



North West Community Campus End of Term October Newsletter 2023



Message from Mr Barry Smith (Head Teacher)

Dear Parent/Carer

It is my pleasure to share with you our Autumn newsletter. We have made real progress this term on a number of fronts, some of which you will read about below.

As ever, we continue to build our partnerships with parents and partners and celebrate the success of our youngsters. This term we have consulted with our primary parents about the start of the school day and we will be sharing the outcome and next steps of this consultation with you at the start of next term.

One of our areas of focus this session has been bring our school rules into sharp focus in all aspects of school life, but particularly in the classroom. We are also continuing to help all of our learners understand their rights as we progress on our journey toward becoming a Rights Respecting Schools Award Silver Accredited School. Mrs Muir in our primary section has done some fantastic work in developing understanding across primary learners and staff and we are about to embark upon a similar process in our secondary section.

Our School Rules are:

- Be Safe
- Be Ready to Learn
- Be Respectful

Your help in discussing and reinforcing these rules at home is greatly appreciated. We also encourage all our parents and carers to model Safe and Respectful behaviour and communication in all of your dealings with the school and our staff, because we know that these positive examples make a big difference to the way that our learners respond in school.

We expect all of our learners to observe the school rules at all times. When things go wrong we repair the damage that has been done, normally to relationships, through restorative approaches. You can find more information about restorative approaches here [Restorative approaches to support positive relationships and behaviour | Resources | Education Scotland](#)

We are celebrating the success of our youngsters following school rules and demonstrating our school values through weekly assemblies.

Our **school values** (Learning Powers) are:

- Relational
- Resilient
- Self-Motivated
- Embracing-challenge

Being relational and developing positive relationships is possibly the most important of these four. We define **being relational** in school as:

- Treat others as you would like to be treated.

- Being respectful.
- Being safe.
- Working with other people.

Our priorities for session 2023-24 are:

- Improving our curriculum 2-18.
- Ensuring our Learning Powers and Children's Rights are part of all of our teaching and learning.
- Promoting Staff and Pupil Health and Wellbeing.
- Ensuring our processes and procedures for supporting young people are clear, understood and followed by everyone.

I encourage you to continue to participate in the life of our school and in particular would ask that if you can spare the time, to please come to the Parent Council meetings. More information will be coming out again soon about the next Parent Council meeting. Please get involved and have your voice heard. If you have something to say, this is the place to say it! We very much look forward to your involvement and participation.

We continue to have so much of which to be proud and to celebrate in our school, with so many fantastic young people, supportive parents and caring, committed staff.

Yours faithfully,

Mr B Smith (he/him)

Head Teacher

Volunteering Group visit to LochDuhar

Well done to the volunteering class that visited Lochduhar care home this afternoon. You were very confident and encouraging to everyone that you met.





DYW - *Developing the Young Workforce*

NHS Dumfries & Galloway Work Experience

During the final week of September, 10 pupils in S4-6 gained valuable work experience with NHS Dumfries & Galloway. This followed a competitive application process which was open to all S4-6 pupils in the local authority. Pupils worked across a range of sites and departments including pharmacy, nursing, medical physics, recruitment, catering, public health improvement and healthcare sciences. Huge well done to all the S4-6 pupils who embraced challenge by taking part in the NHS work experience programme, which included delivering presentations at The Bridge on the final day. Some pupils have kindly shared an insight into their work experience in their own words below....

Lucas Nelson S6 (Pharmacy)

“My placement was with the pharmacy, I was in DGRI on Tuesday down in the dispensary which is where medicines are packaged and sent away to the wards or doctor surgery's. On Wednesday I was in DGRI in the Combined Assessment Unit, which is where patients wait after A and E to be sent or home or to another ward. The pharmacist is there to help doctors and nurses with patients medicines or to give medication advice. On Thursday I was at Gardenhill in Castle Douglas with is a doctor surgery. Here pharmacists talk directly with patients about medicine instead of them talking to GPs. I really enjoyed being in the CAU where I was able to attend a ward meeting that included doctors, nurses, pharmacists and social workers where they went through every patient to decide what was happening with them. This work experience taught me what it was like to work in a busy and vital work environment.”

