



# E-SGOIL NEWS

OUR MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2022

## WELCOME TO OUR SPECIAL EDITION GAELIC NEWSLETTER

From the outset, Gaelic has been an integral part of e-Sgoil work.

With support from the Scottish Government, Bòrd na Gàidhlig, Education Scotland and Comhairle nan Eilean Siar, much development has taken place.

Jobs have been created, and opportunities to learn and use Gaelic have been extended to all ages.

This Gaelic-focussed newsletter, which ties in with Seachdain na Gàidhlig (Global Gaelic Week) will give you a little taste of what we have been involved in.

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Angus MacIannan

e-Sgoil Headteacher

21-27 AM MÀRT 2022



21-27 MARCH 2022

SEACHDAIN NA GÀIDHLIG  
WORLD GAELIC WEEK

WWW.SEACHDAINNAGAIDHLIG.SCOT

## Early Years & Primary

In 2021, Evelyn Coull MacLeod started in a new role as Gaelic Education Manager.



Working with the Early Years sector with the aim of promoting Gaelic Medium Education is part of her remit. If anyone would like to get in touch with Evelyn, they can do so by emailing [evelyn@gnes.net](mailto:evelyn@gnes.net)

Evelyn produced a video about GME a few months ago, which can be accessed via the following link:

[www.foghlamgaidhlig.com](http://www.foghlamgaidhlig.com)

### Comunn nam Pàrant

Thig a Chluich sessions run in various areas throughout Lewis and Harris.

These offer a great opportunity to learn some Gaelic, meet with other parents and to find out more about the advantages of bilingualism.



**THIG A CHLUICH**  
nan Eilean Siar

More information is available from the following link:

[www.thigachluich.blogspot.com/](http://www.thigachluich.blogspot.com/)

### Saoghal na Cloinne Bige



This is a collection of twenty-six songs for the Early Years.

Many of the songs are newly written and take you through the day of a young child's life: from waking in the morning, a trip to the shops, a visit to Granny's, to going to bed.

They are all available from here:

[www.foghlamgaidhlig.com/gaidhlig-saoghal-na-cloinne-bige/](http://www.foghlamgaidhlig.com/gaidhlig-saoghal-na-cloinne-bige/)

## Ceòl Gàidhlig

Gaelic music and videos for Early Years and Primary with Finlay Smith

Click on the music notes for more information



## Common questions

Some of the most common questions parents have about Gaelic Medium Education

[www.foghlamgaidhlig.com/ceistean-cumanta/](http://www.foghlamgaidhlig.com/ceistean-cumanta/)

## Dug's Discovery Den

Dug's Discovery Den presents an outdoor, interactive and continually evolving virtual learning space.

The space reflects the young learner's world and interests by revealing different activities and new learning discoveries as we move through the seasons of the year.



Click on the picture of Dug to find out more and explore his den.

## Leugh le Linda



Early on in lockdown it became apparent that there was a need for light-hearted sessions that would allow pupils to keep up their Gaelic skills without putting them under further stress or pressure.

In cooperation with Comhairle nan Leabhraichean (The Gaelic Books Council), we were able to offer Leugh le Linda sessions for pupils in P1-3 across Scotland, in which they listened to stories read by Linda MacLeod and, when this was permitted, they also sang along with her.

Following on from this, Lorna Campbell, Ealain (GM Art) teacher at e-Sgoil, now offers lessons in which she instructs pupils in how they might design some of the characters they heard about in the books.

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## Ealain (GM Art) Online

Lorna Campbell started working as Ealain (GM Art) teacher for e-Sgoil in the summer of 2021 and usually delivers short courses of about six weeks in which Primary pupils learn about a specific topic, such as Visual Elements or Hot and Cold Colours, or a topic of their teacher's choosing.

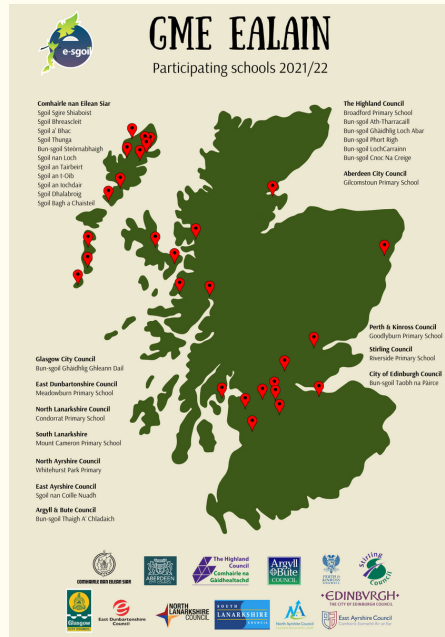
The teacher learns about the topic at the same time and it is hoped that this will enable them and provide them with the confidence to deliver similar sessions in future.

