

## INTRODUCTION

This Information Bulletin is divided into two parts. Part 1 (all pages with the exception of the section coloured green, which relates only to tenders and which is found at the end of the Bulletin) presents a number of papers, which are designed to update Members, Officers and the citizens of the area of ongoing issues of interest which would not be expected to be dealt with through the Council's formal decision-making processes. These papers are relatively informal in terms of style and format and are an additional and important reporting mechanism for the Council which is easily accessible and which it is hoped will be a useful reference document.

In terms of its Contract Standing Orders, the Council has a requirement to report all Contracts referred to in Standing Order 6.2. The Information Bulletin is considered to be ideal for this purpose and any such papers can be found in Part 2 (the section coloured green) of the document.

Any general enquiries regarding the Information Bulletin should be directed to Chief Executive Office (Brian Pirie, Democratic Services Manager Ext 6110).

## **FALKIRK COUNCIL**

**Subject: ANNUAL REPORT 2013/14 - COMMUNITY SCHOOLS 2008 CHARITY**  
**Meeting: INFORMATION BULLETIN**  
**Date: 11 MARCH 2015**  
**Author: JOINT ACTING DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION**

### **1. INTRODUCTION/PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 The Community Schools 2008 Charity has been in operation since 14 June 2010 and the Board meets quarterly. This report provides Members with an update on the status of the Charity Board's operations, financial position and organisational changes over the 2013/14 period, which is aligned to the school academic year from 1 August 2013 to 31 July 2014.

### **2. BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 The Community Schools 2008 Charity was established following the 4 new Non-Profit Distributing Organisation (NPDO) Secondary Schools being completed. The Charity's main aim is to receive and disburse the proceeds that it is contractually due to receive from the NPDO schools project holding company, Gateway.
- 2.2 The Charity's objectives are:
- To advance education within the catchment areas of all of the secondary schools.
  - To provide (or assist with the provision of) recreational facilities within the operating area with the object of improving the conditions of life for the persons for whom the facilities are primarily intended.
- 2.3 The Charity Board is responsible for the distribution of grant awards to schools, community groups, sports, arts and voluntary groups and organisations throughout the whole of the Council area. The Charity Board assess applications throughout the year and distribute grant awards to successful applicants.

### **3. CONSTITUTION/LEGAL STATUS/BOARD STRUCTURE**

#### **3.1 Charitable Status**

The Community Schools 2008 Charity is a fully registered charity with the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR) and Companies House.

### 3.2 **Submission of Annual Returns**

To comply with both the Companies Act and OSCR's regulations a number of annual/statutory returns must be submitted. Over the last year (1/4/13-31/3/14) the following returns have been lodged:

(i) **Companies House**

- Annual Return
- Annual Accounts
- 'Trustees' Report

(ii) **OSCR**

- Annual Return
- Annual Accounts
- 'Trustees' Report

(iii) **HMI Customs & Revenue**

- Corporation Tax Return

### 3.3 **Board Membership**

A copy of the Charity Board Structure which shows the names of the Board Members is included within the Annual Report which is attached as Appendix 2. In accordance with the current Memorandum and Articles of Association for the Charity Board, the Board Members appointed from the organisations detailed below rotate every 2 years:

- Parent Councils;
- Pupil Councils; and
- Trade Unions.

Note: The current Chair of the Charity Board is Christine Bell who is an Independent Director on the Board.

## 4. **FINANCIAL INFORMATION**

- 4.1 The Audited Accounts for the Financial Year 1/4/13-31/3/14 are shown at Appendix 1. The accounts have been formally approved by the Charity Board at the Annual General Meeting held on 6 October 2014.
- 4.2 The Charity has to date received **£111,608** from the main NPDO Schools Project Company (FSG).

### FSGL's donations

| Financial Year | Donation Received | Interest Received | Total           |
|----------------|-------------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| 2008/09        | £ 5,397           | £0                | £ 5,397         |
| 2009/10        | £10,409           | £18               | £10,427         |
| 2010/11        | £10,601           | £86               | £10,687         |
| 2011/12        | £11,388           | £133              | £11,521         |
| 2012/13        | £11,812           | £174              | £11,986         |
| 2013/14        | £62,001           | £39               | £62,040         |
| <b>Total</b>   | <b>£111,608</b>   | <b>£450</b>       | <b>£112,058</b> |

#### 4.3 Other Relevant Financial Information

- During financial year 2013/14 (1/4/13-31/3/14) the Charity Board paid out **£61,278** in grants.
- The total grants awarded by the Board (up to 31/7/14) is **£80,722**, of which **£70,222** has been paid and **£10,500** remains pending, awaiting information.
- The only other expenditure incurred during 13/14 was £174 in respect of insurance fees.

4.4 At 31 March 2014 the Board had a closing reserve/balance of **£39,443**.

### **5. SUMMARY OF 2013/14 OPERATIONS**

5.1 During the year the Board have developed their Grant Award Scheme:

- Maximum award has been increased from £500 to £1000;
- A 'Challenge Fund' was agreed and promoted locally to allow, potentially, up to 2 local organisations/groups to receive funding of up to £10,000 for larger innovative projects that would benefit the community.
- £10,000 has also been awarded to both the Falkirk Sports Council and the Falkirk Arts and Civic Council to allow both groups to distribute grants locally talented artists or athletes and provide coaching.

5.2 The year 2013-14 (1/8/13-31/7/14) saw:

- 44 applications for grant award were received;
- 40 applications granted (38 paid and 2 remain pending); and
- 4 applications were refused as they fell out with the remit of the Board's aims and objectives.

5.3 The Board now fully operate their own Bank Account, negating the need for the Council to facilitate this.

**6. RECOMMENDATION**

**6.1 Members are asked to note the report.**

.....  
**Joint Acting Director of Education**

**Date:** 20 January 2015

Contact Officer: Kirsty Wilsdon, ext 6605.

**LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS**

NIL

**COMMUNITY SCHOOLS 2008 CHARITY**  
**Registered in Scotland, No SC319676**  
**INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2014**

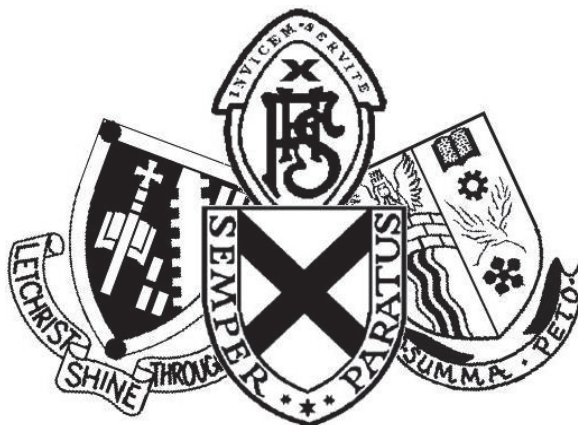
| <b>INCOME/EXPENDITURE</b> |                                      |                      |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------|
| <b>2012/13</b>            |                                      | <b>2013/14</b>       |
| <b>£</b>                  |                                      | <b>£</b>             |
|                           | <b>INCOME</b>                        |                      |
| 11,812                    | Donations                            | 62,001               |
| <u>174</u>                | Interest (April-July 14 only)        | <u>39</u>            |
| 11,986                    |                                      | 62,040               |
|                           | <b>EXPENDITURE</b>                   |                      |
| 6,339                     | Grant Awards                         | 61,278               |
| <u>174</u>                | Insurance                            | <u>174</u>           |
| 6,513                     |                                      | 61,452               |
|                           | <b>RESERVES</b>                      |                      |
| 5,473                     | Operating Surplus/(Deficit) for year | 588                  |
| <u>33,382</u>             | Reserves at 1/4/13                   | <u>38,855</u>        |
| <u><b>38,855</b></u>      | <b>Opening/Closing</b>               | <u><b>39,443</b></u> |
|                           | <b>BALANCE</b>                       |                      |
|                           | <b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>                |                      |
| <u><b>38,855</b></u>      | Reserves at 31/3/14                  | <u><b>39,443</b></u> |
|                           | <b>RESERVES</b>                      |                      |
| <u><b>38,855</b></u>      | General Reserve                      | <u><b>39,443</b></u> |

Notes:

- For the year ending 31 March 2014, the company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.
- Directors' responsibilities:
  - The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with section 476.
  - The Directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and preparation of accounts
  - These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime.
- The financial statements have been approved and signed on its behalf by:

|  |  |
|--|--|
|  | Registered Office:<br>Sealock House,<br>2 Inchyra Road, Grangemouth, FK3 9XB |
|--|--|

Director, Gary Greenhorn



# COMMUNITY SCHOOLS 2008 CHARITY

## ANNUAL REPORT 2013/14

Presented to: AGM, 6 October 2014

### Index

1. Background and Constitutional Status
2. Period of Report 2013/14
3. Board Composition and Appointed Directors
4. Attendance at Meetings
5. Payments to Directors
6. Submission of Annual Statutory Returns
7. Summary of 2013/14 Operations
8. Financial Accounts & Information

*Community Schools 2008 Charity is a company limited by guarantee, registered in Scotland (Company Number SC319676) having its registered office at Sealock House, 2 Inchyra Road, Grangemouth, FK3 9XB and is registered as a charity with the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator (No SC038221).*



## 1. BACKGROUND/LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL STATUS

### i. What is Falkirk Community Schools 2008 Charity?

The organisation was established as a **company limited by guarantee**. It is a registered charity (SC038221). As a company limited by guarantee it is a separate legal entity. The Company is run by a Board made up of individuals with relevant interests, skills and experience and collectively the Board establishes the strategic direction for the organisation, makes decisions for disbursement of funds and is responsible for seeking additional external grants.

