



Craighalbert Centre
Enabling Children to Achieve

**Craighalbert
Courier**

**Issue 1
April 2024**

Enabling children to achieve

Our Values



KIND

The child's will and wellbeing are at the heart of everything we do.



AMBITIOUS

We are not afraid to set challenging goals.



CHILD-CENTERED

We are compassionate, generous, and friendly.



INSPIRATIONAL

We seek to stimulate and influence others to improve outcomes for children, young people and adults, and their families.



COLLABORATIVE

We work together to achieve the highest possible wellbeing for all.

Welcome to our first issue of [The Craighalbert Courier](#), a termly newsletter which will keep you up to date with everything we are doing.

This issue will focus on what our learners achieved during Term 3, as well as some special events along the way.

We hope you enjoy it!

I can't believe we are now into Term 4 of this academic year. The year has flown by, and our classes have been very busy. Last term's theme was Scotland through Media and Art, and each class produced an item that will be sold as part of an enterprise project next Christmas - watch this space!

We hope you will enjoy this newsletter,

Shona McMonagle
Acting Head of Learning

The Nursery

Welcome to the Nursery

We have had a busy Term 3 in the nursery! We have had a new pupil come to join us – A big welcome to her! And lots of activities to keep us busy. One of our favourite activities was making centrepieces for our Daffodil Tea. We loved joining all the other classes in Room 4 to get messy playing with soil and doing some planting. Some of us enjoyed getting our feet in the soil and others enjoyed using the switch to water the plants. We used our PODD to tell us “I like this”!



We have been enjoying our nursery rhymes this term and although we have been trying to introduce some traditional Scottish rhymes, such as “Ye Cannae Shove Yer Granny” and “Coulter’s Candy”, nothing seems to beat our traditional rhymes! We have really enjoyed “Twinkle Twinkle”, and we have been using our song choice board to choose “Wheels on the Bus.” There has been enjoyment of “Round and Round the Garden” by smiling in response to someone doing the actions on our hands and arms!



Finally, we have been enjoying a range of stories in the nursery this term. We have had some Scottish stories as part of our Scotland Through Media topic, such as “Hettie The Highland Coo” and “Katie’s Zoo”. We enjoyed exploring the animals in the Katie’s Zoo story and we are using our PODD books to tell our communication partners what we like about the story. Some of us have showed preference for the story “there’s a Dragon in my Book” which tied in with our Chinese New Year activities. One of us especially enjoyed role-playing eating the ice cream cone (although he did share it with the dragon too!) We also enjoyed looking at the pages and exploring the props.



Class 1

Meet Oor Class (can you guess who is who?)

Class 1 have managed to squeeze in loads of activities this term. We started off with a recap of winter then moved on to this term's topic – Scottish Media and Arts. Our focus texts have been Wheesht! By Susi Briggs and the famous 'Oor Wullie' comic strip.



We have listened to Scottish music artists every day in class, including, Lewis Capaldi, Paolo Nutini, Nathan Evans, KT Tunstall, Amy Macdonald, Deacon Blue, The Proclaimers, Lulu, Annie Lennox, Del Amitri, TTF, Calvin Harris. We love music in Class 1!

During SQA time we have covered, Going Shopping, Recognising Text, Science in the Environment, Signs and Symbols in the Community, Working with Textiles and Capturing Digital Images. Everyone is working on their own subject areas at the level appropriate to them. Keep up the good work.





We have also been working on our independent skills.

We enjoyed listening to a variety of Scottish artist on our class record player, including, Wet, Wet, Wet, Del Amitri and Deacon Blue. We used our PODD books to model opinions with learners.



Another member of our class has been working on her Science in the environment SQA exploring the soil, smelling the plants, and watering them using our switch activated pourer.

We have also been working hard using our PODD books in different places. It teaches us to use our access method (extension of hand and finger as seen here) in lots of different environments.



We celebrated a 16th Birthday this term by going ten pin bowling in Falkirk. We all had a super time and can't wait for the next trip!