While Ms Campbell was a bit worried at first and unsure how she would deal with pupils younger than those she was used to working with, she has really been enjoying the sessions, especially when there are outspoken pupils present because, as she said,

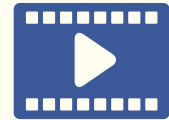
“ at that age, they just say what they think ”

Recently, for example, she delivered a lesson to Sgoil Bhrèascleit, Isle of Lewis, in which she showed them a picture by Kandinsky. The pupils weren't impressed at all and convinced that they could produce much better work! They then got the opportunity to try to do just that.





Click the play button below to hear from Lorna and click on the map to see where we have been delivering this project



## Remote online teaching to Acharacle Primary School

Towards the end of 2021 Acharacle Primary school in Argyll faced a challenging staffing situation where they found their Gaelic Medium (GM) staffing depleted by 1.5 teachers. With no Gaelic speaking primary staff available locally to cover classes, the school turned to e-Sgoil for assistance.

The school was able to identify times across the week where cohorts from P1-3 & P4-7 classes could receive live, interactive, online lessons from three of e-Sgoil's GM primary teachers. In addition to this, classes received a series of themed GM inputs in Art and on Climate Change in partnership with Keep Scotland Beautiful. e-Sgoil lessons allowed for Acharacle classes to continue learning through the medium of Gaelic during the month of January 2022 and helped to prevent language regression.

e-Sgoil was delighted to hear in February that the school had managed to source a GM supply teacher locally. e-Sgoil GM staff were then redeployed elsewhere.

“ I just wanted to say a huge thank you to you and your staff for all the support we have received over the last few weeks, it has been fantastic and very much appreciated! ”

Click the play button to hear from Lyndsay



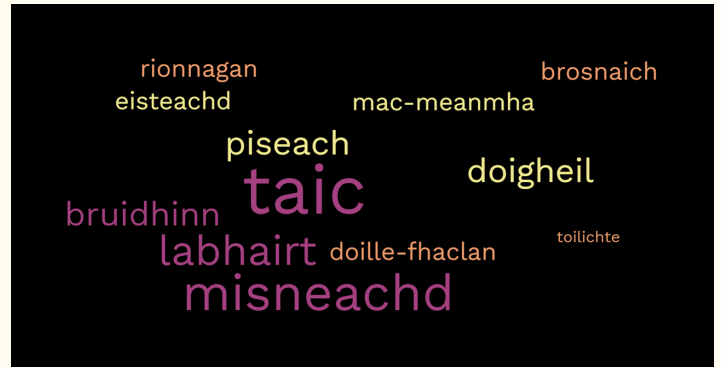
Lyndsay Bradley,  
Associated Schools Headteacher,  
Acharacle and Kilchoan Primary  
Schools

“ We were learning Art online and that was great. A special camera was used which was good because we could see everything. It was easy to follow. The small groups worked well ” P4-7

## Misneachd & Deasbad Beag

During lockdown, e-Sgoil devised a new programme for pupils ranging from P1-S6.

Time away from school was impacting on their skills and confidence, especially when it came to listening to and speaking Gaelic.



Pupils, parents and teachers enjoyed the programme so much that they approached us once schools went back, asking us to continue.

Thus “Misneachd”, the Gaelic for confidence, was born, offering lessons which particularly focus on listening and speaking to pupils across Scotland. Some of the staff have now also received training in how to support pupils with traits of dyslexia or other additional support needs.

Just now, the team is developing debating skills among P4-7 pupils. In these sessions, a number of schools come together to work towards short in-class debates (Deasbad Beag). The winning teams will progress to the next round and the final will be held on Friday 25th March to coincide with Seachdain na Gàidhlig (Global Gaelic Week). We are looking forward to finding out what their thoughts are on questions such as “Should pupils design the canteen menu?” and “Is it right to keep animals in zoos?”

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## Keep Scotland Beautiful

At the time of COP-26 last year, e-Sgoil worked closely with the charity Keep Scotland Beautiful and this cooperation proved so fruitful that the majority of Gaelic-medium Units throughout Scotland took part in the lessons delivered by Angela MacMillan.



