

# Elderbank Primary School Supported Learning

Session 2017- 2018

## Terms 3 and 4 Highlights



Our Supported Learning Provision has continued to enjoy a very busy time throughout our final two terms of this session.

Staff from all classbases have enjoyed planning and delivering a wide range of learning experiences to support our children's skills to grow and develop. All classes continue to benefit from the specialist input in PE from Mrs Maxwell, Mrs McKenzie and Mrs Ferrie. All pupils have responded positively to Mrs Walker's musical expertise. Many of them enjoyed their musical experiences alongside their mainstream peers. This recently culminated in these pupils presenting their musical skills to parents and family members at our recent Musical Showcase on the 15<sup>th</sup> June.

Our pupils continue to enjoy a variety of enriching experiences within their school setting. In February Classbase 9 pupils joined their mainstream peers in experiencing a formal Burns Supper. All Supported Learning pupils at this time enjoyed experiences with a Scottish theme with some pupils focussing on Scots verse speaking.



Supported Learning pupils continued to participate in the Provision's weekly assembly where we shared and celebrated pupil successes in and out of school. Where appropriate pupils continued to participate in weekly and termly whole school assemblies with their mainstream peers.



Our new initiative regarding Rebound Therapy for pupils commenced in term 3. Our Parent Council and our Pupil Equity Fund have been a great source in financing training and equipment. We were very pleased to expand the number of therapy sessions in term 4 with the welcomed support of parents and carers.



All afterschool clubs on offer can be accessed by the Provision's pupils. Additional staffing is provided to support pupils to enjoy these activities with their mainstream peers. In addition to this staff ran an afterschool arts and craft club specifically focussed for Supported Learning pupils.



Our annual Family Potted Sports Day continues to grow to be one of Supported Learning's highlights of the year. On 22<sup>nd</sup> June our main hall was extremely busy with the healthy numbers of parents and carers who teamed up with their child to enjoy the variety of potted sports activities on offer.





Many of our Supported Learning pupils enjoyed the energetic activities of our recent annual whole school Sports Day on the 7<sup>th</sup> June and Fun Day on the 26<sup>th</sup> June with their mainstream peers.



Feedback from parents and pupils provided a focus for the development to our outdoor learning areas. Our main Supported Learning playground undertook a significant transformation. The icing on the cake was the installation in June of a wide selection fabulous line marking for pupils to interact with. Not stopping there plans have now been drawn up to develop the outdoor learning areas in our courtyard spaces. Work will be undertaken soon for pupils to enjoy these developments in term 1.



Pupils also enjoyed experiences beyond the school environment. We continued to regularly access the local community's shops, library and café to enhance our curriculum and life skills of our pupils.



During terms 3 and 4 we extended pupils' experiences within the local community through accessing the Portal swimming pool. Parent and carer input was greatly appreciated in supporting pupil with their bus journeys on public transport and with accessing the pool.



Every pupil within Supported Learning enjoyed participating in an outing beyond our local community. Some pupils enjoyed the many interactive experiences on offer at the Glasgow Science Centre on 18<sup>th</sup> May. Other pupils enjoyed the sensory experiences on offer at KidzPlay in Prestwick on 21<sup>st</sup> May.



The Supported Learning and Enhanced Deaf Provision Roadshow on 2<sup>nd</sup> February was well attended by parents and carers. Our Family Learning Teacher, Mrs Miller, invited representatives

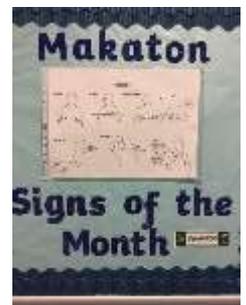
from a broad range of agencies to share with parents and carers about accessing services that can support them in meeting the needs of their children. Parents and carers benefitted from information from NAC Educational Psychological Services, Autism Network Scotland, Family Learning Team, The National Autistic Society, Children and Families Disability Team and Speech & Language Therapy.

Following on from the success of the Roadshow day we were very pleased to invite Claire Kennedy from The National Autistic Society back to the school to host monthly drop in sessions for parents, carers and members of our local community.

The Provision also enhanced its communication with parents and carers through the launching of the Elderbank and Evisense Apps in Term 3.

We continue to enjoy regular engagement with parents and carers regarding their children's learning. At our second Parents Evening in May staff were delighted to meet with parents and carers to share with them the progress and successes of their children.

Feedback from parents initiated further engagement events in terms 3 and 4: Family Learning Team's introduction of Read, Write and Count resources; Introduction to PECS (Picture Exchange Communication System) and Makaton training in collaboration with Speech and Language colleagues. These events ran alongside regular coffee afternoons for parents and carers to meet and enjoy each other's company.



