Head Teacher's Report to Bowmore Primary Parent Council AGM 3/11/25

It has been another busy and successful year at Bowmore Primary, and I'd like to begin by thanking our Parent Council for your continued support and encouragement. Together, we are ensuring Bowmore remains a nurturing, inclusive and ambitious school where every child can learn, grow and achieve.

Our Vision and Direction

Our improvement work this year has continued to be shaped by our shared vision of Aspire to Succeed. Through our School Improvement Plan, we've focused on five key areas: Pedagogy, Attainment, Curriculum, Ethos, not precluding Gaelic Medium Education, . Across all of these priorities, our goal has been to strengthen high-quality learning and teaching, support wellbeing and inclusion, and ensure every child experiences success.

Progress and Achievements

Pedagogy

We have continued to develop consistent, high-quality teaching and learning across the school. Teachers have engaged in Power Up Your Pedagogy professional reading and reflection, focusing on feedback, questioning, and learner engagement. Peer observations and spotlight assessments have helped staff share good practice and refine approaches, while pupil learning conversations have strengthened children's ability to talk about their own learning and next steps.

Attainment

Our focus on spelling and numeracy has had a positive impact. In literacy, Nelson Spelling has been successfully implemented across P3–7, alongside a structured phonics programme in P1/2. Early data shows improved confidence and accuracy in spelling and writing. In numeracy, teachers have used Counting on Excellence, Number Talks and NRICH to deepen reasoning and problem-solving. Peer moderation and data discussions have supported consistency and raised expectations for progress.

Curriculum

We have prioritised STEM interdisciplinary learning, cross-cutting themes, and outdoor learning. Every class has planned and delivered at least one outdoor IDL experience, with strong pupil engagement and enthusiasm. Science has been taught every term, ensuring progression and breadth, and we have begun mapping our long-term plans to strengthen relevance and context across learning.

Ethos and Wellbeing

We have focused strongly on relationships, inclusion, and digital wellbeing. Our journey towards the OCTNE Gold Award is well underway, with pupil groups taking an active role in promoting outdoor learning and community connection. We have worked to ensure a consistent behaviour and relationships approach across the school and have embedded digital wellbeing through staff training, pupil-led Seesaw workshops, and parent engagement sessions. Pupil Equity Funding has continued to support nurture, equity of access, and healthy eating initiatives.

Bowmore Distillery now funding free fruit

Bright Sparks funding for breakfast club .

Gaelic Medium Education

Our Gaelic Medium provision continues to strengthen. We have audited and aligned planning with the Freum Chànain framework, introduced new tracking formats, and started moderation of learning. Child-friendly versions of the framework strands are being developed, helping pupils take greater ownership of their language learning and progress.

Wider Achievements

This has been a vibrant year for wider achievement and pupil voice. Our pupils have represented the school brilliantly in community and STEM events, sports competitions, and creative projects. The Eco Committee have led environmental initiatives, and pupil leadership groups have played an active role in school improvement. These experiences help build confidence, teamwork and a sense of pride in our school and community.

Partnership and Community

Our partnerships remain at the heart of what we do. We are grateful to the Parent Council and all parents for your support, whether through fundraising, volunteering, or sharing ideas that help us improve. We also value our links with local organisations and the wider Islay community, who contribute so much to enriching our pupils' learning experiences.

Looking Ahead

Next session, we will continue to embed our refreshed curriculum, ensuring rich, relevant learning experiences. We will further strengthen consistency in relationships and behaviour, continue our journey towards OCTNE Gold, and develop our Gaelic Medium practice through moderation and tracking. Our focus remains on delivering high-quality teaching, improving attainment, and ensuring every child feels valued and supported to achieve their very best.

Self-Evaluation is a priority and this has already started

School Review is planned for the 21st -23rd April 2026.