This made us realise that it could be of great use to create a unit about the impact of Travel and Tourism on the environment for pupils in S1 & 2. Angela has been employed to take this forward in collaboration between e-Sgoil, KSB, Education Scotland and Stòrlann.

Click the play button to hear from Angela



## Early Years STEM Project

(Science, Technology, Engineering & Maths)

Following on from e-Sgoil's successful Education Scotland Primary STEM project, the focus of this initiative was on raising Gaelic Medium Early Years practitioner confidence and awareness of STEM.



Muriel MacLeod is the lead Early Years GM STEM teacher.

Her task was to raise practitioner confidence and awareness of STEM and to develop an online programme of support.

She offered coaching for staff to identify and share good practice. This will build on the underlying principles of 'Realising the Ambition' and will impact directly on the experiences of young people. A survey was used to provide baseline information and to identify CPD needs.

Practitioners from every Comhairle Early Years setting took part.

All staff were given access to the Early Years STEM Microsoft Team which serves as a space for learning, professional development and the sharing of good practice.

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## Drama Project for Primary schools

A drama input is currently being piloted at Sgoil a' Bhac in which P1&2 pupils are working on songs and sayings, while the P5-7 age group is developing a script which they hope to eventually perform to an audience. The project will be rolled out to more schools after Easter.



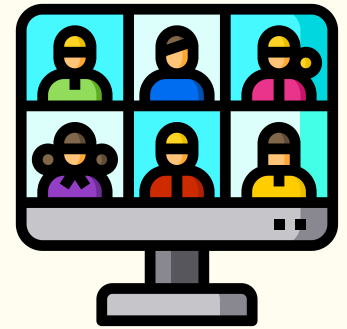
In addition to providing pupils with a light-hearted, fun input, the aim is to develop their competence in Gaelic and their teachers also get a chance to develop their skills in any way they see fit, e.g. by working on the script or developing the stage play.

The project is offered in close partnership with Community Learning Hebrides whose Adult Literacies Apprentice and community tutor are developing the sessions, and funding was received from Bòrd na Gàidhlig's Covid-19 Recovery Fund.

## Annas a' bhad! (In an instant!)

e-Sgoil recently set up an online service to provide relief for schools who struggle to provide emergency supply teacher cover at short notice.

Kathleen Macrae from Shawbost, Isle of Lewis, was employed to prepare 50-minute stand-alone lessons on literacy and numeracy for each level of Primary school. In an emergency, head teachers can book Kathleen or one of our other teachers through a digital system and they will appear on screen in their schools to deliver classes. The usual support staff, or possibly a teacher who doesn't speak Gaelic, can supervise the class in school.



There is no cost associated with this as it is a pilot project and, due to Covid, many schools have made use of the service in recent weeks.

[MORE INFO](#)

Click **here** for more information



## Secondary S 1-6

### National 5 & Higher Gàidhlig / Gaelic

Each year, e-Sgoil offers pupils the opportunity to gain accreditation at National 5 or Higher level in both Gàidhlig (Fluent) and Gaelic (Learner). If there is demand, an Advanced Higher course is made available, too.

Pupils from across Scotland are able to register for these courses and they are particularly aimed at those who are unable to complete the courses in their home school, either due to their school not offering the course or to timetable clashes.

The courses have proved very popular and, as well as going on to further courses, some of our former pupils are now enrolled in degree courses at Sabhal Mòr Ostaig.

This year, the first pupil in Shetland is studying Gaelic at National 5.

### Expanding the curriculum

We are aiming to expand the range of subjects offered through Gaelic medium and to make them more attractive to pupils. From next August, we will be running Foundation Apprenticeships in Creative Digital Media and Child Care, not only in the Islands but throughout Scotland. We will also be offering a Personal Development Award which can lead on to a National Progression Award in Enterprise and Employability.



## Bearteas



Come and listen to some of our best known Gaelic personalities talk about their lives and interests. Pupils will also have an opportunity to join in the conversation and ask questions in order to help them develop their own Gaelic.

For further information and to register, go to:

[www.feisean.org/bearteas/](http://www.feisean.org/bearteas/)

## Adult learning

### Adult learning

The e-School Gaelic offer is not just for young people. Courses, either formal or informal, are also offered for adults. More information on formal courses, such as National 5 and Higher, as well as our community and family offer can be found here:

[www.facebook.com/CLHebrides](http://www.facebook.com/CLHebrides)



## My Way

### My Way

e-Sgoil and the Comhairle's Multimedia Unit have been recording a series of videos in which young people from a range of places speak about their way through school and into the world of work, and how Gaelic was of advantage to them. There are a mixture of English and Gaelic recordings as we want to encourage learners to strive towards fluency.

