

# WHITEHIRST PARK PRIMARY SCHOOL



## STANDARDS AND QUALITY REPORT

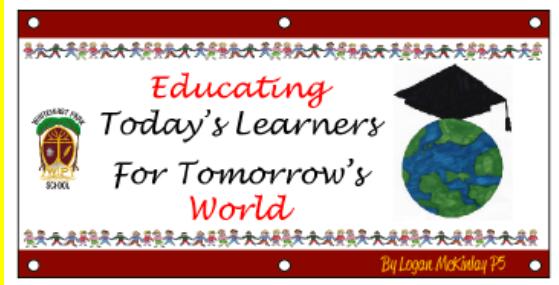
September 2021

This guide has been prepared to give you information about our school's progress and achievements as well as our plans for 2021-22.



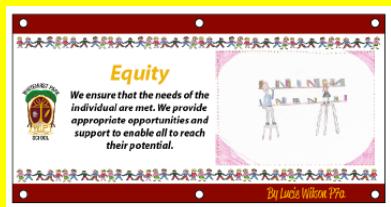
*Lynn Robertson*  
Head Teacher

# Our School



Whitehirst Park Primary School is a non-denominational school with a roll of 268 pupils in 12 classes, including a P1/2/3 composite class in our Gaelic provision. The school is situated in the Whitehirst Park area of Kilwinning and opened in 1975. The current staff structure consists of 1 Head Teacher, 1 Depute Head Teacher, 2 Principal Teachers, 16 Teachers (including one Music Teacher and two newly qualified teachers), 6 Classroom Assistants, 0.6 Pupil Support Teacher, 2 Education Support Assistants and 1 Janitor. Working in partnership, within a caring and stimulating environment, we aim to provide quality learning experiences which will encourage positive attitudes, enabling pupils to achieve their potential as valued members of the community.

## Our values



Our values were created in partnership with our pupils, staff and parents and underpin all that we do at Whitehirst Park.

# LOOKING BACK - SESSION 2020-21

Last year we worked hard to improve our work in the following areas. 8

Ensuring high quality learning experiences for all children, incorporating the effective use of assessment by staff and learners through focussing on:



- ❖ Learning and Engagement
- ❖ Quality of Teaching
- ❖ Effective use of Assessment and
- ❖ Planning, tracking and monitoring



unfortunately, due to school closure a number of the interventions we were due to have, led by North Ayrshire Professional Learning Academy, did not happen:

- ❖ All teaching staff have taken part in professional learning around Attention and Listening.
- ❖ All staff completed Nurturing North Ayrshire modules.
- ❖ All staff took part in school Outdoor Learning professional learning.
- ❖ P1 staff took completed a Primary 1 Pedagogy module.
- ❖ All teaching staff took part in professional learning around the North Ayrshire Literacy Framework.
- ❖ All staff took part in digital learning using vscene.
- ❖ Classroom Assistants had refresher training in the Boosting Reading Intervention.
- ❖ Classroom Assistants took part in 5 minute box training to support Early Literacy.
- ❖ Classroom Assistants completed modules on Effective Feedback and Supporting Writing.



# Self Evaluation



Throughout the year we gather lots of information on how our children are progressing in their learning. To monitor their progress we watch children working through tasks, listen to what they say, ask important questions, set challenges and use some standardised assessments. We get together as a staff and look carefully at the experiences and outcomes of Curriculum for Excellence to ensure children are making progress.

Each session all schools use a six point scale from the 'How Good Is Our School?' document to evaluate the life and work of the school. The grades are excellent, very good, good, satisfactory, unsatisfactory and weak.

The box below illustrates how we have graded our school for 2020-21.

Leadership of Change: Very Good
Learning, Teaching and Assessment: Good
Ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion : Good
Raising Attainment and Achievement : Good

During school closure we delivered a consistent diet of online direct teaching, pupil support and wellbeing support. We maintained high levels of engagement throughout. For Live lessons an average 83.1% of pupils took part in live lessons and an average 95.1% engaged with other forms of online learning. Paper packs of activities were also issued to all learners.

Our focus on education recovery, assessment and rigorous analysis of our attainment data means we are very aware of where we need to improve and we are fully committed to improving attainment for all, in all areas of the curriculum.

Excellence is doing ordinary things extraordinarily well.  
John W. Gardner

# OUR SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN



The School Improvement Plan is a document which sets out the activities we will be undertaking as a school over the coming session. When writing this document we take into account a number of factors:

- \*National Priorities and directives as set out by the Scottish Government.
- \*Local Priorities and directives as set out by North Ayrshire Council.
- \* Our self-evaluation procedures and development needs of our own school.

