

CUMBER CLAUDY PRIMARY SCHOOL

SCHOOL REPORT

2014/2015

WHO ARE THE GOVERNORS?

| | | |
|----------------------------------|---|------------------------------------|
| Mrs K Breslin (Chair) |) | Parent |
| Mrs Lorna McSparron (Vice-Chair) |) | Representatives |
| Ms A Browne |) | |
| Mr N Eakin |) | Transferor |
| Mr D Kennedy |) | Representatives |
| Mr T Rosborough |) | |
| Mrs M Hamilton |) | Education Authority Western Region |
| Mrs C McMinn |) | Representatives |
| Mrs D Hume | | Teacher Representative |
| Mrs M Smyth - Secretary | | Principal (Non-Voting) |

GOVERNORS RESPONSIBILITIES

The Governors are ultimately responsible for the overall management of the school. Some of the responsibilities include:

- 1 The oversight of the curriculum
- 2 The school budget allocation
- 3 Admissions policy
- 4 School maintenance
- 5 Implementation of new legislation
- 6 Fostering links with local community and pursuing the objectives of mutual understanding
- 7 Selection of staff and other personnel responsibilities



Dear Parent

On reading this report, I think you will agree that the 2014-15 school year has been both a busy and extremely successful one. This does not happen by accident but it comes as the result of a team of extremely dedicated people working towards a common goal under the leadership of a devoted principal. Mrs Maureen Smyth and all the staff at Cumber Claudy Primary School are to be commended on their efforts in producing a warm, friendly learning environment for our children.

This school year brought some changes to the Board of Governors with several new members. Alongside these changes, the Adopt-a-Governor scheme was introduced and the purpose of this is to make our children and parents more aware of who the Governors are and what role they play in the running of the school. These individuals give freely of their time to not only attend regular meetings but also to acquire training in the necessary skills and I would like to take this opportunity to thank them for their commitment.

This detailed report is intended to give you an overview of the working of the school and how the Governors and others with responsibility for the school have carried out their duties.

Should you wish to have any additional information or clarification on any aspect of the report, I would be grateful if you would forward your request in writing to the school.

I commend the report to you for your consideration.

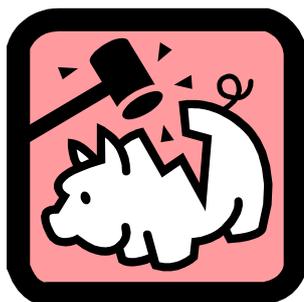
Yours faithfully
Mrs Karen Breslin
Chairperson



THE FINANCIAL REPORT

The Governors' Financial Plan based upon the school's budget allocation has been fully implemented and is presented in the Financial Report Detailed below.

| | | | |
|------------------------------|-----------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Savings/Deficit from 2013/14 | 18,608 | Teaching Staff | 310,764 |
| 2014-15 Budget Share | 392,055 | Auxiliary Staff | 35,159 |
| | | Ancillary Staff | 6,450 |
| Other Income | 12,053 | Fuel Oil | 4,660 |
| | | Electricity | 5,002 |
| | | Water | 930 |
| | | Toilet Requisites | 858 |
| | | Window Cleaning | 0 |
| | | Wheelie Bin Charge | 452 |
| | | Maintenance of Buildings | 85 |
| | | Maintenance of Grounds | 2,071 |
| | | Furniture/Fittings/Equipment | 0 |
| | | Maintenance of Furniture & Fittings | 234 |
| | | Equip Books & Practice Materials | 6,044 |
| | | Equipment | 110 |
| | | Protective Clothing | 53 |
| | | Licence Fees | 168 |
| | | Maintenance of Equipment | 621 |
| | | Professional Fees | 2,054 |
| | | Contractual Cleaning | 16,494 |
| | | Instrumental Tuition (Music) | 1,102 |
| | | School Swimming Program | 112 |
| | | Travel & Subsistence | 0 |
| | | Hire of Transport | 837 |
| | | Advertising | 488 |
| | | Printing & Stationery | 145 |
| | | Photocopying | 1,096 |
| | | Postage | 136 |
| | | Telephones | 1,029 |
| | | | |
| | | Rounding Adjustment | 1 |
| | | Savings C/F to 2014-2015 | 25,561 |
| | | | |
| TOTAL | £422,716 | TOTAL | £422,716 |
| | | | |



