



## Clyde Cottage Nursery Managers Report May 2019

### **August 2018**

We welcomed our new children and families.

The children started the term learning about 'Autumn through our senses' Autumn gave the children a vast amount of learning opportunities and experiences. They learned about Autumn as a season, what is a season, what happens in Autumn. They looked at colour and number patterns through a variety of activities - collecting and sorting leaves, leaf printing and going for Autumn walks. Autumn was a great season for developing the children's' senses and using them to explore their environment. Lots of tasting activities, wonderful things to smell, exciting things to explore and touch, while listening to the sounds of nature around them

We also celebrated Cowal Games with tartan, bunting, dance and pipe music. The children were able to explore and create their own tartans through a variety of media - printing and weaving and creating patterns and sequences.

Staff and children continued to work with the Developmental Milestones and SHANARRI indicators. During this theme we looked at Responsible and the development of fine motor skills.

### **September**

We took part in the nursery/Primary 1 The Hungry Caterpillar transition event. This was held at Dunoon Grammar from 4:30 to 6pm. The children while at Clyde Cottage had taken part in this project as did those attending the other local nurseries. Their learning and skills that were developed during this project were then built upon during their first term at primary school.

The transition event allowed the nursery and primary projects to display the children's nursery and school work. The children, parents, practitioners and teachers could see the progression and development in the children's literacy and numeracy skills as well as comprehension.

### **Students**

We welcomed Early Years students Kerry Gallagher, Annemarie Murphy, Rachel Fairley, Shelby Stuart, and from Dunoon Grammar School, Louise Morrison.

### **September - November**

We continued to build on and develop our learning of Autumn and to get children outside more for longer periods of uninterrupted time. This gave the children lots of opportunities to look for bugs and beasts, developing numeracy skills as they searched -

- How many bugs can you find?
- How many are the same?
- What colour are they?
- What patterns have they got - 3D, 2D - symmetrical shapes?
- Are they big, small, the same size?

Collecting and sorting and counting conkers. While outside their senses were further developed and stimulated by what they could see, hear, smell and touch. They particularly enjoyed using their sense of taste when tasting Autumn pumpkin, pomegranate, tangerines, apples and brambles.

We also looked at literacy and health & well being outcomes -

- Why is it important to be active?
- What does active mean?

During the month of October we introduced our Daily Mile by doing laps of the garden. The children enjoyed looking at books to discover what insect / bug they discovered in the garden, looking at and identifying leaves, discovering interesting facts, why do leaves change colour and discovering what changes happen through the seasons.

Staff and parents commented on the input that this learning was having on the children both at home and in the nursery.

At the end of October the children and staff dressed up for our annual Halloween party and enjoyed party games and dooking for apples.

November started with a 4 day HMI inspection with 3 inspectors engaging with staff, parents, children and partner agencies.

The inspection team found the following strengths in the setting's work.

- Children, who are keen to learn, enjoy their time at nursery and benefit from regular and effective use of the local community. This enhances and enriches their learning.
- The strong sense of community and positive ethos across the setting that fosters mutual respect. There is a shared responsibility for ensuring children's wellbeing and development.
- Long-standing, successful partnership working between the voluntary and local authority settings. As a result, a flexible service is provided that meets the needs of children and their families well. In particular, children who require additional support with their learning are supported effectively.

The following areas for improvement were identified and discussed with the manager and a representative from Argyll and Bute Council.

- Review and refresh approaches used to plan and support children's learning. There should be increased opportunities for children to lead their own learning indoors and out with appropriate pace and challenge for all.
- Develop a more strategic approach to identifying what is working well and what needs to improve. This should have a clear focus on ensuring practice reflects current thinking in early learning and makes full use of available data to support continuous improvement. Overall, there should be a clear focus on monitoring the quality of learning and teaching and the progress children make.

Also during November the pre-school children were able to take part in a 4 week gymnastics taster session, in conjunction with Live Argyll. This further strengthened our health and well being outcome of 'I know that being active is a healthy way to be' as well as developed and challenged their gross motor skills, co-ordination and balance. Due to its success and popularity, and the marked improvement in skills, this programme was later adapted and rolled out to all children by our cluster lead, Julie, who offered Balance Bears to groups of children every Wednesday.