This document is continually reviewed and evaluated by school staff and the Senior Leadership Team. We focus on evidence based evaluations from all stakeholders and use these to inform our next steps. At Authority Level we are supported by the Head of Schools and our Senior Manager.

In Session 2021-22 we have identified the following priorities:

- ❖ Focus on school recovery through approaches to assessing and supporting wellbeing and attainment
- ❖ Develop Gaelic Medium Education for Primary 1, 2 and 3 pupils
- ❖ Develop a culture of leadership at all levels
- ❖ Focus on ensuring high quality learning experiences for all children incorporating the effective use of assessment by staff and learners

We are looking forward to working with North Ayrshire Professional Learning Academy on the following interventions:

- ❖ Interdisciplinary Creative Writing and Drama
  - ❖ Oracy Skills
  - ❖ Outdoor Learning and Literacy
  - ❖ Outdoor Learning and Numeracy
  - ❖ Olevi - Outstanding Teacher Programme



# OUR ACHIEVEMENTS



Just a few of our achievements in 2020-21 include:

- \* Our P1 classes performed and filmed a special Christmas Nativity!
- \* Our School closed after the Christmas holidays for lockdown 2 but this didn't stop us coming together as a school community! We had a high level of engagement with online learning.
- \* We were winners in a poetry inspired Art Competition.
- \* We worked in partnership with Graham construction to enhance our Eco Garden.
- \* We returned to school after lockdown and transitioned seamlessly into school life.
- \* We had an amazing Sports Day in our class bubbles!
- \* We celebrated Euro 2021 with a fun Euro Day.
- \* Miss Dobson and the Eco Committee achieved our 5<sup>th</sup> Eco Schools Green Flag in June!
- \* Our P7s performed and filmed a wonderful Leavers' Assembly for parents.

For more of our achievements follow us on Twitter @WhitehirstPS



## ATTAINMENT



Throughout the year we gather lots of information on how our children are progressing in their learning. We watch children working through tasks, listen to what they say, ask important questions, set challenges and use some standardised assessments. We look carefully at the experiences and outcomes of Curriculum for Excellence to ensure children are making progress.

North Ayrshire Council also ask us to summarise our children's progress in Reading, Writing, Listening and Talking and Numeracy. They ask us to look particularly at children who have reached the end of Early, First and Second Levels at P1, P4 and P7.

Key highlights of this year's analysis are:

- \* Attainment in all areas of Literacy and Numeracy continues to be good across the school despite school closure.
- \* Our attainment at Primary 1, 4 and 7 is above the North Ayrshire average in all areas of Literacy and Numeracy.
- \* Almost all learners made progress from prior levels in Listening and Talking, Reading and Numeracy, with most in Writing. Some pupils are working beyond the expected level for their age and stage. This has improved from Session 2019-20.

Analysis of our attainment data for Session 2020-21 means we are very aware of where we need to improve and we are fully committed to improving attainment for all.

# Overall Capacity For Improvement – Strengths and Next steps

The capacity for improvement at Whitehirst Park Primary is very good. The commitment of staff, support from parents and the confident pupils, ensures there is capacity for continuous growth and development. The school community has a clear vision. Our purpose is to ensure that every child is given the opportunity and support to be the best that they can be and develop the four capacities, supported by the nurturing ethos of the Whitehirst Park Primary School community. This will continue to be improved through cultivating positive relationships with all stakeholders, collegiate working and developing effective leadership at all levels.

The improvement plan for 2021 – 2022 focuses directly on school recovery, nurturing relationships, rigorous assessment of pupil wellbeing and progress and ensuring high quality learning experiences for all pupils.

Our clear focus on school recovery will enable us to continue to develop effective approaches to moderation, assessment, self-evaluation and improvement by developing staff skills, knowledge and understanding. We will continue to have high expectations of the performance of all staff and thoroughly plan Career-Long Professional Learning opportunities linked to the Professional Review and Development process and the School Improvement Plan.

We will continue to review and develop our procedures for formal and informal approaches to monitoring the quality of learning and teaching as part of the schools quality assurance procedures. This will ensure consistent, quality learning experiences for pupils. We will continue to rigorously track pupils' progress through analysing all available data. This process will include regular meetings involving teaching staff, support staff and the leadership team so that prompt action can be taken and we can continue to celebrate areas where improvements have been made.