Financial Statement - 2014 to 2015



| Income | | Expenditure | |
|---------------|-------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| Description | Amount | Description | Amount |
| To Balance | 721.05 | Charity | 314.65 |
| Collections | 16,312.25 | Collections | 13,605.59 |
| Resources | 567.04 | Resources | 304.92 |
| PTFA | 2,070.00 | Sundries | 1,118.83 |
| Charity | 273.65 | Transport | 920.00 |
| Transport | 780.00 | LMS Budget | 1,650.00 |
| | | Petty Cash | 100.00 |
| | | Fees | 343.23 |
| | | By Balance | 2,366.77 |
| | | | |
| | £20,723.99 | | £20,723.99 |

PTFA Financial Statement – 2014 - 2015

| Income | £ | Expenditure | £ |
|------------------------------------|-----------------|--|-----------------|
| Opening Balance | 540.67 | Wedding Gift | 30.00 |
| Fireside Quiz | 672.10 | DW Print – 20 Year Banner & Bookmarks | 210.00 |
| Halloween Disco | 188.00 | Creative Writing – Liz Weir | 250.00 |
| Sale of T-Shirts, Pens & Bags | 51.00 | PTFA Insurance | 96.00 |
| Claudy Credit Union | 50.00 | P7 – Wacky Woodworks Loan | 200.00 |
| Christmas Fayre | 2280.00 | French Tuition | 1500.00 |
| 20 th Anniversary Dance | 883.80 | Read Write Spelling Programme | 720.00 |
| Yoghurt Pot Collection | 1040.00 | Accelerated Reading Programme | 1000.00 |
| P7 Loan Repayment | 200.00 | Charanga Music Resource | 170.00 |
| Copper Collection | 239.25 | Fun Night - Catering £600/Cumber House £50 less £200 donation/£295 donations on night | 155.00 |
| | | Spanish Tuition | 400.00 |
| | | USB's – P7 leavers presents | 298.00 |
| | | Balance | 1115.82 |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | £6144.82 | | £6144.82 |

Parents, Teachers and Friends Association Chairperson's Report (2014/2015)

Cumber Claudy P.T.F.A. had another extremely successful year in 2014/15. The committee have, as always, spent much time and energy planning and organising various events throughout the school year and the parents, teachers and friends of Cumber Claudy Primary School have continued to support all our efforts.

Fundraising began with a Fireside Quiz for both the children and the adults and this proved to be a very successful activity raising £672.10. The end of October brought the ever-popular Halloween disco. As always, the children pulled out all the stops with their fantastic costumes and they had a great evening with lots of scary dancing to great music and visual effects. Crisps and drinks were a well-deserved end of evening treat for the children. They always look forward to this event and start talking about it when they go back to school in September! Whilst the primary aim is to provide a fun-packed evening for our pupils we managed to raise £188!

December seemed to come around very quickly and with it came the Christmas Fayre. As always there was a great range of stalls and attractions including a Bottle Stall/Gift Stall, a Cake Stall, a Gardening Stall, the P.T.F.A. Stall, Name the Teddy and a Raffle. The children were delighted to meet not only Santa but Mrs Santa too! We were overwhelmed by the generous donations for the stalls from family, friends and staff and also the very kind contributions for the raffle from the local businesses. The refreshments served by the P.T.F.A. were much appreciated. This was a great family afternoon out and most importantly raised the fantastic sum of almost £2280 for school funds.

In February, family and friends donned their glad rags for our Valentine's Dance in the Beaufort Hotel. The evening was a great success and the final profit from the event was almost £900.

During the month of April, in keeping with the school's Healthy Eating Initiative, each child was given an Activia yoghurt pot. The children collected a huge number of 20p pieces in their pots amounting to almost £1040. Many thanks go to the Spar in Claudy for donating the yoghurt pots.

Throughout the school year pupils collected copper coins with foundation and KS1 pupils completing against KS2 pupils towards a prize of a non-uniform day. Money raised was £227.34 with the foundation and KS1 pupils winning in the end and subsequently given an opportunity to wear their own clothes for a day.

