

Donemana Primary School



Governors' Report 2012 - 2013

Foreword

Wow! I read this report, I read it again, and I sat and read it again this morning, not just because I was impressed with the scope of what the school is covering, but the depth and detail to which all of these things are done.

As Chairperson and as a local minister I am in the school on many occasions, sometimes unannounced, and what always strikes me is how seamless an operation it all is, from the work of all the ancillary staff to all that happens in the classroom and after school. Every member of staff is playing their part in the total picture of the life of the school. That was strongly endorsed by the judges for the Pearson Teaching Awards. As you can read in their report they commented not only on the teachers but all the staff were included in their comment on hard work. That “Distinction” was well earned!

You will notice that on the Board of Governors we seem to have been playing musical chairs. Rev Canon Ferry began a 4 year cycle as Chairperson, and carried out that work with commitment and distinction, but on his move to new parishes I came back into the chairperson’s role. At the time we thought it was wise to encourage the Church of Ireland authorities to put Rev Judi McGaffin on to the Board of Governors rather than what usually happens, when the position is left vacant until the new rector is appointed. We are glad we did, as the process of finding a new rector continues.

At this point let me explain the BOG – an unfortunate shorthand for the Board of Governors. There are historic reasons for the 4 church representatives, as most of our schools were formed originally by churches and in this case our present day Donemana Primary School has roots in more than one school (and more than one Church) from our past. Parents also have 2 representatives, the Western Board has 2 (though the Board often accommodates local interests when making those appointments) and the staff has a teacher rep and the principal as well, though the principal is a non-voting member and secretary to the BOG.

In a few months’ time the Boards are to be reconstituted. The ministers need to appoint Church reps, the parents need to appoint their reps, as do the Western Board and the staff, all for the next 4 year cycle. There is no point in pretending the work of the Governors is light for Governors will have appointments to make, and training to attend, which never ends, as those who have given the commitment over the past years know only too well! Governors need to be tactful and

wise to the rapidly changing times in which we are living, when expressions and attitudes that may have once been ignored or even condoned are no longer acceptable in our present day society.

In making those appointments, we need people who will be committed to the school for the next 4 years. We also need people who are wise and careful on matters such as confidentiality. Confidentiality is not only about the children, it is about all of the work of the school. Sometimes governors are out of courtesy told about upcoming events in the personal lives of the staff, to make the work of governors easier when staffing will be eventually affected, but those same staff members want governors to keep that information to themselves, no matter how harmless it may seem, if only to allow teachers a few months of normality before they release such information at a time of their own choosing.

Getting back to my opening remarks, I have been always impressed with the attention to detail with which our staff tackle issues such as numeracy and literacy. Events such as the Roald Dahl week let you glimpse a little of that, but as you read this report you will appreciate the depth and seriousness with which our staff take these matters, while always trying to make foundational teaching a matter of fun and play where possible while making real achievements. Nothing is ever just a time filler, time is precious and the school day is well run to maximise everything that can be done for the education and development of the children. Whether it is through very well prepared lessons, through matters such as the eco-committee, safety talks, the Young Enterprise programme, sports or visiting or working with other schools, or giving the young people programmes and tasks to develop them, staff seek to do all they can to prepare your children for the world ahead of them.

We also congratulate our Principal on her very well completed Professional Qualification for Headship course. Other members of staff have been involved in training – even our lunch time supervisors in activities! Our thanks to all!

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Stewart R Jones". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large 'S' and 'J'.

Rev Dr Stewart Jones, Chair, Board of Governors.

The Board of Governors

Chairperson:

Rev Canon D Ferry / Rev Dr S Jones

Vice Chairperson:

Rev Dr Jones / Rev J McGaffin

Transferors' Representatives:

Mr D Millar

Mrs S Robinson

Western Education and Library Board Representatives:

Mr T Allen

Mr R Sayers

Parents' Representatives:

Mrs S Gamble

Mrs K Stevenson

Teacher Representative:

Mrs J Crosbie / Mr D Potts

Head Teacher:

Mrs G Hay (Non voting member and Secretary of the Board)

Calendar of Events 2012 / 2013

28th—31st August	Staff Development and Preparation for the New School Year
	<u>Term 1</u>
3rd September	New School Year begins Breakfast Club begins Foundation Stage After School Club and DayCare@DPS begin
7th September	Mr Potts attends Computer Based Assessment training
12th September	Primary 1 Strabane Chronicle photo Students Andrew and Rachael begin work experience Curriculum Evening
14th September	Primary 1 Londonderry Sentinel photo Mrs McCusker completes Computer Based Assessments preparation Board of Governors' Meeting
17th September	Parents' Healthy Lunch Box Information Evening Primary 2 - 4 Sports Coaching begins (Strabane District Council)
18th September	Mrs Hay attends Primary Principals' Meeting Fire Safety Audit carried out
19th September	Scholastic Book Fair begins
20th September	Mrs Hay and Mrs McCusker complete Target Setting Process Robert Plant Assembly
24th September	Roald Dahl week begins Primary 7 Homework Club begins
25th September	Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1 Spanish lessons begin Mrs Crosbie completes Computer Based Assessments preparation Primary 7 Sports Coaching begins
26th September	Mrs Hay meets with EWO (Educational Welfare Officer) Mrs Hay attends Professional Qualification for Headship (PQH) PQH meeting
27th September	Rev Jones - Assembly Mrs Hay attends NAHT Conference Mrs Hay attends Extended Schools Cluster meeting
28th September	Roald Dahl Dressing Up Day and Show and Tell Assembly Primary 5 and Primary 6 Sports Coaching begins
1st October	Primary 2 - 4 Karate taster session
2nd October	Eco-Committee attend Strabane District Council presentation
3rd October	Mrs Hay attends PQH placement school
8th October	Primary 5 - 7 Karate taster session