## Parents Evening

Parents were invited to have a look around the nursery, to look at their children's work. The evening was very well attended.

## Children in Need

Staff and children dressed up for Children in Need and raised over £100. A huge Thank You to all.

## December

All children learned about Christmas. Learning about the story of Christmas, how it is celebrated in different countries and by different cultures.

They were learning about the importance of celebrations, festivals and customs in Christian's people's lives.

The children wrote letters to Father Christmas and went to the post office to send them on their journey to the North Pole. They made dazzling decorations and gifts to take home, many of them made from recycled materials. They also had the opportunity to bake and decorate biscuits and ornaments from salt dough.

They learned about the importance of caring for others. Developing an understanding of what is fair and unfair and the importance of caring for and sharing with others. The children were involved in lots of fundraising activities such as Children in need and Comic relief.

Our aim is to develop the children's awareness of the importance of respecting each other and being responsible citizens. The children learned how to perform in front of an audience and how to be part of an audience for other people.

Parents and carers were invited to Christmas concerts in the school hall which were very well attended.

Parents commented on how well the children performed, how well they behaved and how it was a privilege to be there to share in their celebration of learning and of Christmas.

The four year old children went to Cowal Community Hospital to sing to some of the elderly patients.

The children received a visit from Dunoon Primary School Choir who came to sing some carols for us, which was very well received.

Some children also got the opportunity to go to the Co - op to decorate their Christmas tree and sing some songs to Santa.

Others were invited to join the primary 1 children at St. Mun's to watch their Christmas performance, while some children went out carol singing outside Home & Hardware and raised an amazing £88.

The 4 years old children were given the opportunity to go and watch the Christmas pantomime, at Dunoon Grammar School.

The children enjoyed and took part in their own Christmas parties.

Children and staff also took part in national Christmas jumper day which was a fun filled day.

### **Bookbug Sessions**

Bookbug session took place on 28 May for the 3 year olds and their dads or special guests.

The sessions are aimed at sharing the wonder of reading together with your child, the value of reading together and the development of early literacy skills.

The sessions were very well attended and the dads gave very positive feedback.

### **January / February 2019**

Staff at Clyde Cottage continue to implement and deliver the Curriculum for Excellence and promote its key features and the national priorities of raising attainment in all of Scotland's young people with particular emphasis being put on literacy, numeracy and the well being of the child.

During January / February our main focus was Health and Well Being. This was embedded throughout our theme of **'Happy Healthy Me'**

Our learning intentions were:

- Learning about my body and what it needs to keep healthy
- Learning to share my feelings and ideas
- Learning to use technology

The children had lots of opportunities and took part in lots of activities to learn about their bodies and what they need to keep healthy and look after them. They learned about the importance of being outside and active every day in all weathers. They learned about the importance of food and drink and why our body needs them.

They also learned about the effects that some foods can have on our bodies - allergies and intolerances and why it's important to be aware of them - as a result of this we have changed our snack mats to red where an allergy or intolerance had been recorded to make them easily identifiable and to stimulate discussion and raise awareness amongst the children while they eat snack together in the café.

We also explained feelings and emotions and discussed ways to express and manage them and how they affect our health and well being.

Staff observed that children had been very engaged in this learning and were all confident in answering questions about what their body needs to keep healthy. They really enjoyed the healthy snacks and getting outside as the weather improved.

Staff had observed that there was an increase in the amount of children asking to go outside as the weather got drier which certainly made a positive impact on the children's' health and well being.

They also learned of the importance of cleanliness, hygiene and safety and how it can affect health and well being in everyday routines such as toothbrushing. As a staff team we revisited our toothbrushing programme and set up a toothbrushing bay in the café area.

The children had opportunities to walk to the local shops to purchase healthy foods to bring back and cook. They particularly enjoyed making smoothies for snack. Throughout the topic they discovered where food comes from - not just the shops - and had the opportunity to plant some vegetables and seeds and watch them grow.

