

**Session 2018-19**  
**2018-2019 Terms 1 and 2 Highlights**  
**Supported Learning Provision**

**P1 Welcome**

Our Supported Learning Provision has enjoyed a very busy first half to our session. We welcomed our new P1 pupils to Classbase 11 following their term 4 induction programme and follow-on visits during the summer holiday months.



**P2 - P7 Summer Fun**



We also enjoyed keeping in touch with our new P2 to P7 pupils during the summer months. It was great for staff to meet up with families during our Summer Fun Programme organised Mrs Miller our Family Learning Teacher. We valued the importance of these family



engagement events and the opportunities for pupils to interact with their peers during holiday months. Dumfries House, Culzean Castle and Eglinton Country Park were perfect venues to provide great opportunities for families to enjoy a breadth of activities - organic gardening, rock pooling, sensory walks, pony therapy and exploring the adventure play parks that each venue had to offer.

**Supported Learning Community**

The arrival of our new P1 pupils has allowed our Supported Learning community to grow. Pupils have benefited from an increase in staff to reflect the increase in pupil numbers and diversity in needs. We have welcomed Mrs Murray to CB7 (Mondays to Wednesdays), Mrs Yost to CB9 and Mrs Sharp to CB10 (Fridays). The teaching team is complemented by Mrs McNaught (CB7 – Thursdays and Fridays), Mr



Strang (CB8), Mrs Carson (CB 10 – Mondays to Thursdays) and Mrs Matteo (CB11). Classes benefit from specialist input in PE from Mrs McKenzie and specialist input in Music from Mrs Walker. Miss Lennox has joined Mrs Angus, Mrs Blakeley and Ms Dalrymple in their role as our Early Years Practitioners. Pupils have also benefitted from an increase to our dedicated team of classroom assistants and have welcomed Mrs Baldock, Mrs Bennison, Mrs Craig, Miss Millar, Mrs Patterson, Mrs Ramsay and Mrs Scott to Supported Learning.

### **School and Local Community**

Our pupils continue to enjoy a variety of enriching experiences within their school setting. Pupils are also enjoying experiences beyond the school environment. Regular access to our local parkland and local amenities - shops, library and community café – all serve to enhance pupils' curriculum and life skills.



Supported Learning pupils are represented in whole school Committees - Pupil Council and Rights Respecting School, Eco and Library Committees. 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 whole school assemblies with their mainstream peers.



All afterschool clubs on offer can be accessed by our pupils. Additional staffing is provided to support pupils to enjoy these activities with their mainstream peers. Afterschool Clubs accessed by Supported Learning pupils during the first half of Session were Basketball, Signing Choir, Christmas Crafts, and Football. In addition to the wide range of clubs on offer, Supported Learning staff will run a Fit 'n' Fab club especially for our pupils in terms 3.

## Playground Development

All supported Learning pupils have enjoyed the wide array of playground developments across all outside spaces including an extensive range of surface markings. Pupils have welcomed the extension to the playground outside Classbases 7 and 8 with its new balance beams, tyre stepping stones, sandpits/artificial grassed stage, talking pipes and quiet spaces. Furthermore, Supported Learning and their mainstream pupils have enjoyed the conversion of the large internal courtyard outside Classbases 10 and



11 with its new construction area, mud kitchen, sensory wall activities, and large artificial grassed area with a story corner, roll-play hut and sensory space.



Along with their Deaf peers, Supported Learning pupils have enjoyed accessing the enclosed courtyard next to the department's main entrance with its well-stocked playground equipment, storytelling furniture and wall activities.



## ASN Community

Pupils have benefitted from enriching sporting experiences through our engagement with our Ayrshire Sportsability and Active Schools partners. In September pupils visited Dundonald Links to learn to play golf. In October pupils spent the day at the new Ayrshire College Campus in



Kilmarnock with their ASN peers from across Ayrshire, enjoying a variety of sports organised by Ayrshire Sportsability. In November another group of our young people enjoyed time at the Portal Leisure Centre, Irvine with their ASN peers from across North



Ayrshire enjoying a variety of sports organised by our Active Schools colleagues. We will extending further invitations from Ayrshire Sportsability and Active Schools in term 3 and look even further forward to our annual Family Potted Sports Day in term 4, which continues to grow to be one of our highlights of the year.



