!



Primary 3 also took part in a polar homework challenge where they designed the habitat of their chosen polar animal. The designs were fantastic! Well done to everyone who took part.



### Primary 4

Primary 4 have had an exciting start to the year exploring the Polar Lands. They created some spectacular landscape paintings of the Arctic and Antarctic and wrote excellent Haiku poems to describe the landscapes in both areas. The children used the internet and books to write up statistic cards for the different polar animals. A Scientist from SAMS came to talk to them about her experience when she visited the Arctic. Some of the children tried on her special clothes and footwear. P4a designed mini flags to be compiled together to create one big flag which was being sent to the Antarctic with an explorer.



Each P4 class has been creating a range of handmade crafts to sell at their enterprise stalls at the Holly Tea.

### Primary 4/3/2G

P4/3/2/G have enjoyed learning about Polar Regions, the animals that live there and the names of some environmental features. All in Gaelic!

The children were fortunate to experience several visits from scientists from SAMS and Amy Kincaid came to show them photographs of her adventures in Antarctica, where Leopard Seals are apex predators.

The children, their families and friends were very helpful in collecting empty milk cartons so that the class could build their very own igloo. The igloo is a great place to play and read stories!



### Primary 5

Both Primary 5 classes have been enjoying learning about African Safari Regions as part of their 'Into the Wild' topic. The pupils have studied the world map, located the continent of Africa and discovered the countries where safaris can be found. The children have investigated the safari animals and explored the Masai tribe, learning all about their lives, by comparing the Masai's culture to their own. Some of the work has included creating giant safari scenes which feature animals and informative fact files. They are currently working on some Masai warriors to complete the displays.



## Primary 6



Primary 6 have been learning about Australia and the contrasting way of life to that in Scotland. They have learned about Oceania, Australia's physical and man-made features and, most excitingly, about the amazing wildlife. Pupils have learned the skills of using an atlas, using Latitude and Longitude, plotting points using Eastings and Southings on the world grid and using a key on a map.

The children have enjoyed two outdoor learning opportunities with Stramash, which were canoeing and hiking.

## Primary 7

Primary 7 have been exploring the rainforest this term. The children investigated what a rainforest is, how it is constructed and the locations of the various rainforests on planet Earth. They studied life in the rainforest and discussed environmental issues related to deforestation and its impact on humans and wildlife in the surrounding areas. Mrs Daniels and Mrs Robertson very kindly told the pupils about their adventures in the rainforest and provided the classes with some wonderful photographs.

Both P7 classes were given a homework challenge to design a hide for use in the rainforest. Pupils were encouraged to use natural materials in the construction and the results were spectacular! Well done to all of those involved.



## Primary 7/6/5G

As well as their hard work and success at the National Mòd, P7/6/5G have been busy learning about Australia as part of their I.D.L. topic. They are really enjoying the topic so far.



The class enjoyed harvesting a variety of vegetables from the school garden, which the staff in the school kitchen prepared for that day's lunch. The potatoes were particularly delicious.

The class also enjoyed some outdoor learning with P1-4G. They looked at a story about a stick man, then the older children helped the younger children to make their own stick men and houses.



## Learning Centre

We have been sailing the high seas as pirates this term in the Learning Centre. We have had many adventures, a treasure hunt and sung many a sea-shanty. We have baked, cooked and eaten our delicious creations and got completely covered in flour during the process. We love messy learning in the Learning Centre.



## French



Each class have had a great start to the year in French! At different levels, children have been learning how to greet each other and name a selection of colours and numbers in French. More advanced learners have moved on to practising the words for family members and body parts. Pupils have also been exploring France and French culture. Some of the upper school classes are now working co-operatively to make posters about different aspects of French life, which they will use to help them share their knowledge with classmates. Pupils will soon be exploring how Christmas is celebrated in France, as well as learning some Christmas vocabulary.

## Music

In music, the younger children have been learning about and using percussion instruments. As a homework challenge, P1 pupils created some amazing instruments using recycled materials found at home – they look and sound fabulous!



P5 pupils have started learning the ukulele and have learned 4 chords so far. Since the ukulele is a great instrument for accompanying songs, the children are busy learning how to play Jingle Bells at the moment, just in time for Christmas.

P6 pupils, along with the Tin Whistle Club and Folk Group, have worked together to learn a Gaelic tune called 'The Fairy Lullaby', which they performed at the school's St Andrew's Day assembly.

This term, second level pupils were challenged to create their own Christmas songs. The classes had been inspired by a range of songs and then wrote their own lyrics, to which they then added a tune. When the songs are completed, the pupils intend to record them so watch out for their finished pieces on the school website at the end of term.

## P.E.

Over this first term, pupils from all stages have been learning about fitness and how their bodies react to exercise. The children have looked at the skills required to play team games and have had great fun using the school gym equipment for their gymnastics activities.

