

Hopeman Primary School visit 26th October 2005



Hopeman West Beach 16 September 2005

This is the first class (P4/5) at the school to undertake a project based on cleaning the beach and they hope to now influence the rest of the school by setting an example through their Eco-schools and Adopt-a-beach work.

What do you remember about the day you cleaned up your beach?

16 September 2005

- Collecting LOTS of metal
- Seeing the mink - discussed whether this was a good thing or not. Good to see wildlife, mink can eat birds' eggs
- Having a good time

What rubbish did you find? (Recorded on large sheets of paper by the children - in groups of 4-6 - either as words or pictures)

They seemed to remember very accurately the different things they found and the class teacher had kept a record of the quantities. The outstanding findings had been the large number of pieces of broken old metal, pieces of glass (mostly well-rounded) and the one-offs such as a shot gun cartridge, plastic bottle top and baby wipes.

Where do you think the rubbish had come from? (Recorded on large sheets of paper by the children - in groups of 4-6 - either as words or pictures and then presented by the group to the rest of the class).

For this they focused on **METAL, POLYTHENE BAGS, GLASS AND CRISP BAGS.**

All sorts of weird and wacky suggestions made as to how the rubbish found its way on to their beach - including the Inverness to Oban ferry (this led to a quick geography lesson!).

Supermarkets were named and shamed but it was pointed out that there had to be a link between the shop and the beach. The links suggested were the wind and people - the children even confessed they might be a source of the rubbish! This led to a discussion as to how they might help and even influence a reduction the number of bags/rubbish reaching the beach. This focused on suggesting that shops give out fewer, charge for bags, shoppers could take old bags/cloth bags or even old cardboard boxes - it appeared that many of these ideas were new to many of the children. So a bit more work needed here on the recycling theme.

As far as the source of the metal - well again some interesting theories including exploding sewers! But this child did have a point as sewers do corrode and the metal has to come out somewhere. It

was agreed most of the metal they found probably came from the adjacent harbour either by sea or had been dumped on the shoreline.

There was much more we could have covered and other questions covered very briefly included:

Where had the rubbish they collected now gone to?

Had anyone cleaned the beach since they had?

What might have happened if they hadn't cleared the beach when they did?

How can they confirm that they would like to Adopt the Beach through the Marine Conservation Society?

All the children were given Beach Guardians tee-shirts.

Toni Clark 27.10.05