You can view the sessions here:

[www.e-sgoil.com/my-way/](http://www.e-sgoil.com/my-way/)

## Special projects



## LUACH

LUACH is a festival of events, all held in Gaelic, taking place between Harris and Lewis.

This year it will be held between 7-9th April.

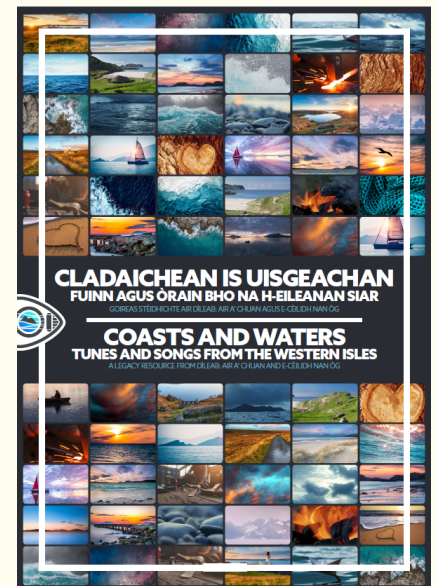
It is aimed at all ages and a range of interest groups, and is an example of partnership-working at its best.

Click on the Facebook logo to find out more or view the programme **here**



## Leabhar e-Cèilidh

For the past year the Comhairle's Instrumental Music Service staff have been engaged in a project, funded by Bord na Gàidhlig, to produce a legacy resource from the e-Cèilidh nan Òg events which ran during lockdown in 2020 and the Dìleab: Air a' Chuan project. This resource takes the form of an eBook titled "Coasts and Waters: Tunes and songs from the Western Isles".



The e-Book contains sheet music and lyrics, suitable for performance by pupils in primary school onwards, and includes melody lines and chord notation allowing for performance on a wide range of instruments, including chanter/bagpipes and for both solo and group performance. To accompany the sheet music, further downloadable digital resources have been produced. These consist of tutorial & play-along videos and backing tracks. The inclusion of backing tracks allows for the music to be played or sung solo.

Information on each item is also included to give users of the e-Book an understanding of the background, cultural, historical and local significance of the material. In addition, cross-curricular lesson plans have been produced to allow pupils and teachers to explore themes connected with the music. These lesson plans are available for Early, First & Second Level and will allow for whole class/school topic-based mini-projects to be developed to meet areas of CfE.

More information on the e-Cèilidh and e-Cèilidh nan Òg projects, Dìleab and the CnES Instrumental Music Service can be found on the following links:



**e-Cèilidh website**



**Dìleab website**



**CnES Instrumental Music Service blog**

The ebook will be launched live from e-Sgoil on Friday 25th March at 11am, featuring live music as well as pre-recorded items from the book performed by pupils. The event can be accessed here:

**e-Book launch event**

## Partnership working

e-Sgoil is very grateful to the all groups that work with us to bring to fruition all the projects listed above. Without them, we wouldn't be half as successful. Sincere thanks go to:

Scottish Government, Education Scotland, Bòrd na Gàidhlig, Keep Scotland Beautiful, Fèisean nan Gàidheal, The Gaelic Books Council, Stòrlann, Twinkl and Lews Castle College UHI and all organisations participating in LUACH!

Click on the logos for more information on our partners.



### National e-Learning Offer

The National e-Learning Offer complements the delivery of teaching and learning by schools and settings, local authorities and Regional Improvement Collaboratives in Scotland.



It is made up of three elements - live, recorded and supported resources. Live resources include interactive, online classes. Recorded resources are available to watch at any time. Supported resources include assessments, practical experiments, revision resources and more.



All resources have been created by educators for educators to support the development of learning opportunities across the curriculum, from the beginning of the Broad General Education through to the Senior Phase.

Click on the NeLO & West OS logos above to find out more and search the resource banks.

## KEEP IN TOUCH WITH E-SGOIL



Every Friday during term time we publish details of what's coming up the following week along with detailed timetables for the live Study Support webinars and DYW Live.

These are published on the homepage of our website as well as on our social media channels. Click on the logos below to be directed.

If you would like to have our monthly newsletter delivered straight in to your inbox you can sign up to our mailing list using the form on the link below or scan the QR code.



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