For the final event of the year, the P.T.F.A. organised a Fun Evening in Cumber Claudy Park to say thank you to everyone for their support throughout the year. This proved to be a very successful social event enjoyed by all.

The funds raised from the events throughout the year allowed the P.T.F.A. to supply the school with important resources throughout the school year. Monies raised contributed towards the Accelerated Reading Programme, funding for Spanish tuition, the Spelling Programme, funding for French tuition and the Charanga Music Programme. The school has a current 'wish list' and we are always guided by this. From time to time the P.T.F.A. does smaller things which you may not be aware of. For example we provide all children with refreshments at school sports day, we gifted small Easter eggs and large Easter eggs prizes for the Easter competition and we gave all P7 pupils 'Leavers Gifts'. None of this would be possible without our extremely hard-working members and I would like to take this opportunity to thank them for all their fantastic efforts. We would also like to thank you, the parents, family and friends, for your continued support with all our activities.

On behalf of the P.T.F.A., we would like to thank Mrs Maureen Smyth, our Principal, for her unfailing commitment to everything that we set out to achieve. Thanks also go to all the staff at Cumber Claudy who are always willing to help out and we are indebted to you all for backing us. It is great to see you at our events and I hope you will continue to support us. Our appreciation also goes to Ruth Connell for the administrative assistance she has provided throughout the year.

During these difficult times, the function of the P.T.F.A. is more important than ever. We are in a position to raise funds which can go towards providing our children with resources and tools to help enhance their learning experience. It used to be the case that the P.T.F.A. raised money which could go towards 'luxuries' for our children but, now, with ongoing government cuts the P.T.F.A. are funding in-school programmes previously afforded by the Board. We are always indebted to all members and to other parents and friends who help out when they can. If anyone feels they can offer assistance either as a committee member or a helper at events, please pass your details on to one of the committee members.

We look forward to your continued support during 2015/2016.

Karen Breslin
(Chairperson, Cumber Claudy P.T.F.A)



PRINCIPAL'S REPORT 2013/2014

STAFFING

Despite further budget cuts by the Department of Education, we were able to maintain the staffing compliment of seven teachers for yet another year. This was due to careful financial planning and the support of the whole school community, not least the PTFA. This meant that all available classroom space was utilised and Mrs Smyth continued her full-time commitment to school leadership as a non-teaching Principal.

Fortunately Mr Carlisle's position was secured for another year as a valued member of the KS2 staff with talents that he willingly shares through STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths), sports and music.

We were delighted to welcome Miss Lisa McCracken back in September as the new Mrs Campbell, following her wedding in August 2014.

The classes were made up as follows:-

| | | |
|---------------|-----------|------------|
| Mrs Smallwood | P1 | 29 pupils |
| Miss Funston | P2 | 21 pupils |
| Mrs Hume | P3 and P4 | 29 pupils |
| Mrs Todd | P4 and P5 | 23 pupils |
| Mr Carlisle | P6 | 15 pupils |
| Mrs Campbell | P7 | 22 pupils |
| | Total | 139 pupils |

Congratulations to Mr & Mrs Woods on the birth of their baby boy Zac in October. Mrs Donna Woods took extended maternity leave which meant that she was not working throughout the 2014/15 school year. Her leave of absence was covered by Ms Judith Keys.

Mrs Kay Brown's P1 classroom assistant post was filled by the appointment of Ms Helena Hamilton.

The induction of the two new classroom assistants was supported by all relevant staff members. This resulted in a very committed and hard-working group of classroom assistants who worked well together alongside teaching staff to support the learning and teaching of pupils in the Foundation Stage.

| | | |
|---------------|----|-------------------------|
| Ms H Hamilton | P1 | General |
| Ms I Riddles | P1 | Special Needs |
| Ms J Keys | P2 | General / Special Needs |

Following an extended period in a temporary capacity, Mrs Joanne O'Neill was appointed as cook. She was assisted by Mrs M Haslett and Mrs Carol McClelland. All three ladies continued to work co-operatively to make lunch times a pleasant experience for our pupils.