### ii. Aims and Objectives of Charity

The Community Schools 2008 Charity was established following the four (NPDO) secondary schools being completed. The charity's main aim is to receive and disburse the proceeds that it is contractually due to receive from the NPDO schools project holding company, Gateway. In addition the charity is able to apply for external funding to assist with projects in keeping with the charity's purpose and objectives.

The charity objectives are:

- To advance education within the catchment areas of all the secondary schools.
- To provide (or assist with the provision of) recreational facilities within the operating area with the object of improving the conditions of life for the people for whom the facilities are primarily intended.

The charity board is also responsible for the distribution of grant awards to voluntary groups and organisations throughout the whole of the council area. The charity board assess the applications received and distribute grant awards to successful applicants.

### iii. Liabilities Insured by Charity

Falkirk Community Schools 2008 Charity is established as a **company limited by guarantee**. This means it is a separate legal entity and can enter into contracts in its own name. Trustees are not therefore personally liable for any debts the organisation may have (other than in circumstances where the Trustee has acted fraudulently or is grossly negligent).

The Memorandum and Articles for the company permit the company to purchase indemnity insurance on behalf of the Directors.





## **2. PERIOD OF REPORT 2013/14**

- i. This report covers the period from 1 August 2013-31 July 2014.



### 3. BOARD COMPOSITION AND APPOINTED DIRECTORS

#### i. Board Membership

The Board is made up of 12 Directors appointed as follows:

- 2 representatives from Falkirk Council
- 2 pupil representatives
- 2 parent representatives
- 3 Independent Directors,
- 1 representative from Falkirk Sports Council
- 1 representative from Falkirk Arts and Civic Council
- 1 representative from Trade Union.

12

#### ii. Chair of the Board

The Directors elects a Chairperson on an annual basis. The Chairperson will act as the main contact point for the Board and will oversee all Board meetings. The Chairperson for 2013/2014 was Christine Bell, one of the Independent Directors.

#### iii. Directors of the Board

For the period 1/8/13-31/7/14 the Directors of the Charity were:

##### Council Appointees

- Maureen Campbell, Chief Executive, Community Trust
- Gary Greenhorn, Head of Educational Planning and Resources

##### Pupil Representatives

- Andouce Kouassi, Grangemouth High School (until 22 November 2013)
- Charlotte Laing, St Mungo's High School (until 22 November 2013)
- Callum Timms, St Mungo's HS (27 January 2014 onwards)

##### Parent Representatives

- Stuart Thomson, Denny High School (30 September 2013 – only)
- James Miller, Denny High School (22 November 2013 onwards)
- Lynn Hopkins, Falkirk High School

##### Independent Directors

- Christine Bell
- Bill Kelly
- Fiona Trail

##### Falkirk Sports Council

- Robert Callahan



Arts and Civic Council

- Agnes Mullen

Trade Union Representative

- Irene Campbell, (Unison)

**iv. Reappointment of Directors**

Having considered the practicality of having 1 year appointments, given the learning curve involved and the fact that the board only meets four times in the year, the Board agreed at its AGM on 11 September 2012 that it would be more practical and beneficial to extend the tenure of appointment to 2 years.

Accordingly, the Board approved an amendment of the Charity Board's Memorandum and Articles of Association to reflect this.



#### 4. ATTENDANCE AT BOARD MEETINGS

##### i. Number of Meetings

The Articles of Association for the new company provide that the Board shall meet a minimum of **four** times in each calendar year. The meetings held in 13/14 were:

- 30 September 2013 (Board Meeting & AGM)
- 22 November 2013 (Cancelled)
- 27 January 2014
- 24 March 2014
- 23 June 2014

##### ii. Attendance at Meetings

During the period 1 August 2013-31 July 2014 there were four Board Meetings detailed above at (4.ii) and the Annual General Meeting held on 30 September 2013.

Attendance at meetings by Directors was as follows:

| NAME OF REPRESENTATIVE          | ORGANISATION REPRESENTED     | NUMBER OF MEETINGS ATTENDED |
|---------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Robert Callahan MBE             | Falkirk Sports Council       | 2                           |
| Agnes Mullen                    | Falkirk Arts & Civic Council | 4                           |
| Lynne Hopkins                   | Parent Council - FHS         | 3                           |
| Stuart Thomson/<br>James Millar | Parent Council - DHS         | 0                           |
| Christine Bell                  | Independent Director         | 4                           |
| Maureen Campbell                | Community Trust              | 3                           |
| Gary Greenhorn                  | Education Services           | 3                           |
| William Kelly                   | Independent Director         | 4                           |
| Fiona Traill                    | Independent Director         | 1                           |
| Vacant                          | Pupil Council – GHS          | 0                           |
| Callum Timms                    | Pupil Council - SMHS         | 3                           |
| Sheila Carr                     | Pupil Council - SMHS         | 1                           |
| Irene Campbell                  | EIS                          | 3                           |



## 5. PAYMENTS TO DIRECTORS

### i. Payment of Directors

Membership of the Board is on a **voluntary basis** and that Board Members will not therefore receive payment for acting in their capacity as Directors. A Director will not be allowed to make any profit as a result of his position as a Director nor will a Director be allowed to enter into any contract with the Trust to provide services to the Trust for profit. Directors are, however, entitled to reimbursement of **out of pocket expenses** for example, travelling expenses to attending meetings.

Payments made to Directors for operational period (1.8.13-31.7.14) = £Nil



## 6. SUBMISSION OF ANNUAL STATUTORY RETURNS

### i. Charitable Status

The Community Schools 2008 Charity is a fully registered charity with the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR) and Companies House.

### ii. Submission of Annual Returns

As required by Companies Act and charity regulations the charity's annual return, annual accounts and trustees' report for the return period 1 April 2013 to 31 March 2014.

|       |                                  |                             |
|-------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| (i)   | <u>Companies House</u>           | <u>Due to be lodged by:</u> |
|       | • Annual Return                  | 31.12.14                    |
|       | • Annual Accounts                | 31.12.14                    |
|       | • Trustees' Report               | 31.12.14                    |
| (ii)  | <u>OSCR</u>                      |                             |
|       | • Annual Return                  | 31.12.14                    |
|       | • Annual Accounts                | 31.12.14                    |
|       | • Trustees' Report               | 31.12.14                    |
| (iii) | <u>HMI Customs &amp; Revenue</u> |                             |
|       | • Corporation Tax Return         | 31.12.14                    |

Note: All returned relating to 2012/13 were submitted/lodged on time.



## 7. SUMMARY OF 2013/14 OPERATIONS

### i. Update

The Charity Board has had a successful year developing the operational requirements of the Charity Board and administering grant awards.

Following the first year of operation it was felt that extending the tenure of the Parent Council, Pupil Council and Trade Union representatives to two years would improve continuity of Board membership and enable representatives to be more fully involved in the work of the Charity Board.

During this year the Board have been developing the grant award scheme and have agreed to increase the maximum award available from £500 to £1000. It was also agreed to develop a “challenge fund” to encourage local groups and organisations to submit bids for larger innovative projects that would benefit the local community.

Two Challenge Funds were awarded in 2013/14:

- Larbert Legacy Cycle Project – Amount awarded £10,000
- Cando Group – Outdoor Learning Area – Amount awarded £7,500

The Board also awarded £10,000 to:

- Falkirk Sports Council
- Falkirk Arts & Civic Council

In order to distribute grants to individual talented artists or athletes and provide coaching.

### ii. Grant Applications

During the year, from the period (1/8/13-31/7/14):

- 44 applications for grant award were received;
- 40 applications granted (38 paid and 2 remain pending); and
- 4 applications were refused as they fell out with the remit of the Board’s aims and objectives.

In total **£62,982.96** was awarded during 2013/14 and **£52,278** has been released for this period to date.

### iii. Falkirk Schools Gateway Limited Board Meetings

Two of the Board Members, Gary Greenhorn and Christine Bell are also co-opted Directors of Falkirk Schools Gateway Limited (FSGL) and attend the FSGL Board Meetings. The co-opted Directors provide the Charity Board with regular updates of the meetings.

### iv. Bank Accounts

The Charity Board has opened an account with the Clydesdale Bank and all funds received from (FSGL) transfers to the Charity Board account.

The Account can be accessed on-line.



The following Charity Board Directors are authorised signatories:

- Bill Kelly, Treasurer
- Maureen Campbell, Director
- Gary Greenhorn, Director

v. **Attendance at Board Meetings**

The Board agreed to look at ways to stimulate and encourage attendance and participation from both parent and pupil council members.

vii. **Reporting on Annual Performance to Council**

A paper was taken to the Council's Education Executive on 27 August 2013 to update them on the 2012/13 performance and financial position.





## 8. FINANCIAL INFORMATION

### i. Annual Accounts 2013/14-(1/4/13 - 31/3/14)

The Accounts for the Financial Year End 31/3/14 are shown at Appendix 1.

These Accounts are exempt from audit under Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

### ii. Grants Approved

To date the Charity Board has issued £70,222 in grants to various schools, voluntary and community groups across the Falkirk Council area to assist with a wide variety of projects and initiatives.

