

# Clyde in the Classroom Newsletter 2023

## HELLO!

We are delighted to report that over 2800 pupils from 92 schools successfully completed Clyde in the Classroom in our 23rd year of running the project. Schools spanning all eight counties participated in this stewardship-building project between January and March 2023. To date, over 40,000 pupils have been inspired to become budding scientists!

Dr William Yeomans, Catchment Manager at the **Clyde River Foundation** said "The project had such a high uptake that it created two extra jobs in order to deliver it successfully! The Foundation and its partners overcame the challenge of increased costs to bring brown trout into 112 classrooms. We are particularly grateful to Crown Estate Scotland for financial support."



**St John's Primary School pupils egg-cited to see their Brown trout eggs up close for the first time!**

**A big thank you to everyone who took part - we hope you enjoy some highlights from 2023!**

## THE JOURNEY BEGINS...

In January, pupils met the Clyde River Foundation scientists at the **Glasgow Science Centre** for an in-person introduction to the project.

They were introduced to their soon-to-be classmate, the brown trout and its fascinating life cycle.

They learned about the ecology of the River Clyde and how to look after their brown trout hatchery. They also had the opportunity to explore the Science Mall!



## TEACHERS' VIEWS

*"It was great to be able to explore the lifecycle of a fish as our own were growing right in front of us. The trout also were a great context for teaching the pupils about the negative impacts that humans can have on animals and their habitats. The school has done lots of work on COP 26 and 27 however it was really good to be able to refer to something specific and relevant to the children. They knew exactly why they were carrying out this project and why it is so important."* Garnetbank Primary School

*"Looking after the trout eggs taught the children a lot about responsibility, being caring and nurturing. Releasing the young trout was a day of mixed emotions. The pupils were so delighted that their care and attention had resulted in so many surviving for release but also sad to see them go as they enjoyed looking after them."* Holy Family Primary School

*"All pupils were very clear from the introduction at the Science Centre what the topic was and their role in it. Some pupils who can struggle to focus in class settings really enjoyed the responsibility and were very clear at what they needed to do."* St Columba's Primary School

*"I think Covid has taken a lot of confidence and responsibility from the children. This project allowed the children to step into a leading role by being responsible for the hatchery's daily chores. All children did this willingly and without any incident. The children were able to immerse themselves in many areas of the curriculum. Graphs, information gathering, science logbooks, fish anatomy etc. This topic could move into the history of the Clyde and more. It is a fantastic topic that could easily last more than a term."* Carnbroe Primary School



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





## EGGS-PRESS DELIVERY

After a trial of practising with a fish-free hatchery, it was time for the eggs!

They made their journey from Ae Fishery in Dumfries to schools in January. Each class received 200 brown trout eggs to care for in their hatcheries.



^^  
So-fish-ticated  
Westfield Primary P6  
egg-static to receive  
their eggs!



## ENTRUSTED WITH TROUT

Pupils were responsible for ensuring the conditions in the hatchery mimicked those of a healthy Scottish river while the fish developed in their artificial redd.

Just like in the wild, the water had to be **cool, clean** and **running**. From temperature control to removal of dead eggs, pupils worked round the clock to care for their fishy classmates.



<— Pupils from  
Kilpatrick School  
were super-  
dedicated to  
nurturing their baby  
Brown trout.



Aitkenhead ->  
Primary 6 ensure  
their hatchery is  
very well cared for.



We were very impressed to see such amazing dedication from this year's trout guardians! Pupils learnt about environmental issues and how they can be Future Stewards for their local rivers and surrounding areas.

To celebrate the Foundation's recent involvement in COP26, which highlighted the need for **COLD, CLEAN WATER** to conserve our native fish communities, we invited all classes to create a film to tell others why this is important for trout and salmon in the Clyde. We were overwhelmed by the high quality entries that we received - a huge well done to everyone who entered!

## MARVELLOUS MOVIE MAKERS

This year's winners were **Noble Primary**. You can view their winning video and other entries on our website. They won a "Meet Your River" day for their class - the pupils had the opportunity to meet other species of fish in the North Calder Water. They also had the chance to take a kick-sample of invertebrates from the river, map the site and identify the trees. Back at school their classroom was transformed into a laboratory and by the end of the day they were able to tell at first hand how healthy their local river was. Congratulations!