### **March / April**

The children were learning about Spring and the story of Easter. They were learning -

- that there are 4 seasons and to name them
- to identify plants and animals as living things
- to name basic parts of a plant  
and
- how a plant grows

They were also -

- Developing an awareness of what respect means
- Learning what caring and sharing means
- Learning about the importance of caring for their environment and
- Developing an awareness of how to control their emotions

The SHANARRI indicator for this topic was Respect.

This topic lent itself to a lot of science and social studies learning opportunities and activities as well as numeracy, literacy and health and well being.

The children started off the topic by revisiting previous learning about seasons and building on this learning to learn about spring and what happens in spring, discussing the difference to weather, heat and daylight, compared to winter.

Children were actively looking at books about the seasons and weather which stimulated an array of interesting questions and queries. They explored and discovered the life cycle of a flowering plant as well as the life cycle of a frog and caterpillar.

The children had opportunities to look at frog spawn in the nursery and observe the various stages of the life cycle. We also have our resident stick insects which the children have been learning about and taking care of - ensuring that they have a clean supply of brambles for bedding and have water. The children have learned how they have grown and changed. Mothers Day was a good opportunity to get some planting done - some lucky mum's received some seeds of love.

### **Comic Relief**

Some children took part in a Danceathon with Shirley - to support Argyll House fundraising 24 hour danceathon event. This year we decided to paint red noses for a donation to Comic Relief and say no to plastic noses to support our ECO code - saving the planet and oceans - reducing waste and plastics. Thank you for your support and co-operation. We also raised £55.

Also within the month of March we celebrated World Book Day as we dressed up as our favourite characters

## **Community Partnerships Bringing Generations Together**

We have been very lucky to have been working in partnership with Cowal Befrienders. They have been regularly visiting the children once a month since November and we have all become very fond of our visitors.

Intergenerational practice when different generations mix together and take part in shared activities and experiences.

Our visitors were very keen to join the children in their daily activities of painting, junk modelling, baking, story-telling and singing. The children enjoyed 'showing' their visitors 'what to do' and engaging in conversation.

Anxiety, loneliness and social mobility are just some of the issues that can be alleviated when older adults and children mix more often.

The benefits to young children - can boost children's' well being, language and acquisition, their social interaction and change the attitudes towards ageing.

As well as strengthening bonds - forming relationships / friendships and developing mutual respect. Discussing their learning and what they want to do the next time they come.

The same benefits were further developed during Grandparents Day

### **Grandparents Day**

This event was for our 3 year old children and was held over 2 days.

The children were very busy and excited on the lead up to their grandparent's day, planning activities they wanted to do with them once they were here.

Their guests were invited for an hour and half and during that time could join in at exercise time, snack- time and shared activities with their grandchild or special person.

### **Co-op**

The children received a visit for our local Co-op and were introduced to the fruit and vegetable gang, which were then donated to the children. The children were able to feast on an array of fresh fruit and vegetables during snack, which supported our topic of keeping healthy. A big thanks you to our Co-op.

### **Community Fun Day - supporting our wee ones in Cowal**

This was an event that we worked on as part of Cowal Pathway Group. It was an event put on to celebrate and promote what our local community had to offer families and children under 5. It followed the pathway and development of the child from birth through to pre-school and then school. Offering advice, support, information and taster sessions on baby massage, nutrition, food, health, dental hygiene, fitness, Bookbug, family support, financial support, local groups and clubs as well as local child minders, toddler and pre-school groups and nurseries.

The nursery children had the opportunity to go down to the Queens Hall and meet Bookbug and take part in a story in the new library as well as receiving a taster session of fitness from Lorraine and using the gymnastics equipment courtesy of Live Argyll. The children had great fun balancing on the beams, swinging from the bars and enjoying all that was on offer.

### **M&Co Fashion Show**

We had the pleasure of working in partnership with M&Co during our recent fund raiser fashion show in April 2019. We would like to take the opportunity of thanking them and the parent committee for working with us to raise £245 for our fundraising account. Thanks to all models, families & staff who supported this event.

