

WEST KILBRIDE PRIMARY SCHOOL  
Parent Council Meeting- Monday 13<sup>th</sup> November 2023



Head Teacher Report- Mrs Carson

- Attainment

I have attached the Standards and Qualities Report data, published in June 2023, for your information. However, please be mindful that this report uses data from June 2022 as a foundation for the attainment figures, given that attainment statistics for each academic year are not made public until December of that year.

**June 2022**

Stage	Numeracy	Listening and Talking	Writing	Reading
P1 Early	83%	87%	74%	74%
P4 First	79%	93%	71%	65%
P7 Second	85%	100%	74%	72%

Upon joining West Kilbride, my attention was drawn to the June 2023 data, which is **significantly** lower than that of June 2022. This information will be publicly available next month and so I am happy to go through this with the Parent Council in more detail then. Data from June 2023 can be found on [Primary School Information Dashboard \(shinyapps.io\)](#) after December.

However, given that we are now using enhanced assessment, tracking and monitoring processes, we saw the data lower at the start of Term 1 than the data recorded in June. This is to be expected given that we are using more formal assessment methods, as opposed to being reliant on professional judgement. However, given that we have introduced a number of intervention programmes and 'boost' groups, we are beginning to see small increases in attainment already at individual pupil level.

- After School Clubs

We are delighted to have many of our after-school clubs now up and running, including Choir, Textiles Club and Baking Club. We await the return of PVG certification to start our Arts and Crafts and Football clubs. We also have Athletics, Golf and Tennis clubs lined up for a January start.

- Dogs in Playground/Parking on Zigzags

There is an ongoing effort to prevent dogs being brought into the playground. Text communications have been sent home to parents and carers previously and Miss Phillips and SLT are present in the playground and are challenging parents directly when dogs are being brought into the area. We have contacted Police Scotland regarding the parking on Zig Zag or double-yellow lines and requested that they monitor this, given that this is out-with our school jurisdiction. I have sent another text to parents and carers today to remind them of these requirements.

- EYC

There has been no uptake on the offer for parents to move children from the morning to the afternoon session, which is currently under-subscribed. However, alternative plans are in place to ensure our afternoon pupils benefit from peer engagement through enhanced partnership working opportunities with West Kilbride Early Years Centre and a variety of community links including sessions within Headrigg Gardens. Unfortunately, we are not permitted to offer any full day placements as we are a Model 2 provider. Jo has indicated that they require a child-accessible shed for easy access to outdoor resources and we are currently completing the approval paperwork to submit to NAC to support this. It has been suggested that this may be funded, or part-funded, by the Parent Council should approval be granted.

- Privacy for changing for PE

At present, infant classes (P1-3) change in class together for P.E lessons. Children who prefer to are offered the choice of changing in the toilet. However, this is the exception that pupils request this, rather than the norm. P4-P6 change in class in alternate gender groups, with the other group working/reading in the open area. Again, those who wish to are able to use the toilets. Within P7 classes, the girls change in the cloakroom area and the boys change within the classrooms.

I have previously explored alternative options with staff, who shared that a few years ago they trialled all pupils using the toilets to change. However, this resulted in damage to the toilets, negative behaviour and the toilets being inaccessible to pupils who needed to use them. Our processes currently align with other primary schools in the local authority who do not have designated P.E changing facilities.

- Resources

Staff have recently been engaging in a wealth of professional development opportunities, one of which has been training in the use of North Ayrshire Council's Numeracy Framework. Staff have embraced this with enthusiasm and we have already seen enhanced practices in class during lesson observations linked to the framework. However, an audit identified a lack of learning and teaching resources to support the delivery of Numeracy and Maths within the school. To be clear, no resources have been discarded since I have been in post. I have attached the audit and toolkit contents to demonstrate the robustness of the process in developing the class toolkits and to highlight that many resources are being made in school to minimise costs (highlighted in green), although these were not final figures in terms of costings. Our resource budget is very limited and so the Parent Council have very generously offered to support towards some of these costs, the remainder of which will be taken from our School Fund.

Looking at broader resources, we have invested in extending our reading scheme, Big Cat, to cover P4 and P5, including the sourcing and/or purchasing of additional books and linked planning, assessment and learning and teaching materials at a rough cost of £3,000.

We previously subscribed to Accelerated Reader to offer support to learners in P6 and 7. However, it was underutilised and cost prohibitive (approximately £1400 annually) and so we are currently looking for an alternative.

We have also invested in Nelson Handwriting to ensure we have a progressive programme of work.

We currently have no writing programme in place and our Literacy working party are exploring different resource options to support progression within this curricular area.

- Staffing

We have appointed Mrs Jacqui Park as our new DHT- she will join us in January, with some familiarisation visits scheduled over the remainder of this term. Both Mrs Finlayson and Mrs Reid will carry out our DHT remit in an acting capacity until Christmas. Mrs Herron was successful in gaining an additional day to add to her current contract on a temporary basis to support the raising of attainment through use of interventions. Paul Smith will join us as a Classroom Assistant after the November break. Paul was previously NAC's CALM Co-ordinator and I'm sure he will be an asset to our school. We also have a temporary 15 hour CA vacancy to appoint.

- Toilets

We are currently experiencing high levels of vandalism and property damage in our toilets, particularly within the P7 area. Correspondence has been sent to P7 parents today requesting support with this, following ongoing discussions with pupils with SLT and the introduction of a 'buddy' system to limit the opportunities for vandalism. We would appreciate parents discussing the need for appropriate behaviour in the toilets with their child.

