



## **HT report for Parent Council AGM 8<sup>th</sup> September 2021**

### **Impact of COVID 19**

The impact of Covid 19 has been significant in all aspects of school life. Last year children were allocated bubble groupings and have worked and played within those for the year. Many aspects of 'normal' school life were or have been put on hold until restrictions lift and we have focussed on three key areas for learning: Literacy, Numeracy and Health and Wellbeing. The school was closed from the 6th of January 2021 for a period of time due to the increased transmission of the virus. During this time learning for the pupils took place at home with lessons provided by staff and our Early Childhood Practitioners. Engagement with home learning was high with most learning taking place on Microsoft Teams and Seesaw. Live lessons and check-ins were provided on a regular basis. Our in-school hub also supported a number of key worker children and vulnerable children.

### **Attainment**

All pupils have made good progress from their prior levels. Most pupils in Primary 1, Primary 4 and Primary 7 have attained in line with or ahead of National Expectations in Numeracy and Literacy. Across all stages there are many children on track to achieve an appropriate level in their learning earlier than national expectations would indicate. Attainment across the school is very good.

### **Attendance**

Regular attendance and good timekeeping are priorities in our school. We have a good attendance rate but there is room for improvement. During the 2020/21 session the attendance rate was 94%.

### **Achievement**

It has been a challenge this session to provide the usual opportunities which enhance school life that we would normally offer. Extra-curricular clubs have been unable to run and visitors, trips and volunteers have been restricted. Where possible we have tried to adapt and be creative in the offer for our children. Our strategies to promote wellbeing, equality and inclusion are very good.

- Our P7s enjoyed a number of outdoor trips including adventure day at Lendrick Muir
- All learners had opportunities to contribute to virtual assemblies where we celebrated wider achievements
- All learners have participated in the Scottish Book Trust Reading Schools Accreditation pilot and there has been a strong emphasis on reading for enjoyment.
- Learners have had opportunities to take part in regional and national events eg. Euroquiz, writing competitions, Maths and digital technology events
- Child's Plan meetings and Parent Contact sessions have been held virtually or by phone with improved attendance from agencies.
- This term (Aug- Oct 2021) we have been the first school in the cluster to start lunch and after-school clubs with Live Active – cricket, netball and, coming soon, football.

## **Learning**

The period of lockdown has necessitated an increased expectation of staff and pupils' skills utilising digital technologies. Staff very quickly adapted to teaching using Microsoft Teams and Seesaw. Children have demonstrated a range of skills using digital platforms to include Powerpoints, Sway, Microsoft Forms, Jamboard, Adobe Spark and video software. These enhanced digital skills continue to be used in class.

In P1-3 we have continued a strong focus on learning through play this year with adaptations for covid risk assessments. This continues to have a positive impact on health and wellbeing, is responsive to learners' interests and leads to high levels of engagement.

This year we have continued to embed our new Vision and Values. This has been done through mascots, virtual assemblies, rewards and displays. We have also had a successful whole school focus on developing Growth Mindsets.

We have continued to develop outdoor learning across the curriculum. Our school grounds are more regularly used both for learning and play. We have also strengthened our links with Penney's Woods and the Scout Camp. Many of our P4-7

learners have successfully achieved their John Muir Discovery Award with projects completed both during remote and in school learning.

This term we are having a whole school learning focus on Climate Change in the lead up to COP26 which provides a highly relevant and current learning context. P6/7 are about to start the climate Ready Classroom Project linking with our Chinese partner school over the next few weeks. This will be supported by Keep Scotland Beautiful, our Mandarin Teacher, and CISS.

### **Leadership Roles**

Now that restrictions are being eased, the pupil leaders in the school will once again be able to work with other classes (as opposed to leading virtually). We have appointed new Head Boys and Girls, House Captains and Buddies from P6/7. Other leadership roles across the school will include Reading Ambassadors and Learning Council representatives from all classes.

### **Parents**

We have been unable to welcome the usual wide range of parent and community visitors and helpers this year but we have still appreciated a great deal of virtual support from our community.

Both the PTA and Parent Council have been very supportive. We need to encourage membership of both groups for the year ahead.

### **Improvement Priorities for 2021-22**

- To strengthen positive relationships and behaviour throughout the school community with a focus on Children's Voice, rights and wellbeing
- To improve levels of attainment and achievement in writing through high quality learning, teaching and assessment.
- To further develop a play-based approach to learning.