We would like to say a huge thank you to Holy Loch Marina for inviting us out to look round the yachts. Our water ski champs thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

### **Parents Evening**

We also had a parents evening giving all parents an opportunity to speak to their child's key worker and have a look at their child's learning.

## **May / June 2019**

### **Transition - Our Community**

The children were learning about

- Developing an awareness of how they represent themselves within their class, nursery and community in whatever they do.
- Developing a sense of self worth and confidence.
- Exploring their local community and discovering the different roles other people play and how they can help.
- Developing an awareness of the world around them by exploring interesting features in their environment.

This has given the children lots of opportunities to go for walks and scavenger hunts around their local community looking for places of interest, local landmarks, places of work and places that are familiar to them, as well as discovering new places around them.

Some children were out and about on the yellow bus, discovering Sandbank and Strone and all the beautiful landmarks and points of interest along the route.

Some of the children have been to visit the Police station, while others have gone to the post office, hairdressers, library, Queens hall and Burgh hall.

We have had a visit from the local coast guard and dental visit.

The children have really enjoyed exploring and discovering their local community and the roles that they themselves and other people play in it.

It was also another busy month, full of transitions visits to local schools and visitors from local schools to see the children in the nursery

### **Leavers Trips**

The Local Authority school leavers had their trip to Finlaystone Estate. While Clyde Cottage Voluntary sector enjoyed their trip to the Sea life Centre at Balloch. Both trips were enjoyed immensely.

## **June 2019**

2 June - Table sale / fayre at Dunoon Grammar School - 11am - 2pm fundraising event for Clyde Cottage

18 June - Clyde Cottage (Vol) Nursery Graduation

20 June - Clyde Cottage (ABC) Nursery Graduation

26 June - Sports day

28th June - nursery closes for 1 week (Voluntary sector)

## **PATHS and Developmental Milestones and Wellbeing indicators**

Throughout the year running alongside our topics we have been working through our PATHS programme (Promoting Alternative THinking Strategies).

Lessons have covered various emotions, rules, turn taking, compliments and the "turtle helper".

We have also been planning using the wellbeing indicators of Safe, Healthy, Achieving, Nurtured, Active, Respected, Responsible and Included (SHANARRI)

And developing:

- Social and emotional
- Cognitive
- Speech and language
- Gross motor skills
- Fine motor skills (Developmental milestones)

If you have not received your copy of the parent's developmental milestones handbook you can pick up a copy from our leaflet dispensers.

## **Staff Achievements and Nursery Developments and Improvements**

Claudia celebrated her 50<sup>th</sup> Birthday in September and Susan celebrated her 40<sup>th</sup> in November - Congratulations to both of them.

Sadly we had to say goodbye to Kaeleigh and we wish her continued success in her new post.

We welcomed Jillian Barron back to the staff team.

We also welcomed Erin Bradley to our team. She is currently undertaking an apprenticeship with Argyll & Bute Council on Early Learning & Childcare. We wish her the best of luck.

In October we had to say goodbye & congratulations to Julie, who after serving 21 years with us got her parole!! Julie took up a new post with Argyll & Bute Council as one of the Councils new Cluster Leads. This role entails Julie working with a cluster of nurseries within the area and we are lucky that Clyde Cottage is one of them (which softened the blow of losing her from our team) Her role is to model good practice and to work with children to ensure equity and equality, reducing inequality. The children and staff have already benefitted from some of the activities and experiences that Julie is involved with:

- Balance Bears
- Outdoor Explorers
- Laughter Club

As a result of Julie's new post, Jacqui took up full time supervisor. Jacqui had previously been part time assistant supervisor & part time supervisor, job sharing with Julie, and I changed my working pattern from 3 days to 5 days.

We then recruited Shannon Boyle to cover Julie's hours but she was tempted by the calls of Canada where she is now currently a nanny to two children. We wish her luck in this new exciting post and new country.

Sadly, after a period of ill health, Ann Cooper, one of our lunch staff, decided it was time to leave and to concentrate on getting well. We would like to take this opportunity to thank Ann for all her hard work during her time at Clyde Cottage and we all wish her continued recovery and good health.

