



St Andrew's School
Class Overview
August - October
2022

St. Andrew's School
Inverurie



Castle Fraser



We have had a busy term settling into our new class and making new friends.

Our topic has been Inside Out. Each week we have looked at a different emotion, practised the sign, talked about what makes us feel like that, made pictures with the colour relating to the character from the film. We went on a colour hunt in the community.

Some of the pupils have started work on their SQA units and have been working hard towards the standards. This has included identifying long & short, ordering items by length and identifying the main parts of a story.

We have been studying the book Jim and the Beanstalk which has linked to our literacy and numeracy work. Jim had to measure the giant for a set of teeth, glasses and a wig. We finished the block of work with a hunt for the teeth, glasses and hair round the classroom!

Baking has been a valuable sensory experience as well as the link to health & wellbeing, literacy and numeracy. We have only had one tray of shortbread that has had to be binned! The pupils have all had the opportunity to smell, touch and taste ingredients in their various states e.g., solid chocolate, melted chocolate.

We have participated in the outdoor learning sessions that have been organised twice a week and had the opportunity to try out new skills such as finding the road signs hidden in sand, scooting and biking round the playground following signs and going on treasure hunts.



Cluny Castle



Smelling Vegemite
– not a big fan!

We have been very busy in Cluny Castle during Term 1. The pupils have been working towards SQA units.

Our topic, Australia, was based around Life in Another Country: Aspects of Life, where we have had to compare similarities and differences between Scotland and Australia. In one activity we compared smells and nobody liked the smell of the Vegemite!

The class have also been learning about the Good Samaritan, with kindness being the focus. They enjoyed listening to the sensory story, taking part in the sensory play and the linked craft activities.

We have also been taking part in weekly Boccia sessions during PE. The children attended the Boccia Festival, in the Academy PE Hall and had a great time.

Swimming sessions continue to be a favourite activity for the pupils in Cluny Castle. We have been doing physio exercises and exploring the whole area of the pool. We have had some excellent floating and kicking from some of our pupils and good turn taking and wave creating.

Weekly sessions with Kev, Sounds Light Sensory, really brings out the creative side of our pupils. We have some excellent musicians in Cluny!

As part of the Rights Respecting School, we made a class charter. In Cluny we believe that we all have a right to be included; nurtured; comfortable; safe and respected. We signed this charter by using our hand prints to make a rainbow.

We have been very lucky to have Leah, a 6th year student from Inverurie Academy, joining us every Thursday afternoon. She is very popular with the pupils. She has also assisted, with a friend, during our morning break.

The Cluny Castle Team



Creating some music with Kev



Making meringues using the whisk



Our Class Charter



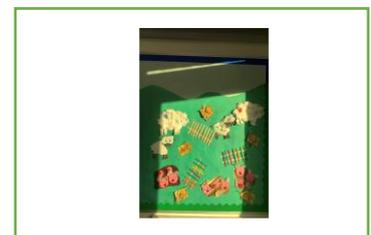
Touching the warm sand



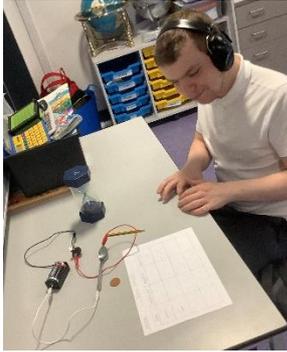
Spreading some love and kindness

Craigievar Castle

This term we have been exploring different textiles for our topic. We have looked at different textiles on the farm and explored lots of materials. We have tried some felting, weaving, printing techniques and made sensory boxes. We have enjoyed some new sensory stories and our favourite has been "Wow said the owl." Each week two pupils have been working hard at Rebound sessions which they love. During baking sessions, we have explored different meats from farms and made haystack biscuits which were yummy. In the sensory rooms we have been exploring the sounds, textures, smells and colours of Autumn.



Crathes Castle



Term 1 in Crathes Castle has been a busy one as we began our learning for a number of National 2 units.

During our Maths lessons, we have been looking at 'Numbers in Real Life'. We have enjoyed visits around the town centre to see where we can see numbers and what the purpose of these numbers are. We didn't realise that numbers were all over the place!

