

**Alva Primary School  
and  
Nursery Class**



**Standards and  
Quality Report  
2017-2018**

Dear Parent/Carer,

I am delighted to provide you with Alva Primary School and Nursery Class Standards and Quality Report for the 2017-2018 session. It has been a hardworking and productive year for our school community; a year of changes and a year of successes. In this report I have highlighted our strengths and shared our priorities for the coming session.

This year saw a very positive Care Inspectorate Report for the nursery and the nursery garden being developed. Our ASD Provision pupils have benefitted from Music Therapy, visits to the farm and trips to the Safari Park linking in with Stirling University.

Our staff are engaging with Benchmarks in order to support Teacher Professional Judgement of achievement of a level and significant work has been done on designing and delivering our curriculum.

Our staff are committed to further study (CLPL) and we have a number of staff engaging in Masters level studies. We also successfully appointed a new Principal Teacher who will join our team in August 2018.

Below you will see our vision and values. As you will be aware, we completed a consultation on these this year, as well as launching our new curriculum rationale.

### **Vision and Values**

Pupils, staff and families within the community of Alva Primary and Nursery strive to ensure pupils, staff & families feel safe, valued and included by:

- Being kind and respectful
- Developing resilience and mindfulness
- Having self-belief and giving their best
- Aiming high and challenging themselves

Thank you for your continued support.

Mrs Rice

Acting Headteacher.

## Improvement in attainment, particularly in literacy and numeracy

- **Curriculum Rationale**

This session we developed our Curriculum Rationale ensuring our curriculum reflects our local context and takes into account the views of our pupil, staff and families. Your input into our rationale has been invaluable. Our Curriculum Rationale has been designed to ensure our children will be fully equipped with the skills they will require for life, learning and work. Our rationale is available on Twitter as a 'Sway'.

- **Curriculum Pathways**

Our Curriculum has also been developed this year and we now have progressive and coherent Curriculum Pathways providing our children with a broad range of experiences. Our Interdisciplinary Learning contexts now take into account Sustainability goals and Developing Young Workforce skills. Pupil voice is much more prominent in learning and also takes account of our local area.

- **Learning and Teaching**

A focus on sharing Learning Intentions and Success Criteria with learners has allowed our children to have more ownership of their learning. 'Assessment is for Learning' strategies are evident throughout the school and our children are more able to self-assess their learning against the set criteria. Pupil levels of attainment in Literacy and Numeracy are tracked nationally at primaries 1, 4 & 7. This session we are delighted to report the following increases.

Numeracy: -	P.1	9%	P.4	20%	P.7	13%
Literacy: -	P.1	4%	P.4	23%	P.7	55%

The children have engaged in a wide range of rich learning experiences. Examples are:

- Scottish Book Week
- Enterprise activities
- Health Focus Week
- Sign 2 Sing
- Dalguise
- Nativity (P1 – P3)
- Christmas Concerts.



Throughout this session we have purchased a wide variety of new resources to support our curriculum, such as:

- Word Smith (online reading resource to support reading comprehension skills)
- Nelson Handwriting and Spelling
- Ginn Grammar
- TeeJay Maths
- A range of practical materials to support the teaching of numeracy.

## **Closing the attainment gap between the most and least disadvantaged children**

- **Maximising attendance**

The average percentage attendance for this session in Alva Primary School is 94%. Whilst this is a positive figure, we still strive to improve attendance in order to ensure that children do not miss out on key learning and teaching experiences in class. If attendance is improved by 1% we should see a 5-6% improvement in attainment.

- **Early Years Early Intervention**

The appointment of an Early Years Intervention Officer has been a very positive addition to our staff team this session. She has been supporting children, mainly in Primary One and Two to help raise attainment in Literacy and Numeracy as well as focussing on aspects of Health and Wellbeing. The targeted small group support she has provided has reinforced Curriculum for Excellence outcomes leading to improved confidence and engagement in these areas.

- **Partner Agencies**

At Alva Primary School and Nursery Class we continue to work in close partnership with our partner agencies to meet the needs of our children. Examples include: Speech and Language Therapy, Occupational Therapy, Educational Psychologist, Primary School Support Services (outreach) and Inclusion Services.

## **Improvement in children and young people's health and wellbeing**

- **Health and Wellbeing Curriculum**

We are using Clackmannanshire Council's Health and Wellbeing Curriculum Pathways. This details a range of experiences and outcomes at Early, First and Second Level, ensuring children engage in a broad and progressive range of health related themes, for example 'Sexual Health and Relationships', 'Substance Misuse' etc... We recognise the importance of teaching our children about their physical and emotional health as this essential in order for them to thrive.

- **Health and Wellbeing Initiatives**

Our pupils have been taking responsibility for their own Health and Wellbeing with the introduction of the Daily Mile. Our Junior Road Safety Officers have worked incredibly hard this year and were awarded 2nd place in the Clackmannanshire Walk of Fame Road Safety awareness competition.

During Term 3, the children and staff planned a Health Focus week. A variety of visitors, including RHET (Royal Highland Education Trust) and Tae Kwon Do Instructors, supported taster sessions for the children to participate in. This gave the children the chance to try new foods and sports, and learn where food comes from.

- **School Achievements**

Whole school assemblies help promote both in and out of school achievements and our children regularly celebrate success during this time with our 'Awesome at Alva' certificates. We have introduced a Star Wall and successes are now tweeted after assembly.