## Entertainment

During November and December pupils benefitted from accessing and enjoying entertainment venues in Ayrshire. In November, pupils joined ASN and mainstream peers from across Ayrshire in accessing the Odeon Cinema in the Kilmarnock. We returned to Kilmarnock in December to be excited and exhilarated by the pantomime performance at the Palace Theatre. December provided a further opportunity for pupils to engage in



physical and sensory experiences that were on offer at KidzPlay, Prestwick.



Our pupils have not only demonstrated to us that they are able to be entertained but also pose an abundance of talents to be entertainers in their own right. Staff enthusiastically changed our very adaptable Open Area from a learning space, to a theatre, to a disco and then back to a learning space all during our final December week. On the Tuesday Parents and staff were all very proud of all our young people with all their efforts and delivery of our Supported Learning Nativity entitled *Whoops-A-Daisy Angel!* They were all stars and they made our hearts burst with pride. It was great to see so many parents and carers celebrating our pupils Pantomime success and then joining pupils and staff for a warm after performance festive tea and coffee. Our celebrations rolled over to the next days for a fun filled Christmas Party where dancing skills were on display. Father Christmas was on hand to meet all the children and set them up for Christmas with a sparkle.

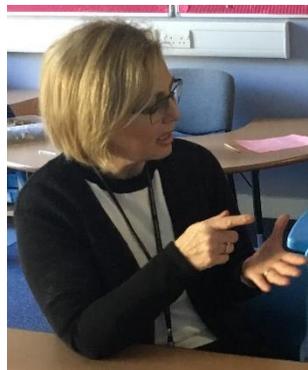


## Engagement with Parents and Carers

We continue to enjoy regular engagement with parents and carers regarding their children's learning, school and external events. In addition to annual reviews we welcomed parents and carers to the Meet the Teacher event in September and our Parent/Carer's Evening in November. We were overwhelmed by the level of parental support for the Supported Learning McMillan Coffee Afternoon, School Fayre and Nativity Performance. Our Rebound Therapy, Sportsability, Active School and Christmas outings greatly benefitted from the strong support of parents and carers

## Staff Development

To enhance the experiences of our pupils, staff continue to benefit from a range of continued professional training, this session so far in the form of Rebound Therapy and CALM (Behaviour Management). In terms of Total Communication, which is expanded in more detail below, training has been undertaken regarding the Boardmaker Application (visual communication generation), PODD (Pragmatic Organisation Dynamic Display Communication Books) and Makaton. Many staff also continue to work towards their British Sign Language qualifications supported by our in-house trainer.



## Total Communication

This year we have continued to enhance the Total Communication practices within our Supported Learning department to ensure that all pupils are supported to effectively use their preferred means of communication to enhance their interactions and engagement with staff, pupils, learning environments, curriculum and the wider world.

Through our work within the North Ayrshire Makaton 1+2 Working Party, we have been able to secure further staff training this year, with new staff to the department currently undertaking the Makaton Foundation training over the course of eight twilight sessions. Staff are finding these sessions are supporting them in their interactions with our young

people and allowing them to effectively meet their communication needs. Furthermore, staff who have already undertaken the Beginner's or Foundation Makaton course will further embed Makaton principles and expand upon their signing vocabulary by completing the Enhancement course booked for May 2019. All staff have also been engaging in monthly in-house Makaton signing sessions to improve confidence and familiarity with using Makaton signs.



This year has also seen a new communication method with the introduction of PODD (Pragmatic Organised Dynamic Display) to our department. Several children within a range of class bases have already benefitted from the introduction of this programme with benefits including scope for a wider range of communicative exchanges and enhanced opportunities for two-way communication.

## Partnership Working



Pupils, parents and staff continue to benefit from input from variety of partner agencies such as Children and Families Disability Team, the Mungo Foundation's respite residential at Muirfield Place in Kilwinning, Speech and Language Therapist from Ayrshire Central Hospital, Specialist Paediatric Services at Rainbow House, Ayrshire Sportsability and our own school based Children 1<sup>st</sup> and Challenge Team workers. We are also pleased that the National Autistic Society were back at Elderbank to host monthly drop in sessions for parents, carers and members of our local community.



## Looking Forward

As you can see we have had a very busy and enjoyable first half of the session and we look forward to working together on more exciting opportunities in terms 3 and 4.

### Enhanced Deaf Provision

#### Family Learning Programme

Before the start of the new term the children and their families were invited to join a programme of activities which encouraged family fun and communication. All of our Deaf children live with hearing families.

