



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.

School Improvements 2024 - 2025			
Learning/Teaching/Assessment	Building our Unique Curriculum	Wider Achievements and Skills	ELC - Self Evaluation to improve
We will: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Help you plan for your learningBuild learning for you on assessments and talking to youTalk to other schools to make sure our learning is kept moving forwardMake sure that everyone learns in their own way by building learning for each personShare your learning and progress with your familiesHelp you to understand what you are learning and how you can improve	We will: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Talk to lots of people who live around you to find out ideas of how we can build your learning around the skills for living, learning and working on your island.Help you to become successful learners, confident individuals, responsible citizens and effective contributors in school and in your communityProvide creative opportunities to work with other children using technologyPlan and reflect on your learningMake sure that in all your learning and activities you are challenged.	We will: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Build effective and relevant partnerships with people who can help you to understand the skills you are developingTrack the skills you are developing to make sure you keep moving forward- in your developmentContinue your Eco Schools workContinue your Rights Respecting Schools work and gain the Bronze AwardFeedback to you and your families about how you are developing skills for learning, work and lifeInvolve you in thinking about how you can develop your skills using different experiences, places and thinking about out of school activities as well	We will: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Ask the question - How do we self-evaluate in our setting?Think about ways to include everyone's voice, families, community and childrenTalk to other settings to find out the different ways they record ideas about self-evaluationMake sure that our self-evaluation does lead to improvements for children's learning and experiences
Our Promise – At Arinagour Primary School, the pupils, staff, parents/carers and community partners work together to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Create a happy, safe and inclusive schoolProvide challenging and exciting experiences to allow everyone to achieve and learn to the best of their abilityTeach children the key values of respect, trust, friendship and kindness which are underpinned by a focus on Children's Rights.		Our Year -2024 2025	
We know we learn best by: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Being activeWorking togetherSharing my learning with my familyBeing challengedHaving choices how I learn and the tools I useKnowing what I am going to learnKnowing my next steps to improveHaving staff who care and are ready to listen		What is important to us: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Playing with my friendsLearning to read, write and countChoosing our own activities at break timesHealthy options for lunchFundraising activitiesTaking care of natureGrowing things outsideGoing on adventures around our VillageOur families and sharing our learning	

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 it 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.

Arinagour Primary School Charter			
What we agree to do -	Our Rights		How the Grown Ups in school will help us.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ 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.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Give us opportunities to share our views ★ Record our views in different ways ★ Make sure our views and ideas are acted on
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ 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.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Teach us about being safe online ★ Provide us with a safe place to practice our online skills ★ Provide different ways to find information
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ 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.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Provide us with challenges to help our learning move forward ★ Keep us safe, active and achieving ★ Provide opportunities for us to develop our skills in different ways and in different places
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ 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.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Provide spaces for us to play and relax in different ways ★ Support our friendships ★ Help us to solve problems when things don't go well for us