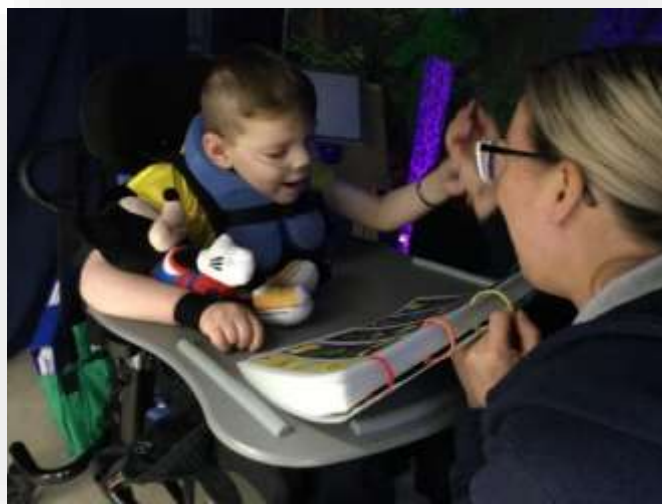
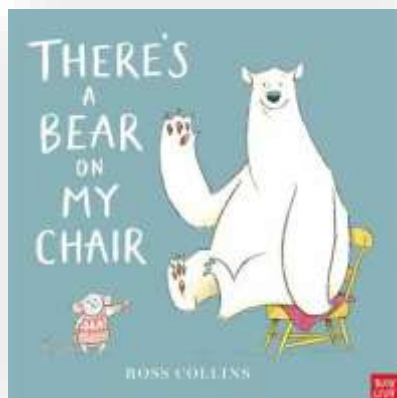


Class 2

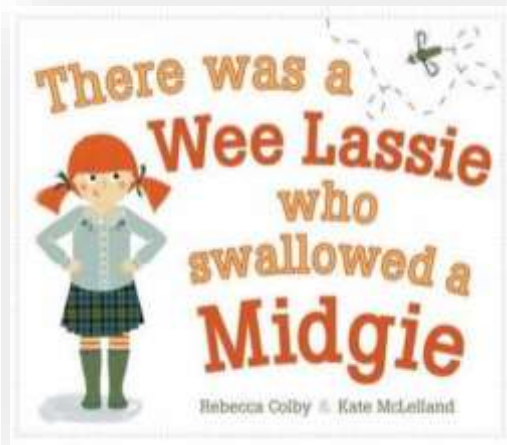
We are Class 2!

Class 2 have really enjoyed exploring different media and art that has been created in Scotland. This term our focussed texts have all been written by Scottish authors and we have had a lot of fun learning some new words and translating the Scots into English.

Everyone brought in a favourite cuddly toy so that we could share our own 'bears' with the class, this helped us to create some great sentences to use in our Predictive Chart Writing.

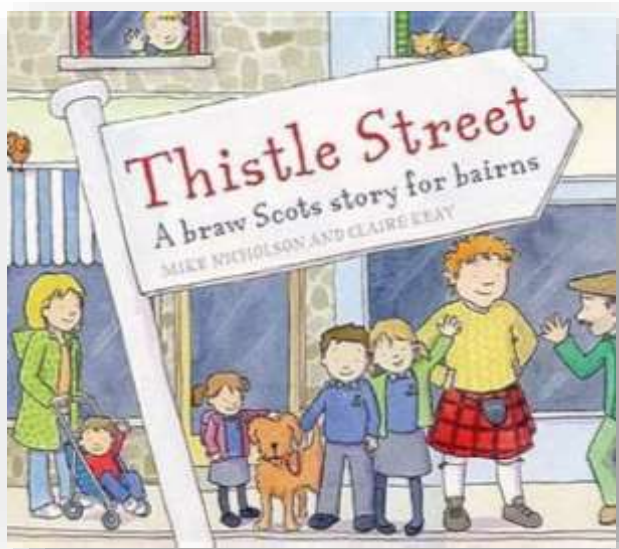


We had lots of fun when we were reading all about the midgies and other creatures in Loch Ness, to accompany this story we had some sensory items to help us imagine each of the characters that the lassie swallowed. We also explored all things 'bugs' and had some interesting opinions which we shared through our writing.