Pupils enjoying their prize investigating the health of their local river



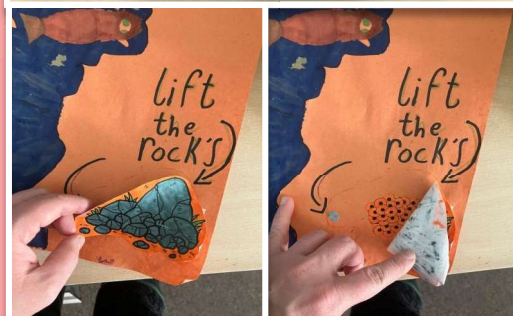
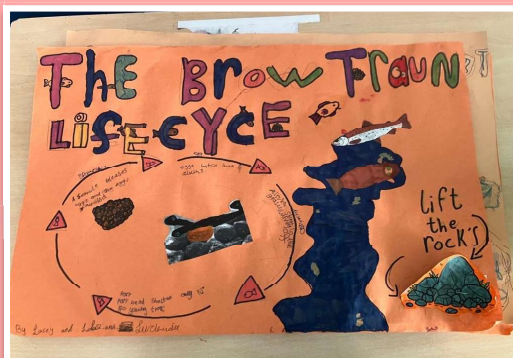


## CREATIVE FLOW

We're proud that **Clyde in the Classroom** inspires great interest and creativity in many other areas of the curriculum! Not just the science...



**P1 at St Denis' took the opportunity to create some stunning landscapes inspired by the River Clyde as well interviewing for the next generation of biologists!**



**Noble primary's Burns - inspired trout poem!**

### The Wee Broon Troot

Am jist a wee broon troot  
Swimmin in yon River Clyde.  
Am lukin fur beasties fur ma  
dinner.  
Hiding under a muckle stane  
Keepin oot the wye o' they otters.  
Swimmin doon the watter  
Wae wan een open  
In case am swallyed by a mink or  
burd.  
Headin tae the sea afore nicht.

**St Cuthberts (amongst many others) got arty too! What a fin-tastic graphic**

I'm a little brown trout in the River Clyde  
Crookfur raised me.  
Do you wanna know what Crookfur did for me?  
Do you wanna know what happened  
throughout the weeks?  
They had to give me cold, clean water  
And stop it getting any hotter  
And with a bubble, a pop, a swish and a  
squirm.... I was a fry! That's me!  
I'm a little brown trout in the River Clyde  
Crookfur raised me.

**Mr Atkinson and his P5s at Crookfur Primary School**

**Kirklandpark at their release day showing off some br-eel-iant home made T-shirts!**



**Ardgowan Primary making waves in the press!**

## FRY FREEDOM

After preparing their trout for life in the wild, the children were excited to introduce the fry to their natural habitat!



By early spring the fish were ready to leave the classroom. The children took their brown trout fry to their local tributary of the River Clyde by foot, bus or underground train to set them free. Pupils were very proud to release their fish and keen to take better care of our rivers, especially if we spotted any litter at the river. It was great to inspire our next generation of Future Stewards!



## HOW DID WE SCORE?

This a summary of the Clyde in the Classroom 2023 teacher feedback

We review your comments and scores every year to enhance the project experience.

If you have any learning/teaching activities that may benefit future participants, please let us know!

Thanks to all who contributed!



REPORT CARD	
PROJECT SUMMARY DOCUMENT	4.7
LECTURE ON RIVER CLYDE	4.7
HATCHERY DEMONSTRATION	4.8
VISIT TO THE SCIENCE MALL	4.7
LAUNCH DAY OVERALL	4.7
TEACHING MATERIALS	4.7
SUPPORT FROM WEEKLY VISITING SCIENTIST	4.9
PROJECT SUPPORT AND EMERGENCY RESPONSE	4.9
RELEASE DAY	4.9
PROJECT OVERALL	4.9

## PUPIL FEEDBACK

"We felt a sense of pride releasing the trout. We were sad to see the fish go." Sandaig Primary P5s

"I really enjoyed taking care of the brown trout. It was really good fun trying to recreate their habitat and it was lovely to see them survive and grow as the project went on" Mila P5B Holy Family Primary School

"I think the job of being a marine biologist looks like fun" Torrance Primary P5s

"I really enjoyed learning all about Brown Trout. My papa is very impressed with what I know." St Aiden's P5/6s

"This is the best topic that I have ever done in school. I hope we get the opportunity to do it again." Carnbroe Primary P6s

"I liked the science bit where we got to learn new stuff. I liked the way they told us how the fish survive." Bargeddie P5/6s

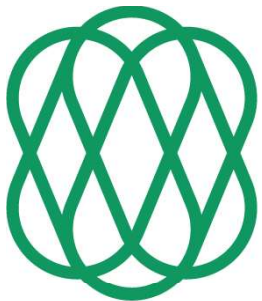


## THANK YOU!

The Clyde River Foundation would like to extend a huge thank you to all of our participating schools and project supporters for making Clyde in the Classroom 2023 possible.

We are grateful to the main Clyde in the Classroom 2023 sponsor - **Crown Estate Scotland** - plus the following project supporters:

The Paterson Family



**Crown Estate Scotland**

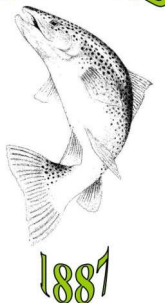
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Contact the Clyde River Foundation (Scottish Charity No. SC029602):

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