Faith Hunter S6 (Nursing at DGRI)

“During my time on placement with the NHS, I was going onto different wards and seeing what nurses do on a daily basis. I was on three different wards – C6, D7 and D8. Whilst I was on these wards, the nurses gave me a tour of each ward and explained to me what they do. During my time on the wards, I got to help hand out lunches, help people pick their lunch and take temperatures. I also had the chance to go and speak to some of the patients which I really enjoyed. Now that I've had the chance to go into the wards and see what happens, it makes me want to become a nurse even more.”

Zaaine Houston S5 (Public Health Improvement)

“For my NHS work experience my placement was with Public Health Improvement (PHI). They work to help people solve their problems with a non-medical approach. During my work experience I visited an elderly lady who was referred to PHI by her GP and we went to see what was stopping her from re-joining clubs. On my last day of placement I went to try out some tai-chi which was very relaxing. Overall, I had an amazing experience work with the NHS.”

Kayla Milligan S5 (Workforce Sustainability & Recruitment)

“During the work experience I was working with the Workforce Sustainability and Recruitment team where we learned how they work very closely with one another to recruit people to the NHS. I had the opportunity to see what the housing was like for an international nurse and the hub they use to help them train for their exam which they must take to be able to be a nurse in UK. Another thing we did was making a PowerPoint explaining how we thought we could use social media to get people interested in a career in the NHS and then we got feedback on how we could improve on this. At the beginning of this I wasn't that sure on a job in the NHS, but this experience showed me that working

in the NHS doesn't always mean working with medicine and there's other ways to help people, so I definitely wouldn't mind a career in the NHS."



1 - Megan McLatchie S4 (Catering at DGRI)

"I really enjoyed my work experience at DGRI in catering because I got to learn new things and got to help out. The things I learned about included invoices and how to send food to other places like Mountainhall. I also had an opportunity to go up to the main café and help clean the tables and help out. The outcome of doing this work experience is it has really made me want to work in catering and for the NHS."



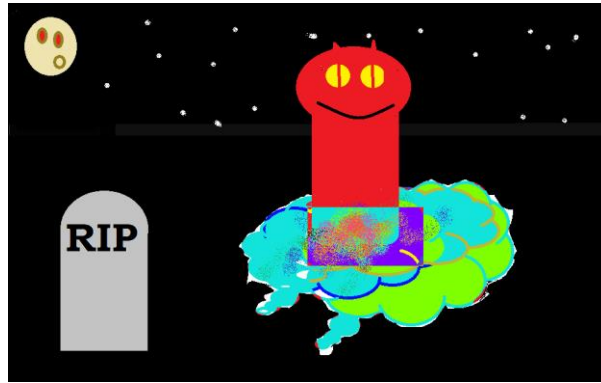
2 - Natasha Kuehnel S4 (Catering at Mountainhall)

"I enjoyed working at Mountainhall café as I got to learn what it is like and to learn more about catering and what you do. I was serving customers, helping prepare the food and cleaning. This has made me realise that maybe working in catering is something I wouldn't do but I would like to work somewhere else in the NHS."

S2 Pupils Halloween Pictures

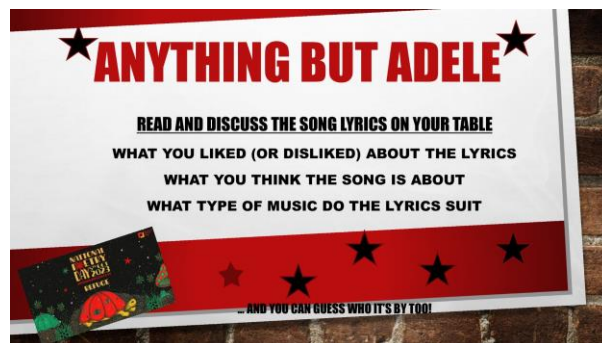
S2 ICT pupils have been using MS Paint as part of their Graphics topic this term. Here are some of their Halloween pictures.





Library News

National Poetry Day



National Poetry Day

Nursery, P1, P2, S1 and S2 pupils all played a part in an exciting celebration of National Poetry Day 2024 in the school library.

Song lyrics are often seen as a form of poetry and S1 and S2 pupils were put to the test in a song lyric workshop, called Anything But Adele, in their library lesson.

Pupils were given a variety of anonymous contemporary song lyrics on the theme of refuge to discuss what they liked or disliked about the lyrics, what they thought the song was about, and what type of music did the lyrics suit. Bonus points were given to those who could guess the song's artist (none of which were by Adele)!

The pupils were then played an extract from the song's music video to see if they guessed the music style and artist correctly. There were lots of friendly debate and we hope they've broadened their musical (and poetical) taste!