When we were reading all about this Scottish street, we thought it would be fun to look at where everybody lived. We then made our own street using recycled material. It was lots of fun talking about the differences between all our houses – the class enjoyed seeing where all the staff lived too!

We had lots of fun making Scottish tartan – we asked John if we could borrow his painting rollers. We didn't tell him we would be painting the floor though...

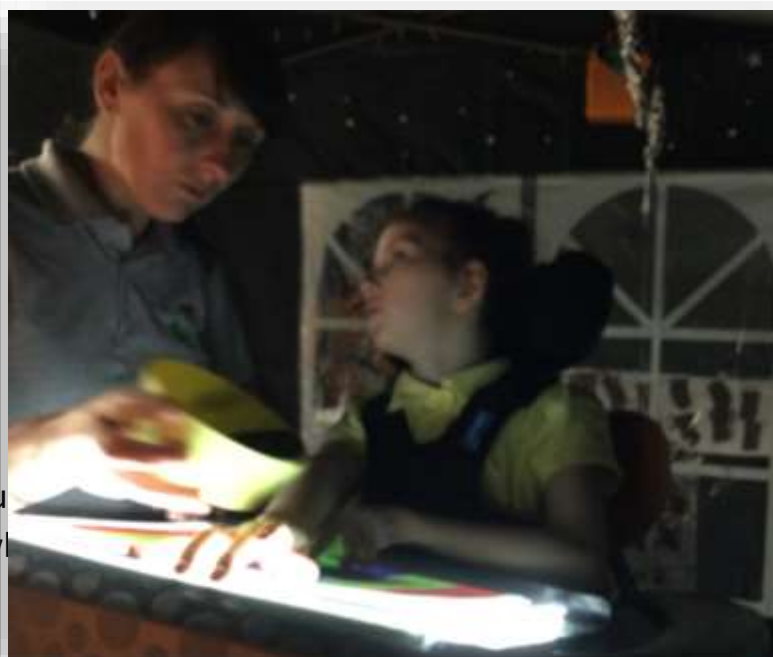
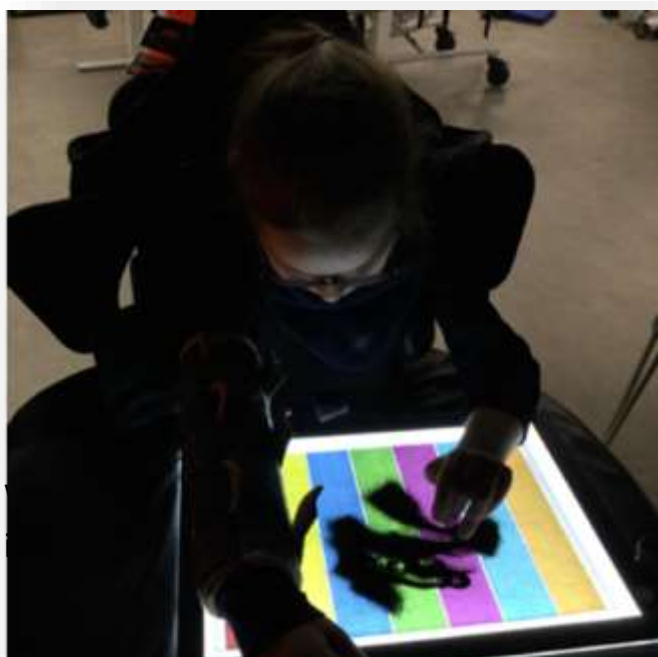


