



Netherlee Primary School

How well are we doing?

Sessions 2012 – 2015

Dear Parents and Carers,

At Netherlee we work very hard to continually improve our school and the opportunities that we offer our children. Part of this work involves asking our whole school community what they think is important in terms of improving our school. We will seek views and opinions in a variety of ways throughout the school session. This can be through Learning Conversations with children, HT Forums, surveys and questionnaires with staff, parents and children and during professional dialogue with all staff. These are just some examples of how we gather information about our school. We work on a three year cycle with key activities planned during this period. I'd like to take the opportunity to share with you how far we've come over the past 3 school sessions.

During session 2012 – 2013, we asked staff, parents and children what their top 5 priorities for improvement for our school should be. This is what you shared with us:

STAFF	CHILDREN	PARENTS
Maths	Extra-curricular clubs	Sports opportunities
School environment	Competitive sports	Educational visits
Culture / behaviour	Playground	Behaviour
Sports opportunities	Outdoor learning	Maths
Collegiate working	House events	Communication/sharing learning



Sports Opportunities and Extra-Curricular Clubs

There was a strong message that this was important across our school community. So, what have we done:

- ✓ In November 2012 we held a Parental Sports Forum, when staff, parents and East Renfrewshire Sports Staff met to discuss possible ways forward. From this the Netherlee Sports Forum was established – a key group of parents who have worked with our DHT have formed a very forward thinking and active group who established key goals that set the path to help improve opportunities for our children.
- ✓ We have established an exciting and very full annual Sports week, culminating in traditional competitive activities rooted in our new House System.
- ✓ We have developed close links with local clubs who are providing extra-curricular coaching for children e.g. rugby, football, hockey, bowling and tennis.
- ✓ We launched the 'Choose Day club' – an after school sports activities club supported mainly by parents and providing more than 300 children with extra-curricular opportunities. This has recently developed into our Primary 7 children being offered training as Young Sports Leaders at a before school club. They will have opportunities to use these leadership skills at the Choose Day Club and during our Sports Week.
- ✓ School teams have been formed for netball, running, football, badminton and cheerleading. There have been opportunities for them to compete against other schools and in local leagues.
- ✓ School teams participate in cluster, authority and national sporting competitions. Our boys' football team won their league last session and the Cheerleading Team defended their championship with four successes in a row in the East Renfrewshire Dance Competition.
- ✓ We have a wide range of extra-curricular clubs which staff offer during their lunch breaks and after school. This programme is published on our website.
- ✓ We have regular Health and Wellbeing events for parents and our wider community. These showcase good health and promote sport. Recently you may have enjoyed the Celebration Evening of Physical Activity and Sport in Netherlee where families had the opportunity to try new activities and see film footage of school sports related events.
- ✓ Promoting family fitness, fun and wellbeing is important to us and recently, May 2015, we enjoyed a day climbing Ben A'an – families, children and staff. Some of us were certainly challenged whilst others took it all in their stride!
- ✓ This session we have formed a Sports Council which includes parents, pupils, staff and active schools personnel. They are currently working with children to ascertain how they feel about physical education and the sporting opportunities open to them. This will inform our future plans.
- ✓ All teaching staff have participated in Physical Education training to enhance their skills and practice.
- ✓ We have also focused on promoting cycling. We have new cycle shelter, one that keeps our bikes dry! Bikeability is part of the core curriculum this session. The Bikeability programme is much more comprehensive and includes training for on-road cycling. We have a very enthusiastic group of parents and staff that have undergone full training and now support us greatly in enabling around 100 children to participate in Bikeability this session. We have recently achieved 'Cycle Friendly School' status. We are very grateful to our parents who give a great deal of their time and energy to this important activity.
- ✓ Last session we hosted a cycle display by Riderz, a well-known stunt group. As well as everyone enjoying their skills they worked with children to provide a workshop on safe cycling.
- ✓ We are working towards achieving the Sports Scotland Gold Award and have recently completed our application for this award.

What impact has our work in this area had?