The Breakfast Club, as usual, increased in popularity as the year progressed.

Once again, The Primary 7 pupils planned their Leavers' Lunch with Mrs O'Neill. They designed invitations, prepared the menu, arranged flowers and set up the tables very tastefully, supported by Ms Judith Keys and Mrs L Campbell.

Parents who came along enjoyed time to relax over a delicious lunch with their child and some members of staff.

Mrs Margaret Robinson settled very quickly into her new role as building supervisor. Throughout the year she showed great enthusiasm and determination in tackling many tasks and new initiatives. She was ably supported in keeping school clean and tidy by Mrs Anne Newland.

Mrs Anne Newland joined the team of classroom assistants to support me on lunch time supervision.

Their diligence, care, patience and understanding created a safe environment for all our pupils, based on clear and consistent rules, good relationships and mutual respect,

Miss Ruth Connell embraced her new position as secretary with passion and enthusiasm, responding well to the many demands of a very busy office environment.

ATTENDANCE

The average attendance for the school year 2014/15 was 96.6%

Why Attendance at school is so important

Excellent attendance at school is important to allow a child or young person to fulfil their potential.

Every single day a child is absent from school equates to a day of lost learning.

| | | |
|-----------------|--|--------------|
| 100% Attendance | 0 Days Missed | Excellent |
| 95% Attendance | 9 Days of Absence (1 week and 4 Days of Learning Missed) | Satisfactory |
| 90% Attendance | 19 Days of Absence (3 weeks and 4 Days of Learning Missed) | Poor |
| 85% Attendance | 28 Days of Absence (5 weeks and 3 days of Learning Missed) | Very Poor |
| 80% Attendance | 38 Days of Absence (7 weeks and 3 days of Learning Missed) | Unacceptable |
| 75% Attendance | 46 Days of Absence (9 weeks and 1 Day of Learning Missed) | Unacceptable |

For some parents, 90% may seem like an acceptable level of attendance, but the reality is that 90% attendance means that your child will miss half a school day each week or 19 days of school during the school year – that’s nearly 4 school weeks.

Please give your child the best start in life – every school day counts!

For further information please see the leaflet “School Attendance Matters – A Parent’s Guide”. This has been produced by Department of Education (N.I.) and is available from the Parent’s Information corner (in the main entrance corridor).

CURRICULUM MATTERS

Statutory assessment results, at the end of each key stage, were as follows:-

| Cumber Claudy Primary School Key Stage 1 & 2 results 2014/2015 | | | |
|---|---------|-------------------|------|
| Key Stage 1 | English | Level 2 and above | 100% |
| | | Level 3 | 22% |
| | Maths | Level 2 and above | 100% |
| | | Level 3 | 22% |
| Key Stage 2 | English | Level 4 and above | 77% |
| | | Level 5 | 0 |
| | Maths | Level 4 and above | 82% |
| | | Level 5 | 18% |

PRSD – PROFESSIONAL REVIEW AND STAFF DEVELOPMENT

As in previous years staff were involved in setting targets, linked to the School Development Plan, which would contribute towards effective learning and teaching practices as well as their personal and professional development. I appreciate all their enthusiasm in identifying areas for development, their commitment to these new challenges and the positive impact this has had on the curriculum and attainment of pupils.

Staff took part in the following INSET courses to support Staff Development:-:

| | | |
|-----------|------------|---|
| Monday | 25/08/2014 | School Development Planning |
| Tuesday | 26/08/2014 | Data Analysis – Target Setting. Transition- information sharing |
| Wednesday | 27/08/2014 | “ASPIRE” Resource – staff development |
| Thursday | 28/08/2014 | Classroom preparation / curriculum planning |
| Wednesday | 29/10/2014 | Developing The World Around Us |
| Monday | 03/11/2014 | Monitoring & Evaluation in Numeracy |
| Friday | 13/02/2015 | Literacy – Reviewing the teaching of spelling |
| Monday | 16/03/2015 | The Complete Spelling Programme Training & Preparation for implementation |
| Monday | 04/05/2015 | SIMS Assessment Manager |
| Tuesday | 26/05/2015 | Assessment |

LITERACY

We are always seeking to improve standards in Literacy and therefore it continues to feature heavily in our School Development Plan.

