



Barcaldine Primary School

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November 2019

We have had a busy term so far, with lots of outdoor activities and fun learning about people around the world. We are gearing up for the Festive Season now and hope you will be able to join in with some of the fun.

A New Village

There has been some development work going on in our neighbourhood. A whole new village has sprung up in the woods. There's a Pizza Shop, a mine, a Barista Café and various houses with balconies, bedrooms, ladders and even a hot tub! The village and its inhabitants have inspired some creative writing and a new t.v. show (a cross between Grand Designs and the Bake Off!). So when you go down to the woods today... beware where you put your feet.



There's also been some Halloween fun in the woods with the cooking of treats and the making of potions.



Health and Wellbeing

Our local small schools joined for a day of learning at Strath of Appin Primary. The children took part in a range of workshops and lessons from learning about the dangers of tobacco, safe and unsafe substances in the home, to how to keep clean and relationships. We kept fit through team games and activities and enjoyed social times with our friends.

People Around the World

We have been on a huge journey around the world, learning about different cultures and beliefs. Our journey has taken us from Italy to Spain, to Brazil, across to North Africa, on to Japan and we are now learning about India. We have been exploring different religions and values.

Shoe Box Appeal

As part of our project we decided to take part in the Blythswood Shoe Box Appeal. Families, friends and staff donated enough to fill 3 shoe boxes: one for a girl, one for a boy and one for a woman. The children enjoyed choosing what gifts the different people would like and making handmade wrapping paper for them.





Barcaldine Outdoor Playgroup

Our Outdoor Playgroup has been running successfully for 7 months. The 'Bothy' has been a great asset and we have been building up resources and play equipment. It has been wonderful to see the youngsters flourish in our school ground environment. The babies have already grown so much and have become adventurous toddlers, exploring a wide area now. We would like to offer this opportunity to the wider community and have several places available for parents and carers to join us with their under 5s. There will be a booking system up and running in the New Year so look out for information about this, or get in touch with us, with your details, so we can contact you next year.

Glasdrum National Nature Reserve

We had two great days at our local National Nature Reserve, Glasdrum, with staff from Kilmartin Museum and Scottish Natural Heritage. The first day the children were soil scientists, surveying and collecting on the reserve then carrying out experiments back at school. On the second day, the children worked on clearing areas that were overgrown and so extend the habitat for Chequered Skipper butterflies. This is a rare butterfly that is found locally and part of our eco-school goal of improving biodiversity. Back at school the children built wind-turbines and learnt about their carbon footprint.



Disaster Relief Maths Day

Along with Achaleven Primary, we joined our small school friends at Kilchrenan Primary for a Creative Maths Day. Little did the children know that they would be developing their team working skills, logical thinking and using all their maths knowledge to complete a rescue mission as disaster relief experts. They designed and measured vehicles out of shapes to transport equipment and worked out how to balance all the equipment into two planes. They also had to immobilise a broken leg and build a stretcher.



Duathlon



A huge 'Well Done' to pupils, parents and grandparents who took part in the first Barcaldine Duathlon, and raised over £1000 towards extra-curricular activities for the school. All participants (ages 4-72!) cycled from Barcaldine to Benderloch, on the cycle track, then climbed to the summit of Ben Lora, back down the hill and cycled back to Barcaldine. A total of approximately 10 miles cycling and 308m hill climb. A well-deserved ice-cream treat was had at 'Not Just Desserts' on the return cycle. The children were still full of energy for school the next day! Super Fit Kids!

Christmas Plans

We hope you will join us for our Christmas Play. This year we are attempting to hold it OUTSIDE, in the school grounds, followed by warming mulled wine and mince pies in school. We have 2 contingency dates if the weather is too wet and windy on our planned date (Tuesday 10th Dec). It is a short play, and we hope to have a fire to keep folks warm, but please bring along a fluffy blanket and hot water bottle. We are hoping the stars will shine and it will be a magical experience for all.

We are hoping to perform our play for the Stramash nursery children on Monday 16th Dec. We will be singing for residents of Etive House on Wednesday 18th Dec and our Christmas party will be on Thursday 19th December, when our pre-school children are invited to join us.



Dates for your Diary

Playgroup	4 th December & 18 th December 2019
Christmas Play	10 th December (or 11 th or 17 th)
Christmas Party	19 th December
School closes	20 th December
School re-opens	6 th January 2020
Playgroup	8 th January 2020

Join us for our Outdoor Christmas Play

Christmas Around the World

Barcaldine Primary School

6.30pm

Tuesday 10th December 2019



Contingency plan for poor weather is Wed 11th, then Tues 17th. If all that fails we will be inside the school!
Check our website or school notice board for information

**Wear warm clothing and bring a hot water bottle
and a fluffy blanket!**



Mulled wine and mince pies served in the school afterwards