9th October	Mrs McCusker conducts Parent Meetings
11th October	Rev Jones - Assembly Mrs Hay meets with Educational Psychologist Mr Potts attends Steps into Leadership training
15th October	Computer Based Assessments begin
17th October	Extended Schools (ES) Number Busters Club begins
18th October	Child Evangelism Fellowship (CEF) Assembly
19th October	Harvest and Canon Ferry's leaving Assembly
22nd October	District School Inspector visit Primary 1 - 7 PSNI talk
23rd October	M and M Productions Perform 'Beauty and the Beast'
24th October	Dental Hygienist visits Primary 1 and Primary 2
25th October	Halloween Disco
26th October	Staff Development - Cross-curricular Skills
29th October	Staff Development - Cross-curricular Skills
2nd November	School Photographer Primary 1 Parents' Literacy Meeting
5th November	Parent Meetings Begin
9th November	Primary 1 and Primary 2 Karate taster
12th November	Mr Potts attends Steps into Leadership training
13th November	Choir Practice begins
14th November	Mrs Hay attends Extended Schools Cluster Meeting
15th November	CEF Assembly Mrs Hay attends PQH meeting
16th November	School representatives visit Shoe Box Sorting Centre
21st November	Mrs Hay attends evening seminar at Stranmillis University College
22nd November	Key Stage 2 FilmFestival Screening Parents' Zumba begins
24th November	Open Morning
27th November	Primary 5 and 6 attend Christmas Chemistry Demonstration at University of Ulster, Magee ES MTV Dance Class begins Mr Potts attends Promoting Reconciliation Through a Shared Curriculum Experience meeting
28th November	Choir attend practice at the Alley Theatre for CAUSE concert Mrs Hay attends Generations for Peace meeting Choir perform at CAUSE concert
29th November	Cycling Safely talk Board of Governors' Meeting PSNI visit each class
30th November	Mrs Hay and Mr Potts conduct Prefect Interviews

3rd December	Mrs Hay attends Child Protection training for Principals
6th December	Supper with Santa
10th December	Mr Potts attends Steps into Leadership training
12th December	Mr Potts attends ICT Accreditation Workshop
13th December	CEF Assembly
	Mrs Hay attends PQH meeting
17th December	Primary 3 - Primary 7 attend St Patrick's Primary School Christmas Performance
18th December	Christmas Show morning performance
19th December	Primary 1 and Primary 2 visit Santa at Day Today
	Christmas Show evening performance
20th December	Rev Jones - Assembly
	Christmas Dinner

Term 2

4th January	Staff Development - Literacy strategies
7th January	Mr Potts attends Steps into Leadership training
8th January	Visiting Illustrator begins working with Primary 5 and Primary 6 (Making Connections Comic Book Project)
10th January	Mrs Reid attends training
	Mrs Hay attends PQH meeting
	Primary 3 and Primary 4 trip to Strabane Library
	Teachers attend training on new school website
	Strabane Academy teachers and pupils visit Primary 7
11th January	Oakgrove Integrated College teachers visit Primary 7
	Foundation Stage after school football begins
14th January	Primary 3 and Primary 4 visit Strabane Library
15th January	Two teachers from Sion Mills Primary School visit to observe outdoor play in Primary 1 and Primary 2
17th January	CEF Assembly
	Two teachers from Sion Mills Primary School visit to observe outdoor play in Primary 1 and Primary 2
18th January	Primary 5 and Primary 6 visit Gortin Primary School (Making Connections Comic Book Project)
21st January	Primary 4 Paired Reading begins
	Mrs Hay attends Seminar
	ES team building games begins
24th January	Rev Jones - Assembly
25th January	Mrs McCusker attends Q Skills Awareness Raising Seminar
28th January	Parent meeting - Adult Education Courses
29th January	Mrs Hay attends Controlled Schools Support Council Information Seminar
30th January	Primary 6 and Primary 7 Swimming begins
	Board of Governors' Meeting