A year by year analysis of these grants awarded is as follows:

#### Analysis of Grants Approved

| Operational Year |                | Financial Year – Award's Paid |         |       |                | Pending        | Total Paid & Pending |
|------------------|----------------|-------------------------------|---------|-------|----------------|----------------|----------------------|
| 2010/11          | £3,500         | 10/11                         | £0      | 11/12 | £2,000         | £1,500         | £3,500               |
| 2011/12          | £663           | 11/12                         | £400    | 12/13 | £263           | £0             | £663                 |
| 2012/13          | £13,576        | 12/13                         | £8,076  | 13/14 | £5,000         | £500           | £13,576              |
| 2013/14          | £62,983        | 13/14                         | £47,278 | 14/15 | £7,205         | £8,500         | £62,983              |
| <b>Total</b>     | <b>£80,722</b> |                               |         |       | <b>£70,222</b> | <b>£10,500</b> | <b>£80,722</b>       |

#### Financial Year Summary (Paid)

|                     |                |
|---------------------|----------------|
| 2010/11             | £ Nil          |
| 2011/12             | £2,400         |
| 2012/13             | £8,339         |
| 2013/14             | £52,278        |
| 2014/15 (part year) | £7,205         |
| <b>Total</b>        | <b>£70,222</b> |

A summary of the grant awards made during the current financial year is shown at Appendix 2.



## Income Received

The Charity has received £111,608 from the main NPDO Schools Project Company (FSGL) since 2008/09.

| Financial Year | Donation Received | Interest Received | Total           |
|----------------|-------------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| 2008/09        | £ 5,397           | £0                | £ 5,397         |
| 2009/10        | £10,409           | £18               | £10,427         |
| 2010/11        | £10,601           | £86               | £10,687         |
| 2011/12        | £11,388           | £133              | £11,521         |
| 2012/13        | £11,812           | £174              | £11,986         |
| 2013/14        | £62,001           | £39               | £62,040         |
| <b>Total</b>   | <b>£111,608</b>   | <b>£450</b>       | <b>£112,058</b> |

In addition to the above interest has been received on monies held in our account bringing the total to **£112,058**.



**COMMUNITY SCHOOLS 2008 CHARITY**  
**Registered in Scotland, No SC319676**  
**INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2014**

| <b>INCOME/EXPENDITURE</b> |                                      |                |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------|
| <b>2012/13</b>            |                                      | <b>2013/14</b> |
| <b>£</b>                  |                                      | <b>£</b>       |
|                           | <b>INCOME</b>                        |                |
| 11,812                    | Donations                            | 62,001         |
| <u>174</u>                | Interest (April-July 14 only)        | <u>39</u>      |
| 11,986                    |                                      | 62,040         |
|                           | <b>EXPENDITURE</b>                   |                |
| 6,339                     | Grant Awards                         | 61,278         |
| <u>174</u>                | Insurance                            | <u>174</u>     |
| 6,513                     |                                      | 61,452         |
|                           | <b>RESERVES</b>                      |                |
| 5,473                     | Operating Surplus/(Deficit) for year | 588            |
| <u>33,382</u>             | Reserves at 1/4/13                   | <u>38,855</u>  |
| <u>38,855</u>             | <b>Opening/Closing</b>               | <u>39,443</u>  |
|                           | <b>BALANCE</b>                       |                |
|                           | <b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>                |                |
| <u>38,855</u>             | Reserves at 31/4/14                  | <u>39,443</u>  |
|                           | <b>RESERVES</b>                      |                |
| <u>38,855</u>             | General Reserve                      | <u>39,443</u>  |

Notes:

4. For the year ending 31 March 2014, the company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.
5. Directors' responsibilities:
  - The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with section 476.
  - The Directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and preparation of accounts
  - These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime.
6. The financial statements have been approved and signed on its behalf by:

|  |  |
|--|--|
|  | Registered Office:<br>Sealock House,<br>2 Inchyra Road, Grangemouth, FK3 9XB |
|--|--|

Director, Gary Greenhorn

# **FALKIRK COMMUNITY SCHOOLS 2008 CHARITY**



Financial Year 2013/14 - (1 April 2013 - 31 March 2014)

Appendix 2

| Ref  | Organisation/Gro<br>up                      | Reason for Funding  | Decision                | Update  | Grants<br>Approved<br>to Date | Date<br>Awarded | Paid<br>Financial<br>Year 13/14 | Unpaid to<br>date |
|------|---|---|-------------------------|---|-------------------------------|-----------------|---------------------------------|-------------------|
| 0038 | Cando Group                                 | Purchase garden equipment                                 | Agreed to<br>award £500 | Funding<br>released                                 | £500.00                       | 30/10/2013      | £500.00                         | £0.00             |
| 0039 | Graeme HS Parent<br>Council                 | Create and maintain outdoor<br>social spaces              | Agreed to<br>award £500 | Pending -<br>Subject to<br>quotes &<br>account info | £500.00                       | 01/07/2013      | £0.00                           | £500.00           |
| 0040 | Hallglen PS                                 | Create garden area/paint<br>murals                        | Agreed to<br>award £500 | Funding<br>released                                 | £500.00                       | 01/07/2013      | £500.00                         | £0.00             |
| 0041 | Kinneil PS<br>Gymnastics Group              | Towards new vault &<br>coaching fees                      | Agreed to<br>award £500 | Funding<br>released                                 | £500.00                       | 01/07/2013      | £500.00                         | £0.00             |
| 0042 | Camelon<br>Community Project                | Activity Day - Gruffalo Day                               | Agreed to<br>award £500 | Funding<br>released                                 | £500.00                       | 01/07/2013      | £500.00                         | £0.00             |
| 0044 | Classic Music Live,<br>Falkirk              | Daniel Beard Project -<br>Presentations                   | Agreed to<br>award £500 | Funding<br>released                                 | £500.00                       | 01/07/2013      | £500.00                         | £0.00             |
| 0047 | Falkirk Football<br>Community<br>Foundation | Replace and renew equipment                               | Agreed to<br>award £500 | Funding<br>released                                 | £500.00                       | 01/07/2013      | £500.00                         | £0.00             |
| 0048 | Kinneil Youth Band                          | Purchase of instruments                                   | Agreed to<br>award £500 | Funding<br>released                                 | £500.00                       | 01/07/2013      | £500.00                         | £0.00             |
| 0049 | Toddletots                                  | Purchase musical instruments<br>and resources             | Agreed to<br>award £500 | Funding<br>released                                 | £500.00                       | 01/07/2013      | £500.00                         | £0.00             |
| 0050 | Bothkennar Parent<br>Council                | Outdoor Play area   | Agreed to<br>award £500 | Funding<br>released                                 | £500.00                       | 01/07/2013      | £500.00                         | £0.00             |
| 0051 | Bo'ness Playaway<br>Playgroup               | Renewing and replacing the<br>puzzles and arts and crafts | Agreed to<br>award £500 | Funding<br>released                                 | £500.00                       | 01/07/2013      | £500.00                         | £0.00             |



# **FALKIRK COMMUNITY SCHOOLS 2008 CHARITY**

| Ref  | Organisation/Gro<br>up        | Reason for Funding                                  | Decision  | Update              | Grants<br>Approved<br>to Date | Date<br>Awarded | Paid<br>Financial<br>Year 13/14 | Unpaid to<br>date |
|------|-------------------------------|---|---|---------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------|---------------------------------|-------------------|
| 0052 | Central Rio FC                | Portable 11-a-side goals and<br>nets                | Agreed to<br>award £500                           | Funding<br>released | £500.00                       | 29/10/2013      | £500.00                         | £0.00             |
| 0053 | Active Schools, St<br>Mungo's | Mini-bus hire (6 wks)<br>qualifications             | Agreed to<br>award £500                           | Funding<br>released | £500.00                       | 29/10/2013      | £500.00                         | £0.00             |
| 0054 | California Nursery<br>Class   | Outdoor Play area                                   | Agreed to<br>award £500                           | Funding<br>released | £500.00                       | 29/10/2013      | £500.00                         | £0.00             |
| 0055 | Steins Thistle Club           | Purchase 4's and 7's goals                          | Agreed to<br>award £500                           | Funding<br>released | £500.00                       | 29/10/2013      | £500.00                         | £0.00             |
| 0056 | Wallacestone PS               | Vault springboards                                  | Agreed to<br>award £500                           | Funding<br>released | £500.00                       | 29/10/2013      | £500.00                         | £0.00             |
| 0057 | Macara Park TRA               | Purchase of sporting<br>equipment                   | Agreed to<br>award £500                           | Funding<br>released | £500.00                       | 29/10/2013      | £500.00                         | £0.00             |
| 0058 | Third Age<br>Computer Fun     | Purchase of computer<br>equipment                   | Agreed to<br>award £500                           | Funding<br>released | £500.00                       | 29/10/2013      | £500.00                         | £0.00             |
| 0061 | Project Theatre               | Stage production costs                              | Agreed to<br>award £500                           | Funding<br>released | £500.00                       | 29/10/2013      | £500.00                         | £0.00             |
| 0062 | Laurieston PS                 | Towards Skiing lessons P7<br>classes                | Agreed to<br>award £500                           | Funding<br>released | £500.00                       | 29/10/2013      | £500.00                         | £0.00             |
| 0063 | Laurieston PS                 | Digitising log books from<br>1893-1978 (Historical) | Agreed to<br>award £500                           | Funding<br>released | £384.00                       | 29/10/2013      | £384.00                         | £0.00             |
| 0064 | Falkirk Sports<br>Council     | Support coaching grants &<br>individual athletes    | Agreed to<br>award<br>£10,000 for<br>distribution | Funding<br>released | £10,000.00                    | 29/10/2013      | £10,000.00                      | £0.00             |