- **Sporting Achievements**

Pupils have engaged in a wide range of sporting activities such as:

- Children from ASD Provision competed in the FVDS Athletics Championships
- P7 Badminton team were 4th in the Badminton leagues.
- P2 and P3 Gymnastics team finished 3rd and 9th in the regional heats.
- A group of children finished 2nd in the small group category of the dance competition



- **P7 Residential**

Our Primary 7 pupils once again enjoyed Dalguise with our Cluster schools and developed a variety of new skills. They displayed excellent teamwork and rose to the challenge by fully participating in the different activities on offer. The children also met and interacted with children from the other local primary schools, helping to foster positive relationships in preparation for their transition to the Academy.

## **Improvement in employability skills and sustained, positive school-leaver destinations for all young people**

Our pupils work very hard and we ensure that they take part in a wide range of events giving them opportunities to develop their leadership skills and confidence.

- **Enterprising Skills and Attitudes**

Lots of our classes have demonstrated an enterprising attitude and approach to learning this session. Primary 3 pupils opened a museum to showcase their inventions as part of their Interdisciplinary Learning topic, Primary 1/2C and P2K did a sponsored walk to Alva Glen and Primary 7 planned and organised a 'Cinematic Experience' and 'Bakery' for pupils to help fundraise for their end of term celebrations. P2/3 also organised and ran a very successful visitors centre as part of their learning. Your feedback was positive once again.

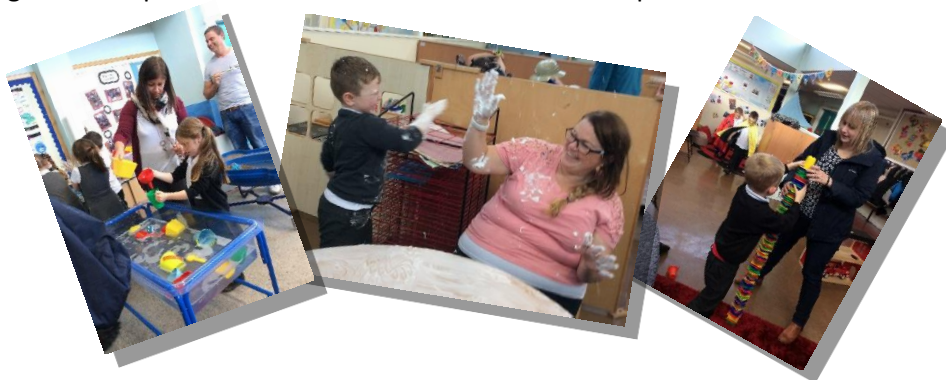
In January 2018 our Primary 6 pupils organised and led a very successful Burns Supper. Your feedback from this was very positive.

Our Alva Action Pupil Group also continues to encourage more pupil led initiatives. They successfully organised Health Week during Term 3, hosted Alva's got Talent and have been involved in the recruitment process of the new Headteacher. Primary 5 pupils have supported the charity Mary Meals and our Primary 6 boys and girls planned and organised Fruity Friday for the whole school community.

- **Sharing the Learning**

Pupils have also been involved in organising a whole school Open Afternoon. During this, parents and carers were invited to visit the classes so children could share their learning. This was a particularly positive experience for the children and some indicated that this was the highlight of their school year!

Once again our pupils confidently took to the stage to perform in All Singing, All Dancing. Our pupils were shining stars and performed in a front of an audience with pride.



## **Pupil Equity Fund**

Self-evaluation helps shape our school and nursery priorities. Your input in how our Pupil Equity Funding is spent has helped shape our plans for next session. Involving our whole school community in our plans ensures the effective implementation of them.

### **Literacy**

- **Cluster Working**

The schools within the Hillfoots Cluster (Alva Academy feeder primary schools) have worked together this session to establish a team of professionals to support early literacy in our primary schools. This has been supported and funded through some of our PEF allocation. Children who were not achieving the level expected for their age in Primary Two were identified and given support in order to help improve their phonics. The plan is for this intervention to continue next session.

- **Promoting a Reading Culture**

We have also used our PEF funding to purchase two 'Reading Sheds' for the playground in a bid to promote a positive culture of reading throughout the school. New books have been purchased for the children to enjoy at both playtimes and lunchtimes. Children have commented on the wide range of new literature that is on offer. We have also bought a range of soft furnishings to enhance the children's enjoyment of reading for pleasure.

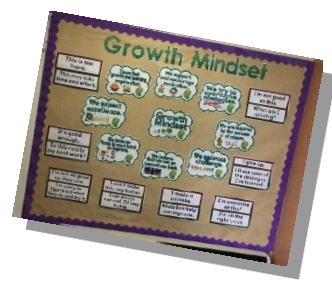
### **Numeracy**

In a bid to increase the children's confidence in Numeracy across levels, a variety of active numeracy resources have been purchased. The use of concrete materials can help the children develop a firm foundation and confidence with early Numeracy.

### **Health and Wellbeing**

A proportion of our PEF money has benefited our ASD Provision.

The children have had a range of educational excursions which have enhanced their learning experiences and provided them with opportunities to practise their social interaction skills in different settings. The children have had regular visits to Wester Dollarbeg Farm and Blair Drummond Safari Park. Feedback from the children has been very positive.



## **Music Therapy**

The children within the ASD Provision have also benefitted from weekly Music Therapy session. During these times the children have focussed on positive interactions, prolonged eye contact, engagement and joint attention. The sessions have also helped to promote emotional regulation.



## **Next Session's Priorities: Where are we going next?**

We look forward to welcoming our new Headteacher, Mrs Allison Littlejohns.

In Alva Primary and Nursery Class we recognise the importance of driving forward improvement and we are looking forward to next session. Our priorities are to:

- Raise attainment in Literacy, in particular, reading supported by Sue Ellis.
- Raise attainment in Numeracy focussing on active approaches.
- Further develop robust self-evaluation in the school and nursery.
- Develop a coherent cluster approach to transition from Primary 7 to Secondary School.
- Develop more nurturing approaches across the school.