All classes are currently participating in Scottish country dancing, learning the steps to dances such as The Virginia Reel and The Military Two Step.

## **Ardentinny**

Just before the October holidays, pupils and staff from Primary 7 went on a very successful trip to Ardentinn Outdoor Education Centre. During the week spent at the centre, pupils were involved in a whole range of activities including gorge walking, team challenges and canoeing. We also had a chance to meet and make friends with pupils and staff from Gatrocharn Primary School in West Dunbartonshire. The trip enabled pupils to develop a whole range of new skills, to face new challenges, to work as a team and to have fun! Pupils were also very fortunate to have Maureen Evans working with them in school, towards the completion of their Dynamic Youth Awards. This award encourages pupils to set challenges and goals for



themselves and recognises the achievement of these goals.

## **Extra-Curricular Activities**

### Shinty Club



Shinty training began at the beginning of September. The first tournament was the Ian MacMillan Memorial Competition and everyone was delighted when the P7/P6 team won their section of the tournament.

The next competition was introduced especially for the Royal National Mòd. The P5/P4 team won their part of the competition and our P7 team were runners up in their competition. A great start to the season!

The indoor tournament began on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> November and all the teams have started well. The next section of the tournament takes place on Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> December when the P3s will be joining in for the first time. The next two rounds will take place on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> January and Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> February. Good luck to everyone taking part.

### Football Club

A number of children from Primaries 6 and 7 have joined Mr McArthur on Thursdays after school to practise their football skills. The club started on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of December and the first practice was full of future football stars.

### Chess Club

The Chess Club is going well with boys and girls from across the campus attending. The pupils have been busy preparing for this year's Delancey Chess Challenge which will take place in the new year.



### Choir

After their success in the Mod, Mrs Garvin's choir have welcomed many new members this term. They meet every Thursday after school and anyone from P4-7 can join. The Choir will be busy over the festive season preparing for events such as the Rotary Carol Service on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> December in the Corran Halls.

### Folk Group

The Folk Group meets every Wednesday lunchtime and is open to pupils from P5-7 who already play an instrument from the following: fiddle, flute, piano, clàrsach, cello, accordion, whistle and guitar. The folk group learns a variety of traditional tunes and songs. They will be performing at school events, the Highlands and Islands Music and Dance Festival and the Mòd.

### Penny Whistle Club



The newly formed Penny Whistle Club meets on Tuesday lunchtimes and was formed after several pupils expressed an interest in the instrument. They have been learning how to make a nice tone, the different fingerings for notes and some simple tunes. The Penny Whistle Club's first performance was last week at the St Andrew's day assembly and they sounded great!

## Royal National Mòd 2015

Rockfield celebrated a great number of successes at the Royal National Mòd when it returned to Oban in October. The classes and groups involved worked incredibly hard and we are extremely proud of all their achievements.

Sgoil Àraich and the Primary 1 and 2 Gaelic classes thoroughly enjoyed performing an action song about a sail boat called Am Bàta Smùid.

Primary 4/3/2 Gaelic won second place in their category performing Cuairt Calum-Chille, a play about St Columba's journey to Scotland.

First place in the Under 13s category went to Primary 7/6/5 Gaelic for their adaption of Shakespeare's Macbeth, otherwise known as, Dealbh chluich na Alba. They were thrilled when the BBC asked to film their performance and it was broadcast on television later that evening.

Well done to all the competitors from both Gaelic and English Medium classes who took part in the National Mòd and represented our school so confidently.

## Halloween

Everyone had lots of fun at the PTA Halloween disco in October. All the costumes were fantastic and the dance moves were even better! Thank you to everyone who helped out on the night.



## Used Stamp Collection



P3 are collecting 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, birthday cards and Christmas cards and sending them into school.

## Website

Many classes are beginning to upload photographs and information on to Rockfield's school website. Take a look and see what the children have been learning. Important school letters can also be found on the website's Notice Board. It's a great way to keep up to date with school news.

[www.rockfieldprimaryschool.co.uk](http://www.rockfieldprimaryschool.co.uk)



## Clan Elections

Congratulations to the following pupils on being elected as Clan captains and Vice-captains.

**Aros**            Captains – Rhys Fairbairn, Niamh Cameron

Vice Captains – Kyle Armstrong, Jodie O'Hara

**Duart**            Captains – Neil MacKechnie, Emma Warnock

Vice Captains – Andrew Campbell, Ewan McFadyen, Lucy Black

**Dunollie**        Captains – Sean Campbell, Keira MacDonald

Vice Captains – Logan Cumming, Chloe Will

**Gylen**            Captains – Owen Walker, Jordan MacIntyre

Vice Captains – Aiden Dunn, Caitlyn MacDonald, Sarah Garvin

Further congratulations go to Rhys Fairbairn and Niamh Cameron who were elected as our new school captains for this session.



Please remember, school closes on Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> December at 2:30pm and re-opens on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2016.

*Merry*   
*Christmas* 