# FALKIRK COMMUNITY SCHOOLS 2008 CHARITY

| Ref  | Organisation/Gro<br>up                | Reason for Funding                           | Decision  | Update                                  | Grants<br>Approved<br>to Date | Date<br>Awarded | Paid<br>Financial<br>Year 13/14 | Unpaid to<br>date |
|------|---------------------------------------|--|---|---|-------------------------------|-----------------|---------------------------------|-------------------|
| 0065 | FD Arts & Civic<br>Council            | Support arts projects across<br>the district | Agreed to<br>award<br>£10,000 for<br>distribution | Funding<br>released                     | £10,000.00                    | 29/10/2013      | £10,000.00                      | £0.00             |
| 0066 | Falkirk Schools of<br>Gymnastics      | Upgrade heating systems                      | Agreed to<br>award £1000                          | Funding<br>released                     | £1,000.00                     | 13/12/2013      | £1,000.00                       | £0.00             |
| 0067 | Westquarter PS &<br>Nursery           | Run Gymnastics Taster<br>Sessions            | Agreed to<br>award £410                           | Funding<br>released                     | £410.00                       | 13/12/2013      | £410.00                         | £0.00             |
| 0068 | Communities Along<br>the Carron Assoc | Fish in the Classroom Pilot<br>Project       | Agreed to<br>award £1,000                         | Funding<br>released                     | £1,000.00                     | 13/12/2013      | £1,000.00                       | £0.00             |
| 0069 | Falkirk Company of<br>Archers         | Archery equipment                            | Agreed to<br>award £958                           | Funding<br>released                     | £958.00                       | 13/12/2013      | £958.00                         | £0.00             |
| 0070 | Antonine Primary<br>School            | Lets Cook Initiative                         | Agreed to<br>award £500                           | Funding<br>released                     | £500.00                       | 03/03/2014      | £500.00                         | £0.00             |
| 0071 | Head of Muir<br>Nursery               | Woodland Shelter                             | Agreed to<br>award £700                           | Funding<br>released                     | £700.00                       | 05/02/2014      | £700.00                         | £0.00             |
| 0072 | Cando Group                           | Outdoor Learning Space                       | Agreed to<br>award £7500                          | Pending<br>(conf works<br>have started) | £7,500.00                     | 05/02/2014      | £0.00                           | £7,500.00         |
| 0075 | Tryst Community<br>Sports Club        | Larbert Legacy Cycle Project                 | Agreed to<br>award<br>£10,000                     | Funding<br>released                     | £10,000.00                    | 05/02/2014      | £10,000.00                      | £0.00             |
| 0077 | Adrian Bowling<br>Club                | Purchase equipment for<br>children           | Agreed to<br>award £1,000                         | Funding<br>released                     | £1,000.00                     | 24/03/2014      | £1,000.00                       | £0.00             |



# FALKIRK COMMUNITY SCHOOLS 2008 CHARITY

| Ref  | Organisation/Gro up                | Reason for Funding                            | Decision                | Update                     | Grants Approved to Date | Date Awarded | Paid Financial Year 13/14 | Unpaid to date   |
|------|------------------------------------|---|-------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------|--------------|---------------------------|------------------|
| 0078 | Bo'ness Public Primary School      | Develop an outdoor learning space             | Agreed to award £1,000  | Pending receipt of invoice | £1,000.00               | 24/03/2014   | £0.00                     | £1,000.00        |
| 0079 | Carmuir's Primary Fundraising Grp  | Mobile stage and lighting                     | Agreed to award £1,000  | Funding released           | £1,000.00               | 24/03/2014   | £1,000.00                 | £0.00            |
| 0080 | The Dawson Gala Day                | Hire 2 marquees to improve attendance at gala | Agreed to award £1000   | Funding released           | £1,000.00               | 24/03/2014   | £1,000.00                 | £0.00            |
| 0082 | Grangemouth HS Library             | Celebrating Africa book workshop              | Agreed to award £500    | Funding released           | £500.00                 | 24/03/2014   | £500.00                   | £0.00            |
| 0083 | Slamannan PS                       | Purchase of football goals                    | Agreed to award £751.96 | Funding released           | £751.96                 | 24/03/2014   | £751.96                   | £0.00            |
| 0084 | St Andrew's PS                     | Outdoor learning equipment                    | Agreed to award £574.00 | Funding released           | £574.00                 | 24/03/2014   | £574.00                   | £0.00            |
| 0085 | Denny & Dunipace Community Council | Neighbourhood watch scheme                    | Agreed to award £500    | Funding released           | £500.00                 | 24/03/2014   | £500.00                   | £0.00            |
| 0086 | 5'Kids Pre School Centre           | Computing equipment                           | Agreed to award £500    | Funding released           | £500.00                 | 24/03/2014   | £500.00                   | £0.00            |
| 0087 | St Patricks PS                     | Outdoor teaching facility - shed/greenhouse   | Agreed to award £1000   | Funding released           | £1,000.00               | 24/03/2014   | £1,000.00                 | £0.00            |
| 0088 | Whitecross PS                      | Outdoor teaching shed/outdoor prot clothing   | Agreed to award £1000   | Funding released           | £1,000.00               | 24/03/2014   | £1,000.00                 | £0.00            |
|      |                                    |   |                         |                            | <b>£61,277.96</b>       |              | <b>£52,277.96</b>         | <b>£9,000.00</b> |





Falkirk Council

# Education Matters

*Learning to Achieve*



## Free childcare for 2 year olds

Two year olds from households receiving benefits may qualify for 600 hours of free early learning and childcare provision across the Falkirk Council area.

Additional funding aimed at aiding child development and helping parents into employment has allowed the Council to provide the early learning and childcare for two year olds. To qualify, families must receive one of the following benefits:

- Income Support
- Job seekers allowance (income based)
- Employment and support allowance (income based)
- Incapacity benefit or severe disablement allowance
- Pension credit

Two year olds who qualify will be entitled to their place from the first term after their second birthday, or the first term after the parents start receiving one of the benefits if their child is already 2 years old. Children will be able to continue with the early learning if their parents enter employment or stop receiving benefits.

Education Services have taken action to meet the increased demand for places, including:

- recruited additional early years staff
- upgraded existing provision at Inchlair Nursery School and Laurieston Primary School
- Agreed to install new modular accommodation at four school sites
- Secured additional places from the voluntary sector by working in partnership with Barnardo's, Aberlour, Crèche Matters and One Parent Families Scotland.

From August 2015, eligibility for the free childcare will be extended to include families who qualify for free school meals.

For more information call 01324 506611 or email [educ.2yearolds@falkirk.gov.uk](mailto:educ.2yearolds@falkirk.gov.uk).



### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Larbert cluster 2-28

School/Staff News 29-31

Calendar of Events 32

MY FUTURE'S IN  
**falkirk**

### Nigel Fletcher Retirement

Staff at centre, from schools and other Council services and partners said farewell to Nigel Fletcher after a long career in Education, latterly as part of the Education Management Team in Falkirk.

Nigel thanked everyone who had worked with him and supported him during his career.





## LADESIDE PRIMARY SCHOOL - Going for Glasgow Awards

The 'Going for Glasgow' Awards Ceremony took place in Falkirk Town Hall on Wednesday, 12 November. It was a great event, thoroughly enjoyed by all!

Ladeside Primary was nominated in 4 categories:

### Most Unique Sport Experience

At Ladeside Primary School this just had to be our TRIATHLON!

The Ladeside Triathlon began life as a pilot event.

This event took place on 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2014 and involved 30 pupils from P6 and P7. Following an excellent period of collaborative work with Active Schools, Larbert High and Ladeside Primary, pupils enjoyed a great event and all participants experienced the three core elements of the triathlon – swimming, cycling and running. Pupils were in teams of three and represented a Commonwealth Games competing nation. This plan worked extremely well and will provide the format for future events.

Our Triathlon was a unique experience and great fun! We could not have done this without the:

- A) The enthusiasm and efforts of our P6 and P7 pupils;
- B) Input from Lisa Male who was as enthusiastic about the event as we were;
- C) The help from Larbert High School who allowed us to use their pool and who provided the staff and pupils to act as 'judges', time-keepers etc. In addition they also provided the bicycles for our use;
- D) Bam Nuttall (Larbert Bridge Works) who sponsored our Triathlon and provided medals for all race participants and a shield that will be used for the future Larbert Cluster Triathlon.



On the day, we were blessed with good weather and what an event this was! The children were exhausted, but immensely proud of what they had achieved.

This was a unique experience and one which will become a Larbert Cluster event. It involved great physical effort and determination and inspired teamwork and commitment. It also promoted liaison with Active Schools, Larbert High and the local community.



Our Triathlon was so much more and so much better than first imagined. Hopefully it will become an annual event within the Larbert Cluster (and

perhaps within Falkirk Council).

Footnote! Ladeside won **FIRST** place in this category!

### School Games Hero

Ask the children at Ladeside who goes the 'extra mile' for them and they are sure to say, 'Mr Wilson, our janitor'.