Class 4

Tartan Exploration

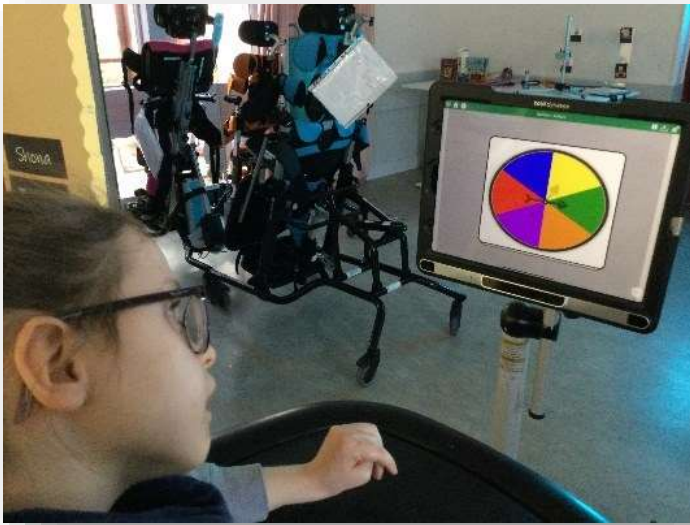
Class 4 have also been busy. We read and explored a story called, "Hide and seek Hettie" which inspired us to make our own lightboard tartan.

We made our own backlit tartan by moving black sand across the coloured background with our hands or feet. What do you think?



What else have we been up to?

We have been working hard, learning to use our new eyegazes. It was good to see two friends working together to create a monster when we were learning about the letter sound, 'm'. One focused hard to use a dice and switch recipe on the iPad to choose the body part and the other used her eyegaze to determine the colour. They worked together to create a super, scary monster. Great teamwork!



Class 4 took inspiration from the Scottish artist, Steven Brown. You will know him best from the Highland Cow paintings.



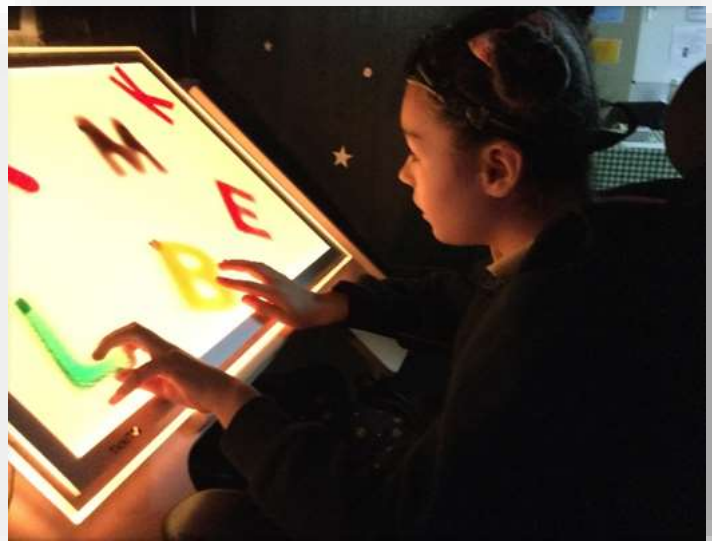
We needed our switches for this activity. We are learning to press and hold our switch to activate different items. For this activity, we needed to press and hold to activate the hairdryer. The hairdryer melted the wax crayons and then we watched the coloured wax run down the canvas board. We think the finished results would look great printed up onto bags. Watch this space!





We are getting more confident in using our communication devices. We thought it would be very funny if we said that it wasn't Thursday during morning group but Friday instead. We all had a good giggle!

We love to explore our squishy, back lit letters.



Some of us are becoming more confident in using our PODD to ask to try the letters.

We worked hard during our Daffodil assembly to make table decorations for the Daffodil Tea. I loved the way you all engaged with this activity.

