

# Eigg Primary School



and Nursery

## *Head Teacher's Newsletter - September 2019*

Dear Parents,

It has been a busy start to the new session and it is hard to believe that the first term is nearly over.

Firstly, I would like to thank everyone for making me feel so welcome at Eigg Primary and Nursery. I have thoroughly enjoyed my first two terms here, working with not only the staff and parents but also having the opportunity to spend time working in both the classroom and nursery with the children.

### **Changes at Eigg Primary and Nursery**

As you know Mr. Martin Merrick joined Eigg Primary as a full time class teacher this term. He has previously taught in a variety of different schools in Glasgow as well as Rum and Canna Primary Schools. We are really fortunate to be able to welcome him to our school community and wish him a successful year. If you would like to find out more read Tadhgan's interview with Mr Merrick on the School Blog.

We are also very sad to say goodbye to Ms. Sue Hollands, who is leaving Eigg Primary after 16 years. During her time here she has held a number of different roles - clerical assistant, class teacher and acting head teacher. Although I have known her for only a short time, her commitment to helping the children in her care to reach their potential is clear and she will be sadly missed. However, Sue has suggested that she will be happy to return to the school to help with the garden and the Eco-School committee, something that I will be reminding her of!

### **Music**

There is lots of music going on at the moment at Eigg Primary. The P4-P6 children have begun their music lessons with Ben, as part of the Feis, and Miss Fee has been helping all the primary children with their singing via Google Meet. Next term Gabe will be coming in to work with the older children as part of the Scottish Youth Music Initiative.

### **Trip and Visitors**

Visitors to the school and trips, both on and off Eigg, help to create a rich, broad and relevant curriculum for our learners.



One of the first visitors we had was Audrey Murray. Before the holidays the children raised £2,788.55 money for the Teenage Cancer Trust. Audrey came to say thank-you and find out a little about living on Eigg.



There have been several visits to the orchard to collect plums and apples. The primary children have made plum jam, whilst the nursery made a delicious apple crumble.



Both the nursery and primary children went to visit the forestry area to see the trees being cut down. They were learning about staying safe, why the trees are being cut down and the world of work.



Fiona Sach came and spoke to the children about the work that she does with elephants at Chester Zoo. They asked lots of questions about elephants, human-elephant conflicts and the role of zoos.

Everyone at Eigg Primary and Nursery contributed to making the last Makers' Market a success. The primary children used produce from the school garden to make snacks to sell, whilst the nursery had their own stall selling pencil toppers. The nursery used the money that they raised to buy a new till and a set of weighing scales for their own 'farm shop'.



The swimming trip got off to a good start with a swimming lesson, good food and a beautiful sunset. A big thank-you to Sue and Lucy for arrange all the many activities that the children are taking part in. No doubt there will be many more pictures to come.

Many thanks to all the parents who made this possible by fundraising for the school.

More information about all of these trips and visitors can be found on the School Blog -

[eiggprimary.com/](http://eiggprimary.com/)

## Growing Our School

Our learners are at the heart of the school community and it is our job to create a learning culture in which they can achieve their full potential. This display represents the various ways in which Eigg Primary and Nursery works to create a positive and supportive learning environment.

The children, represented by the 'flowers', need key elements to help them grow - nutrients from the soil, light and warmth from the sun and water in the form of rain.

SHANARRI stands for safe, healthy, achieving, nurtured, active, responsible, respected and included. These are known as the Wellbeing Indicators and are at the heart of 'Getting it right for every child (GIRFEC)'.

In the clouds are the three priorities that our school community will be working on this session - numeracy, health and wellbeing and learning pathways and reporting. The rain drops represent the different ways in which we will do this.



The **worms** are the curricular areas that underpin the curriculum. There are **eight curriculum areas**: expressive arts, health and wellbeing, languages (literacy and modern languages), mathematics, religious and moral studies, sciences, social studies and technologies.

Sometimes these areas are taught discreetly but often learning may often span a number of curriculum areas at once. This is called interdisciplinary learning or **IDL**.

**Play** forms an important part of learning for all children, especially at Early Level (nursery and P1), and it is through play that our learners will begin to explore these curricular areas.

The purpose of the Curriculum for Excellence is to enable each learner to develop and grow as an **effective contributor, responsible citizen, confident individual** and a **successful learner** (known as the **Four Capacities**).

Each **flower** has a different capacity at its centre and the petals of the flowers highlight some of the skills that learners use to develop these capacities.

## Aims and Values

As part of 'Growing our School' I have been revisiting the values of the school with the children. The primary children began by drawing what Eigg Primary School means to them. We then spoke about any similarities between the pictures and came up with a list of qualities that make up Eigg Primary, which included smiling children, learning social skills, being outdoors and each other. Finally we looked at some of the values that other schools have and collect any that we liked and thought might represent Eigg Primary. The next step is to narrow down the collection of values (and add any new ones that have been thought of), and discuss them as a whole school community. The nursery has also been thinking about the values of our school community and has been working on having 'Kind Hands, Kind Feet, and Kind Words'. They have been discussing what this looks like, feels like and sounds like at nursery and are making a display to illustrate their ideas. Once they have finished they are hoping to share their ideas and thoughts with the rest of the school.

## Gardening

Last session the children all worked very hard planting, watering and caring for a wide variety of fruit and vegetables in the school garden and polytunnel. This term they have been picking the results which have included lettuces, a crop of giant potatoes, 7 squashes, tomatoes and carrots.



## Dates for your diary

**Sue Leaving Do Lunch** - Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> October at 12.30pm

**Parents' Meetings (Primary)** - Monday 7<sup>th</sup> October and Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> October

**Parents' Meetings (Nursery)** - Katrin will arrange these with you individually

**Sharing afternoon (Nursery)** - After the October holidays Katrin and the nursery children would like to share with you the work that they have been doing on 'Kind Hands, Kind Feet and Kind Words'. Katrin will be in touch with a date/time.

**October Holidays** - Monday 14<sup>th</sup> October to Friday 25<sup>th</sup> October

**In-service days** - Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> November and Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> November

If you have any questions or would like more information about anything, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Many Thanks,

Louise Taylor