Mr Wilson has been at Ladeside Primary for nearly 25 years, and his outstanding support of the school and the community was recently recognised when he was nominated, and selected, as a Glasgow 2014 Commonwealth Games Baton Bearer in the Larbert area.

Mr Wilson's commitment to the children in our Base (for children with Autism Spectrum Disorder) is nothing short of remarkable. This is particularly evident in his involvement in their sporting activities. Mr Wilson has shown great dedication and enthusiasm and this has been especially evident during the Base pupils' weekly swimming sessions at Grangemouth. It would be fair to suggest that many of the great successes the Base pupils have achieved, in the water, over the years are down to the patience and assistance Mr Wilson has demonstrated at the weekly swimming sessions.

## LADESIDE PRIMARY SCHOOL - Going for Glasgow Awards Cont'd

Mr Wilson has also supported Base pupils to access Riding for the Disabled and has played a fundamental role in the emotional, social and physical benefits this activity has afforded Ladeside pupils. He has supported our Base pupils at many FVDS organised events such as Boccia, disability athletics etc. Whatever activity our Base pupils undertake, Mr Wilson is there to motivate and support them. He has formed close bonds with the pupils and parents/carers and families recognise and appreciate the care and support.

Moreover, Mr Wilson has also, in equal measure, supported Ladeside's mainstream pupils, both in primary and nursery. For many years he actively ran our football team and more recently has supported the school, for example, at Cross Country, Lawn Bowls, Athletics, and Orienteering and at the inaugural Ladeside Triathlon.

Mr Wilson has also attended nearly every P7 residential trip, and always leads his group with great determination, enthusiasm and military precision!

Well done, and thank you, to Mr Wilson

### Pupil of the Games



Ladeside Primary nominated Murray Brown as their 'Pupil of the Games'. Murray has shown a high level of skill across

all sports at Ladeside. This was especially evident when Ladeside ran our 'Going for Glasgow' sports' afternoons, where pupils were given the opportunity to experience some of the 17 sports offered at the Commonwealth Games. However, it is for his efforts at Cross Country that this nomination was made.

Now in P7, Murray has taken on the responsibility of boys' captain of the successful Ladeside Cross Country Team. In P5 and P6 Murray enjoyed considerable success in Cross Country. During this period he secured the individual boys' titles, as well as helping Ladeside secure the overall team prizes for these stages. Murray also competed, with considerable success, at the P6 Athletic

Championships run by Active Schools at Grangemouth Stadium. Murray finished off the 2013/14 season by securing a bronze medal at the Scottish Primary Schools Cross Country Championships at Kirkcaldy, in April 2014.

Murray has started the 2014/15 season with wins at the Falkirk Council Cross Country League races at Callendar Park. He leads the Cross Country Team with pride, and provides a great responsible



attitude towards training and racing. An excellent sportsman, he conducts himself with a great deal of dignity whether he

wins or loses, and his sportsmanship has been commented on by many onlookers. If Murray continues to conduct himself in the determined manner shown at Ladeside he should enjoy many more sporting successes in the years to come. Good Luck, Murray!

### Most Memorable Moment

Ladeside is a 'singing' school and we never ever turn down an opportunity to perform!

So, when we heard that choirs were invited to sing at the Falkirk Wheel and The Helix Park on 24<sup>th</sup> June, 2014, the day that the Queen's Baton Relay passed through the Falkirk area, we just had to be there!

And what a memorable day that was! Pupils welcomed the baton as it passed through Larbert, our janitor, Mr Wilson carried the baton along part of the route and our choir headed for The Falkirk Wheel in the morning to celebrate the arrival of the Baton (and Clyde) as it crossed the water in the shadow of 'The Wheel'.

And then, in the evening, we set off for the Helix Park and sang our hearts out from our place by the loch. Then later, as the Queen's Baton was leaving Falkirk to continue on its journey, we were there to cheer on Steven Frew and to sing the lovely Commonwealth Song.

A truly memorable day and a defining 'Going for Glasgow' moment for the choir, and for Ladeside.



## Airth Primary School News

### Focus On Literacy

In Airth Primary, the whole school community has embraced Falkirk Council's Zero Tolerance of Illiteracy policy. A team of parents have formed a Focus On Literacy group and they have completely transformed the school library from a once understocked, undervalued and dull room to a bustling library which is always busy and is bursting at the seams with interesting reads and attractive areas to browse or get lost in a good book.

The group started off the process by asking for donations of good quality second hand books from parents, neighbours and friends of the school. They were delighted with the response and took in several boxes of books. Next, they enlisted some excellent support from colleagues in the Learning Resource Service and through this partnership the Focus On Literacy Group received training in librarianship which has allowed them to catalogue their new stock and have it out on the shelves ready for children to borrow. Local libraries also passed on their surplus stock of high quality and very popular children's books, much to the children's delight.



Every child in our school has weekly access to a supervised library through a morning rota and a lunchtime club. This is what the children have to say about their library:

*"It's great! We've got lots of new things and loads of new books. I like the addition of a SmartBoard."* Ryan, P6

*"I saw In the Night Garden and I have that on my TV. It's beautiful."* Lua, Nursery

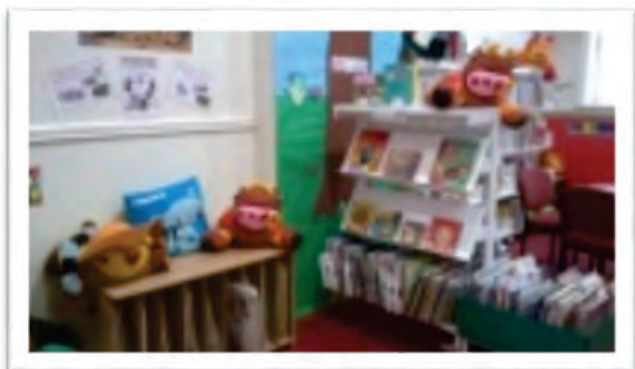
*"It's really good – it's had much more effort put into it."* Cara, P4

*"The library's brilliant!"* Chantelle, P6 *"I know – big change!"* Hannah, P6

*"I like the library. I like the way the books are separate – made up ones and real ones."* Hannah, P3

*"It's spectacular!"* Baillie, P4

To launch the opening of the revamped library, the children enjoyed a full week of literacy based learning. Visitors and contributors included Stuart Reid, local author and creator of Gorgeous George, Nick Sharratt the accomplished illustrator and author who works with people such as Jacqueline Wilson and some fantastic storytellers who made sure that every child in the school from Nursery to P7 enjoyed a spooky, funny and highly engaging story session.



The children were working together to raise funds for iPads for the school and during the Literacy Week held a sponsored readathon in the school hall which raised a staggering £1000! As always, the whole school community did their bit to support the children's learning and were incredibly generous in their sponsorship. We extend a huge vote of thanks to all who are supporting Airth Primary's zero tolerance of illiteracy.

## Airth Primary School News cont'd

### Rotakids

Our P5 and P6 pupils are learning about what it is to be a Rotakid. The P6 children are busy arranging a legacy for the school and our partners in the Rotary by finishing off the recording of a song which they wrote about being a Rotakid. They worked with a good friend of the school, Mr Cowie, to write the tune and the lyrics and they now have a very powerful song which sums up the role of being a Rotakid.



"You could be a hero. You could be a Rotakid!"

The children have all contributed to the song by singing, playing an instrument such as percussion or by playing keyboard and mandolin to accompany Mr Cowie's guitar and bass playing. Larbert High School are helping the P6s to record their track in stages and their legacy will be complete once they have all the instrument and voice sections to put together. P5 can't wait to learn it!

Our P5 Rotakids are now taking up their posts fully and will be attending a Rotakids Rally in Livingston next year. There they will meet all of the other Rotakids in Scotland and take part in activities planned and led by the Rotary Club. They will wear their Airth Rotakids t-shirts with pride!

### Happy Christmas Tommy

Airth's P7 pupils have delighted their audiences this December with their production of the play Happy Christmas Tommy. It is inspired by the events on the battlefields on Christmas Day 1914 when German and British troops halted hostilities to come together and celebrate Christmas. The children worked extremely hard on their singing, acting and set design and this ensured a huge impact on the audience. Some of their guests were even moved to tears by the children's sensitive, poignant and often funny interpretation of the events.

Their studies of World War 1 have also caught the interest of Education Scotland and they were invited to host a Glow Meet live with author Jim Kilgore. The children were engrossed in his novel Soldier's Game which tells the story of young footballers from Edinburgh who signed up to fight for king and country in World War 1. They were absolutely thrilled (and a little bit awestruck!) to get to meet Jim and ask him some excellent questions about his book, the characters and his writing process.



Pupils from Larbert High School delivered a very moving recount of their visit to Ypres and Flanders Fields in Belgium and the broadcast was watched by pupils from all over Scotland.



## Airth Primary School News Cont'd

### Developing our school grounds

Airth Primary's outdoor learning environment has been transformed over the last three years. What was once grey, empty tarmac is now a vibrant, active and adventurous school playground.

The Head Teacher commented on the negative impact the previous school grounds design had on both children and staff:

"Children and staff found the old playground boring with little stimulation for play. Staff spent their time sorting issues and watching for disruption. The playground was zoned in terms of ages and children mostly stayed in these areas."

As a result, staff, children and parents have worked with partners to create a fun, active and continually evolving playground to minimise conflict and to make children's experiences of outdoor learning and play worthwhile and interesting. There were some key features in developing the grounds so that everyone felt involved, had their voice heard and the end result would meet their needs.