The children and their families enjoyed visits to a variety of places

The first visit included a gift from Lewis' family and was a day at Craig Tara Holiday Village in Ayr on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> July. This included swimming and lots of fun.



The second visit was to Dumfries House on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> July where the children and families learned lots about planting herbs and had the opportunity to harvest the onions in the Garden. Prince Charles would be proud of everyone for their efforts.



The third outing was to Culzean Castle on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> July. Everyone had a great time negotiating their way down to the shore to learn more about the sea life. We even had some brave pupils who would lift the crabs. The staff were not so brave. After lunch everyone was able to visit the fabulous adventure playground and the children from Supported Learning joined us to have some fun.



The final visit was to Eglinton Park on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> July where the children had the opportunity for participate in Pony Therapy and to engage in the Ranger activity. Having the use of the Racquet





Hall meant everyone had a safe place to eat and run around and play games with their friends and family

The new term was busy and we welcomed two new pupils to Primary 1. A focus for learning continues to be experiential as we support our young people to build their language acquisition. The children have been out in the community exploring and learning about their environment.

### BBC Bitesize



Outdoor learning is a key tool and the children participated with staff in the BBC Learning Lab filming. Everyone had a great day and the clip can be found at [www.bbc.co.uk/programme/signs of autumn](http://www.bbc.co.uk/programme/signs_of_autumn).



### Pony Therapy

Pony Therapy is on offer to our children and some pupils have enjoyed the experience on a Monday with Mrs Miller and friends from the school and Supported Learning.



### Pantomime – Signed Performance Sleeping Beauty

The children enjoyed the Signed Performance of Sleeping Beauty at the Palace Theatre.



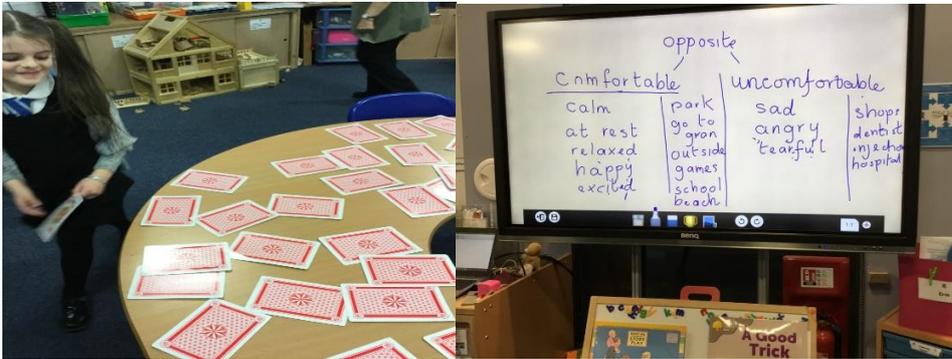
## Christmas Lunch

The children enjoyed decorating Base 24 in preparation for their Christmas Lunch. They invited some hearing friends and enjoyed the smaller space and opportunity to communicate out with the very busy hall on Christmas Lunch Day.



## Healthy Minds Programme

The children continue to enjoy the variety of the Healthy Minds programme and exploring their Deaf identity while seeking solutions to challenges they may face in a supportive environment.



## NDCS Events

Elderbank works in partnership with the NDCS and have offered parent events. The Family night in November was enjoyed by everyone and the crèche on offer allowed families with young children to attend without the worry of childcare



Elderbank also showcased their work at the NDCS event held at Brambles at Burnhouse on Saturday 8th September. Tyrese joined Mrs Montgomery, Mrs Miller and Miss Robertson on the day and he was a great ambassador for the school.



## Signing Choir

The signing choir joined the choir festival in Motherwell on Sunday 16th September. The children had a great day and the video is shared on the school website.

The Signing Choir also meet as an After School Club and entertained their peers as part of the End of Term Services.

## Personalisation and Choice

As part of the Primary 5-7 Personalisation and Choice activities a SQA Qualification course was offered and this has been very popular with the pupils. Mrs Boyle our Deaf Worker leads this course and she has encouraged other volunteers to assist, which widens the opportunities for our pupils.

## Staff Training

Mrs Boyle is also offering a British Sign Language Level 1 Course which staff are undertaking on a Monday evening. We are delighted with the commitment of our staff from the Mainstream, Early Years and Supported Learning who have all been learning together.

## Swimming

Some of our pupils participate in swimming lessons with our Deaf swimming instructor. This provides valuable life skills and supports the pupil's communication skills.