For Nursery, P1 and P2 classes, pupils were read a variety of poems during their weekly library Storytime, some with actions and others pure nonsense! They enjoyed being a tree, making decisions about slugs and snails and joining in with the rhymes.



3 - Maths Week Scotland

To celebrate Maths Week Scotland, the school library had a selection of games and lego brick puzzles on the theme of 'construction' to play with at lunchtimes. We also had number themed Storytimes for our Nursery and P2 pupils.



4 - School Library Opening Times: Lunchtime and After School

Just a wee reminder that the school library is a safe space for ALL secondary pupils at lunchtime for:

homework; borrowing books; and quiet and calm activities.

AND *after school until 4.15pm for quiet study and borrowing books.*

FREE



Disability Sports Sessions

Tots Disability Sport

18mths - 3yrs • Wednesdays 1:45pm - 2:45pm
@Lochvale House, Georgetown Road, Dumfries DG1 4DF

Coaching and Disability Sport

16yrs - Older Adult • Thursdays 10:30am - 12pm
@Lochvale House, Georgetown Road, Dumfries DG1 4DF

Tots Disability Sport

3yrs - 5yrs • Fridays 10:30am - 11:30am
@Dumfries YMCA, Lochside Rd, Dumfries DG2 0NF

Primary Disability Sport

Primary 1-7 • Saturdays 10.30am - 11.30am
@Dumfries YMCA, Lochside Rd, Dumfries DG2 0NF



All sessions will run 1st Nov - 22nd Dec 2023

FOR MORE INFO PLEASE TEL: 01387 248942

BOOKINGS @ www.letsgetsporty.com



5 - Free Disability Sport Sessions

THE LIBRARY IS

OPEN

EVERY LUNCHTIME

From 1:15pm

- Books
- Homework
- Quiet and calm activities



SAFE SPACES
for
EVERYONE




Mrs Gilfillan and Mrs Boyd are here to help.

6 - Library Opening Times

Transition Visits for Cluster P7's



The first set of transition visits took place for cluster P7s with pupils from NWCC, Lincluden and Holywood attending in September. Next month P6s from NWCC, Lincluden, Shawhead and Cargenbridge will attend for Science. All pupils across P6 and P7 in the cluster will have 8 different curricular visits getting a taste of life in all the different secondary departments.

The School of Rugby sessions were all excellently led by a group of S3 School of Rugby pupils who showed great leadership and relational skills supporting the P7s.

It was a pleasure to see them leading and the P7 pupils were able to witness some of the responsibilities and opportunities you get as a secondary pupil at NWCC.





NWCC Students visiting the Barony



On Friday pupils from NWCC joined pupils from other Dumfries schools to visit the SRUC Barony for a fantastic rugby experience. Pupils that play for Dumfries Saints were invited by REHT to a day of talks, experiments, training and challenges that were designed to make them think about their health and fitness and where their food comes from. Pupils sampled food, met players and competed throughout the day in the lovely setting at the Barony college. Some of our pupils were lucky enough to be interviewed by the SRU, whilst others met players and some even won prizes. The day was a really valuable for all those involved and we would like to thank organisers for the opportunity.

