

Village Treasure Hunt with Newtonmore Gaelic Nursery



During the second lockdown, staff at Newtonmore Gaelic Nursery wanted to make things a little more interactive for the children and their families. So they introduced a village treasure hunt for their children and invited them to take part. Lindi Binnie and Lesley Gorman involved a loop of Newtonmore in their treasure hunts, visiting places they had been previously with the children. This familiarity helped support their awareness of place and their confidence.. And of course, what is a treasure hunt without some treasure at the end?

This lockdown felt tough. We were back to home learning with some parents having nursery, primary and high school children to support as well as babies at home. Coping with and managing all of this was challenging . In planning our treasure hunt it was important to us that parents didn't feel pressured at all to take part but also supported should they decide to be involved. We stuck with our pre-recorded videos of stories and activities as they worked well for us last time and families could dip in and out, watching the videos as many times as they liked at their own leisure. Therefore promoting the Gaelic language with repetition and hearing the spoken word.

We decided on a village treasure hunt as like most people, the families enjoyed a walk as part of their daily exercise. A little break from home learning on screens to home learning outdoors.. Health and Wellbeing is one of the key areas of the curriculum. Getting outside and seeing the world around them whilst keeping active and healthy is something all children enjoy and benefit from. Adding in some Gaelic vocabulary for both parents and families proved very successful.

10 posters were placed around the village and a map sent out to parents. Posters contained numbers 1-10, a colour, and a picture of an item. For example, Number 1. A red jacket.

The Gaelic phonetics were also written to help parents with the pronunciations of the words.



Some children walked, cycled and scooted their way around the village. Stopping to take a look at the animals they met along the way. A compass was handy



just in case it was needed. Thankfully, Miss Binnie's map was accurate, but it is always good to be prepared.



The participation and feedback from parents was outstanding and greatly appreciated by the staff. Every child and their family took part sending pictures and videos of what they saw along the way. We found the engagement so amazing that we did another treasure hunt to celebrate the end of home learning and our return to Nursery. This also meant that our two new 3 year olds could be more involved in the nursery and see what the other children had been up to.

The children still comment on the treasure hunt and that the treasure was 'at Miss Binnie's and she didn't know.'

Children proudly showing off their treasure which also contained a certificate of participation



Feedback from parents included:

- 'Thank you so much for this. Lovely idea'
- 'Thank you for our treasure'
- 'Great fun. Thanks'
- 'Thank you so much. Kids loved it'
- 'I really enjoyed the treasure hunt'
- 'Kids saw the poster at the park and got excited'
- 'Lots of excitement here too'