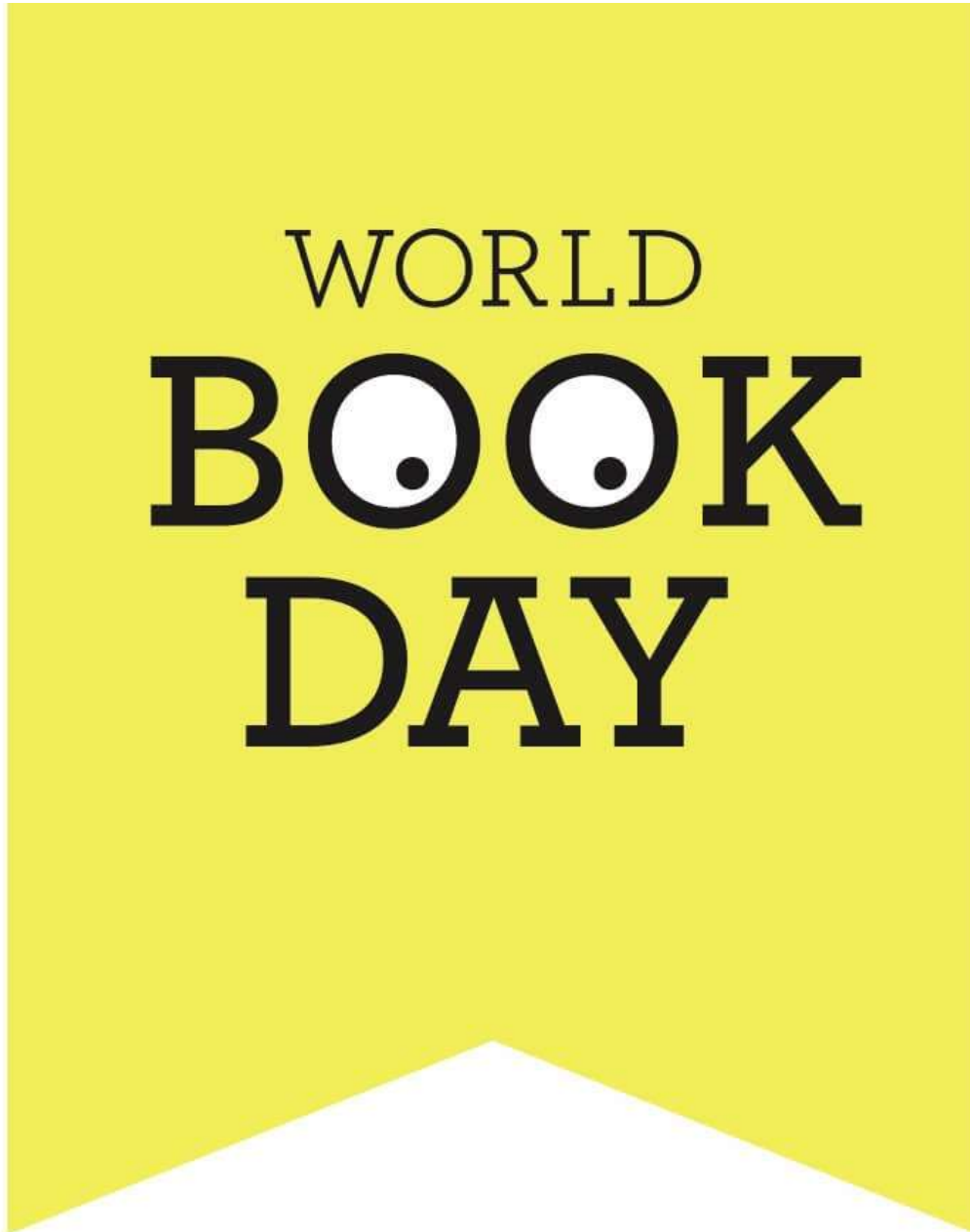


In Classroom 4 we had two birthday celebrations this term. We had good fun celebrating with our friends.



Other News

World Book Day



We celebrated World Book Day on Thursday 7th March. There were so many things to do, we think we will make it into World Book Week next year! Laura made this quiz. Can you work out who is behind each book?

Who is hiding behind the book?



Goodbye and Good Luck!

At the beginning of February, we said goodbye to one of our pupils in a special assembly. It was lovely that his Mum and nephew could be with us to celebrate this special moment too.

During your time with us, you have had access and been supported by the following:

- The right to be heard
- The right to rest, be heard and to take part
- The right to proper healthcare
- The right to an education and the appropriate supported environment.