- Spelling

There have been considerable changes made to the way in which we teach spelling this year as we trialled ‘The Complete Spelling Scheme’ in term 3. Emphasis is placed on daily spelling activities which are completed in Pupil Activity Books from Year 2 up. This scheme will replace our current Linguistic Phonics Spelling Scheme and it is hoped that pupils will become more confident and successful in their spelling, especially in independent writing activities.

- Tracking and Monitoring the Progress of Underachievers

Huge emphasis has been placed on the tracking and monitoring of pupil progress this year. In Foundation Stage, pupils’ *Speech, Language and Communication* is been assessed using the *WellComm Pack*. This identifies pupils with language deficits and offers ideas for supportive activities through small group work. The Reading Partnerships Programme continues to be an effective tool in improving the confidence of pupils who are underachieving in reading at Key Stage 1 and the Literacy Support Programme has supported a number of pupils on a 1:1 basis through targeted teaching strategies.

- Accelerated Reader

As we complete our second year using the Accelerated Reader Programme, it is clear that pupils’ enjoyment of reading is rising steadily. The use of rewards, prizes and certificates for pupils who are making good progress towards their targets have proved to be great incentives in raising levels of reading engagement. Our staff have become increasingly confident in using the programme as a means of tracking individual pupil’s progress in reading and setting targets for their pupils.

NUMERACY

On the week beginning 19th January, a Whole School Numeracy week was held, which involved classroom and outdoor investigations in measures. Our playground and outdoor areas were well used with a whole variety of Numeracy investigations being carried out every day, ranging from children in the Foundation Stage using Mobilo to find out who could make the longest ladder or build the tallest building, while children

in Primary 5 enjoyed measuring outdoors in centimetres, half meters and meters using a range of measuring instruments, such as rulers, tapes and trundle wheels. Primary 7 children enjoyed investigating measuring and drawing to scale.

ICT

As usual, ICT continues to flourish throughout the school. Training started for Mrs Hume in August, when she travelled to The Nerve Centre in Londonderry, to learn more about using Scratch. She has since shared some of this training with all teachers, and all classes from P3-P7 have been enjoying using this valuable programme. Using ICT Explore and Interactive Design and Managing Data were workshops attended by Mrs Hume in November. This led to all classes completing tasks in managing data.

As our school is involved in a pilot study, P4-P7 completed Computer Based Assessments in Literacy and Numeracy and Mrs Hume attended a follow up meeting on this in Belfast.

An internet awareness session was held for parents in February, with Mr Carlisle also teaching KS1 and KS2 children how to stay safe online.

All staff took part in Collaborate training in March, and using SIMS Assessment in June.

KS1 and KS2 children continued to complete ICT tasks and staff met regularly to discuss these tasks.

COMMUNITY RELATIONS, EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IN EDUCATION (CRED)

The CRED programme with St. Mary's Primary School was also another success this year. Primary 5 took part and it was very beneficial and enjoyable for all. The programme was called "Disabilities in Action" and both of the schools met up on a weekly basis.

In the children's own words, "*The CRED programme has been really fun and interesting and we have really enjoyed getting to know children from St. Mary's Altinure, exploring the five areas of disabilities and were amazed to discover that there was such a thing as an invisible disability that was not directly obvious to other people, such as diabetes, epilepsy and learning difficulties*".

The most enjoyable lesson was on how many famous people lived and made it famous despite their disability.

Back in our own school the children followed this lesson by researching famous people with disabilities and produced PowerPoint's on their chosen celebrity e.g. Ellie Simmonds suffers from dwarfism and David Beckham the famous footballer has dyslexia.

Mrs Todd really enjoyed teaching the CRED programme and the activities were very valuable and enjoyable for the children. Mrs Mary Redmond (P5 teacher at St. Mary's) monitored the impact of the programme and decided to incorporate issues such as:

- The Law and Disabilities
- Discrimination
- Inclusion

MUSIC

Mrs Campbell taught music to P7 and P5 pupils throughout the year.

