

# Williamwood Cluster News

Issue 6, June 2016



Welcome to Cluster News 6! We are now at the end of a very successful and productive school year of cluster working. All pupils and members of staff have worked extremely hard this session and are looking forward to their holiday.

The Cluster Management Group has prepared the new Cluster Improvement Plan and plans include assessment of listening and talking in Literacy and English, a Professional Enquiry Forum for staff, producing more numeracy films for parents and numeracy challenge events for pupils in the new session. We have formed a new Early Learning and Childcare Standing Committee for next year and have planned Parent Workshops and also staff professional development opportunities to continuously share and improve our practice.

As a cluster we were under review in April for Investors in People Bronze level status and have successfully retained this for another year. Our cluster has many strengths and was described as "phenomenal". We believe that this is due to the hard work of cluster pupils and the great dedication and commitment of the staff, with excellent support from parents and carers.

On behalf of all cluster Head Teachers, may I wish all families and staff a very relaxing and enjoyable summer holiday and we look forward to another year of successful cluster working in the new session. I am stepping down as Cluster Chair after three enjoyable years and I'm delighted to announce that Mr Inglis, Head Teacher of Willliamwood High School, is our new Cluster Chair from August. I wish him every success next session.

Kind regards,  
Mrs Carol Frew, Cluster Chair,  
Head Teacher of Carolside Primary School.

## Achievement Cluster Group

Last year, Williamwood audited the current approach to pupil profiling. For a variety of reasons, we decided to introduce a robust paper version of a pupil profile which covered all aspects required at the time of transition. After a year, the profiles were again audited and further changes were made. The profiles are also now embedded into S1, S2 and S3 PSHE programmes as well as an annual S3 BGE ceremony. This year, as a cluster, we audited the current system of profiling across the primary schools and analysed the new system introduced by Williamwood. It was decided that the cluster primary schools would also adopt a paper version of the profiles, which covered the areas required for transition. Throughout the cluster, there is a focus on employability skills, health and wellbeing, literacy and numeracy as well as achievements of pupils and target setting.

## Sciences

In addition to the STEM Fair in September, the other major activities we have been completing in Williamwood are the K'Nex challenge for P6 pupils, the P7 Science Club for the cluster primary schools and also the transition unit for P7 pupils. We had pupils from each of the cluster primary schools represented at the K'Nex challenge where they were given the task of building an engineering structure from the K'Nex kits. We had over 100 pupils attend our after-school P7 science club where they completed a range of experiments from biology, chemistry and physics. Also, our DNA transition unit has just ended; the pupils completed research and made information leaflets before science teachers from Williamwood High School visited each school and completed a gel electrophoresis experiment to analyse blood samples from athletes at this year's Rio Olympics.

## Music across the Cluster

Fiona Dippie and Michael Gibson have been working with the Netherlee school choir this year. The choir is fully inclusive and has been really successful and well attended. Approximately 150 pupils have participated in the choir this year. The choir has performed at

the Christmas Service, the Spring Concert and are looking forward to their final performance of the year at the Summer Gathering. They have covered a wide range of repertoire from Disney themes to Olly Murs songs and are currently working on a medley of songs based on a theme of positivity.

Bethany Williams has been working with pupils at Carolside and Busby this year. The Primary 3 and 4 pupils at Carolside put on an outstanding Carols and Shortbread event for parents prior to the Christmas holidays which was rounded off with them singing current songs but to their own words. Primary 3 performed Olly Murs 'Dance with Me Tonight' and Primary 4 performed Ella Henderson's Ghost with words focusing on the theme of Christmas. The performances were enhanced with a small band made up of S6 Advanced Higher pupils.

Busby Primary lower school put on their own pantomime and each class performed a song as part of the story line. The pupils clearly enjoyed being on the stage and sang very confidently with parents able to hear every word. Once again, the performances were supported by musicians from the Higher and Advanced Higher classes at Williamwood.

This term, rehearsals have been underway for a range of activities in both schools. Three Williamwood pupils from S2 assisted Carolside with a performance of NHS song, Bridge Over You at their Musical Afternoon on 10 May which was a great success and a real tear-jerker!

The partnership between the cluster schools and the Music Department at Williamwood has had a very busy year and we look forward to the challenges for 2016-17.



## **Literacy and English Standing Committee**

Listening and talking has been the main focus of our work over this past session, with Professional Enquiry groups set up in each primary school to develop different aspects of this; Netherlee focused on creating a skills framework for listening and talking, Carolside set out to create assessment materials for group discussion and Busby concentrated on collating a bank of useful listening and talking activities.

In December, a small group of representatives from each school also met to create a Curriculum Map for listening and talking. This map, based on our very successful Curriculum Map for Reading, was shared with all cluster schools in January and currently all school are using this to support planning learning, focused assessment and report writing.