Staff have benefited from a range of continued professional developments in terms 3 and 4 to enhance the experiences for our pupils. Our Total Communication approach has benefitted from PECS training (Picture Exchange Communication System), PODD training (Pragmatic Organisation Dynamic Display Communication Books and Developmental Communication training in collaboration with Haysholm Special School colleagues. All staff members benefitted from Makaton training to add to the existing skills of staff with British Sign Language SQA qualifications.



Many of our parents and carers enjoyed Supported Learning's Family Day during the Easter break. Our Family Learning Teacher, Mrs Miller, organised a great day of fun, with the highlights being the sensory walks with the Rangers and the pony therapy sessions. This day was such a success that we are now looking forward to our expanded summer holiday programme to Dumfries House, Culzean Castle and Eglinton Country Park.



As a successful year was coming to a close staff embarked on a full programme of induction events to welcome our new P1 pupils who will be joining Supported Learning in August. We welcomed parents to our induction events on 22<sup>nd</sup> May and 5<sup>th</sup> June and enjoyed welcoming their children for individual and group visits throughout term 4. To enhance pupils' familiarisation with the school and staff,

the staff met up with the new pupils over the summer holidays on the 27<sup>th</sup> July, 1<sup>st</sup> August & 8<sup>th</sup> August. This coincided with Holiday Meals Initiative Days, which Elderbank continues to enjoy hosting during holiday breaks.



### **BSquared Assessment Tools**

Our Supported Learning Provision is focused on assessing children in a meaningful, accurate and informative way. Supporting this focus we have this session linked with Special School assessment leaders BSquared in utilising their Connecting Steps software in respect of assessment tools in relation to the curriculum and profiling of pupils with autism.

The key aspect of BSquared's curriculum assessment approach is the small steps in progress each curriculum level is broken down into. This allows staff to track small, but significant, advances in each pupil's development. Staff engagement in terms 3 and 4 focused on undertaking baseline assessments of all pupils regarding Pre-Early Level developmental steps which covers the key developmental areas of: Cognition; Communication & Interaction; Social & Emotional Health; and Sensory & Physical Operations. This work followed on from staff's focus in term 2 of undertaking baseline assessments of all pupils across the core curriculum areas of Health & Wellbeing, Communication & Literacy and Numeracy at Early Level and beyond. Staff will use assessment data gathered to inform next steps in each pupil's learning for next session.

BSquared's autism profiling assessment was developed in collaboration with Scottish Autism and is an observational assessment framework to support pupils who have an autism diagnosis. It is used to map the impact of a child's autism defined through a set of progressive levels in the areas of Communication; Flexibility of Thought; Social Interaction and Emotional Regulation. Staff engagement in term 4 focused on undertaking baseline assessments on building the autism profile of each pupil with an ASD diagnosis. Staff will use assessment data to inform next session's focus in supporting each pupil's health and well-being development and in the growth of their independence with learning and social skills.

## Elderbank Primary Enhanced Deaf Provision

The work of the Enhanced Deaf Provision is fully embedded in the life of the mainstream school.

The focus for improvement this session has continued to be language development and experiential learning opportunities as we appreciated that some of our learners require hands on experiences to assist them in acquiring language that other children will have built by being exposed to spoken language in their early years. This is why the curriculum can appear a little different for our pupils within the Enhanced Deaf Provision and Supported Learning.

The children have enjoyed participating in the Deaf Easter and Summer Services in Glasgow.



Parents and carers also enjoyed the Roadshow in February to provide information on third sector services and how their child could be supported. This was open to parents from across the school and early years.



The pupils were involved in planning the outdoor area and have opted for games and an area where they can enjoy deaf specific activities.





The staff have worked alongside colleagues within the mainstream settings to plan and deliver an effective transition for pupils moving into Primary 1 and for those moving onto secondary schools.



Parents and carers have been encouraged to be involved in all aspects of school life and have enjoyed participating in a family showcase in June which included BSL storytelling and working with a deaf artist. We were also delighted to invite our volunteers to be part of this.



We have continued to be supported by volunteers looking to enhance their BSL skills in addition developing skills in supporting deaf learners.



Our children have also enjoyed visits to the local community to develop their skills in independence and confidence in communicating in the community.



Our Teachers of the Deaf have worked with colleagues to offer very successful signing choirs who have performed at our end of term services.

Children, staff and parents enjoyed a workshop with Scottish Ballet in preparation for the children and staff making a visit to the Theatre Royal to watch the Nutcracker. This was a very successful visit and enjoyed by everyone.



We also had the opportunity for pupils to be involved in Pony Therapy which was a huge success.