Musical pathways was delivered to P1-6 pupils last year. The children all took part in a musical showcase event at the end of the year to show off all that they had learnt. This was a fantastic event which clearly showcased the benefits of the musical pathways programme and the progression from P1-7 was amazing

SPORTS

Primary 6 and Primary 7 pupils enjoyed a 20 week swimming programme in the Spring and Summer terms.

Mr Mike Carlisle and Mrs Margaret Robinson took the children through their paces during After School Football Coaching sessions throughout the year. The pupils really enjoyed a number of football matches against local schools, especially those that they won!

Both of these coaches accompanied a group of KS2 pupils during an action packed mini football tournament at Limavady High School in the summer term. The children performed well, behaved brilliantly and a good time was had by all.

MODERN LANGUAGES

- French

French lessons provided by Muriel D'Oria, and funded completely by PTFA, enriched the KS2 curriculum once again this year.

- Spanish

Michelle Días de la Riviera continued to support DENIs initiative to promote modern languages in primary schools. She spent two hours each week in Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1 classes, teaching Spanish through songs and games. Unfortunately the funding for this (by Department of Education N.I.) ceased very abruptly at the end of March 2015. We are indebted, once again to our PTFA who picked up the cost of this. Once again Miss Funston extended Spanish lessons to Key Stage 2 classes as a means of ensuring continuity and progression of the language throughout the school.

THE WORLD AROUND US/STEM

Staff have been very busy this year, with all staff having training on thematic planning, facilitated by Mrs Anne McErlane. Mrs Campbell and Mrs Todd also had Forest Schools training, facilitated by Mr Brian Poots. This brings the total amount of teachers trained to facilitate Forest Schools lessons, to 4. Opal science training was offered to all staff and Mrs Smallwood, Mrs Hume, Mrs Campbell and Mrs Todd were available to avail of this, which was completed over a number of afternoons.

Children have also been busy this year, with a number of visitors and visits to enrich their WAU learning. In October, FS and KS1 visited Tesco's for their Farm to Fork day.

In November, KS2 children were delighted to take part in an assembly for Remembrance Day, followed by a visit from a Chelsea Pensioner. P5 and P6 travelled to Brackfield Woods in November for a Woodland Discovery Day.

Our school was very lucky to be chosen to launch the RSPB Big Bird Watch in January, with Mrs Karen Shiels teaching KS1 children how to identify the different birds. Mayor Brenda Stevenson was also in attendance.

Culture Quarter visited the school with workshops on Feasts and Festivals (P1) and Bridges (P2-P4).

Once again, Mr Carlisle travelled with 3 children who represented our school in the WELB/Sentinus challenge.

A very successful Science week culminated with a visit by Learn Differently. They entertained the children with 2 shows: Circus Science for FS and KS1 and Move it for KS2.

P5 were invited to Limavady High School to participate in a variety of STEM activities.

Finally, Mr Carlisle took 2 teams to the Sentinus Construction Challenge in St Cecelia's College. From this, 2 of our children were asked to represent the region at the national challenge in the Ulster University, Jordanstown

SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS

Mrs J Todd Special Educational Needs co-ordinator (SENCO) continued to update records and support the relevant teachers in Special Needs matters throughout the school. She attended relevant training courses and liaised frequently with peripatetic Learning Support teachers, the Educational Psychologist and other professionals, including the Principal. The year 2014/2015 has been a very busy year for Special Educational Needs with a total of thirteen referrals being made; ensuring that those children in Cumber Claudy who present with special educational needs are clearly identified and intervention programmes are set in place to help them access the Northern Ireland Curriculum.

The school year began with the identification of any children who may fall into the category of having educational needs in either Literacy or Numeracy, who would require additional support.

SEN children transferring to secondary education are guided and supported through a transition programme which involves additional visits to their transferring school where they meet pupils, teachers and experience new routines in their future school, making the whole process much less stressful. Mrs Todd and the P7 teacher Mrs Campbell met with external agencies involved with these children to ensure any specific needs would be considered and in place for them on their transfer.

Throughout the school year Mrs Todd, along with class teachers met and discussed SEN pupils with various professionals associated with these children to ensure that the SEN children at Cumber Claudy receive the best possible education that can be provided.