31st January	Mrs Hay attends PQH meeting
4th February	Money Week begins Mrs Hay conducts Transfer Interviews
5th February	Mrs Hay attends RTU Conference Primary 1 and Primary 2 visit Donemana Medical Centre and Pharmacy Mrs Hay attends PQH meeting
6th February	Primary 1 and Primary 2 visit Strabane Police Station and Fire Station Primary 7 host Night at the Movies
7th February	Mrs Hay attends PQH placement school
8th February	Mrs Hay attends TeachMeet Danske Bank talk
11th February	Money Week Show and Tell Assembly Ambulance Service visits Primary 1 and Primary 2 Mr Potts attends Steps into Leadership training
12th February	Mr Potts represents WELB schools at Conference Primary 7 attend Bee Safe Event
13th February	Student Jack begins work experience ES FilmClub begins
14th February	Happy Heart Day Rev Jones - Assembly Pupils' Zumba lessons
15th February	Staff Development
21st February	CEF Assembly
22nd February	Mrs Hay attends PQH placement school
26th February	Board of Governors conduct interviews
27th February	Mrs Crosbie attends Generations for Peace meeting
28th February	Dr Bike Mrs Hay attends NAHT and ETI conference Primary 5 - 7 attend Dr James' Engineering Show at University of Ulster Magee Campus
4th March	Mr Potts attends Steps into Leadership training
5th March	Mrs Crosbie completes Assessment work
6th March	Mrs Hay attends PQH Graduation Board Interview Mrs Crosbie completes Assessment Work Mr Potts attends Linguistic Phonics Cluster Meeting
7th March	Rev Jones and School Council Assembly
8th March	International Meals Day
11th March	Mr Potts attends Disability Sport training

12th March	Primary 3 - 6 Karate taster session
13th March	Pearson Teaching Awards judges inspection
	Intergenerational Scrapbooking begins
14th March	CEF Assembly
	School Council Meeting
15th March	Mad March Hair Day
	Mrs Crosbie finishes for maternity leave
	Mrs Hay attends NI Children's University information seminar
21st March	Mrs Hay attends eSafety seminar
	School Council meeting
22nd March	Cricket Coaching begins
26th March	Easter Egg competition
27th March	Mr Potts attends Steps into Leadership training
28th March	Staff Development
	Choir Performs at Church of Ireland Maundy service

Term 3

8th April	Dan the Skipping Man visits
11th April	Rev Jones—Assembly
	Primary 3, 4 and 7 begin Young Enterprise Programme
	Primary 7 begin Drug and Alcohol Awareness sessions
12th April	Alex's top secret sewing club begins
15th April	Mrs Hay attends ICT training
	Mr Potts completes Assessment work
16th April	Mr Potts completes Assessment work
	Jayne's Party Snacks Club begins
17th April	Mrs Reid attends training
18th April	CEF Assembly
	Primary 5 and 6 begin Young Enterprise Programme
19th April	Primary 7 begin 10p mix up enterprise
22nd April	Sported Programme begins
25th April	Mr Potts trains Lunch Time Supervisors in activities
	Board of Governors' meeting
26th April	Primary 5 - 7 begin cricket coaching
29th April	Student Carol begins work experience
1st May	Primary 5 - 7 attend Mayfest in the Millennium Forum
2nd May	Blue Eagle Productions present Billy Girl
9th May	Mr Potts trains Lunch Time Supervisors in activities
	Parent NI Pick and Mix sessions begin

13th May	Primary 1 - 4 begin Young Enterprise Programme Primary 7 Strabane Chronicle photo
14th May	4 Primary 7 children attend K'nex Challenge
16th May	6 Primary 6 and 7 pupils attend Riversdale Swimming Gala
20th May	Test Week begins
21st May	Girls' football team participates in tournament
23rd May	Rev Jones - Assembly 3 teams participate in cricket tournament Mrs Reid attends training
28th May	Mr Potts attends ICT training Mrs Hay attends Extended Schools Cluster meeting
30th May	CEF Assembly Mrs Hay attends Delivering Social Change Project meeting
31st May	Primary 1 and Primary 2 visit Northland Fire Station School Council meeting PSNI talk to Primary 7 about bicycle safety
5th June	Primary 7 Residential begins Primary 1 and Primary 2 visit St Patrick's Primary School for shared play session
6th June	Rev Jones - Assembly Primary 5 - 7 tag rugby begins
10th June	Strabane Academy PE teacher takes Primary 7 PE session
11th June	Reception—Primary 3 St Patrick's Primary School pupils visit for shared play session Primary 5 and 6 annual school trip
12th June	Sports Day
13th June	Bouncy Castle for pupils Mrs Hay attends CCEA Principals' Workshop New Primary 1 parents meeting
14th June	Primary 1 - 4 annual school trip Pre-school lunch Mrs Hay attends meeting with Woodlands Preschool
17th June	Mr Potts and 2 Primary 7 children attend K'nex final in Belfast
18th June	Online Uniform providers selling in school Primary 7 visit Strabane Academy for Home Economics lesson Primary 7 ICT lesson with Strabane Academy teacher
19th June	Primary 5 and 6 attend STEM event at Strabane Academy Primary 1 and Woodlands Pre-School shared play session Boys' and Girls' cricket teams participate in final at Stormont

20th June	Prize Giving Assembly Mrs Hay attends Extended Schools Cluster meeting
21st June	Staff Development
24th June	School nurse visits Primary 1 children Board of Governors' meeting Queens University conduct survey with Primary 7 pupils
25th June	Primary 5 and Primary 6 receive N.I. Fire and Rescue Service safety talk
26th June	Primary 7 visit Strabane Academy for technology lesson
27th June	Annual school reports issued Leavers Assembly
28th June	Ice-cream party for winning house
1st - 4th July	Extreme Team Kids Club
22nd - 25th July	Kick Start Coaching Summer Fun Programme

Enrolment:

During 2012/2013 our enrolment was 88.

