

# Shared Education Newsletter

Issue 4

## A NOTE FROM THE PRINCIPALS

March 2018

Term Two has been another very busy term for Duneane & Moneynick: Partners in Learning. In February the partnership was asked to host a visit from the EA Shared Education Sub Committee. The visitors joined in with a Forest Schools lesson and were impressed with the bird feeders the children made. They even helped them decide the best places to locate these around the school grounds. The principals were asked to deliver a short presentation to the committee about what valuable sharing experiences the children have within the partnership.

The Education and Training Inspectorate (ETI) came to assess the partnership on 26 February and were very impressed with what they saw. They commented on the excellent working relationships between all staff, the proactive approach used to look at the needs and likes of the children and the supportive range of programmes being delivered. The inspector appreciated how the partnership was developing in key areas of learning, such as Accelerated Reader and Problem Solving in Maths, alongside the more pastoral areas such as Forest Schools and PD&MU. During the assessment, a group of Primary Seven pupils spoke very confidently about how they enjoyed sharing, valued getting to know the children from the 'other school' and had lots of fun on residential.



### WORLD BOOK DAY



This year the Literacy targets in both schools included raising the profile of reading through the Accelerated Reader Programme. We have also been developing our use of Science and Technology. At the end of February, the pupils from Moneynick had their Book Fair and in Duneane the children were visited by local author Hillary Bailie and had a selection of mystery readers visit school.

Both schools enjoyed dressing up for World Book Day and to celebrate it, the normal school timetable was collapsed for the afternoon. All the children then took part in shared lessons with a STEM and Literacy focus. In Primary One the children made fantastic crowns and dressed the emperor. The Primary Two children enjoyed making hungry caterpillars and clay models of fruit. In Primary Three and Four the children helped Supertato rescue the captured veggies! Some Primary Five pupils problem solved to make robotic arms with geo strips, magnets and paper fasteners. The arm had a magnet attached and the children had to retrieve items from the sand. Other Primary Five children watched how water travels and made bubble blowers. The children in Primary Six learned about circuits when they made the lighthouse light up. In Primary Seven the children worked together to make models of pyramids with spaghetti and marshmallows!

It was a fun, worthwhile afternoon which helped the children take risks and work together. All the teachers enjoyed this as much as the children, as we investigated how every child could have a shared lesson simultaneously. The afternoon was a great success.



## Y1 and 2 Experiences

Year 1 and 2 were working with Miss Butler on improving their numeracy skills using Numicon. Year 1 Moneynick children got to travel to Duneane on the bus for their shared lessons. Year 2 from Duneane travelled to Moneynick.



### Y1

Y1 were working on the numbers 1—10 to help consolidate their understanding of those numbers. They took part in many practical activities with the Numicon. They learned to recognise the number each Numicon represented. They learned to recognise the Numicon by touch. They worked with the giant Numicon in the playground and they even made a robot out of Numicon!

### Y2

Y2 were working with teen numbers and practising their addition within 10. They did lots of making teen numbers using the Numicon and they ordered the Numicon pieces. They matched the Numicon to the numbers and talked about how each number is made up by tens and units.



Here are some pictures of Y1 and 2 enjoying themselves and a few things they had to say about their shared lessons.

Lorcan: "I like working with the Numicon."

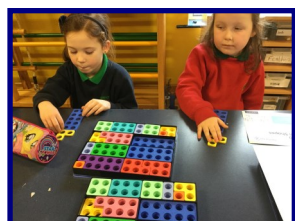
Ava: "I liked that we go outside during our lessons."

Conor: "I liked going on the bus to Duneane."

Tyler: "I liked when we played with the big Numicon outside."

Jessie: "I like the work we do in shared lessons."

Jude: "I liked working with the children from Moneynick."



Niamh: "I liked learning numbers bigger than 10 with Numicon."

Lorcan: "I liked learning with my new friends using Numicon."

Lilly- Rose: "I learned Numicon numbers up to 20."

Muireann: "I loved doing sums with Miss Butler."

Alessa: "I liked learning to make big numbers with Numicon."

Sean: "I liked working with Matthew from Duneane."

Ellie: "I loved doing my numbers to 20 with Numicon."



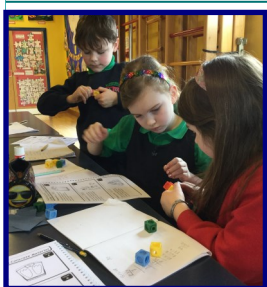
## Y3-7 Problem Solving Tool-Kit

During shared lessons this term Years 3 to 7 have been working on their problem solving skills using the Problem Solving Tool-Kit.

