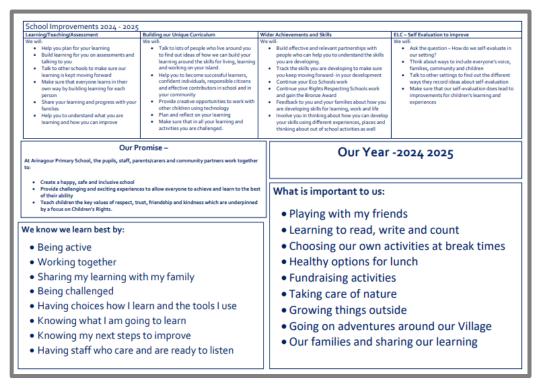


Arinagour Primary School Autumn Newsletter 2024



What a great start to this year. The weather hasn't been too bad and everyone has been working hard to meet their targets. The late summer weather has certainly kept winter at bay a wee bit longer. I have enjoyed seeing the children grow and develop when I come over and I have managed to be over nearly every week, except when there was a HT conference. The welcome I receive from everyone in the school is fantastic and I love all their wee stories of the adventures they have had over the week. I shared our Improvement plan with the parents at the Parent Council Meeting on 18 September and one of the targets was to find a way to record the children's wider achievements. These stories the children share, show that they lead busy, interesting lives out of school and we need to find a way to capture these skills and achievements. We will be asking families for their views on ways to do this at future Parent

meetings.



The school improvement plan is based on evaluations from staff, parents and children from the previous year. At Arinagour, our self - evaluation process has been quite informal, making notes about comments families make at parent meetings, from staff discussions and talking to the children. The plan is designed to make sure that improvements continue to benefit the children in the school and also to make sure staff recognises that education is continually moving forward and they keep themselves up to date with new developments and thinking. We have devised a 'child friendly' version of the plan and the children's ideas about learning and their school. The plan is written for both the school and the ELC, our vision and our promise, is that the children work as closely together as often as we can. A copy of the Improvement plan and last year's Standards and Quality report are available from the school office and will be on the school website.

ELC News -

We started the term with The Olympics and learning a little about France and Paris landmarks, where the Olympics was held. We ended with our own mini Coll Olympics, with lots of thinking about encouraging words!!

This led on to an all about horses theme as requested by one of our wee ones. We looked at horse body parts and labelled the head and body. We visited the Old Smithy and compared photos of then and now. The children conducted some online research, observing horses moving slowly and quickly and a farrier changing horse's shoes which inspired our horse shoe rubbings and creating horse shoes out of clay.







We have a variety of boats of various sizes visiting our Island. We were all very excited to be visited by a tall ship. We all went for a walk to see the tall ship. We found out some of her history and that she was called 'The Lady of Avenel'. This led to many activities around imagining a story aboard the tall ship, pirate and sailor themed activities.

The children have also been busy with Autumnal activities, lots of scuffling in the leaves and picking brambles. This means getting out about walking around the village and into the woods. The children were also encouraged to use their senses to see, hear, smell and feel, (we didn't try taste) only what to avoid tasting!!





Juliet, part of our wonderful catering team, decided to move on to enjoy different activities. The children were very excited to be taking part in helping to get ready for her Farewell Party. They prepared, weighed and measured ingredients for tasty items for the tea party. Then, of course, they enjoyed sharing the treats with everyone at the tea party.



We then moved on to celebrate harvest and learn songs, to sing at the seniors coffee morning. This is always a very worthwhile event, building these lovely intergenerational links. It also lends itself to more maths activities linked with weighing and measuring ingredients. This time it was for a very tasty apple and bramble harvest cake to share with the seniors. This helped us to think of fruits and vegetables that may be harvested in Scotland.





Some important dates for the diary

Monday 25 November - In Service day

Saturday 30 November – School Table at the Christmas Market

Wednesday 11 December – Christmas Celebration with Nativity in the Church 2pm

School News -



Bikeability - Charlotte, our Active Schools Coordinator had arranged with Miss Reid some bikeability training for everyone. Miss Reid booked the pier as it is the largest flat area that we can use with the bikes. The day planned was absolutely beautiful and we were very lucky. Everyone worked at their own level. The ELC took part as well. Charlotte worked on building confidence with the bikes and being in control of the bike. The children cycled in paths, circles and around cones. They played games with races – fast and a very slow race. They also had to try some hand signals and taking a hand off the bike to give a wave. She also spent time making sure that the children could look over their shoulder again through games, such as counting the fingers she was showing them. It was a very successful session, with all children achieving at their own level.

Rights Respecting Schools Award -

All schools are encouraged to participate in this award scheme, organised and supported by UNICEF. Arinagour are now ready to go for their Bronze Award. The staff have completed training about what is means to be a 'Right Holder' and a 'Duty Bearer'. The children work together as a Rights Committee to think about rights and what they mean for them taking their place in the world. The First Step in that process is creating a whole school charter. We decided on four rights this year that are important to them in school.

What we agree to do -	Our Rights	How the Grown Ups in school will help us
 ★ Listen to each other with respect ★ Look at the person who is talking ★ Share our ideas with other people 	Article 12 - I have the right to be listened to and to be taken seriously.	★ Give us opportunities to share our views ★ Record our views in different ways ★ Make sure our views and ideas are acted on
 ★ Create safe passwords ★ Use IT responsibly ★ Think of other ways to get information not just using technology 	Article 17 - I have the right to get information in lots of different ways, so long as it's safe.	★ Teach us about being safe online ★ Provide us with a safe place to practice our online skills ★ Provide different ways to find information
 ★ Treat each other with respect ★ Plan our learning ★ Take care of the world around you 	Article 29 - I have the right to an education which develops my personality, respect for others' rights and the environment.	 ★ Provide us with challenges to help our learning move forward ★ Keep us safe, active and achieving ★ Provide opportunties for us to develop or skills in different ways and in different places
 ★ Treat everyone with kindness ★ Keep busy and don't waste time ★ Be creative ★ Look after things and keep them tidy 	Article 31 - I have the right to relax and play.	 ★ Provide spaces for us to play and rein different ways ★ Support our friendships ★ Help us to solve problems when thin don't go well for us