Attendance:

We are pleased to report an attendance figure of 96.3%. This is a good rate of attendance and is a positive reflection on the efforts of the staff to make school a warm and welcoming environment. Also of parents to ensure their children attend school on a regular and timely basis. However, it is a lower rate of attendance than in previous years and we would like to stress the importance for children's learning that they attend school on a regular and timely basis.

Staffing:

The teaching complement for the year was 4 teachers and the teaching principal.

Primary 1 and Primary 2: Mrs Hay and Miss Nutt / Miss McCaskie

Primary 3 and Primary 4: Mrs Crosbie / Miss Nutt

Primary 5 and Primary 6: Mrs McCusker

Primary 7: Mr Potts

Support Teacher (Sunshine Room): Mrs Wilson

We would like to take this opportunity to thank Canon Ferry for his contributions to our school and to wish him all the very best with his new Churches.



We would also like to wish Miss Sinead Kerlin all the very best and send our sincere thanks for all the wonderful work she has carried out in Done-mana Primary School over the past two years.

We would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Mrs Crosbie on the birth of her third son and send our best wishes to her and her growing family.

Ancillary Staff:

The Ancillary Staff complement was as follows:

Part time Secretary: Mrs Reid

Boiler Man: Mr Cochrane

Foundation Stage Classroom Assistants: Mrs Dougherty and Mrs Robinson

Special Educational Needs Classroom Assistants: Mrs Parkhill and Miss Kerlin

Canteen Staff: Mrs Witherow, Mrs Campbell and Mrs Parkhill

Supervisory Assistants: Mrs McElhatton, Mrs Dunn, Mrs Boyd, Mrs Robinson

Cleaning Staff: Mrs McElhatton and Mrs Dunn

School Improvement Work

This academic year marks the end of our current School Development Plan (SDP). A SDP is a three year plan for development and improvement set in the context of the school's aims and values focussed on various areas of school life with self evaluation at the core to ensure improvement.

During the current SDP we have been focussing on improvements in the following areas:

Teaching and Learning

Child Centred Provision

Behaviour

Leadership and Staff Development

Building and Environment

Community links and Community Relations

We are very proud of the achievements and progress we have made in each of the areas above and look forward to both the challenges and achievements that lie ahead as we begin to plan for our next SDP. Each year we have focussed our improvements more specifically and set targets such as those below.

Targets Set for 2012 / 2013

Curriculum

- Improve Literacy standards through continued implementation of Linguistic Phonics, continuation of Reading Partnership Programme and Sunshine Room support.
- Improve Numeracy Standards through use of problem solving boards, increased emphasis on mental maths and Money Week.
- Target underachieving children effectively
- Participate in ICT Accreditation scheme and achieve Levels 1 - 4
- Participate in voluntary moderation for new Levels of Progression

Community Relations

- Extend Community links
- Promote reconciliation

Behaviour

- Extend behaviour management improvements and Pupil Participation - School Council

Eco-Work

- Retain Green Flag

Health

- Achieve third Healthy Munch Box Challenge Award

Curriculum and Staff Development

During the academic year 2012—2013 each class has seen an increased emphasis in mental maths teaching and problem solving. We also ran a very successful Money Week organised by our numeracy co-ordinator Mrs Crosbie.

During Money Week a series of fun interactive activities were held throughout the school to engage and enthuse the children. The week culminated in a celebratory path of pennies around the school. All classes participated including making items for the school café for Friday's break time and collecting pennies all week for the path. We ended our Money week with a fantastic Show and Tell Assembly.



Behaviour

Continuing with our implementation of a positive behaviour approach The Golden Rules, Golden Time, Quality Circle Time and School Prefects have continued to be successful. During this academic year our School Council began.

A School Council is a formal group of pupils within a school who are elected by their peers to represent them and their views. Evidence shows that a school council which is supported and nurtured helps and improves many aspects of school life. It is an important and useful way for schools to provide leadership and development opportunities for their pupils. School Councils are an excellent way in which to increase participation, teaching young people about democracy, citizenship and accountability. Article 12 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child states that children and young people should have a say in decisions that affect their lives. A School Council can provide a meaningful way in which pupils can voice their opinions and views and make a positive contribution towards the decisions which affect them.

In our school, each class voted for two children who were responsible, good listeners and effective team members. Each pupil has the opportunity to note ideas or issues for further discussion and place them in the suggestion box. These contributions are considered by the Chairperson and Secretary and then brought to the council meeting where they are discussed, suggestions made and actions decided upon.