- ✓ **We have worked hard to maintain and develop a strong focus on sporting activities.**
- ✓ **We have greatly increased and introduced new sporting opportunities for our children.**
- ✓ **We have introduced opportunities for competitive sport in school and with other schools.**
- ✓ **We have greatly extended extra-curricular clubs.**
- ✓ **We have improved communication about the availability of sports /clubs.**
- ✓ **We have enhanced the quality of the opportunities offered to our children.**
- ✓ **We have made important and productive links with sporting clubs in our local community.**
- ✓ **We have raised the profile of sports, physical activity and wellbeing across our school community.**



Improving the enjoyment of and attainment in Mathematics and Numeracy

This was a curricular area that was clearly identified by our community as requiring attention. What have we done and what impact has it had?

- ✓ An in-depth review of practice and attainment was carried out with a clear action plan being developed.
- ✓ Weekly Maths timetables were reviewed and time for teaching maths was increased.
- ✓ There has been a major focus on developing mental agility and this forms a comprehensive aspect of daily homework in all classes.
- ✓ Learning and teaching is supported by using the East Renfrewshire Maths Skills Planners throughout the school.
- ✓ Children are supported and challenged in their learning through appropriately matched group work and class activities where appropriate.
- ✓ We have carried out surveys and discussions with children and staff to ascertain what makes a good maths lesson and adapted our practice accordingly.
- ✓ A wide range of new resources and materials have been purchased and are used in all classes.
- ✓ Learning Visits in all classes focused on effective learning and teaching in numeracy and mathematics.
- ✓ We regularly evaluate the progress of learning and teaching in numeracy and mathematics, analysing standardised test results and developing our practice to focus on bringing about further improvement.
- ✓ We have held Maths Open Mornings for our community and STEM (science, weeks to promote interest and enjoyment of maths.
- ✓ We promote opportunities for learning maths in relevant and interesting contexts.
- ✓ Handy Hints booklets were created for parents to support their children's learning.
- ✓ Master classes / Lunch time Maths Clubs offered to children to support them in areas that they would like further practice.
- ✓ We have worked closely with our Cluster colleagues to share effective practice, access professional development opportunities and to develop moderation and assessment practice.
- ✓ There are regular Progress, Achievement and Target setting meetings with all class teachers and the Headteacher to discuss the progress of all children.

What impact has our work in this area had?

- ✓ **The quality of learning and teaching in numeracy and mathematics is effective, high and consistent.**
- ✓ **Children's skill, confidence and enjoyment of numeracy is improved and enhanced.**
- ✓ **All learners' needs are met, allowing all children to be challenged appropriately.**
- ✓ **Children work hard at numeracy and mathematics.**
- ✓ **Regular and consistent home learning supports children's confidence and accuracy in numeracy skills.**
- ✓ **Parents are knowledgeable about how they can support their children's learning.**
- ✓ **Attainment in numeracy and mathematics continues to show a year on year improvement.**

Children in P3, P5 and P7 annually sit Standardised Tests in Numeracy, our progress over the last 3 years is as follows:

Maths Standardised Testing at P3, P5, P7 Whole school results			
2011-2012 starting point	2012-13	2013-2014	2014-2015
93	100	102	105

An increase of 5 points is considered significant progress. Over the last 3 sessions we have made excellent progress, building on this each year.



Culture, Ethos and Behaviour

These aspects of our school are very much interlinked and all stakeholders felt that there was room for improvement. The following is a flavour of what we've focused on to bring about improvement.....

✓ Our Six Core Values

Establishing core values that were agreed with our whole school community was central to moving forward. In August 2012 we began the process of discussion and consultation with staff, parents and pupils on key issues concerning behaviour, ethos and culture. Over the course of the school year a set of values were suggested by each group of stakeholders. Following a forum of representatives a set of 6 school values were agreed. These are:

friendship and fairness, respect and responsibility, courage and compassion

A special Values Launch Day was held in November 2013 when special visitors from our wider community joined us for a school celebration. We work hard to embed the values through our school life e.g. charity work for a wide variety of causes such as City Mission and community events such as tea and dominoes with children for the senior citizens in our community. Our assemblies, Church Services and Gatherings often have our values as their main focus. In addition there are many activities and events throughout the school year to promote values, for example our annual Welcome Sign design.