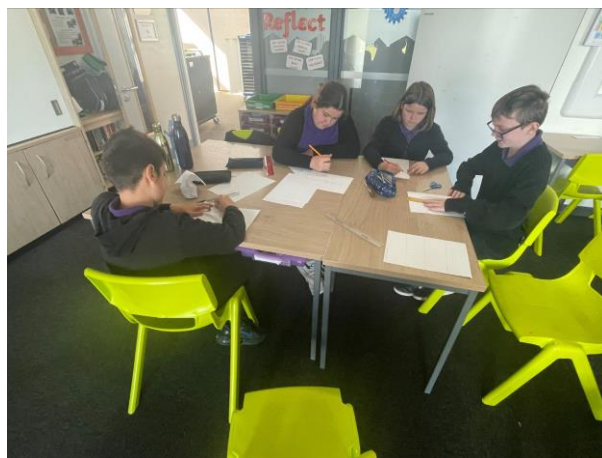
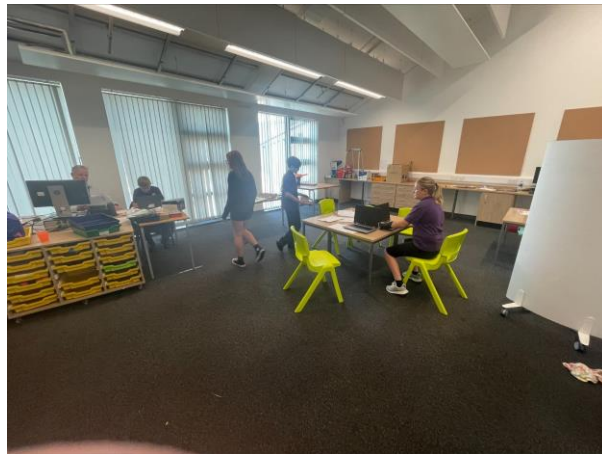
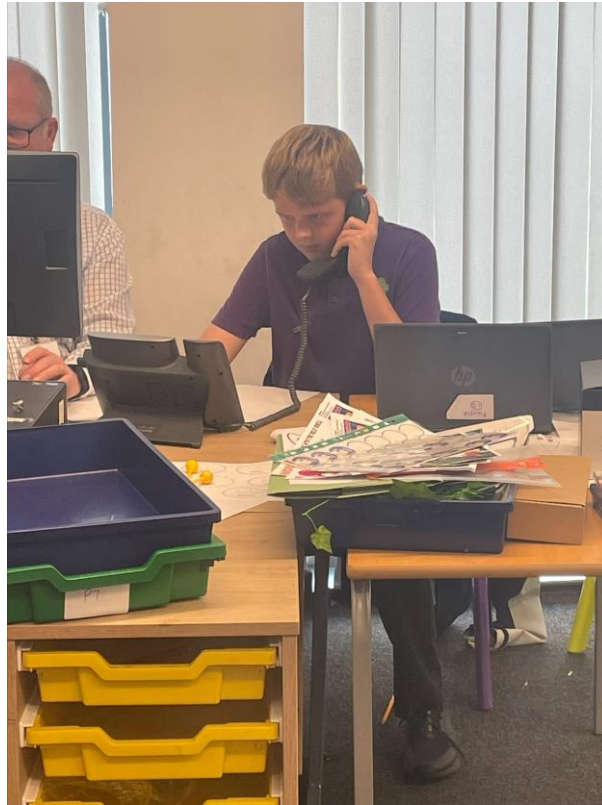




P7 Enterprise Project



This week P7 have started their preparations for the Enterprise project to begin to raise money for their residential trip in March. Keep posted for more information!







NWCC PE Department's Young Ambassadors 2023



7 - Danny Donowho and Kelcie Smith, both of S6 have been selected to be NWCC PE Department's Young Ambassadors this year. Danny who wants to be a PE teacher and Kelcie who would like to work in Sport are both excellent role models for our younger pupils and will be working hard to encourage more people to take part in sport throughout the school. They will be heading to Hampden next week to attend their first workshop. Well done to both.

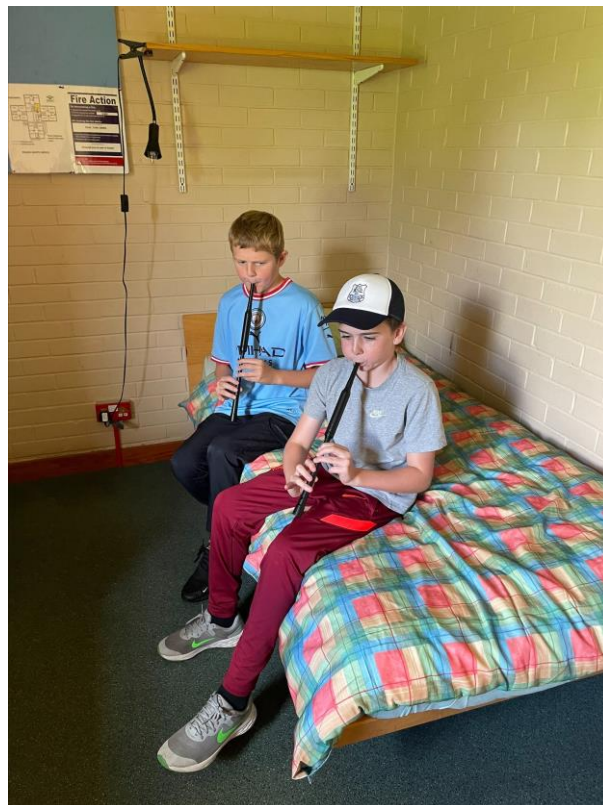
South West Scotland Pipes and Drums



Summer School

'Lots of fun and hard work at the South West Scotland Pipes and Drums summer school - from musical theory to practising as a band! Well done to everyone involved from NWCC. Lewis even managed to progress onto his own set of bagpipes!'