All the staff and your friends will miss you, but we wish you love and good luck for the future.



The Daffodil Tea

The Daffodil Tea was held on Friday 22nd March and was deemed a great success by all of those who participated. We got messy by smashing paint filled eggs, got competitive in our Easter Bunny Drive, planted responsibly and with sustainability in mind, and participated in a Daffodil Tea Dance which was great fun. We finished the morning off by showing off our sustainable Easter hats made from what we could find to appropriately recycle.

Thank you to all the children, staff and parents who made the morning great fun.

If you couldn't make this event, there will be more coming up in Term 4. Scroll further down for our 'dates for the diary' section.



Therapies

Hello!



Hello from Rhona and Lisa, we are two Occupational Therapy students on placement at the Craighalbert Centre. We are excited to discover how assistive technology, especially switches, eyegaze and environmental controls can be used to increase independence in the classroom and at home.

Currently we are using the 7 stages of switch development to assess students, evaluating what stage(s) they are at in their switching journey and how we can support them to progress their skills in switching. This will involve us building individual switch profiles for students documenting what switch(s) they use, where it should be positioned, and what they use their switches for. We have been investigating environmental controls such as the SwitchBot, smart plugs, Alexa and iclick to promote students' independence in activities of daily living, and participation in learning.

Whilst on placement we are building a switch and tech library including different types of switches, where they can be purchased and what they can be used with, aiming to help promote switch use, and to support the Centre team and families, to have a better understanding of the ways in which switches can be utilised to enable participation and independence.