✓ Our House System

Our whole-school approach to promoting positive behaviour is closely linked to our House arrangements. Following consultation in 2012 with children and staff our house system was set up. It aims to enable children to form bonds and identify with children of other classes and stages through a shared sense of belonging to the same House. Younger children can aspire to the behaviour and achievements of older pupils, whilst older children in turn have the opportunity to assume a pastoral role towards the younger ones. Through a range of activities (both within and between the Houses) a strong sense of community and friendship is fostered, in addition to a healthy competitive spirit.

The whole school enjoys and participates in the selection of House Captains at the beginning of each session. In turn those elected carry a considerable responsibility to get to know the children in their House, arrange events and try to be excellent role models for others. They work closely with staff and are supported in these roles.

✓ Promoting Positive Behaviour

As a result of school wide discussion on promoting positive behaviour we developed a framework to promote good behaviour and deal with inappropriate behaviour. The key elements of this are House Points, Fantastic Friday and House

Reward events, to encourage and recognise good behaviour. Thinking Time, warning cards and strikes/ loss of privileges will occur as a consequence of unacceptable behaviour. Children will at times make mistakes and sometimes poor choices but the important thing is that we help them to learn from these and that they understand that there are consequences when behaviour falls short of our community's expectations. We are fortunate that our children respond well to our positive approaches.

✓ Children's Voice

We believe that it is important that children are encouraged to volunteer, take responsibility and have views and opinions and they have opportunities to express these effectively and appropriately. The following are some examples of how they volunteer, participate and have a say about their school and school life:

- ✓ Pupil Groups such as; Pupils' Council, Eco Committee, Playzone Buddies, Global Citizenship Group, Librarians, Junior Road Safety Officers, Peer Mediators and Young Sports Leaders – all of these offer opportunities to embed leadership and promote responsibility.
- ✓ P7 monitors and role models
- ✓ Social Skills groups for children, as required
- ✓ Recognising Wider Achievement
- ✓ Community Time
- ✓ Learning Conversations
- ✓ HT forums
- ✓ School Assemblies

What impact has our work in this area had?

Visitors to our school and those we meet out of school regularly comment on the very positive ethos within our community. In general our children are very well behaved, they understand that our core values are the foundation of how we should behave towards each other and they work hard at getting that right. They readily show compassion and care for others and they often behave in ways that surprises and delights. Clearly this will always be work in progress although a constant ethos of nurturing and caring towards each other permeates all of our interactions.

Children's views are sought on many occasions and we take account of their opinions on many instances e.g. the content of our School Improvement Plan, the shaping of school events, improvements to our school environment and developments in learning and teaching.



Educational Visits and Outdoor Learning

One of the key things that children often comment on when asked about how we could improve learning is to request more opportunities to learn outdoors. We have been working hard to do this better by making use of the school grounds, Linn Park and other sports areas within East Renfrewshire.

As well as making good use of our surrounding environment we have organised educational excursions related to the contexts of learning that our children are studying. Below are examples of some of the educational excursions that have occurred this session. Parents help and support in making these possible is very much appreciated.

	TERM 1	TERM 2	TERM 3
P1	Autumn Walk in Linn Park	The Riverside Museum Spring Walk in Linn Park.	Culzean Castle
P2	Burrell Collection - 'Changing Materials' Art Work- shop	Glasgow Museum Resource Cen- tre - Fairytales Workshop Whitelees Windfarm	
P3		Amazonia, Strathclyde Park	Dams to Darnley Country Park - Park Ranger/Pond Dipping
P4	David Livingstone Centre	Dumfries House – Growing Food Sainsbury's at Muirend – Food Retail and Budgeting	Bothwell Castle
P5	Pantomime at Eastwood Theatre	Tall Ship at the Riverside Titanic- 'Shipwrecked' workshop	Stirling Castle
P6	Pantomime at Eastwood Theatre	Palace of Holyrood House- 'Mary Queen of Scots- Life in Court'	Glasgow Science Centre Planetarium Imax- Space Station 3D
P7	Safety in the Park Whitelees Windfarm Pantomime at Eastwood Theatre	Provost's Debate	Our Dynamic Earth Scottish Parliament Residential trip to Lockerbie Manor.

This is an area of learning that we will continue to improve.



