



## Head Teacher's Report to the Parent Council AGM – 26<sup>th</sup> May 2026

### St. Fillan's Primary School

Firstly, I would like to extend my sincere thanks to our Parent Council and all post holders for their continued commitment and excellent partnership working throughout this session. I recognise that you often prefer to quietly go about your work; however, it is important to acknowledge that without your dedication, fundraising efforts, and the experiences you help provide, many valuable opportunities for our children simply would not happen. Your contribution to the life of St. Fillan's is deeply appreciated.

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### Fabric of the School

The school building continues to improve steadily. Internally, we are seeing consistent upgrades, and I would like to highlight the exceptional efforts of our janitorial team, who work tirelessly throughout the year to ensure the school remains clean, safe, and maintained to the highest standards.

I am pleased to report that we have secured £40,000 in funding to replace all doors within the school to ensure they meet current health and safety and fire regulations. This important work will take place over the summer holidays.

In addition, careful management of the school budget since I took up post has allowed us to make significant improvements to facilities. All sinks in the lower classrooms have now been replaced and provide both hot and cold running water. Only one sink remains to be replaced in the upper school, along with the installation of hot water throughout the upper area. This work has been approved by finance and will take place during the summer term.

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### Staffing

#### *Our Shared Vision*

*"We are all learning, growing and succeeding together"*

#### *Our Shared Aim - BUDS*

*Be Brave*

*Unleash Creativity*

*Demonstrate Excellence*

*Show/Radiate Enthusiasm*



Staffing for the new session is still being finalised. I am hopeful that confirmation will be received within the next few weeks, allowing us to provide clear information to staff and parents well in advance of the new academic year. This will ensure smooth and well-planned transitions for all.

I am also delighted to share that we now have a full-time cook based within our school kitchen. Previously, meals were prepared at Houston Primary and transported to St. Fillan's. Through effective partnership working with Renfrewshire Council, we have been able to highlight the needs of our local community. As a result, Karen joined us last month as our school cook. Since then, we have seen a significant improvement in the quality of meals, increased uptake of school lunches, and a noticeable reduction in waste.

### **School Improvement Plan – Session Overview**

We have recently completed our self-evaluation for this year as part of our School Improvement Plan. I am very pleased to report that, based on the evidence submitted, we graded ourselves as **'Very Good'** across our key Quality Indicators. This judgement was quality assured by our Education Manager, who agreed that the evidence provided fully supported this evaluation.

Our self-evaluation approach is firmly aligned with **How Good Is Our School? 4 (HGIOS4)**, particularly:

- **QI 1.3 – Leadership of Change**, through a clear and shared vision for improvement
- **QI 2.3 – Learning, Teaching and Assessment**, with a focus on high-quality learning experiences
- **QI 3.2 – Raising Attainment and Achievement**, demonstrated through improved outcomes across the school

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In line with HGIOS4, our approach is **evidence-based, inclusive, and collaborative**, ensuring that all stakeholders including staff, learners, parents, and partners contribute to continuous improvement and better outcomes for children.

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## **STEM, Digital Learning and Partnerships**

This session, we have achieved **improved attainment across all curricular areas**, with a strong and strategic focus on **STEM and Digital Learning**. This work is closely aligned to both HGIOS4 and the **Scottish Government's "Learning Together" National Framework**, particularly:

- **Parental Engagement in Children's Learning**
- **Family Learning**
- **Collaborative partnerships that support skills for learning, life and work**

Our STEM developments have been carefully planned to ensure meaningful, progressive experiences for all learners, with a clear emphasis on **Developing the Young Workforce** and equipping children with essential skills for their future.

Through our involvement in **TALIS (Teaching and Learning in STEM)**, staff have engaged in high-quality professional learning, enabling them to deliver more innovative, skills-based learning experiences. This has strengthened practitioner confidence and ensured consistency in approaches across the school.

Learners have engaged in a wide range of STEM activities, including:

- Problem-solving and enquiry-based learning
- Digital technologies and coding
- Engineering and design challenges
- Real-life numeracy and science applications

A key strength this session has been our **partnership working with external agencies and parents**, which directly supports both HGIOS4 (QI 2.7 – Partnerships) and the **Learning Together Framework**. We have:

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- Worked with local authority teams and partner organisations to enhance STEM provision
- Engaged with programmes linked to industry and career pathways
- Invited parents and carers to contribute their professional knowledge, skills, and experiences

This has allowed our children to see clear, relevant links between their learning and the wider world, strengthening their understanding of **career pathways and the skills required for future employment**.

Our work with parents has moved beyond traditional engagement and into **meaningful partnership**, where families are actively contributing to learning experiences and supporting children's development of key skills. This reflects best practice within both HGIOS4 and the national parental engagement framework.

As a result, our learners are becoming more confident in:

- Critical thinking and problem solving
- Collaboration and teamwork
- Digital literacy
- Application of learning in real-life contexts

This is having a direct and positive impact on both engagement and attainment.

I am extremely proud of our staff team and wider school community for their commitment to this work and for ensuring our children benefit from a high-quality, relevant, and future-focused curriculum.

### **School Improvement Priorities for Next Session**

Looking ahead, our School Improvement Plan will continue to build on this success, with a focus on:

- STEM

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- Digital Learning
- Outdoor Learning
- Renfrewshire Nurturing Schools Approach
- Racial Literacy

Attainment at St. Fillan's continues to be strong, and we are committed to maintaining and building upon these high standards in line with HGIOS4.

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## Transitions

All transition processes for Nursery to Primary 1 and Primary 7 to S1 have now been completed. In line with **HGIOS4 QI 2.6 (Transitions)**, we work closely with all stakeholders to ensure that children's information is shared efficiently and effectively, supporting continuity and progression for every learner.

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## Outdoor Learning Focus Group

Our Outdoor Learning Focus Group has made a very positive start this session. This group was established in response to pupil voice, aligning with **HGIOS4 QI 2.2 (Curriculum)** and **QI 2.7 (Partnerships)**.

It is important to note that this group operates separately from the Parent Council, with a primary focus on sourcing external funding rather than fundraising.

Significant progress has already been made, including:

- The removal of dead and diseased trees at no cost to the school
- Submission of funding applications to a variety of organisations
- The development of a newsletter to keep parents informed and encourage wider community involvement

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This work also reflects the **Learning Together Framework**, encouraging family and community involvement in improving learning environments.

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## **Closing Remarks**

This has been a highly successful and productive session for St. Fillan's Primary School. The progress made is a direct result of strong teamwork across staff, pupils, parents, and partners, underpinned by clear alignment with national guidance and frameworks.

I would like to thank everyone for their ongoing support, commitment, and shared vision for our school community. Together, we are continuing to ensure the very best outcomes for all of our children.

I look forward to building on this success in the year ahead.

Mrs Jacqueline McPherson  
Head Teacher

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