During this academic year the council addressed various issues including organising lunch time activities, extending Golden Time and consequences for children who received red cards at lunch time.

The children were excellent council members, they took their roles very seriously and gave mature and reasonable contributions to the discussions. They showed that they can indeed contribute positively to the decision making process in school.

Our Council consisted of:

Prefects

Craig Stevenson, Kane Dunn, Bethany Black and Leanne Campbell

Class Reps

Mrs Hay's Class: Jamie McBride and Jemma Wallace

Mrs Crosbie's Class: William Rodgers and Katie Gamble

Mrs McCusker's Class: Mark Campbell, James Dougherty and Emma Gamble

Mr Potts' Class: Ellie Black (Secretary) and Brooklyn Stevenson (Chairperson)

Staff Reps

Sinead and Mrs Hay



Health



The Board of Governors would also like to extend a big thank you to all the parents who have been sending healthy lunch boxes. This has enabled us to achieve another Healthy Munch Box Challenge Award.

Our school has again provided Barnardo's Time For Me Counselling this year which has given some children the opportunity to avail of individual counselling in a context-focused child-centred way to increase emotional well-being to improve learning potential.



Three pupils and their families were supported during this academic year. The issues of self-esteem, friendship/peer relationships, developing confidence and managing change were the focus of the work.

The feedback received was very positive from parents, children and from our counselor.

Eco-Work

The Eco-Schools Green Flag is awarded to schools with high achievement in their Eco-Schools programme which aims to make environmental awareness and action an intrinsic part of the life and ethos of a school. Eco-Schools endeavours to extend learning beyond the classroom and develop responsible attitudes and commitment. Its combination of learning and action make it an ideal way for schools to embark on a meaningful path to improving environments. Through the democratic process involved in Eco-Schools, pupils can take control of their own environment, learning and taking decisions about how to improve both their home and school environments.

The Green Flag is a recognised and respected eco-label for environmental education and performance which we obtained last year. This year we have been working hard to maintain our level of work in Eco-related activities.

The children have thoroughly enjoyed all aspects of the programme including being responsible for recycling bins in each classroom and school wide recycling of ink cartridges. Each eco-committee member has ensured that their own class is as eco-friendly as possible by recycling and switching off unwanted electrical items.

Elected Eco-Committee Members for 2012 - 2013:

- P1 - Harvey Laird
- P2 - Sophie Young
- P3 - Mark Wallace
- P4 - Emma Craig
- P5 - Kris Wade
- P6 - Nikita Allen
- P7 - Craig Stevenson



Extra-Curricular Activities

Our school continues to offer a huge range of extra activities outside of school hours as a result of the funding provided by Extended Schools.

These activities include:

Breakfast Club

Drug and Alcohol Awareness sessions

Football Coaching

Foundation Stage After School Club

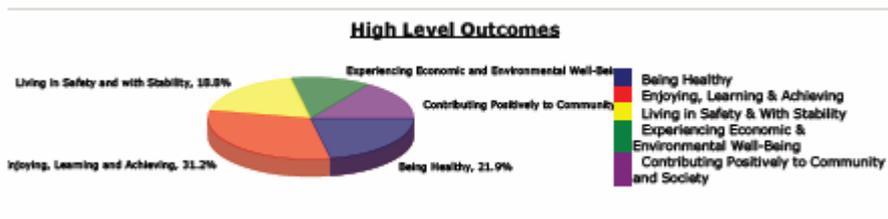
DayCare@DPS

Number Busters

Homework Club

FilmClub

MTV Dance



This chart shows the high level outcomes achieved through our provision. Provision is well attended and enjoyed by those participating. Some great feedback was received this year—thank you to all who completed the questionnaires.

Here are some comments parents made about our clubs:

Number Busters

“My son has really enjoyed Number Busters. I like the idea of making maths fun...and he has become more independent with his own homework”.

Foundation Stage After School Club

“Great facility. My child loves it and wouldn’t want to miss out”.

DayCare@DPS

“Fantastic facility that I hope continues. My child loves it and pleads for me to let him attend even when he doesn’t need to. Reports from my child are that the club is good fun and that he enjoys it. I also find the day-care very good value and a saving to us as working parents”.

Homework Club

“Really enjoyed this club, made learning fun”.