Communicating and Sharing Learning with Parents

We value and recognise the importance of the partnership that we have with our parents and carers, particularly in terms of supporting our children's learning. There are a wide variety of ways that we share information about school in general, and children's learning with parents. The following demonstrates the range of opportunities that we currently use:

- ✓ Annual School Reports.
- ✓ Transition Meetings with parents for new P1 children.
- ✓ Year Ahead Meetings with the new class teacher in August.
- ✓ Curriculum Meetings for P1 parents.
- ✓ Learning Bags – bringing home children's work each term.
- ✓ Parents' Evenings in November and February.
- ✓ Review meetings and transition meetings to support specific needs.
- ✓ Additional Support Needs Forums e.g Transition and Autistic Spectrum Disorder.
- ✓ Links to access meetings and support networks on an Authority wide basis.
- ✓ Achievement Alley in school.
- ✓ Harvest Assembly for P1 and P2 parents.
- ✓ Christmas Nativity for P1 and P2 parents.
- ✓ Christmas Service for children and parents P3-P7.
- ✓ Open Mornings related to science, maths and technology.
- ✓ Spring Assembly for P1 and P2 parents.
- ✓ Spring Church Service for children and P3-P7.
- ✓ Spring Musical Concert.
- ✓ School Production for P6 and P7 on a bi-annual basis.
- ✓ Class context for learning open sessions for parents...e.g. The Titanic, The Magic Castle, The Museum, The Architects' Experience.
- ✓ End of Session Gathering for P1-P7 children and parents.
- ✓ Primary 7 Final Farewell Assembly for children and parents.
- ✓ Monthly newsletters
- ✓ School Website
- ✓ Class Blogs available through our website.
- ✓ Children's Learning Journey folders P1 – P5 (new for some this session and will be shared with all parents during next session as a regular feature).
- ✓ E-Portfolios for P6 and P7 – an electronic learning journey that each child compiles.
- ✓ Homework
- ✓ Talking Homework
- ✓ Health and Well Being Events.
- ✓ Sports Week.



Our School Environment

Improving our school environment was an area that many adults and children identified for attention. Over the last three years we have worked steadily to use our budget and with additional support from East Renfrewshire's Education Department to enhance our school environment in the following ways:

- ✓ School office refurbishment.
- ✓ All upper floor classrooms decorated and carpeted.
- ✓ All P5 classrooms decorated and carpeted.
- ✓ Early Years classrooms painted and recarpeted.
- ✓ Corridors and stairwells painted and re-floored.
- ✓ New classroom furniture in almost all classes.
- ✓ New desks and chairs for teachers.
- ✓ Chalkboards re-skinned.
- ✓ Electronic whiteboards – renewed and replaced where necessary.
- ✓ Early Years open area – decorated, new furniture and sinks and resources.
- ✓ New door at Early Years entrance.
- ✓ New blinds in most classrooms.
- ✓ New notice boards throughout school.
- ✓ Achievement Alley established.
- ✓ The Meeting Room was established.
- ✓ The Base established as a literacy resource and working area.
- ✓ Senior Management offices improved; carpeted, painted, furniture etc.
- ✓ Early Years cloakroom area – completely refurbished.
- ✓ Front elevation of school repainted.
- ✓ Courtyard garden refurbished.
- ✓ Gym hall completely refurbished and new equipment purchased.
- ✓ Major adaptations to create large storage cupboard for gym hall and early years area.
- ✓ Innovation space developed – new furniture, computers and carpeting.
- ✓ ICT equipment / resources augmented with tablets, laptops and e-readers.
- ✓ Both nurseries painted, re-organised and fully resourced.
- ✓ Outside areas of nursery buildings greatly enhanced.
- ✓ Playground areas enhanced with fixed equipment and furniture.
- ✓ Bicycle shelter installed in the playground.
- ✓ Staffroom – new furniture
- ✓ Fencing erected to separate the car park from the school.
- ✓ Increased storage with 2 garages in the car park.
- ✓ New Dining Room furniture.
- ✓ Children's toilets refurbished.





We hope that this document gives you an indication of our commitment to continually strive to improve and to do better for our children. It is also an opportunity to share with you how we respond to the views of our whole school community. Your views are important.



To help us on this journey of continuous self-improvement may I ask you to complete the accompanying proforma to indicate what you now consider to be the top priorities that will help take our school forward.

Many thanks for your interest and support.



www.ea.e-renfrew.sch.uk/netherlee