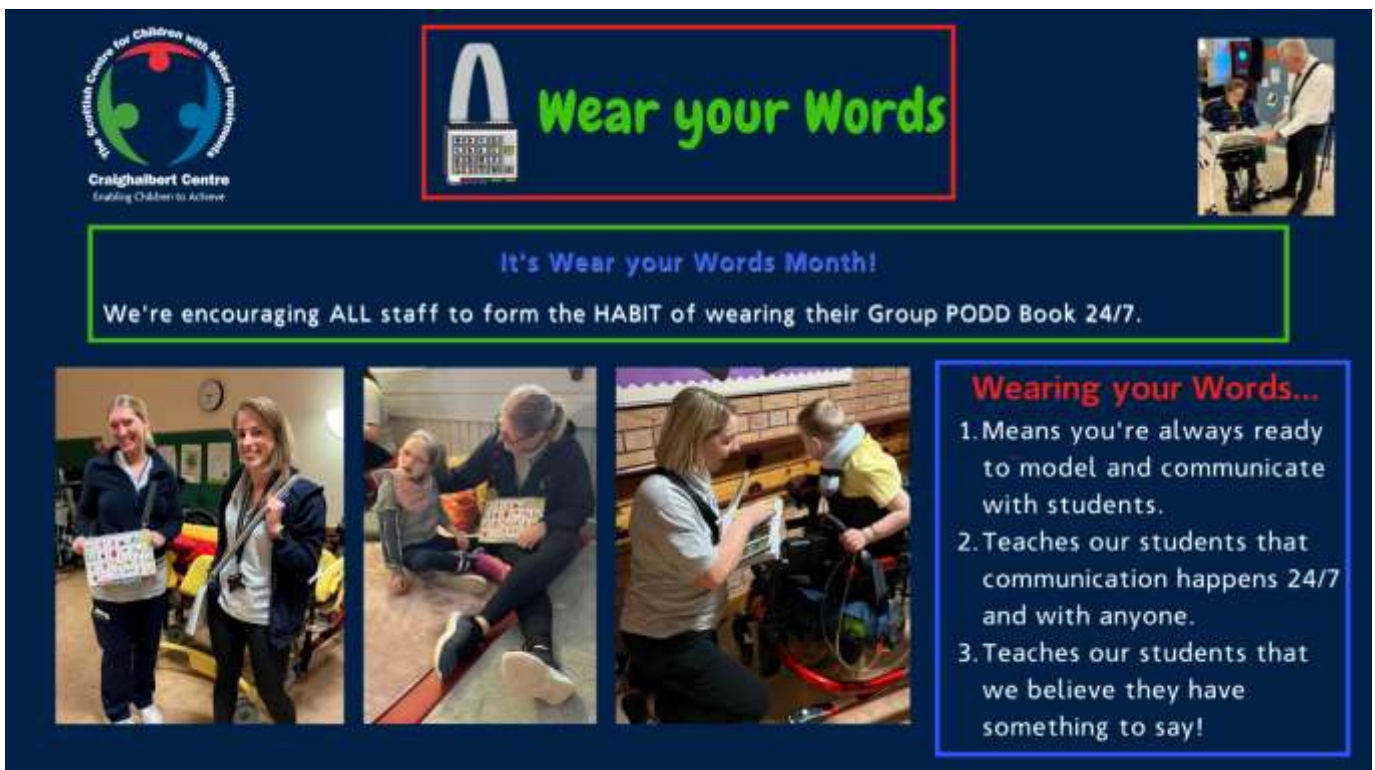


images courtesy of and to read more about 7 stages:
<https://thepacecentre.org/sevenstages/>

“Wear Your Words”

It’s “Wear Your Words” Month at the Craighalbert Centre! All of our staff are focusing on wearing their Group PODD Books (i.e. wearing their words) around the Centre. This has three key benefits:

1. It means we’re always ready to model and communicate with students.
2. It teaches our students that communication happens 24/7 and with anyone.
3. It teaches our students that we believe they have something to say!



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Physio Fascinating Fact...

Since the start of this term, our children and young people have managed 101.3km in the Innwalk which is the same as driving from The Craighalbert Centre to the Green Welly shop at Tyndrum! What a fantastic achievement!



Our Next Learning Topic

We have been working towards the next stage of our LEAF/ECO award this year and part of that is learning about the importance of clean water for different eco systems. Within the Learning for Sustainability goals within education, we look at the impact of water pollution. Our topic, this term, brings these two naturally into the context of Seaside Explorers.

We will be uploading home learning activities onto the website to support this topic. We would love to see photographs of anything that you do so please email them into their class teacher. If you make a poster, please send it in. Anything we get (photos, posters) will be added to the Seaside Explorers Displays throughout the Centre.

Our senior learners will begin to work towards their Personal Achievement Awards at National 1 too.



Key Dates

**Bendrigg Residential for Senior Phase,
National 1 students:** Monday 15th – Thursday 18th April 2024

Next Parent Council Meeting: Tuesday 30th April 2024

Centre Closed: Monday 6th May 2024

Centre Closed: Friday 24th May 2024

Centre Closed: Monday 27th May 2024

**Summer trip to Blair Drummond
Safari Park (Two classes):** Wednesday 12th June 2024

**Summer trip to Blair Drummond
Safari Park (Two classes):** Thursday 13th June 2024

- *Please note that you will be notified as to what day your child's class will be going as soon as all returns have been processed for transport arrangements.*

Children finish for summer break: Tuesday 25th June at 3:15pm

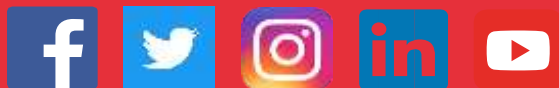
Please Note: We are partnering with [Sound Play Projects](#) in Term 4. There will be a family day where everyone can come and play, investigate and create. Potentially this day is Saturday 15th June, and I am currently waiting for this to be confirmed. I'll update you as soon as I have confirmation.

Stay Connected

The Craighalbert Centre uses its website and social media to promote what we do, share information and engage with others.

There are many ways that you can stay connected, engage with us online and promote what we do.

- **Follow** – Follow us on social media and visit our website for regular updates.
- **Like** – Like our social media pages, to increase visibility and engagement.
- **Share** – Share links to our website and posts, with your contacts, to raise awareness and reach a wider audience.
- **Feedback** – Provide feedback on our content, to help us improve.



www.craighalbert.org.uk



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The Scottish Centre for Children with Motor Impairments

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