Parent Teacher Association

During the academic year 2012-13 our PTA had the following members:

Mrs Allison Wallace

Mrs Ruth Lowry

Mrs Karen Finlay

Mrs Glenda Wallace

Mrs Sandra Robinson

Mrs G Hay (Principal)

Mrs Fiona Gamble

Mrs Sally Gamble

Mrs Angela Campbell

Mrs Caroline Young

Mrs Caroline Gamble

Mrs S McCusker (Teacher rep)

Throughout the year the Committee met to organise various events. These were:

- Supper with Santa
- Halloween Disco
- Sports' Day tuck shop and tea shop

The PTA also generously funded many treats this year. These were:

- 2 Kindle Fire HDs
- M and M productions - Sleeping Beauty Panto
- Buses for summer trips

Summary of income and expenses from PTA 2012—2013

<u>Money In</u>		<u>Expenses</u>	
Opening Balance	2664.78	Bank Charges	18.58
		Curriculum Evening	25.28
Supper with Santa	504.08	Kindle Fire HDs	500
Halloween disco	189.10	Canon Ferry's coffee	16.18
Sports' Day Tuck	250	Halloween Disco	92.85
		M and M productions	450
		Supper with Santa	184.53
		Christmas Hampers	53
		Sports' Day Tuck	113.42
		Buses for P1-6 summer trips	250
Closing Balance	1904.12		

Again, this year our school has held and participated in a huge range of activities and it would not be possible to include them all. The pages that follow contain details of just a few events of note.

Pearson Teaching Awards Success

Exceptional teachers make all the difference; whether they inspire a love of a particular subject or encourage children to develop in confidence and gain their full potential, the influence of a great teacher can last a lifetime.

The Pearson Teaching Awards are taking one day out to encourage children, students and parents to show their gratitude to a special teacher and say “thank you”.

The Teaching Awards were founded by Lord Puttnam CBE to focus on inspired education professionals who make the positive achievements of pupils possible. The Pearson Teaching Awards is open to every school in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. The awards are managed by the Teaching Awards Trust, an independent charity. The Trust’s mission is to celebrate excellence in education.

2013 was a record year for the Pearson Teaching Awards with over 24,000 nominations. Each and every nomination is a “thank you” to an education professional who has made a difference to the lives of children and young people.

Our school was nominated in the category of ‘Outstanding Team of the Year’ and received a distinction which is truly a great achievement which should be celebrated.

After visiting our school to complete judging the representatives from the teaching awards provided Mrs Hay with some feedback. They commented to her “your



team is extremely dedicated, hard working and it is clear they place the children at the centre of everything you do...it is indeed a great achievement and one that you in particular should be proud of. I hope that you will also enter next year and indeed consider some of the other awards too as you have very dedicated teachers and staff that could certainly be recognised for their hard work.

International School Meals Day

This year our school participated in International School Meals Day. The wonderful staff in the kitchen created a menu based on some Spanish favourites to link in with the Spanish language lessons children in Primary 1 to Primary 4 receive. The food was healthy, colourful and an exciting dip into international flavours for our children. Thank you to all who participated, especially Heather, Emma and Jackie and all the children who were adventurous enough to try and thoroughly enjoy the food.



The Billie Girl Play

Our school hosted a performance of 'The Billy Girl', a play by Jonathan Burgess aimed at Key Stage 2 children. The production gave the children the opportunity to learn about an element of Northern Ireland's history. 'The Billie Girl' told the story of a young girl who was curious about her Granda's membership of the Orange Order. Billie took a trip through time to meet some of the most influential individuals in Orange culture and visit significant moments in history. Playwright Jonathan Burgess says: "The Billie Girl' covers a very important part of Northern Ireland's history in a way that is fun and accessible for people of all backgrounds and ages to understand – from age seven and up! It is a 'Bill and Ted's Excellent Adventure' take on the history of Orangeism with lots of historical characters travelling to the present day to answer Billie's questions about her Granda's passion for the Orange Order."

The children, parents and members of the community who attended and watched the play thoroughly enjoyed it and all learned something new!



Making Connections Comic Book Project

The new year brought new challenges, new opportunities and great success for our children as they dipped their toes into the waters of a new fantasy world of super-heroes and villains in a joint project with Gortin Primary School!



The children participated in a two-week intensive joint comic book making project run by Making Connections and involved master classes from professional illustrator and artist Patrick Sanders who taught the children techniques in illustration, story telling and character development before setting the children loose to create their very own comics.

The project culminated with Gortin Primary School becoming an art gallery and displaying work from both schools.



Sport

Cricket

Boys' A team: Levi Dougherty, Brooklyn Stevenson, Jamie Robinson, Jack Dougherty, Joshua Nixon, William Robinson, Raymond Curry and William Finlay.

Boys' B team: Andrew Campbell, D-Jay Dougherty, Peter Lowry, Matthew Gamble, Ben Nixon, James Dougherty and Jason Wallace.



Girls' team: Heather Madden, Rebecca Robinson, Nikita Allen, Amber Rodgers, Morgan Stevenson, Ellie Black, Bethany Black and Leanne Campbell.

Donemana Primary School Boys' Team - Northern Ireland Champions!!

The first stage of this year's Kwik Cricket Competition was a regional competition held at Strabane Cricket Club. Donemana PS girls' team won their group by beating both St Anne's C Team and St Joseph's. This meant they got through to the final where they played the winner of the other group, Sion Mills PS. This was a closely fought final but Donemana PS girls were victorious!

In the boys' section Donemana PS B Team played well by winning 2 games but unfortunately lost 2 games. Donemana PS A Team played exceptionally well and won all 4 of their matches against Artigarvan A, Artigarvan B, Donemana B and Sion Mills PS finishing by being crowned overall winners!