**Pupil voice** - a School Grounds Group was set up. "In the School Grounds Group we get most of the say...if the adults just chose everything then we wouldn't own these things." *Pupil A, Airth Primary*

**Partnership working** - The school has worked hard to establish a range of partnerships, with, for example, **Grounds for Learning** who worked with the whole school community to help transform the outdoor space into to an active, friendly and natural space that enriches learning and play.

**Professional learning opportunities** – Falkirk Council has trained one member of staff as an Outdoor Learning Ambassador who has subsequently developed resources and supported colleagues in taking learning outdoors.

**Community Service Team** – young offenders

have given something back to their community by improving the school's grounds during school holidays, at weekends and when learners are in class.



Our wooden train



Hay bales for climbing



Grass growing in pallets



Our very popular sandpit!

**Local artist** – To brighten up the school's playground, the pupil Community group contacted a local artist who worked with children to create an attractive and eye-catching mural on a metal storage container in the playground.

**Parents/local community** – The school is very well supported by the PTA which is currently raising funds for an outdoor classroom. Parents also helped to construct the school's plastic bottle greenhouse and help source useful materials for the playground.

"Parents are great. They source equipment and provide their time. One parent has a horse box and used this to help children collect logs at the local woods to bring to school." *HT, Airth Primary*

### Impact

Children report that they are much happier in their play and enjoy being outdoors.

Staff are motivated and take full advantage of opportunities to facilitate play and learning outdoors as the grounds now offer more learning across the curriculum.

Support staff are now confident in promoting play and encourage children to risk assess their own actions and modify their behaviour.

Parents are increasingly aware of what is happening in school. Children are encouraged to go home and talk to their parents about what they are doing in school and how they are developing the school's grounds.

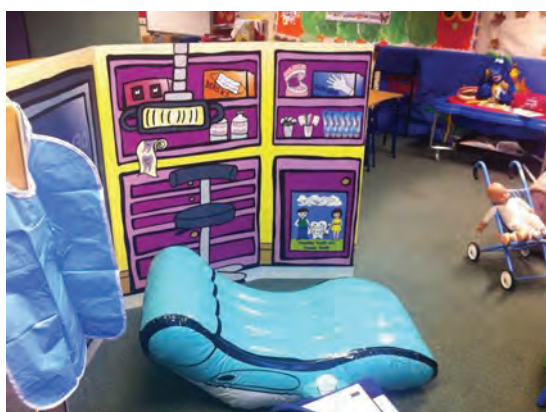
### Next Steps

"With the School Grounds group, right now we're planning what our next steps will be and what we're going to improve. We are going to be updating the toys and thinking about where we can have more areas for eating lunch outside. We would also like a mud kitchen." *Pupil A, Airth Primary*

## Stenhousemuir Primary School News

### Special Smiles Project

All Smiley Club children were given the opportunity this term to participate in the Special Smiles Project. This project was supported by a Dental Project Officer. All children were engaged and motivated during this project. Activities ranged from role play, cleaning the dinosaur's teeth and learning about the effects of fizzy drinks on their own teeth. The older children in the Enhanced Provision developed their ideas further and decided



to inform others about good dental hygiene. They chose to create a drama sketch, planning the script

and directing to create a video which they plan on sharing during an assembly. All children showed better understanding of good dental hygiene and decreased fear towards visits to the dentist. Parents have now been given the opportunity to borrow play boxes to develop this work at home.

**Primary 1** have been developing their literacy skills through the Active literacy programme. We have been learning their phonemes and using these to build words to read and write. We have been learning that there are some words you can sound out. Scoop has helped us to see this by scooping the sounds out of the sea and making a word which we can read. We now know some of our words are tricky words which we can't sound out, and Bob helps us to learn these. We use Bob and Scoop regularly in our reading and writing.

We have also been learning our numeracy through Big Maths and have completed term one and two.

We have been exploring our numbers 0-10 in lots of different ways. We can now say and form numbers to ten, count within ten and know some of our learn-its. We have also been looking at where we use numbers to ten



in our lives.

Primary 1 have been learning about living things through our IDL topic, Percy the Park keeper. We went out to visit his park in Stenhousemuir woodland and have learned all about the seasons and how this affects the plants and animals in Percy's park.

### Frohe Weihnachten!

Fifteen P7 pupils from Stenhousemuir Primary and five pupils from Larbert High set off in early December on an exciting four day visit to Germany's capital city, Berlin. They were accompanied by Mrs. Brown, Mr. Meikle and Mrs.



The pupils with Weihnachtsmann! They sang him Silent Night – in German!

Hutchison, as well as representatives from UK-German Connection who part-funding the visit as part of their "Magical Christmas package". As this was a transition project, the five senior pupils from Larbert High joined the group as Young Leaders/ Mentors and provided workshops in German language and culture prior to the group's departure.

In Berlin the pupils visited a primary school and met new friends before making Christmas decorations together. They had a tour of the city taking in Checkpoint Charlie, the remains of the Berlin Wall, the Brandenburg Gate, the Reichstag and even a visit to the famous German Christmas Markets!

Staff and pupils had a fantastic time. Hopefully a strong link will be formed with the Berlin school, leading to future shared projects and correspondence.

Follow the link <http://t.co/DBZ79jh7fZ> to watch them singing!



## Stenhousemuir Primary School News Cont'd

### P6 Schools Fantasy Football League

Pupils were invited to create a team to take part in the Schools Fantasy League football competition. To begin this series of lessons we thought about budgeting and aspects of financial education. Once we had explored our understanding of a budget we started to think about the maths skills we would need to use to help us .....

### Application of Numeracy Skills:



Pupils worked from amounts in millions digits to a decimal version.

7, 200, 000 ..... 7.2 million

Pupils also began to add these decimal numbers by partitioning into units and tenths.

Some pupils also started to develop their strategies on how to manage their budget.

*"If we have £110 million to spend, I think I will spend roughly £10 million on each player that way I won't go over budget. I can divide £110 million exactly by 11"* **Tom**

### Application of Literacy Skills:

Information on players was presented in a table and involved pupils using prior knowledge and understanding of football to read the information successfully. The children were also using metalinguistics to develop their understanding of football and budgeting vocabulary.

In the ICT suite, pupils had to



navigate around and explore the Schools Fantasy League website. We discussed the use of a website as a text.

### Creativity:

Pupils considered examples of famous logos for football teams and other areas of life and designed a logo, strip and set of colours for their

team. Designs had to be eye-catching and individual with each piece of kit linking to the others.

### Links with HOTS:

This series of lessons provided an opportunity for pupils to carefully consider and reflect on their Higher Order Skills. Pupils were able to easily identify the different levels of thinking.

**Remembering** - *"I remembered to use my addition skills to help keep track of how much I was spending" .... Kasia*

**Understanding** - *"I understood how to write big numbers for example £110 million is 110, 000, 000" .... Ellie T*

**Applying** - *"I applied my knowledge of budgeting and financing so that I wouldn't go over budget and into debt" .... Corey*

**Analysing** - *"I was analysing because I was comparing the information about one player to another" ..... Jenna*

**Evaluating** - *"I had to work with my partner to evaluate our team selections and give each other feedback. Then I had to decide whether I wanted to make any changes" .... Jessica*

**Creating** - *"We created our teams, logos and team names".... Ellie S*

### Skills for Life:

Through this activity pupils developed an awareness of budgeting and balancing amounts. They also learned the importance of making decisions and evaluating their choices.

### Enjoyment:

*"I enjoyed going to ICT and making decisions for myself. I also liked having the chance to apply my numeracy skills" ... Ellie T*

*"I enjoyed choosing players to join my squad and setting them into formation" .... Catey*

*"I enjoyed learning about budgeting for when I am older. I could use this in real life" .... Catilyn*

*"I enjoyed working with my partner when we had to look at the table of information on goalkeepers and note down who we would pick".... Jessica*

As class teacher the lessons gave me an excellent assessment opportunity to observe pupils applying literacy and numeracy skills in a new context.

### Diwali

In October P2 and P3/2 took part in a workshop



## Stenhousemuir Primary School News Cont'd



based around the Hindu festival of Divali. The children were able to see many of

the objects belonging to the religion and were dressed up in beautiful outfits to act out the traditional Hindu story of Rama and Sita.

All of the pupils enjoyed this experience and it brought the religion to life for them in a spectacular way.

### Referendum

P4s at Stenhousemuir Primary gained a good grasp of the democratic process, holding their own referendum the day before Scotland voted on independence.

The 7 and 8 year olds had to decide whether to opt for a Christmas party or a visit to the panto in December. And in time honoured fashion the vote went to the wire with youngsters deliberating long and hard on how to celebrate the festive season. Pupils wrote speeches and formed parties to help voters understand their message. Then they all took part in a private ballot.

In the event the P4s agreed – narrowly – in favour of a pantomime. This led to the two classes learning how to abide by the democratic majority decision when they headed off to enjoy Aladdin at Cumbernauld Theatre in the final week of term.

Oh yes they did!