The toolkit helps give the children different strategies to help solve problems.

The strategies that Years 3 to 7 learned this term are:

1. **Using practical materials:** this strategy is useful for children who learn through doing. Children can use cubes, buttons, fraction lines or a fraction line.
2. **Create a table:** this strategy helps to organise data from a problem. Using a table helps reduce the possibility of mistakes or repetitions.
3. **Create a list:** this strategy helps children set out information in a systematic way, so that all possible solutions can be seen clearly.
4. **Drawing a sketch:** drawing a word problem often reveals aspects of a problem that may not be immediately evident and it allows children to see the problem more clearly.
5. **Working backwards:** this strategy is useful in solving problems such as missing number problems and in problems where the starting number needs to be found.
6. **Guess, check and improve:** this strategy encourages the children to be aware of the important information in a problem so as to use this information to make an educated guess.
7. **Practical methods:** this strategy involves acting out a problem or using concrete materials to solve a problem. This is particularly helpful with more abstract problems that are difficult for the children to understand.



Ewan P6: "My favourite strategy was guess, check and improve and I also enjoyed using practical methods. I liked problem solving this term, I struggled with some of it but I learned from my mistakes. I liked it as I found new friends and I enjoyed working in groups."

Amy P6: "My favourite lesson was using practical methods. It was fun because we do it with our Moneynick friends."

Gillian P7: "This term in shared lessons we did maths. It wasn't my favourite but it was good, as it taught me strategies to help me in maths."

Patrick P7: "My favourite strategy was using practical materials because it was really fun and really got you thinking to try new things to finish the answer."

Elena P5: "I enjoy shared lessons. It's fun doing it with Duneane. This term we have been doing problem solving. My favourite strategy was working backwards. I enjoyed this term because the problems were challenging and I wanted to see if I could do them."

Jamie P5: "I liked working backwards with Sean- Óg. I felt happy because it was fun to work with him."

Noah P4: "Problem solving was a bit tricky but shared lessons were still good. I hope Miss Butler liked Moneynick, like I did."

Clíodhna P4: "I liked shared lessons this term because I got to meet new friends and we sometimes played problem solving games. I loved solving problems and getting the answers."

Ronan P3: "I like shared lessons. I like problem solving and when we play games. I liked when we were drawing the problems."

Saorla P3: "I like doing guess and check at shared lessons. I like that I made new friends. I liked playing the games too."

## SHARED TEACHERS

A big thank you to Miss Butler who leaves the partnership at Easter. Miss Butler has been with us since October and is moving on to pastures new! The children loved working with her. After Easter Shared Lessons will resume with Mrs Anderson who returns from maternity leave.



## SHARED CHOIR AT BALLYCLARE FESTIVAL



On Friday 9 March Duneane & Moneynick: Partners in Learning Shared Choir performed at Ballyclare Music Festival. The children had worked hard in preparation with Mrs Wolfenden and Mrs Cuthbertson. The Shared Choir Afterschool Club met in Duneane, every Tuesday afternoon from January right through to March. The pieces chosen were 'My Grandfather's Clock' and 'Edelweiss'. It took a lot of fine tuning and a few extra rehearsals to perfect the singing. On the morning of the competition the children (and the staff)

were very excited. We met at Duneane at 8.30am for a short rehearsal before the bus arrived at 9.00am to take us to Ballyclare. There were four entries in the Small School category and the standard was extremely high. Duneane & Moneynick: Partners in Learning Shared Choir performance was spot on and there were cheers from the audience! The winners of the competition were Thompson Primary School. Congratulations to them.

The children really enjoyed taking part in the competition. With it being such thirsty work, we stopped off on the way home for some well-deserved ice-lollies! The staff are already discussing which songs would be possible for next year! Well done to all of our young singers for your determination and commitment – the staff and your parents are so proud of you!

## ONLINE SAFETY COMPETITION



Internet Safety Day was on 6 February. To raise the profile of Internet Safety, we held an Online Safety Poster Competition for all of our pupils. The children were asked to highlight the message: Create, connect and share respect. We had six winners from each school. Well done to each of you! The designs have been copied and made into mini-posters which have been attached to computers and laptops around the partnership. The PSNI were in both schools delivering Internet Safety awareness. In Term 3 we will be inviting parents to attend an information session on Internet Safety.