The next step for both teams was a trip to Belfast where they played in the NI finals against the other regional winners.

On Wednesday the 19th of June the boys' A team and the girls' team travelled to the Northern home ground of Cricket Ireland, Stormont. 16 boys' teams and 8 girls' teams managed to get through regional and district heats to make it to these prestigious finals.

The day began with group stages and the Donemana PS boys' team were placed with Inchmarlow (The Royal Belfast Academical Institution Preparatory School), Maguiresbridge P.S. and Strandtown P.S. B Team (Belfast). The boys began against Inchmarlow and came out convincing winners with an 84 run victory. After ironing out some early nerves, the boys then took on Maguiresbridge. This game built their confidence further as they won the match by an excellent 96 runs. Going into the last game of the group stage, Donemana Boys were fielding, batting and bowling extremely well. They put these skills to the test against Strandtown B. Having lost the toss, Donemana had to

bat first. They set an outstanding score of 321 runs aided by some terrific batting by Levi Dougherty, Raymond Curry, Jamie Robinson and William Finlay. It was then Donemana's turn to bowl against Strandtown. They bowled and fielded tremendously allowing them to keep Strandtown to a total of 252. This meant victory for Donemana PS by 69 runs.

With three victories under their belt Donemana PS progressed to the semi-finals with a match against their local rivals Newbuildings P.S. In the North-West regional final last year, Donemana PS suffered defeat at the hands of Newbuildings, so this set up a very tense encounter in the semi-final. The boys clearly had revenge on their minds as they once again fielded brilliantly and limited Newbuildings to 216 runs. The boys showed an immense hunger for victory and scored a staggering 320 runs, winners by 104 runs. The other semi-final between Eglinton P.S. and Pond Park Primary finished as a draw but however, as Pond Park took more wickets they were declared the winner.

The final between Donemana PS and Pond Park (Lisburn) was an absolutely nail biting affair. Donemana PS won the toss and decided to field first as this had been their key strength all day. Pond Park was an extremely experienced team and gave away very few wickets and they finished on a total of 236 runs. With Donemana PS's turn to bat next, nerves started to become a factor, particularly evident when they lost a wicket from the first ball. However, getting a few runs under their belt began to shake the nerves off. Pond Park continued to bowl and field well, taking numerous catches and limiting Donemana PS to a small number of runs, the first team to do so all day. The last over for Donemana was the most important one of the day because it would decide who the N. Ireland Champions were going to be. As William Finlay and Joshua Nixon faced the last over people watched through their hands as they were sick with nerves.

By scoring a six in this last over it put Donemana PS up by three runs so all they had to do was hold on. It was a nerve wracking last ball but patience and perseverance paid off as Donemana PS won the match by three runs. What a final! The boys received their trophy and medals and were crowned Northern Ireland Kwik Cricket Champions.

The girls from Donemana P.S. also had a very successful day. They were drawn against Strandtown (Belfast), Christie Memorial (Coleraine) and a NI Select. The girls won one of their games but still managed to get through to the semi-final, once again against Strandtown. This time the game was a more closely fought affair but unfortunately the girls lost. This was still a remarkable achievement as they were the fourth best girls' team in N. Ireland.

This was a memorable day for Donemana Primary School and one that the pupils, staff and parents won't forget. This is an unbelievable achievement for a school of only 88 pupils. Well done to everyone involved!

Football

Girls' team: Amber Rodgers, Bethany Black, Morgan Stevenson, Heather Madden, Ellie Black, Leanne Campbell, Rebecca Robinson, Nikita Allen, Sarah Stevenson, Nicole Campbell and Chloe Nixon.

The girls' football team did an excellent job of representing our school at an IFA competition in Strabane. They played very well and Bethany received a players award.

Well done girls!

Swimming

Six of our pupils, Jack Gamble, William Finlay, Jack Dougherty, Bethany Black, Ellie Black and Jason Wallace were selected to participate in the seventh annual Riversdale Leisure Centre schools' gala.

They were all excellent participants and we had some great success. Jack Dougherty came first in the breast stroke competition and third in the front crawl competition. William Finlay came fifth in the breast stroke competition. Excellent achievements in a large competition.



Assessment

Towards the end of each school year the children in Primary 4 and Primary 7 are required to undertake formal statutory assessment and the results are gathered nationally.

The average child completing Primary 4 (Key Stage 1) is expected to achieve Level 2. The average child completing Primary 7 (Key Stage 2) is expected to achieve Level 4.

The results for our school and the Northern Ireland average is shown below.