PRE-SCHOOL INDUCTION PROGRAMME

The induction programme for the pre-school children was developed and extended this year to ensure that all children had smooth transition into Primary 1. Mrs Smallwood visited the play groups and met the children before the four week school programme began. On the first visit to school two, 18 children attended with their parents for a "Stay and Play" session. This was followed up with an additional three sessions for a healthy intake of 18 newcomers who made friends and enjoyed a lot of fun and practical activities while the parents/carers attended the following information sessions:

- "The Importance of Reading" and Big Books, Josie Cusack (Librarian)
- The N I Curriculum in Foundation Stage, Mrs Smyth
- Admin procedures/daily routine etc., Ruth Connell
- Developing your child's Speech and Language, Mrs Smyth
- The role of the PTFA, Mrs Karen Breslin

When the school sessions were completed the parents were invited to for an interview to talk about how their child presented at home. Mrs Smallwood then visited each of the Nurseries and Playgroups and discussed how each child had progressed in their pre-school year. It is hoped that this will enable the staff to quickly become familiar with each child, to extend and support their learning.

TRANSFER

Twenty-two Primary 7 pupils transferred to the following post-primary schools:

- 7 – Foyle College
- 6 – Limavady Grammar School
- 8 – Limavady High School
- 1 – St Patrick's & St Brigid's College

KS1 AND KS2 CHOIRS

Class teachers worked with the FS/KS1 choir in preparation for the Junior Christmas Pantomime whilst Miss McCracken supported the KS2 choir during a very busy year.

Cumber Claudy P.S senior choir have enjoyed another very eventful year. They got off to a great start singing at our annual harvest assembly in October and a lot of the children were given the opportunity to sing in small solo groups which enabled them to develop their confidence.

The senior choir also enjoyed a very busy lead up to Christmas this year as they were invited to sing in the Waterside Theatre to raise money for CAUSE which supports people with mental illnesses. They sang 'I Just Can't Wait to be King' from the musical, 'The Lion King' and also 'Hope of Heaven', which was one of their personal favourites from our own Christmas repertoire. As well as this, they sang at Foyleside shopping centre, Alla Luncheon Club and also at our annual Coffee and Carols morning. All of the events were very enjoyable for the choir and Mrs Campbell!

FS1/KS1 CHRISTMAS SHOW

All the pupils in the Foundation Stage treated a very encouraging audience to "Shepherd's Delight", a delightful story based on the nativity. The naughty sheep kept wandering off but Mary, Joseph and the Three Wise Men put them back on the right track!

KS1 children performed 'The Night Before Christmas' in front of a packed audience. The show followed the story of the traditional poem, interspersed with songs, dancing and drama, all of which made for a lively production.

CLASS OUTINGS

Educational trips were organised for the following classes in the summer term. These provided the pupils with interactive learning experiences in a relaxed educational setting and also supported various areas of the curriculum.

- P6 & P7 Waterside Theatre – Ministry of Science – Sept 19th
- P5 & P6 Roe Valley Country Park – Environmental Walk – Oct 3rd
- P3/4 Tesco – Farm to Fork – Oct 16th
- P2/3 Tesco – Farm to Fork – Oct 21st
- P1 Tesco – Farm to Fork – Oct 23rd
- P5 & P6 Woodland Discovery at Brackfield Woods – Nov 11th
- P7 Pushkin at Baronscourt Apr 21st
- P5 STEM – Limavady High School – Apr 23rd
- P's 5, 6 & 7 Author Visit – Colin Bateman at St. Mary's PS – May 5th
- P's 3, 4 & 5 Waterside Theatre – The Adventures of Robin Hood – May 13th
- P1 & P2 Magilligan, Greencastle & Shrove Beach – June 3rd
- P6 & P7 Carrickatane Wind Farm – June 16th
- P5 & P6 STEM – Limavady High School - June 25th

RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL TRIP TO YORK

The Primary 6 & 7 pupils enjoyed an extra-long Easter Break this year as they set off on a residential school trip to York on the first week of the summer term. After two long bus trips, a ferry crossing, with a few snack breaks along the way, and a very interesting and adventurous stop at Mother Shipton's Cave, they finally made it to York and checked into the Wheatland's Lodge Hotel. Everyone was very excited and we spent our first evening at the park which was only a five minute walk from the hotel.