S2 - S6 Rugby Trip to Murrayfield Scotland vs Georgia



S2 - S6 went to Murrayfield for the first trip of the year and had a brilliant day out. Well done everyone for your excellent behaviour and attitude.









National 5 Go Orienteering









September Pipes and Drums Academy



Our September Pipes and Drums academy students working hard and sounding great!









National Physics



8 - National Physics class investigating the relationship of temperature against electrical resistance using a thermistor, which is used in many control systems as a temperature sensor e.g fridge/freezers and car engines.

Raising Funds for our Local Food Bank



9 - Group of S2 pupils washing cars to raise money for a local food bank. Once we have reached the £100 target, we will visit the food bank to help understand the pressures modern society is facing at the moment.

Grow Your Own Crops



P7 Harvesting the crops

P7 were harvesting the last of the crops of the year in our garden. We worked well as a team and then got to prepare some of the vegetables that we grew.





Primary Learning Centre

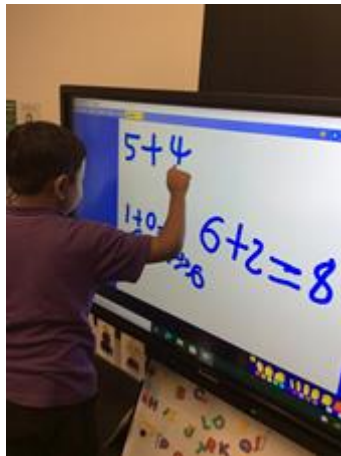


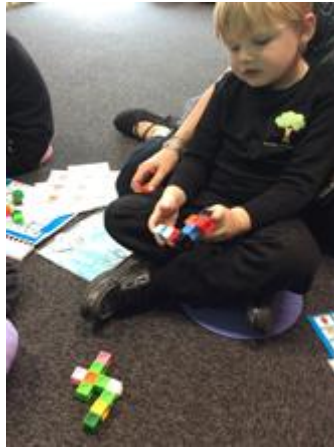
Numeracy



We have been exploring different numbers, practicing our formation and counting. We have been using concrete materials to solve problems, singing songs and playing games.







Literacy



10 - We have been improving our pencil control through fine motor skills activities, including mark making and writing. We have increased our social skills through questioning and discussion. Talking about items hidden in a sensory bag and using our communication boards.





Outdoor Learning and Life Skills



We have been in the garden harvesting our vegetables and made our own soup. We used natural materials to create artwork. We have been creative using our imagination when playing with cardboard boxes. We have also spent lots of time celebrating success! Well done everyone.





Primary Learning Centre News



Miss McCaskie will be leaving us at the end of this term as she has a new job, we will miss her but wish her all the best in her new job! Miss Dalton will be joining us after the October holidays, we look forward to getting to know her!

Mrs Thin is currently working as DHT half of the week and Miss Lewis will be teaching in the Learning Centre on a Monday, Tuesday and Friday. Miss Milligan will still be in teaching on a Wednesday and Thursday. If you have any questions please contact the school office, enjoy the October holidays! Mrs Thin, Miss Milligan, Miss Lewis and Miss McCaskie.

Learning Centre

What a brilliant first term we have had within the Learning Centre. Here are some of the learning experiences that we have been participating in.

PE (Learning Centre)

In PE we have been developing our movement, throwing and catching skills. We also had a visitor from Active Schools, showing us how to play Boccia. We have also had lots of fun playing parachute games.





Teddy Bear's Picnic



We celebrated our learning by having a Teddy Bear's Picnic. We focussed on socialisation, turn taking, sharing and trying new things. Rolling down the hill was enjoyed by all and this helps to improve our motor skills and movement. Playing together and using our imagination was great fun. Thank you to Lochside Community Centre, Tesco and Morrisons Community Champion for their donations. It was a great success.







We have had a Teddy Bear theme over the last few weeks and explored the UNCRC Articles. This has included experiences that have improved our fine motor skills, number knowledge, social communication and attention. We also decorated our own cupcakes.





**HAPPY
HALLOWEEN**

11 - Wishing everyone a Happy Holidays from all the Staff and Students at North West Community Campus.