



CARNINY PRIMARY SCHOOL & ST. COLMCILLE'S PRIMARY SCHOOL



2017-18 Shared Education Newsletter



Jointed Shared Board of Governors' Meeting with
Mrs F Donnelly, EA-Shared Education Development Officer

Carniny Primary School and St. Colmcille's Primary School have been working together on cross-community projects for ten years. In November 2015 the Board of Governors of both schools agreed to apply for funding to further develop the cross-community link through the DSC Signature Project: Shared Education. Having been successful in the joint application, the Board of Governors, along with the Senior Leadership of both schools, devised a 3-year Action Plan focusing on furthering the links between the schools and involving as many pupils as possible.

The Signature Project focused on Digital Literacy and the integration of iPad technology across the curriculum. With the support of iTeach and Nerve, Belfast the staff from both schools received joint CPD in the ICT Desirable Features of Film & Animation and Music & Sound. To this end, the pupils of both schools have had the opportunity to work together on a number of different projects across all seven year groups and demonstrate their learning through digital media. Each project required jointed planning and teaching with key learning outcomes identified by the teachers. The pupils visited each other's schools and worked collaboratively on different Thematic Units presenting their learning to their peers using the medium of ICT.

The strength of this particular project is the working relationships established between the staff of both schools. There is an openness and willingness to learn from each other and to provide the children with exciting and purposeful learning opportunities. The success of this Signature Project is a testimony to the commitment and dedication afforded by all staff.

Both schools are at an advanced stage of sharing best practice beyond the remit of the current project. The schools are sharing staff expertise across the curriculum and are offering opportunities for team teaching and classroom observations in key learning areas. There is much excitement about the future of the schools' partnership and the growth potential in furthering the children's learning. Next year the project will extend to look at the latest pedagogy in teaching Mathematics, Reading and Writing.

Year 1 Shared Education Project



Year 1 have been having lots of fun with their friends from both schools. The children spent time in each other's school engaging in a variety of play based learning activities. The Thematic Unit was 'On Safari' and the children worked together to complete set learning activities. As part of their ICT, the children had to program Bee-Bot to move to various animals that they would meet on safari. They also had the opportunity to take on the role of a wild animal and, using Green Screen, to record special facts about their animal. Using junk materials, the children had great fun using their imaginations to create their own models of different wild animals. They also were able to draw their wild animals on the iPads using the Art Set app. Using large construction equipment, the children planned and built safari jeeps together. Finally, the children worked in teams to complete an obstacle course allowing them to collect jigsaw pieces which they worked together to build a puzzle of a wild animal.

The teachers too have been learning from each other and have had the opportunity to discuss observations during play based learning and visit other schools to see play in action. Next year both year groups will be further developing Maths Mastery and Sounds Write.

Year 2 Shared Education Project



Year 2's Shared Education topic this year was 'All at Sea'. The children had great mornings visiting each other's schools and taking part in some Play Based Learning activities.

There were five tasks to complete:

1. ICT - The children used the Bee-Bot app on the iPad to program Bee-Bot to move around different mazes. They had to give instructions to move forwards, backwards and turn around.
2. Literacy - The children pretended they were pirates! They had to write about their clothes, how they travelled and what they did.
3. Numeracy - The children made treasure maps! They read instructions about where to place objects on a map so others could find the buried treasure. The children used the vocabulary of directions to complete the maps.
4. Science - The children examined some objects and predicted whether or not they would float. They tested their predictions by placing the objects in the water.
5. Creative - The children made their own parrots! They used a range of materials to decorate them, including feathers, sequins, colours, wool and coloured paper.

Year 3 Shared Education Project



The theme for the Year 3 project was 'Towers and Turrets', stemming from the World Around Us. The children had the opportunity to work together in each other's schools and also complete a local study in and around Ballymena town.

One of the activities involved the children learning to plan a fairy tale using a storyboard. They worked in pairs or groups of three. First they brainstormed ideas for features of story writing using a checklist to discuss the elements of their story- characters, setting, problem and resolution. They thought about key elements of a fairy tale and associated language. They used these ideas to complete a storyboard for their fairy tale with an appropriate beginning, middle and end.

The children were also learning to tell a story using PuppetPals. They worked in their groups to use their storyboard to tell their fairy tale using an app called PuppetPals. They used a checklist to discuss and decide on the appropriate characters, props and backdrops that would be required to help tell their story effectively. Then they used the appropriate features within the app to select characters, props, backdrops and use the record and pause buttons.



The children had been learning all about Ballymena Castle during World Around Us lessons. The two classes came together as a large group to go on a walk acting as detectives looking for clues and investigating signs on the landscape for evidence of the existence of Ballymena Castle. The children were learning to identify changes that have occurred over time and to examine the importance of historical sites in our locality. It was a most enjoyable activity for all involved.

Year 4 Shared Education Project



The theme for the Year 4 project was 'Home Sweet Home'. One of the learning experiences involved the children from both schools completing a survey of homes along the Carniny Road. Having designed their own recording sheet, the children observed the different types of homes, materials used in the building of the homes and the key features of local homes. The children then used ICT to collate their data and present their findings to the classes.

In addition to the local study the children looked at homes from around the world and why certain materials are used in the construction. Questions asked included would our homes survive in an earthquake zone? Is central heating required in the tropics? Why is bamboo used to build houses in the Philippines and not in Northern Ireland?