Sabrina Ayachi later joined us in March to cover Shannon's hours and currently works Monday, Tuesday full days and Friday afternoons. We would like to take this opportunity to welcome Sabrina to the team.

Lisa Bulloch continues with her secondment. Her hours are currently being covered by Rianne Emmerson, who also joined our team earlier this year. Welcome Rianne and Susan Hamilton. Susan and Rianne are currently job sharing as Susan successfully got the post of Outreach Worker - a job which involves supporting a child at home with hope of integrating into the nursery.

It has been a year of change and change of staff and it doesn't stop there. We have recently said a sad farewell to Susan Cook who has recently taken up a new post with Homestart. We would like to take this opportunity to wish Susan well in her new job and continued success for the future.

We are currently advertising Susan's hours and will inform you all of the successful candidate.

Staff have been very busy taking part in various training courses throughout the year as well as In-service days.

They have accessed training in First Aid, Whittling wood - loose parts, P.E and we have been very lucky to secure another two members of staff on the 7 day outdoor learning course (Wild Things!) We are very excited to see this training in action and look forward to the benefits and positive impact on children's' learning outdoors.

### **Changing Lives Initiative**

Frances MacLean (Local Authority Sector) took part in the Changing Lives Initiative. It is a cross border community-based project working in Belfast & Argyll & Bute. The project is working to create a better understanding about ADHD and provide an early intervention parent programme for families with children (3-7) experiencing behaviours consistent with ADHD. The Initiative was delivered over 16 weekly 2.5 hour sessions over 5 months to a group of 12 parents, and involved input from researchers, psychologists and ADHD nurse. Some of the topics covered were:

- Academic and persistence coaching - promoting school readiness
- Social and emotional coaching
- Using praise and incentives to encourage co-operative behaviours
- The art of effective praise and encouragement
- Positive discipline - establishing routines and household rules

### **Toilet Training Sessions**

We have continued to offer toilet training sessions and advice during our parents evening and will continue with this going forward.

### **Improvements and Future plans**

The gardens continue to need tender loving care and maintenance. As a staff team we are continuing to develop our outdoor areas with the support of families and the community.

We are also continually attending outdoor training and seminars to ensure our outdoor classroom meets the needs of the children.

### **Outdoor clothing**

We were able to purchase additional children's waders for the garden from our fundraising account.

These have been a huge success and have made outdoor play so much fun and easier to manage.

Staff have also now purchased outdoor clothing and waterproofs.

There is a huge emphasis on the benefits of outdoor play; it is an essential part of our day and child development.

Staff spent their In-service day on accessing outdoor training led by Julie and Lisa. On our second day we reviewed and updated our outdoor policy and procedures. Staff are excited about leading learning outdoors.

### **600 Hours**

From August 2019 our sessions will remain as

(ELCC) morning 8:50-12 noon

(ELCC) afternoon 12:50-4:00pm

We will keep you up to date and informed of the Governments plans to implement 1140 hours by January 2020.

Current proposals for Clyde Cottage Nursery Voluntary Sector are:

- 23.4 hours per week over 48 weeks
- 4 hours and 45 minutes per session
- Morning sessions 8am to 12.45pm
- Afternoon sessions 1.15 to 6pm

- Opening hours will be from 8am to 6pm

We will be offering several models of a full day which we will confirm as soon as we can - one of them being an 8 hour day.

## **Staff**

Staff will continue to update their training and knowledge ensuring that they have the skills and knowledge to prepare children for life in the 21st century and that we have a learning environment for lifelong learning and an establishment that strives towards excellence.

Staff will be guided by and supported by 'Building the Ambition' (National Practice Guidance on ELCC) and 'Our Children Their Future' (the education vision strategy) to ensure that children at Clyde Cottage experience a holistic and seamless learning journey.

## **Thank you**

I would like to thank all committee members for their continued support, time and hard work.

Thanks to the committee members who resign tonight - Nicola, Pippa , Debbie and Aislin.

And a huge thank you to all staff, catering, clerical and all the staff on the floor, for their continued support, enthusiasm, dedication, really hard work and commitment, You are Clyde Cottage !

Thank you and here's to another fun filled, exciting and challenging year ahead.