In May, the completed work from each professional enquiry group was presented and shared at our Literacy and English Cluster Forum, with the opportunity provided for colleagues to discuss and reflect on this in groups. Evaluations received indicate an overwhelmingly positive response to these materials, with lots of good suggestions made about how they might best be used in each school to enhance learning and teaching. Embedding this work in each of our schools will continue next session.

## **Family Centred Approaches**

Congratulations to Cart Mill Family Centre, Busby Primary, Carolside Primary and Netherlee Primary! All establishments have been accredited with Bronze level status for Family Friendly Approaches. Busby, Carolside and Netherlee Nurseries have all achieved Silver level status and will be going for their Gold level awards over the next session.

## **Getting it Right for Every Child (GIRFEC)**

The GIRFEC group has been working on supporting Resilience in our children over the last few terms. We have been using new resources - Bounce Back - and working in particular with the P7s this term. This is a resource which staff

have been very positive about and are enjoying using with the children. We have also been piloting the Pastoral Notes and the new Child's Plan across the cluster and have had some very positive feedback from staff and parents. We intend to roll this out as a full change in August 2016, in line with the GIRFEC legislation.

All representatives from each of the cluster schools have worked very well together and there has been great collaboration with our Educational Psychologists. Our psychologists have also been instrumental in leading some of our Parent Forums as well throughout this year; one on Positive Psychology and another on Dyslexia, both being very well attended by parents from all three primary schools. We feel we have achieved a great deal within the year and have worked very well as a group. We look forward to the new challenges of 2016 for the GIRFEC group and implementing new strategies.

## **Languages**

Tuesday 24th May saw the first primary cluster modern languages master class event hosted by the staff of Williamwood High School. 261 pupils from Netherlee PS, Carolside PS and Busby PS enjoyed some exciting new language learning experiences over the course of the morning delivered by the modern languages team assisted by other linguists from across the wider staff of Williamwood High school. The languages on offer were Japanese, Urdu, Bulgarian, Spanish, German, Gaelic, Italian, BSL and Bemba- the language and culture of Zambia. Pupils arrived ready with their special passports and boarding cards at 'Williamwood airport' and they were sent off to their language sessions, ably assisted by S3 language ambassadors. At break pupils enjoyed croissants and fruit before embarking on their second language learning session. All too soon it was time to say 'Adios, Aufwiedersehen, Ciao' and a great time was had by all. We hope that this event becomes a permanent fixture in our modern languages cluster calendar.

## **Early Years' Group Progress**

The Early Years' Cluster Group has continued its successful programme of improvement throughout this year.

## **Parent Workshops**

Two workshops for parents were delivered: "Home Support for Literacy" which took place in November in Busby Primary and "Your Developing Child" which took place in Cart Mill Family Centre in February. Both workshops were led by our partners in Psychological Services and were very well received by parents. "Excellent ideas, simple yet effective. Great food for thought and activities to be carried out in the house." Carolside Parent.

## **Reciprocal and Good Practice Visits**

A programme of reciprocal visits took place in Term 2. Staff were asked to focus on specific areas for improvement and to adapt their practice to ensure positive impact in their workplace. Leaders also undertook good practice visits out with the authority to witness excellent practice.

Examples of good practice highlighted by staff included:

- The clear lines of progress identified through the skills academies in Busby Nursery.
- Talking Homework2 in Netherlee Nursery
- The outdoor learning opportunities in Cart Mill Family Centre
- Climbing opportunities in Carolside's outdoor learning area

An informal "Early Years Meet Up" was arranged in Cart Mill to allow staff the opportunity to socialise after the reciprocal visits. Staff were

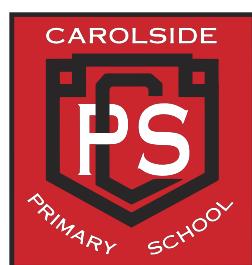
also given the opportunity to identify areas for improvement and for their professional development which will form the basis of the Early Learning and Childcare Improvement Plan for Session 2016/2017.

## **Staff Development**

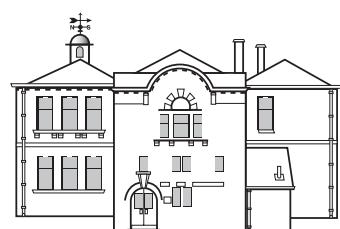
All Early Learning and Childcare staff benefited from CLPL focusing on "Engagement and Learning" on Tuesday 31st May in Netherlee Primary.



**Sharon McKenna**  
Head Teacher  
Cart Mill Family Centre



**Carol Frew**  
Head Teacher  
Carolside Primary School



**Sharon Hunter**  
Head Teacher  
Busby Primary School



**Willie Inglis**  
Head Teacher  
Williamwood High School



**Joanne Scott**  
Head Teacher  
Netherlee Primary School