Some of our pupils come from different countries and the children enjoyed finding out about the homes from Poland, Romania and China. The children looked at the similarities and differences between the homes. The children finished their project by creating a presentation using PowerPoint with text, images and sound demonstrating what they learned.

Did you know?

Most of the pupils in our classes live in semi-detached or terraced houses.

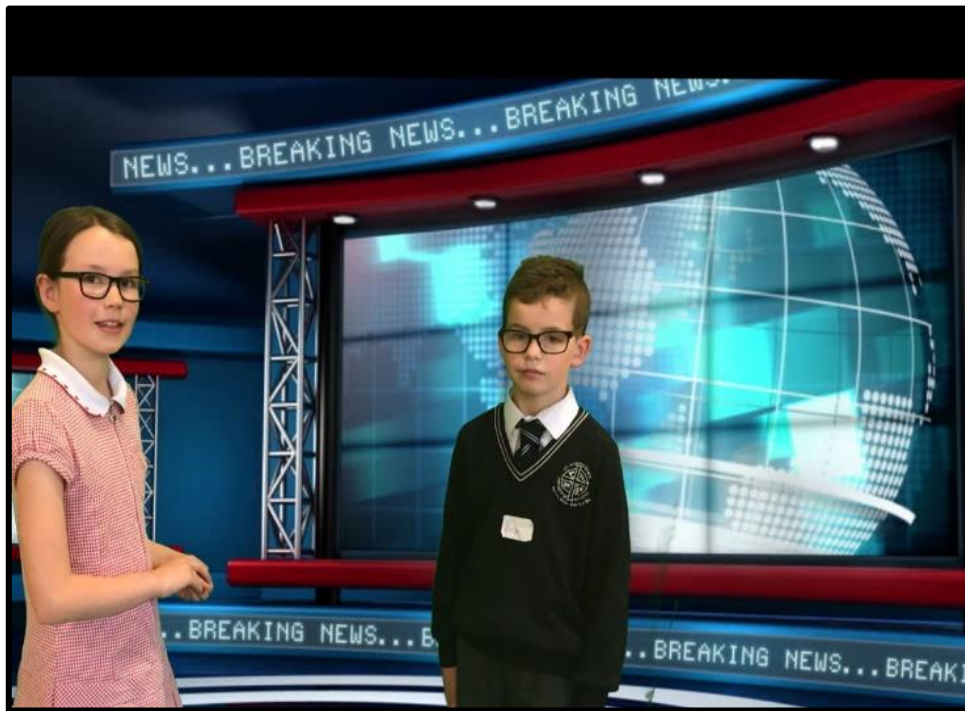
Most of the pupils in our classes live in houses that are at least two-stories.

Most of the pupils in our classes live in houses that have PVC windows.

All of the pupils in our classes live in houses with double-glazed windows.



Year 5 Shared Education Project



Year 5 have been learning about the Ancient Egyptians and have been particularly fascinated about Howard Carter and his discovery of Tutankhamun's tomb in 1922. The children explored what makes an effective news report and interview. They planned open-ended questions and provided great detail in their replies as Howard Carter. They then used Green Screen technology on the iPad to help showcase their interviews. Here, they input their recorded videos onto a range of different backgrounds to make their interview come to life. The children exhibited their work and evaluated the reports against agreed success criteria.

We definitely have news reporters of the future in Year 5! All children worked very well together and initiated new friendships.

Year 6 Shared Education Project



Year 6 from both schools worked together to learn more about Life During Viking Times. To introduce the topic Maurice Todd, a local historian, was invited to Carniny Primary School. He engaged the children from both schools with his creative and imaginative story telling about the Viking Invasion of Ireland. In groups the pupils had to identify the main points of the story and use these to plan and create a story board.

Each school then hosted a Viking Day which provided all the pupils with entertaining and interactive activities associated with all aspects of Viking Life. The pupils played games, dressed up like Vikings (including chainmail) and explored the weapons used in battle. The pupils also had fun decoding the runic alphabet (Futark). They also played an old Viking game called 'Trick Trap Troll' and had the opportunity to weave using thread, giving them an insight into how the Vikings made their clothes. The pupils used twigs and incorporated their weaving techniques to understand how the Vikings built their homes. The pupils also used their technology skills to make Viking spears. One of the highlights was the sword fighting workshop outside.



Year 7 Shared Education Project



The Year 7 pupils from St. Colmcille's and Carniny PS have been studying the topic of 'Faith and Light'. They have been learning about world religions including Judaism, Islam and Hinduism as well as learning more about their own Christian faith. As part of the topic the pupils visited St. Patrick's Church of Ireland, Broughshane to take part in an event celebrating St. Patrick's life entitled 'Patrick's Mysterious Adventure'. The visit included a talk on St. Patrick and an art lesson in which the children made Celtic crosses. There was also an interactive story trail around the church grounds which told the story of St. Patrick's life from being a young boy captured by pirates to returning to Ireland and becoming a Bishop. After the trip the children created their own movie based on world religions and created a stop-go animation based on the life of St. Patrick. This Shared Education project enabled the children to learn about the similarities and differences between their own and other world faiths it also allowed them to consider the links between the Catholic and Protestant beliefs.