In RME, we have been learning about Hinduism and their beliefs. We enjoyed using coloured rice to make Rangoli patterns and using clay to make Diva lamps. We linked this learning with our Literacy where we learnt about the story of Rama and Sita. We explored the story and by the end of the week, we should have completed our stop frame animation version of the story using iMovie!

In Science, we have been looking at materials, their uses and their properties. We really enjoyed using the electrical kits to create circuits to decide if materials were insulators or conductors. We also tested to see if the materials would float or sink.

Mrs Fatime has been teaching us Badminton in PE. We get to use the Gymnasium in the Academy which is great. We've learnt the rules, how to serve and we are even playing games against each other and staff!

For our Duke of Edinburgh Silver Award we have been volunteering in the town centre by tending to the flowers and weeding at Inverurie B.I.D and the War Memorial. Inverurie Environmental Improvement have kindly donated some gardening tools and a trolley to help us with our volunteering.

It has been a great term of learning in Crathes Castle! Thank you to Mrs Vickers and everyone who attended our coffee morning too! We hope to do it again sometime soon,



Huntly Castle

We have had a busy and successful term out and about exploring our local community: visiting playparks around Inverurie, Oldmeldrum and Huntly, as well as visiting the actual Huntly Castle our classroom is named after.

We have enjoyed weekly trips to the Acorn Centre for snack and enjoyed the Lego Exhibition at the Garioch Heritage Centre.

As part of our topic on transport, we visited Macduff Harbour to view the boats and enjoyed the Macduff Aquarium too.

In school we have succeeded with cycling on trikes, trampolining, and have seen great progress in mobility, swimming and reading. We have increased our knowledge of shapes, number and colour and have been studying 'A Squash and a Squeeze' by Julia Donaldson.

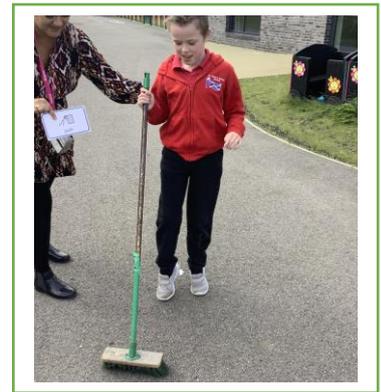
Kodaly with Janet and Makaton Choir with Nadine continue to be highlights in our week.



BARRA CASTLE



Barra Castle have been exploring Forces this term. We have been outside in the playground investigating wind power with scarves, ribbons and windmills. We have pushed and pulled lots of different things. We have dropped different sized objects to explore gravity – our favourite bit was dropping strawberry syrup from up high to watch gravity pulling it down into the bowl.



In the Sensory Room, we have played with different textures in the light box, explored our senses through Sensology sessions, and had many fun Dance Massage sessions. We've also used the Sensory Room to chillout and have some pampering – head and foot massages, brushing and rolling, and hand massages.



In the Immersion Room we have explored different projections on the walls and floor.



Janet has been in to visit for Kodaly sessions – we have really enjoyed singing one-to-one with her and doing lots of fun action songs with our classmates.

We have had twice-weekly Outdoor Learning sessions, with a wide range of activities offered, from learning about Road Safety to sensory play with Autumn resources. We have also had great fun playing in the playground.



We have enjoyed lots of Sensory stories together, trying out different resources and using a sound board to join in with sound effects.



In Numeracy we have been learning about money, counting pennies and matching coins. We have also been trying out the scales, weighing different objects.

Well done Barra pupils for all your hard work this term! 😊

Fyvie Castle

We have had a super first term in our new classroom. We have taken part in lots of lovely new activities and have especially enjoyed our Topic work on Fairy tales. Each week we have explored a different story. We had lots of fun painting a beanstalk with our feet, building houses of different materials, exploring porridge oats and rolling out dough to make Gingerbread men.

In our Health and Wellbeing topic we have been exploring our feelings. We have been listening to the story of the Colour Monster and learning about why we feel happy, sad, calm, angry and scared and who is there to help us when we are not feeling like ourselves. We have made our own colour monsters with paint and have explored items of the same colour. We have also been doing lots of sorting, matching and exploration of sensory colour trays as part of the story.

In Numeracy we have been looking at 2d shapes and enjoyed printing with them to make pictures. We have also enjoyed making our own shape pictures using different coloured shapes. We have been working on a variety of individual activities to develop our number and counting skills.