### Storyline - Astronomy

During their Storyline project on Space, P5 at Stenhousemuir Primary were lucky enough to have their 'Big Questions' answered by Stirling Astronomical Society. The project began with NASA sending the class a mission to explore the planets in our solar system to find somewhere else to live as the resources on Earth are running out. The Astronomical Society provided both classes with an expert visit to the classroom. Not only did the gentlemen bring with them exciting equipment and resources for the children to see, use and explore but they also brought with them a wealth of knowledge for the children to tap into. We were involved in 4 different activities relating to solar and lunar eclipses, constellations, telescopes and the solar system. The children were given the opportunity at the end for a question and answer session which gave them a great advantage when trying to investigate the answer to their 'Big Question'. The children were then able to use the information they had gained from this session to good use when we presented our findings to our parents during an assembly. Along with tweets to NASA along the way, watching the live feed from inside the international space station and sending our name on the Orion shuttle which was launched in early December we found that as Earth orbits the sun in the 'Goldilocks Zone' there is nowhere else for us to live. The children are now busy trying to find ways in which we can conserve and look after our own planet as there really is nowhere else after we destroy Earth. Thank you again to the members of the Stirling Astronomical Society who gave up their time to spend a whole morning with P5. We really appreciated your expert advice during or topic.

### **Dates for your diary:**

Solar Eclipse – 20<sup>th</sup> March 2015  
between 8.30 and 10.30am. This should be visible to us around 9.40am. PLEASE MAKE SURE YOU FOLLOW CAREFUL ADVICE ABOUT VIEWING THE SOLAR ECLIPSE.





## Stenhousemuir Primary School News Cont'd

### P3 Enterprise

After last year's success at setting up a company and selling Christmas gifts at the School Christmas Fayre, P3 have done it again!

P3 have created two enterprise companies which they set up to sell products at the Christmas Fayre. After detailing all the jobs that would be required to run the companies, the children applied for the position that they would like to do. Each class applied for positions within their respective companies by completing an application form outlining their skills and then attended an interview where they could discuss these skills further.

Each class had to work together to come up with a company name for their company. There were so many amazing examples that it came down to a class ballot to decide. P3M named their company "Santa Style" and P3S named theirs "The Secret Santa Company". Once the names had been finalised the creative juices were bubbling as they designed a company logo. This went on all of the gifts that they made.

The design teams brought forward lots of exciting ideas and designs which were then created by the whole class with the managerial and supervisor teams motivating and encouraging everyone to do their best.

The finance team got together to decide the prices for each of their products. A lot of thought was put



in to this as they wanted to make sure their products were good value for money but also that

they were able to make a profit. In preparation for the big event the children have been learning about the jigsaw numbers to 100 from Big Maths to help them give change from a pound.

When the big day arrived the children worked hard on the stall whether it was replenishing stock, selling the goods or just simply welcoming family and friends of Stenhousemuir Primary School. Great fun was had by all. The children are now deciding which charity they would like to donate a portion of their money to.

### Hospital Frieze

Last session our P6 pupils worked with Art-Link Central to design a frieze for a reception area of Falkirk Community Hospital. They worked on a number of designs and these were skilfully put together to form the frieze. The frieze was based on drawings of local landmarks.



This session the pupils visited the hospital to see the frieze in place, meet the staff and see how the design process took their drawings through to the finished design.

Staff told the pupils that patients and visitors to the hospital had commented on how the reception area had been brightened up by the frieze.

### Carol Concert

Stenhousemuir, Ladeside, Carronshore, Kinnaird and Larbert Village all joined Larbert High for the annual carol concert. The singing was fantastic and put all the audience in the Christmas mood!



### Vale of Carron Rotary Club Quiz – Larbert Cluster Event, Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> November

Right up there with 'University Challenge' and 'Mastermind', the Vale of Carron Rotary Club Quiz was a tense affair. P7 pupils from all Larbert cluster schools were tested with a series of very challenging questions.

After a close-run contest pupils from Kinnaird PS and Stenhousemuir PS battled it out in a tie-breaker with the Stenhousemuir team winning.

All pupils at the event set an excellent example representing their schools. They worked well in their teams to agree on answers and even managed to answer questions which had some adult members of the audience stumped!

## Carronshore Primary School News

### Eco School

Carronshore Primary has been an Eco School since 2007.

Since achieving their 3<sup>rd</sup> Green Flag, the Eco Group has continued to work on many varied projects and developments involving the school and the community.

### Food and the environment



*One Planet Picnic*

We are delighted to report our success in achieving Eco Schools status.

Assessor feedback stated, "It is clear from your comprehensive application that the Eco-Schools programme is part of everyday life at Carronshore



*Collecting fruit from our orchard*

Primary School. Your pupils play a key role in driving forward your eco plans and I could hear their voice coming through in the application form for your Green Flag renewal. The focus is on whole school involvement and this is achieved through strong curriculum links, class eco

responsibilities, campaigns and events. There is a clear focus to your current Action Plans and I am sure that your pupils get the message about what can be achieved when



*Food Miles Pizza Assembly*

everyone works together for a common goal.

The impact of your environmental efforts goes beyond the school gates with your ongoing work at Gairdoch Park where classes take turns to carry out surveys and clean ups."

Congratulations everyone!

### The Santa Dash

For the second year the Carronshore Cross Country Club organised a successful Santa Dash around the village. More than sixty runners and walkers participated in this fun event. Pupils, staff,



parents and friends all decked out in festive gear circled the village to raise money for the

nominated charity. They were cheered all along the route and waved back into school by enthusiastic supporters.

### Kelpies on your Christmas Tree

Carronshore's Art club have produced items for sale at the Christmas fayre. This year the theme was penguins and Olafs. Both the pencil toppers and the sock models were sell outs. Santa bags were popular too. The unique and Christmas must



have for 2014 was a Christmas tree ornament in the shape of a Kelpie. These were stylish and very fitting for the Christmas tree. We have invited the Kelpies Management to look at our design and consider it as a possible souvenir in their shop. We wait to hear if our suggestion is a success. Look out for Carronshore Kelpies!



## Carron Primary School News

Friday 14<sup>th</sup> November 2014, the P6s of Carron Primary organised the pupils to dress up as superheroes with crazy hair. The day went very well with most pupils and staff participating. A competition was held to design a new friend for Pudsey and the grand total raised was an amazing £411.70!



### My Anti-Bullying Week by Callum from P7

The week beginning 17<sup>th</sup> of November was Anti-Bullying Week. We watched Newsround on a Danish school saying no to having just one best friend. Then we had a debate about it. Finally we found out one thing we had in common with everyone in the class.

#### **Newsround**

Newsround reported, a Danish school had some rules about friendship. One of them was you weren't to have a best friend. Another rule was you had to invite anyone you sit next to over to your house. The final rule was when you had a birthday party, you had to invite your whole class.

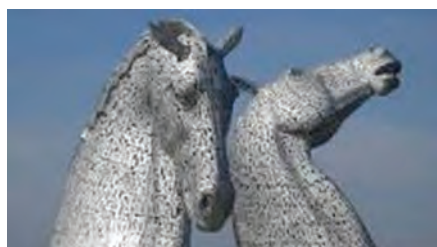
#### **Debate**

The whole P7 yeargroup had a heated debate about - is the Danish school right? Is bullying always intentional? We came to some conclusions - bullying is always intentional and the Danish school is right.

#### **What do we have in common?**

On Thursday, we were given a sheet of paper with everybody's name on it. We had to find one thing we have in common. Everyone successfully completed this task. Starting next week there is a jar with everyone's name in it. You pick out a name and during the week, you perform a random kind gesture.

### Kelpie Competition



Congratulations to sisters Marnie (Carron PS) and Darcie Izatt (Larbert HS) who won a writing competition organised by the Falkirk Herald. They had to write either a story or poem about the Helix Park and the Kelpies.

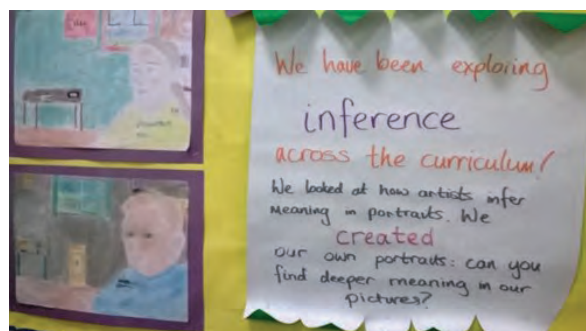
The girls wrote short mystery stories based at the Kelpies about stolen jewels – well done them!

### Inference the Interdisciplinary Way!

Ewan Shanks, P7 class teacher at Carron PS, has been developing his pupils' understanding of inference by linking literacy and art.

Ewan explored and built on existing pupil understanding by asking them to analyse images of Scottish inventors (their class topic as context).

Ewan found that his pupils could say and write their thoughts. (see one group's example on the right.) However, they found it difficult to say how they were able to make these statements. Ewan used questioning to increase pupil awareness of how they were picking up on the clues around the people in their picture, its composition, the objects which were visible, etc.



Pupils were then asked to create a self-portrait using a simple interior composition. At first, the children were too obvious with the clues they added to their pictures. Through careful questioning and discussion

## Carron Primary School News Cont'd

though, they were soon able to infer information about their likes/dislikes, character traits, etc. in a more subtle way.

To broaden and challenge pupil understanding even more, Ewan then played his P7 pupils various pieces of music to explore the ideas and images this suggested to them. As you might imagine, the children were very engaged by this whole process, and were able to demonstrate their understanding in a range of ways. This is a great example of deep and creative learning in literacy of course, but it is also a very clever use of type 1 interdisciplinary learning. By showing pupils the natural overlaps and common features in written, drawn/photographed and musical texts, Ewan helped develop deep understanding of inference, AND higher order skills transferable across literacy and the expressive arts.

