

Mrs Donald's Update – Feb 26

Inspection Feedback

Feedback from children, parents and partners was very positive and reflects the strong relationships and sense of community at Dairsie. Children report feeling safe, supported and listened to, with trusted adults available to help them. Parents expressed high levels of confidence in staff, teaching quality and leadership, with almost all saying they would recommend the school. Partners also described positive and effective working relationships.

The data also helped us identify a small number of areas to refine further, including homework, consistency of challenge, learner voice, clarity around assessment, communication about the Parent Council and shared evaluation with partners. These are not concerns, but helpful refinements that align closely with existing improvement priorities and are already being taken forward.

It was mentioned during the meeting that the current format for homework in P5-7 is working well.

Any suggestions on how we can raise the profile of the Parent Council?

- Advertise on Dairsie Primary School Facebook Page
- Notice board at front door
- Stall at Parent's evening in March

Attendance Update

From August to January, average attendance is 94.23%, against a stretch target of 95.2%. Attendance was strongest early in the session and dipped slightly over the winter months, largely due to seasonal illness. We continue to monitor attendance closely and work supportively with families, with a strong focus on wellbeing and early intervention.

School Improvement and Learning

Progress with the Proud to Be Me programme slowed during the inspection period and lost a little momentum. This is now being picked back up and refreshed. Ideas Ignite feedback continues to inform improvement work, ensuring pupil, staff and parent voice shapes next steps.

P7 pupils are currently part of a pilot of the Fife Diploma of Achievement, recognising skills and wider achievement beyond the classroom. Further information will be shared with families shortly.

Wider Achievement and School Life

- Wee Big Sing has been postponed and will be rescheduled.
- Pupils are taking part in the Burns Poetry Competition and an upcoming Badminton Competition.
- Breakfast Club continues to be very well attended; additional volunteers would be very welcome.
- Miss Smith has launched a STEM after-school club, which has had a positive start.

Primary Science Teacher award.

I'd also like to recognise Shannon, who has recently been shortlisted for a national Primary Teaching Award. This is a significant achievement and reflects Shannon's creativity, commitment and impact on learning and teaching at Dairsie. Her work in STEM and engaging pupils in high-quality, inclusive learning opportunities continues to make a real difference for our children and the wider school community.

UK Parliament Teacher Ambassador Programme and Future Opportunities

I recently took part in the UK Parliament Teacher Ambassador Programme, which provided valuable first-hand insight into how Parliament works and how schools can support children to understand democracy, rights and citizenship in meaningful ways.

As a result of this programme, I plan to strengthen learning around democracy, pupil voice and responsible citizenship, building on our existing curriculum and leadership opportunities.

Linked to this, we are beginning to explore the possibility of a short London city break residential for older pupils, either alongside or instead of more traditional residential options. This is very much an idea for discussion rather than a proposal. Before any decisions are made, we would explore feasibility and seek parent and pupil views. The Parent Council would play an important role in shaping next steps.

Looking Ahead

Due to declining P1 numbers, we are exploring creative ways to strengthen early engagement and transitions, including the possibility of a pre-school year after school club. The aim is to build a connection and relationships ahead of the usual transition window.

Overall, the school remains in a strong position, with positive feedback, clear strengths and well-identified next steps.

Thank you for the continued support of the Parent Council and wider parent community.