On the second day we went to see York's Chocolate Story where we got to taste different types of chocolate and also got to make our own chocolate lollies. Then we went to The Shambles which is a lovely

little cobbled street with lots of gift shops! That's where we did most of our shopping. It was Mrs Smyth's favourite part of the trip! Later that night we went Ten Pin Bowling.

The third day began with a trip to Flamingo Land and some really cool rides. That evening was a scary one as we were given a ghost tour around York! On the fourth and final day we went to Eden Camp, which is a WW2 museum before making our way back to the boat to go home.

It was an action packed trip and everyone had a great time!

AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS

Once again teachers and classroom assistants agreed to organise a variety of after school activities in consultation with the pupils from P4 to P7. These were run from 3pm to 4pm on Monday and Thursday afternoons without any additional funding e.g. Extended Schools

- Gardening
 - Homework Club
- | | |
|---------|-------------|
| ICT | Spanish |
| Cookery | Art & Craft |

As in previous years netball and football were offered on Tue and Wed afternoons to pupils from Primary 4 to Primary 7.

We are once again grateful to the parents for arranging transport for the pupils as there are no school buses at this time.

CHARITY FUNDRAISERS

MacMillan Cancer Fund received £310 following our Harvest Thanksgiving, NSPCC were sent a cheque to the value of £214.65 from donations received at Coffee and Carols which co-incided with Bobble Hat/Christmas Jumper Day.

PTFA

Our very dedicated and hard-working PTFA met frequently throughout the year. Once again they put great effort and enthusiasm into organising a number of fund raising events and fun activities for all ages. As usual the money raised, in total around £5400, was used to supplement the school budget and to enrich the curriculum by providing additional educational resources for the pupils. I wish to extend my sincere thanks to each PTFA member for their enthusiasm and support and for giving of their time and energy so willingly to make such a worthwhile commitment to Cumber Claudy Primary School.

HOME/SCHOOL LINKS

Parents are always welcome in school and they are greatly valued as primary educators in their children's lives. For this reason I would encourage parents to become actively involved in the life of the school and invite them to join the PTFA and/or the ranks of our volunteers who accompany classes on school outings, sew costumes for shows, paint scenery, face paint, provide educational talks/presentations etc.

A small band of very enthusiastic parents volunteered as Literacy helpers. They each gave up one morning a week to assist the teacher with Literacy activities within the classroom. This allowed for more effective development of guided reading practices.

Parent Appointments were scheduled for November 2014 and March 2015. These provided opportunities for parents and teachers to meet to discuss pupils' progress and hopefully establish relationships that would best support the child.

The following information sessions were organised to inform parents of new initiatives/approaches and familiarise them with curriculum content:-

PRINCIPAL'S REMARKS

"A positive parent-teacher relationship helps your child feel good about school and be successful in school," advises Diane Levin. Ph.D. (Professor of education). "It demonstrates to your child that he can trust his teacher, because you do. This positive relationship makes a child feel like the important people in his life are working together."

At Cumber Claudy Primary School a team of hard working teachers and classroom assistants are greatly supported and encouraged by the trust, co-operation and involvement of many of our parents in their child/ren's education.

I am privileged to work in such a busy, child-centred environment where so many adults work together as a team to support our most precious assets; the pupils!

Maureen Smyth

Whose Child Is This?

"Whose child is this?" I asked one day
Seeing a little one out at play
"Mine", said the parent with a tender smile
"Mine to keep a little while
To bathe his hands and comb his hair
To tell him what he is to wear
To prepare him that he may always be good
And each day do the things he should"

"Whose child is this?" I asked again
As the door opened and someone came in
"Mine", said the teacher with the same tender smile
"Mine, to keep just for a little while
To teach him how to be gentle and kind
To train and direct his dear little mind
To help him live by every rule
And get the best he can from school"

"Whose child is this?" I ask once more
Just as the little one entered the door
"Ours" said the parent and the teacher as they smiled
And each took the hand of the little child
"Ours to love and train together
Ours this blessed task forever."

~Author Unknown~