### Alex Nye's Visit

We would like to inform you about the visit from the storyteller Alex Nye. Alex Nye is the Award winning author of the books 'Chill', 'Shiver' and 'Selkie Girl'. She visited each class in the school between P4-7 during Book Week at Carron.

Alex Nye's inspiration for the setting of 'Chill' and 'Shiver' was based at Cauldhame House in Sherriffmuir also known as Dunadd House in her novels. The themes of Alex Nye's novels are ghosts, secrets and mystery. The plot of Alex Nye's novel was based on watching the battle from the drawing room window. Alex Nye imagines a weeping woman pacing the drawing room with tears running down her cheeks. The plot of 'Shiver' is about two ghost children and a secret room.

We would encourage you to find out more about 'Chill' and 'Shiver' by reading these novels.  
By Marnie, Sarah, Emma, Laurel, Tegan and William (P6N, Carron PS)

### Walk to school week

Walk to school is a programme to encourage children to walk to school. It saves money and helps people to get fit.

This year, at Carron, Walk to School week was the 3<sup>rd</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> November 2014. During this week each class had a poster with the names of each child in the class. The teacher kept track of how they got to school (e.g. walk, car, park and stride, scoot, skate, cycle and bus). Each child then received a certificate on the Friday for being part of this data collection.

On Friday 7<sup>th</sup> November P6N collected in each of the sheets from nursery to P7. We used this information to make charts and graphs to show how people got to school each day.

We noticed that most people in the school were taking the car and we need to encourage people to park and stride / walk more often.

(P6 Carron Primary)



### Going for Glasgow Legacy Launch

Not that long ago, we attended the Going for Glasgow Legacy event. On arrival, we watched a short clip which showed all of the Going for Glasgow work in the Falkirk area. Then we went out and a photo was taken with us and the other schools attending. We then split into groups of around ten and had a discussion about our legacy. Then we created a poster, which included some words like 'Active School, Participation, and Leadership.'

Our legacy at Carron Primary is to have more sports clubs run by P6 and P7 pupils to develop their leadership skills. We want to increase pupil participation in our sports clubs. We would also like to eventually create a newspaper or have a section in the school newsletter for the young aspiring journalists to write about sports clubs or events.

Written by Cameron & Megan (P7S)



## Carron Primary School News

### Eilidh Child Experience

When Lewis, Iain and Zara went to meet Eilidh Child they got a hurdling masterclass. First of all they warmed up by jogging round the perimeter of a football field, then they did some stretches to loosen their muscles. Secondly Eilidh Child taught them her method of getting over a hurdle fast. After that they had a shot. The first step was walking towards the hurdle then jumping over it. When you land you need to land with one foot then the other. They thoroughly enjoyed the experience of meeting Eilidh Child.

Written by Iain and Zara (P7)



### I-Bike Festival

On the 7<sup>th</sup> of October Emse, Callum, Abby and I went to an I-bike festival with Mrs Couper at the Kelpies. There were three other schools there: Larbert Village, Stenhousemuir Primary and Carronshore Primary. Just before we all went to the Falkirk Stadium we had our photograph taken with the Kelpies. We listened to the Falkirk Council Minister and Environment Councillor and enjoyed a buffet.

Written by Nathan J and Esme (P7)

### Rugby Festival



On Tuesday the 25<sup>th</sup> of November we were invited along to the Larbert High P6 & 7 Rugby Festival. There were many other primary schools involved with the festival. We played lots of games and won a variety of them. We had a wonderful time and hope to have another opportunity to play rugby with others again.

By Calum Mulholland and Fiona Murphy (P7S)

### Football Tournament

Mr Borthwick's school football team went to Ochilview Park for a football tournament. We played really well, scored lots of goals and didn't concede many. We won 4 games, drew 1 and lost 1. The atmosphere was outstanding and we were all extremely unhappy to leave. It was a great day and terrific fun.

Written by Nathan M and Callan C (P7)



### Kuk Sool Won

During our Anti-Bullying week in November all the P7's went to the gym hall for a Kuk Sool Won experience. We got to try out some of the basic self-defence moves and also learned how to deal with bullying. Also, we learned how complicated the sport is and how many different methods there are to fight. It is very different to karate or judo and it does not just require strength but also co-ordination.



Written by Ashleigh & Amy B (P7S)

### Remembrance Parade



On Remembrance Sunday I attended a memorial parade to remember the ones who fought for our country and to thank God for the world. Abby and I laid a wreath at the memorial site with the Boys' Brigade and showed our appreciation by saying a prayer. The prayer included thanking the Lord for life, for the sacrificing of lives and the strength of our country and armies. All cluster schools attended and also contributed to the event.

Written by Aimee. D (P7)



### Rotary Quiz



There were four of us who attended the Rotary Quiz: Fiona, Sophia, Ewan and I. At the quiz we answered lots of questions on different difficult subjects such as Geography, Sport, General Knowledge and People. The questions were hard such as "What is the main language in Stockholm?" Carron Primary came second last, only eight points behind Stenhousemuir Primary who were first.

Written by Greg (P7S)

### Nursery News

#### **Book Week**

During 'Book Week' we listened to lots of different stories. Some of the stories were new ones and others were ones we had heard before but are our favourites.

Mrs Cook told us the story of Goldilocks and the Three Bears using puppets and props which we really enjoyed.

We had a visit from Mara Menzies, a story teller. She told us a story about a 'Lazy Lion'. We were a super audience but also helped her by joining in with some of the words and actions and had great fun!

#### **Fire Safety topic**

The children decided that they wanted to learn about the Fire Service and Fire Safety.

They helped to set up the role play area as a fire engine and they had great fun dressing up as fire fighters, driving the engine and using all the toy equipment.

The children enjoyed listening to the story of 'Francis Firefly' and talked about how important it is not to touch and play with matches, lighters and candles.

They learnt a new song about 'Five Little Fire Fighters'.

The children were involved in lots of other activities such as making pictures of fire engines, playing with fire engines and had many opportunities to draw pictures, mark, make, write and count.

They also had super ideas on how to keep safe on Bonfire Night and when using and watching fireworks.

The children were all very interested and excited when the fire fighters came to visit nursery with the fire engine. They were surprised at all the equipment on the engine. The highlight of the visit was getting the chance to use the hose pipe!



## Kinnaird Primary School News

### P7 Residential Trip to Dounans By Katja (P7 Junior Journalist)

On 6<sup>th</sup> of October, 47 P7 children from Kinnaird went on an adventure to Dounans where they spent a whole week taking part in fun activities. The activities included team building challenges such as a nightline, raft build and problem solving. There were also chances to learn some new skills like orienteering and archery and we really enjoyed exploring and climbing in the great outdoors! The adults who accompanied us from school had a great time too and took part in all of the activities with us.

On the first day some people felt a bit homesick but by the end of the week no-one wanted to leave. The meals were delicious - every night we got hot chocolate, sandwiches and biscuits. The dorms were nice and cosy and the bunks were comfy so we all got a good night's sleep. It was an amazing experience for all involved and we were even lucky with the weather!

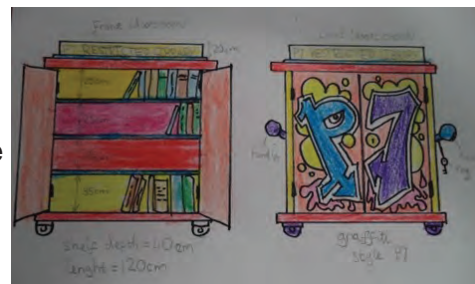


### P7s Design New Restricted Section for the School Library! By Kyle P7 (Junior Journalist)

In response to a suggestion by a parent helper who volunteered in our library, the school investigated and found that the borrowing habits of children changed as they moved up the school. Children became less interested in borrowing books as there were not many books aimed at the older, more sophisticated readers. The idea of a 'restricted section' was trialled at the book fair with great success, and it was decided that our school library would benefit from such a section. The older children were consulted and a list of possible titles was drawn up to begin the creation of the 'restricted section' which would only be accessed by P7s. This has caused great excitement and has reignited interest in the library. However, the secure storage of these very important books had to be decided...

The P7s were given the challenge to design a restricted bookcase that would be in the library filled with teenage books. The bookcase had to be closable and lockable, but also attractive. They designed them as part of a homework task and the most popular three from each P7 class was decided by a democratic vote. The six designs chosen were created by Ryan, Sophie, Iona, Aedan, Ross and Kyle (myself!). We have just recently made a final copy of the design and it is going to be built by one of our talented parents, Mr Lynagh. The P7s are looking forward to seeing the finished bookcase and read the books that are going to be locked away inside it.

Super exciting!



### Primary 1 Toy Museum

As part of an interdisciplinary learning topic about toys, our P1 pupils chose to showcase their knowledge and learning experiences by planning, organising and hosting a Toy Museum for their families. The children interviewed each other for the roles of tour guides, selected and sorted toys to display, made posters using ICT, wrote information labels and even filmed their own advert!

The week before the children selected and made a range of Christmas themed toys to sell in the museum shop. These included tea light holders, book marks, tree decorations and angels.

At the museum the children demonstrated their learning by guiding their families around the different displays, discussing old and new toys alike, how they are played with and completing a topic quiz.

Children and staff were greatly supported by families, who not only enthusiastically attended, but also helped raise money for Children In Need through their admission fee, visiting the café and buying raffle tickets.