We have all made fantastic progress by joining in with class routines by following our visual timetable. We have enjoyed taking part in morning routines with our friends in class and finding our own picture before choosing a toy from our happy box.



Pitcable Castle

This term we have been looking at film review for our topic and the pupils' chosen film was 'Finding Nemo'. We have created a coral reef scene with different sea creatures they identified in the film. Alongside our topic, we have been reading many stories on the ocean and fish.

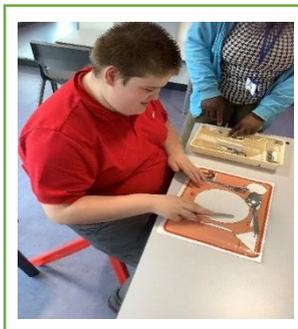
Some of the pupils have also been working on their phonics and learning new words. Our good morning routine has developed in terms of engagement and communication skills. In Numeracy, we have been looking at numbers, matching, ordering, identifying and addition.

The pupils also enjoy our weekly sensory baking sessions and engage in different baking skills and fun with food. The pupils have enjoyed swimming, Kodaly and outdoor learning this term.

For outdoor learning, the pupils were exploring road signs and developing their skills on our range of bikes and scooters and the learning was also complimented through sensory play.

We have also been accessing the sensory rooms throughout the week and all the pupils enjoy being there to explore the various gadgets or just to relax.

The pupils have settled well in their new class.



Slains Castle



This term Slains Castle have been learning about healthy eating by exploring which foods we need for a balanced diet and making some different healthy snacks. We have also been experiencing a range of stories and exploring the different characters in these stories. The class have also been identifying a range of 2D and 3D shapes. Recently we have been learning about different feelings and exploring these feelings through art. In addition to this, we have been learning about our rights as part of Rights Respecting Schools. We have been reinforcing our knowledge of different colours through matching activities and using a variety of materials in art.



We have been developing our physical skills through weekly swimming and rebound sessions – the pupils have really enjoyed these. In PE we have been playing Boccia and playing different games to work on our co-ordination skills. During outdoor learning we have been learning about road safety and using the different equipment to move around the playground.



Slains Castle have enjoyed lots of sensory activities such as messy play, dance massage, TACPAC and sensory stories. We have also been enjoying music sessions with Mrs Vickers. The pupils have regular access to the sensory/dark rooms and the immersive room which they love. We also enjoy weekly baking sessions.



TILLYCAIRN CASTLE

What a busy first term it has been for everyone in Tillycairn Castle!

In maths, learners have been motivated to explore numbers, counting and place value in the classroom and beyond. Pupils have also been continuing to develop their writing and comprehension skills by retelling and answering questions about familiar stories.

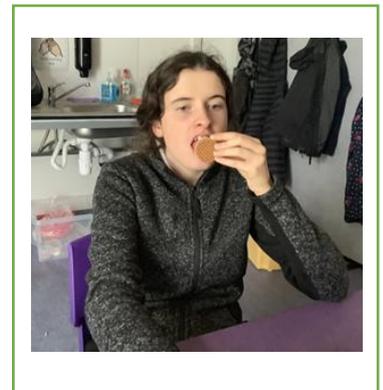
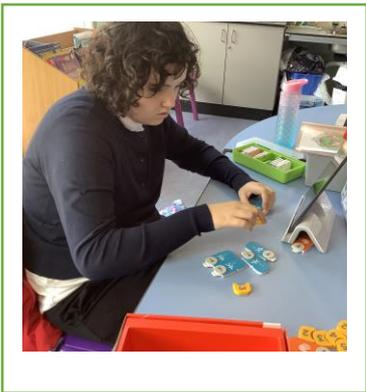
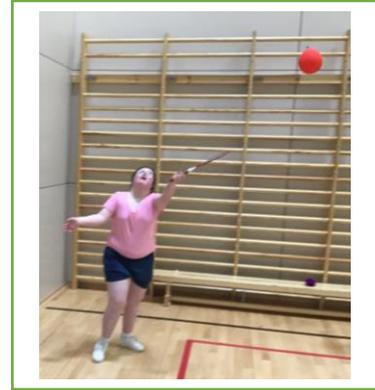
Weekly swimming sessions in the 25m pool are a highlight for all in Tillycairn Castle. Learners are also enjoying developing their racket skills in a larger gym hall within the community campus. As part of outdoor learning sessions pupils have been exploring road safety whilst having great fun on wheels!

