Well, what a year! I actually don’t quite know where to start as I’ve got so much that I’d like to cover. To whittle it down I’m going for an alphabetical round up of session 21/22. Some are a wee bit contrived but bear with me …

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| **A** | All together | Team Catrine have been awesome this year – thanks to all staff: teachers, classroom assistants, clerical staff, janitors, cleaners, kitchen staff, practitioners and crossing patrol – teamwork at its best! |
| **B** | Bubbles  | Changes to guidelines meant that in February pupils could play all together again in our playground and we didn’t have to do staggered start and finish times. Happy days! |
| **C** | Change of stage | Most of our teachers started teaching at a new stage this year and they’ve all settled very well into their new level of teaching and learning. Great things planned for next year already!  |
| **D** | Dinnerhall | Great to start eating our lunches in our dinnerhall again for most pupils, with all pupils back in the dinnerhall from August – school dinners and packed lunches |
| **E** | ECC Decant | They’re here and they’ve taken over … Brilliant to have our ECC so close with lots of amazing transition activities taking place all year round. We intend to keep these amazing learning links going when the ECC move back to Newton Street, which is planned for October. |
| **F** | Football team | After school football training started in February with a committed bunch of pupils. Outshone the opposition at a Small Schools Tournament in May. Thanks to former pupil Josh Suitters for taking training sessions. |
| **G** | Go Purple Day | Great support for this fundraiser for the Ayrshire Hospice in October, raising over £200 |
| **H** | House Captains | All have been great role models for our younger pupils, helping out at assemblies and at various events throughout the yearAvalon – Calvin, Ayrbank – Sonny, Marneil – Layla and Whiteflat - Sophie |
| **I** | Inventive fundraising | To raise money for their Leavers Hoodies, P7 pupils organised various fundraising events, from Guess the Sweets in the Jar to Dress Down Days to Fun Friday events for the whole school. |
| **J** | Jannie | Special thanks to our Jannie, Mr McCreath – had an ECC and all their demands (and guinea pigs) to deal with this year. Nothing is ever a bother and he’s a real pal to our pupils out in the playground.  |
| **K** | Kelburn  | What a wonderful day we had at Kelburn Country Park for our first whole school trip in 3 years. Just awesome from start to finish, with the journey on the big bus being the highlight for some of our younger pupils! |
| **L** | Learning  | Lots of learning in all classes this year - new writing programmes introduced, continued embedding of Active Literacy and Numeracy, Number Talks, assessment updates – loads of stuff! |
| **M** | Moderation | Staff have started taking part in Moderation activities which really improves our practice as teachers – we learn from each other, we share excellent practice and we plan future learning targets together – all of which results in better teaching and learning for our pupils |
| **N** | National Numeracy  | Our DHT, Mrs Schendel, has driven forward our involvement in National Numeracy initiative – organising home learning tasks, Maths Blethers in the playground and presenting displays to a national forum about our progress. Will be continuing next year. |
| **O** | Outdoor Learning | Huge focus on outdoor learning this year due to lockdowns and needing to promote social skills among pupils. Brilliant large loose parts resources bought for the playground – loved by all pupils and used every day |
| **P** | Play Pedagogy | Fully embedded in P1 and P2, and elements across all stages. Helping pupils learn in a variety of ways. Had visits from colleagues across authority as we’re viewed as excellent practice from EAC Senior Managers |
| **Q** | Queen’s Platinum Jubilee | Brilliant three day celebration, culminating in a street party buffet lunch, a brass band, crown and tiara parades and a huge variety of fun activities |
| **R** | Robert Burns Academy | Our P7 pupils now transfer to the Robert Burns Academy and have enjoyed a two day visit this week. They know their PLP and practical classes, they’re moaning about their timetables already and I know there’s lot of new friendships started which will make their progress into S1 in August much easier |
| **S** | School Streets | P4 pupils involved in scripting and filming a short clip for the Glasgow Climate Change summit for EAC. We’re also officially a School Streets school which should mean less traffic around our school at the start and end of the day (still need to work on this with a few parents though …) |
| **T** | Tweet Dance Project | P5/6 and P6/7 involved in an innovative dance/poetry fusion project called ‘Tweet’, which resulted in their creating, practising and filming short dance sequences as well as writing Haiku poems centred on the focus of Flight. A great experience, a wonderful finished product and a fancy new jacket for all! |
| **U** | Universal respect | Our Respectful Relationships initiative ‘Catrine Compliments’ was launched in February. We are learning how to give a detailed compliment, and more importantly, how to receive a compliment. We love sharing their photos and compliments with you at home via their wee certificates. I’m sure they are proudly displayed on fridges and notice boards throughout the village.  |
| **V** | V-Scene meetings | As our ASN Coordinator Mrs Schendel has had to organise quite a few V-Scene online meetings with parents throughout the year. If you’ve been involved in any of these meetings, you’ll know the frustration when V-Scene plays up and the connection is poor… Enough said! |
| **W** | Way ahead | As a whole school staff, we have a clear direction for our pupils for session 22/23. We will share our School Improvement Plan with you on our blog and app and will highlight our progress and successes throughout the year. Big push on Reading, Problem Solving, Self Esteem and re-establishing parental involvement.  |
| **X** | Xtra bright clothes | P4 organised a ‘Be Safe! Be Seen!’ day in November with pupils coming to school wearing extra bright clothes and accessories  |
| **Y** | Young People | Going to take this opportunity to praise the young people of Catrine – from aged 3 in our ECC to 12 year olds in P7 – they are funny, kind, cheeky, loud, messy, respectful, inventive, creative, dramatic – all of the things that young people should be and we love being involved in their educational journey.  |
| **Z** | Zoom Parent Council meetings | We all talk very fast during these meetings as we only have 40 minutes before Elaine has to cut us off and start again via Zoom! Despite the technical issues, the Parent Council have continued to support the school and pupils at every opportunity and we can’t highlight enough how much we value their input and cooperation.  |