

WEST KILBRIDE PRIMARY SCHOOL
Parent Council Meeting- Monday 22nd January 2024



Head Teacher Report- Mrs Carson

- Attainment
[Primary School Information Dashboard \(shinyapps.io\)](https://shinyapps.io)

Attainment data for the academic year 2022-2023 was released publically in December 2023. I have always been very transparent regarding our attainment challenges and I believe it is important to support the Parent Council and the wider parent body to understand this data.

As you will see, attainment across the school dipped significantly last year, comparative to the previous year's attainment information. The released data shows:

- Within Reading, average attainment of the expected level combined within P1, P4 and P7 was between 60-70%.
- Within Writing, this figure dropped to between 50-60%.
- Within Numeracy, the average was between 70-80%.
- P4 were the most negatively impacted year group, across the P1, P4 and P7 stages for which data is collected, with the number of P4 pupils attaining the expected level with Reading sitting between 40-50%, within Writing sitting at 30-40% and within Numeracy at 50-60%. This data shows that with an average class size of 23.5 pupils, within each P4 class, roughly 8 pupils are 'on track' and achieving expected levels for Writing.

However, over the last two terms, we have already taken significant steps to improve upon this. All staff benefitted from First Level NAC Numeracy Framework training, with infant staff also attending bespoke Early Level training, supported by the Professional Learning Academy. Numeracy kits were created and distributed to all classes, supported by the Parent Council, to support the active teaching of Numeracy Framework strategies. Planning formats were updated to reflect this adjusted approach. Interventions including Plus 1 and Power of 2 and boost groups are in place for pupils identified as being 'off track'.

We have recently invested in a whole school writing programme, PM Writing, as used widely within our Cluster schools. Training to support the implementation of this will be delivered from the PM Writing team on 7th February 2024.

Our Big Cat reading scheme resources were previously available to readers until the beginning of P4, at which point pupils were directed towards novel studies. Whilst novel study provided access to more compelling texts, they did not support the teaching of the core mechanics of reading. We have now invested in extending the scheme to support until the end of P5. We have also provided staff with the teaching and assessment resources linked to the scheme to support a more holistic approach to reading and comprehension. Staff have benefitted from running record training from the PLA- they have attended two sessions and are to complete a third to ensure we are accurately assessing reading skills. We have yet to decide whether to expand the reading scheme to cover those pupils in P6-7 who are currently 'off track' or whether to source an alternative resource. This remains the remit of our Literacy Working Party.

- Attendance

In moving towards our attainment goals, it is important to maintain strong levels of pupil attendance across the school. Attendance is currently being monitored in accordance with NAC Standard Circular A6: ATTENDANCE IN NORTH AYRSHIRE EDUCATIONAL ESTABLISHMENTS: EVERY SCHOOL DAY MATTERS, as published January 2020. The monitoring of attendance is a statutory responsibility of all schools and will likely be the focus of forthcoming Education Scotland inspection processes, given the international decline in attendance following the Covid-19 pandemic. All schools are being asked to demonstrate attendance monitoring processes.

Whilst I am aware that this may be an unfamiliar process for our parent body, the conversations I am having around attendance with families have been both positive and enlightening, enabling us to put in place supports from external services such as counselling, art therapy and school nurse input, to families in need.

- Anti-Bullying/ Positive Behaviour Policy

Whilst I appreciate that parents were surveyed prior to the Summer with a view to SLT creating a new Positive Relationships policy, we are not yet in a position to create this. This is for a number of reasons but most notably because our HWB Working Party are working towards deciding upon and implementing the programmes of work and systems which will underpin any such policy this year. Once these systems have been decided upon and are in place, expectations surrounding positive interactions, and consequences for lack thereof, will be clearly outlined to both staff and pupils and will form the basis of any following policy document.

However, in the meantime, we treat any incidents of negative behaviour (including bullying) on an individual basis and respond accordingly. All instances of bullying are recorded using the 'Bullying' section of SEEMIS, as per North Ayrshire Council guidance. Restorative Practice is used to support pupils to identify the root cause of their behaviours and to take responsibility for their own behaviour by thinking through the consequences for all parties, often identifying how they can right any wrongdoings. SLT maintain an 'open-door' policy for both pupils and families to ensure we are getting it right for all pupils on an individual basis.

- Internet Safety

We have had a number of incidents recently involving social media use, particularly within the upper school. Unfortunately, whilst these interactions begin on social media at home, the repercussions are often felt within the school day. As a school, we have limited capacity to prevent information being shared on social media out-with the school environment. However, we are looking to upskill parents on how to support their children to safely manage internet use at our next 'Link and Learn' event. Class Teachers were offered training in advance of Safer Internet Day 2024 will take place on the 6th of February 2024, with celebrations and learning in school on the day based around the theme '**Inspiring change? Making a difference, managing influence and navigating change online**' in alignment with the National campaign.

- P7 Arran Trip

We have submitted a request for our P7 Arran week to take place in either September or October 2024. However, we have yet to be allocated our date. It has been suggested we will know by the end

of the week and this information will be shared with parents once available. Parents are able to pay the balance of the trip (tbc) in instalments. As always, PEF spending will be used to support pupils to attend where cost is a barrier.

- Leavers' Hoodies

We have not yet begun to look into the provision of Leavers' Hoodies but we are aware the Summer term will be here in no time. School are happy to be guided by the Parent Council into how these can be provided/funded based upon what has worked well previously.

- What's next?

We have recently purchased Food Technology resources from our PEF budget, including food preparation stations, cookers, pots and utensils to support pupils to develop their cooking skills in school. P1 pupils have already enjoyed making porridge, linked to their reading on Goldilocks and were very proud of their finished results, with almost all pupils happy to taste the final product!

We are beginning to develop our outdoor area to support pupils to engage in planting and growing. The long-term goal is for pupils to grow and cook their own food, supporting sustainability aims. We are also looking to develop our capacity for external loose parts play. This will support pupils to develop meta-skills such as team-work, curiosity and problem-solving in line with 'Developing the Young Workforce' guidance. We hope that support from our local community will help us put this into action soon.

Mrs Park brings with her a wealth of experience in Digital Technologies. We aim to improve access to digital resources for both pupils and staff across the school and this will be a strong focus over the next two terms and beyond.

We are keen to promote pupil voice across the school and so last week, pupils were asked to nominate themselves for a variety of committees including Digital Technologies, Pupil Council, Rights Respecting Schools, Eco and Sustainability and Junior Road Safety. The pupil body then voted for their preferred candidates. This not only supports the teaching of democracy but will allow pupils to drive change within the school. We are looking forward to supporting them with their initiatives.