'Taster Time' sessions have proved a real hit in Tillycairn Castle. Each week learners use their senses to explore, describe and taste different food.

Pupils have been motivated to develop their coding skills using a range of programmable toys and apps. Everyone also looks forward to our weekly Kahoot quiz using iPads to answer the questions.

Supported by Mrs Vickers, pupils worked alongside Crathes Castle to organise and host a very successful Macmillan coffee morning. With thanks to everyone's generous donations from different fundraising activities across the school community an amazing £368.42 was raised for the charity.

Finally congratulations to the pupils in our class who have achieved their Grade 1 in Horse Riding and Animal Care after working hard at weekly RDA sessions.



WARDHILL CASTLE

We have all settled into our new classroom and are getting used to our new class name, Wardhill Castle. This term we have been practicing our letter formation and writing our names. We have also been learning about our Emotions. At the end of the school year, we are hoping to be awarded 'The Rights Respecting School Award' so we have been exploring our rights and have started with our basic rights. We built Lego houses to represent our right to a home and discussed why we need water.

This term we have also enjoyed taking part in the weekly mile and love having rebound sessions on a Monday. We have been accessing one of the gym halls in the Academy for our PE sessions, our focus has been badminton racket skills. During our outdoor learning sessions, we have been using the bikes and scooters to learn about road safety. We look forward to seeing Janet for Kodaly on a Wednesday and Makaton Choir on a Friday afternoon is a favourite too. We can suggest our favourite songs to learn Makaton to. We have also started practicing our Christmas songs using Makaton!



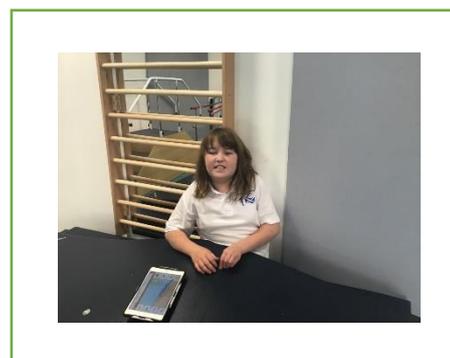
MIDMAR CASTLE



This term in Midmar we have been working hard on getting to know each other and the pupils have built strong relationships with the staff members and are becoming more comfortable around each other. In literacy some pupils are learning their first letter sounds which is an exciting first step while others are practising their letter formation and copying skills, and some are writing stories. In numeracy, we have been looking at time and calendar concepts as well as addition and number bonds.

As well as literacy and numeracy we have been baking favourites like shortbread and crumble and doing a weekly science experiment, looking at how colours transfer in different ways. We have been learning to make predictions and sequence a method. Pupils also engage in a 'Lets Investigate' session and explore a range of seasonal food that is then used in their cooking life skills lesson. Pupils have enjoyed weekly sessions with Janet in Kodaly and learning all her songs and rhythms.

Everyone has thoroughly enjoyed outdoor learning and the opportunity to ride the bigger bikes and scooters in the academy playground where there is much more space. In PE we have been practising our racket skills and we joined in with National Boccia Day on 22 September. As ever, swimming is the highlight of our week, and everyone loves our weekly dip in the pool! We have also just begun to venture further afield to the park and the shops in Inverurie and this will continue next term.



PE/Outdoor Learning/Daily Mile/Yoga

In PE pupils have been developing their skills in Boccia. We celebrated National Boccia Day, by having 4 teams represent St Andrew's School at the Aberdeenshire Central Boccia Festival. The pupils loved playing games with pupils from a range of schools in Aberdeenshire.

We have been given the opportunity to use the Inverurie Academy gym halls, so several of our senior classes have been learning to play badminton during their PE lessons and enjoying being in the new environment.

During Outdoor learning, the pupils have been gaining knowledge about road signs and were also given the opportunity to use our bikes, scooters and go karts in the Academy's outside area.

For the pupils Daily Mile, this time is used to improve their stamina by walking around the school and identifying road signs they are learning in Outdoor learning.

For the pupils who have been part of the Rebound programme this term they have been improving their balance, communication, coordination, and strength.

Weekly yoga sessions are also offered to pupils. Within these sessions pupils are learning a range of yoga positions and relaxation techniques.

