



Headteacher Update

Term 1 – 2023-2024

First few weeks

- Children have returned to school and settled well. The open afternoon, on one of the August Inset days, supported transition and gave children an opportunity to come into school to say hello to their teacher before the official first day back.
- During the first week of term, several pupils moved into our catchment area. Up until Pupil Census Day, which was 23rd August this session, every school is required to enroll any child living in a school's catchment area. Where classes are already full, the school is expected to follow Fife Council policy to make amendments to the structure of classes. To enable us to fit all new catchment children into appropriate classes, we therefore had to make a P2/3 and a P3/4 class. This also required us to make space in the upper classes too. Almost all classes in the school are now full.
- The new structure to the school day, as a result of the day ending at 3:00pm, has been in place since the beginning of term. Break time is now 10:40am-11:00am and lunchtime is now 12:40pm-1:20pm. The soft start to the day remains in place this session, with doors open at 8:55am to allow any child time to organize their belongings or connect with their teacher before the bell rings at 9:00am.
- Class charters have been developed across the school and have a Rights focus. These include Ready, Respectful and Safe as our school expectations/rules. With this work, there has been an emphasis on our school vision, values and aims.
- The Community Garden has been used by every class in the school as an amazing context for learning. This is linked to our improvement work, particularly Priority 3.
- We have also had many visitors in school to support learning at different stages, including: Dunfermline HS teachers; SSPCA; Barnardo's; Active Schools; Fife Council environmental department.
- Home learning is now shared weekly and includes a reading, spelling and numeracy task.

Staffing

- Miss Miller remains in her role as Principal Teacher this session. This is a temporary contract until June 2023. The budget for this is built into our staffing structure.
- In nursery, we have two new members of staff. Mrs Amanda Montague is our new Peri Nursery Teacher and is covering the maternity leave of Mrs Harkness. Mrs Montague is with us every Monday and Tuesday.
- Currently we have a teacher absence in the school. Up until this week, this has been covered by school staff, with Miss Miller and Mrs McCallum planning all learning for the class. Going forwards, a supply teacher will now cover the majority of the week.

Standard and Quality Report

- Our SQR gives an evaluation of the improvement priorities for session 2022-2023.
- Impact of previous priorities are detailed on our school website.

School/Nursery Improvement Plan 23-24

- Our new priorities have been co-created with the team based on our: self-evaluation using national documents to support and guide us; observations; feedback from our learning partnership; professional dialogue; feedback from parents; feedback from children.

School has three action plans:

School Priority 1: All children's progress in literacy will be supported through developing consistent pedagogical approaches to learning, teaching and assessment.

School Priority 2: Through establishing a whole-school approach to Learning for Sustainability (LfS), all children's learning will be developed through experiencing contexts for learning that weave together outdoor learning, sustainable development and global citizenship.

School Priority 3: All children's wellbeing and learning will be positively influenced through a whole school approach to embedding children's rights in the ethos and curriculum of the school.

- To support our improvement work, we have been given stretch targets for attainment and attendance:
 - Last session (June 2023), the percentage of children on track or above for P1, 4 and 7 combined for Literacy was 77.7%; our stretch target was 78.0%. This session our stretch target is 83.4%.
 - Last session (June 2023), the percentage of children on track or above for P1, 4 and 7 combined for Numeracy was 85.1%; our stretch target was 80.7%. This session our stretch target is 82.3%.
- The attendance stretch target for session 2022-2023 was 95.60%. Our actual attendance for the session was 94.64%. The attendance stretch target for session 2023-2024 is 95.8%

Nursery has two action plans:

Nursery Priority 1: All children's learning, development and progress will be supported through quality planning, observations and tracking processes.

Nursery Priority 2: All children's communication and language learning will progress through improved literacy rich experiences, interactions and spaces.

- We are continuing to work closely with the Early Years Team in Fife to support our improvement work.

PEF Spending

- As discussed and agreed at the previous PC meeting, all PEF this session will be used to fund 8 hours each week of a Pupil Support Assistant to carry out specific literacy interventions.

Communication

- We have asked for all communication to go through limekilnsps.enquiries@fife.gov.uk, including absence or any concern or query, so that it can be passed to the relevant member of staff.
- Newsletters will be termly and will continue to aim to provide an update on the life and work of the school, as well as dates and key information.

Wider Achievements

- Residential experience for Primary 7s pupils took place week beginning the 11th September. The P7s spent a week in Ardroy this term taking part in a range of outdoor activities and challenges. Amongst other things, they climbed Jacob's Ladder, canoed across Loch Goil, and survived the 'Splosh' by ascending a riverbed whilst negotiating gorges, waterfalls and plunge pools. Through these experiences, they have started work on their John Muir award which is all about children discovering, exploring, conserving and sharing their experience of wild places.
- We look forward to starting Bikeability with Primary 6 this term. Miss McKay (PSA) will lead the children through this structured programme.