		<u>2012 / 2013</u>	<u>NI Average</u>
<u>Key Stage 1</u>			
<u>Key Stage 1</u>	% of pupils at:		
<u>Communication</u>	Working towards level 1	0	0.85
	Level 1	21.43	9.64
	Level 2	78.57	70.91
	Level 3	0	18.59
<u>Key Stage 1</u>	% of pupils at:		
<u>Using Maths</u>	Working towards level 1	0	0.75
	Level 1	21.43	9.03
	Level 2	64.29	71.00
	Level 3	14.29	19.22
<u>Key Stage 1</u>	% of pupils at:		
<u>ICT</u>	Level 1	28.57	6.93
	Level 2	71.43	90.84
	Level 3	0	2.23
<u>Key Stage 2</u>			
<u>Key Stage 2</u>	% of pupils at:		
<u>Communication</u>	Level 2	0	3.93
	Level 3	26.32	18.91
	Level 4	73.68	60.12
	Level 5	0	16.43
<u>Key Stage 2</u>	% of pupils at:		
<u>Using Maths</u>	Level 2	0	3.55
	Level 3	26.32	17.91
	Level 4	73.68	55.03
	Level 5	0	22.90
<u>Key Stage 2</u>	% of pupils at:		
<u>ICT</u>	Level 1	0	0.33
	Level 2	0	1.72
	Level 3	26.32	17.73
	Level 4	73.68	79.80
	Level 5	0	0.42

Please note that in the 2012/2013 school year all primary schools have assessed pupils using the more challenging revised Levels of Progression. Due to the more demanding nature of the revised Levels of Progression, the outcomes for some pupils are likely to seem lower than might have been the case if assessment had been carried out using the outgoing system of assessment. This year's results, therefore, are not directly comparable with previous years' results.

As stated above this years results are not comparable to previous years however we are very pleased to announce that in the three year period from 2009 / 2010 to 2011 / 2012 we can report the following improvements in standards:

Percentage of pupils Key Stage 1 achieving Level 2 and above in English has increased by 1.32%.

Percentage of pupils Key Stage 1 achieving Level 2 and above in Maths has increased by 26.32%.

Percentage of pupils Key Stage 2 achieving Level 4 and above in English has increased by 23.02%.

Percentage of pupils Key Stage 2 achieving Level 4 and above in Maths has increased by 11.91%.

These results are testament to the hard work of staff and children.

All 19 children of transferring age have gained a place at their first preference secondary school. The Board of Governors wish all the children every success in the future.

School Finance

The Financial Report below refers to the period ending 31st March 2013. It relates to the money allocated to the school through the Western Education and Library Board's L.M.S. formula. Responsibility for the management of this budget lies with the Board of Governors. The total resources available decreased by 13.5% last year but show a slight increase of almost 1% this year.

Financial Statement			
Income	£	Expenditure	£
Formula Allocation	317725	Teaching Staff	239821
Extended Schools	11800	Non-teaching staff	41071
Other Funding	0	Fuel Oil	6374
Total resources available	447317	Electricity	6475
Letting of Facilities	925	Gas	235
Other Income	6235	Water	683
		Toilet Requisites	1032
		Waste Disposal	428
		Maintenance of buildings	905
		Maintenance of grounds	2360
		Furniture and Fittings	2538
		Maintenance of furniture and fittings	96
		Equipment, books and practice materials	7580
		Advertising	603
		DSO Cleaning	11741
		Travel	1106
		Printing and Stationery	525
		Photocopying	649
		Postage	193
		Telephones	770
		Other costs	3366
		Total Expenditure	328551
		Savings C/F to 13/14	125929

School Finance

The Financial Report below relates to the school fund which is money raised by the school. It relates to the period from 1st September 2012 to 3rd July 2013.

Financial Statement			
Income	£	Expenditure	£
Opening Balance	436.76	Prizes and gifts	426.75
Uniform sales	840.45	Uniform stock	1720.91
Guess the sweets in the jar	53.71	Postage	17.50
Donations	13	Staffroom items	107.51
Texts and Photocopying for others	19.55	Tea and Coffee for meetings	132.28
Bookfair	531.47	Bookfair	543.38
Non-Uniform days / Mad March Hair day	260.75	Charity donations	193
Rental of Premises	450.64	Misc items and Kindle downloads	187.93
Donations for Canon Ferry	41.50	Gifts for Canon Ferry	127.52
Parent Zumba	151	Zumba (parent classes and 1 lesson per class on happy heart day)	303.60
Children's Christmas Raffle	61.49	Children's Christmas Raffle	34.95
Christmas Show Ticket Sales	391	Christmas Show Props	11
Mr Potts' Sponsorship Money	238	Locksmith	18.50
Commission (online uniform sales, school photos, cash for clobber)	641.20	Information Commissioner	35
Contributions from PTA	1032.88	Advertising	738.98
Dan the skipping man	406	Dan the skipping man	331
P7 residential parental contributions	2380.52	P7 residential (not including buses or staff costs)	1995
P7 residential enterprise income	771.09	Ulster Scots Club	500
P1—P4 summer trip	230	P1—P4 summer trip	230
Other income	205.69	Prize giving engraving	150.40
		Tuck Shop stock	82.88
Total available	9156.70	M and M productions Panto	540
Total expenditure	8834.12	Electronic staff images	25
Closing balance	322.58	Kindles	343.97
		Signage	450
		Dr Bike	50
		Swimming Gala	36
		Pre-School Lunch	44.44

