



HT Report to Parent Forum

8th September 2022

This year we have seen most children back in school since September and this has had a positive impact on their wellbeing and progress. However it still has been a turbulent year with continued absence, the stress of managing our anxieties around Covid especially as the restrictions eased and changes to the school leadership. I started my role here on the back of Covid myself, coming into a lot of different systems and ways of working which I am still familiarising myself with. Thank you for your continued patience as I find my way around these systems and also for your welcome to Shetland.

PEF

We received our Pupil Equity Funding (PEF) and have now allocated how we will spend the £11,025. This amount has now been guaranteed for 4 years which enables us to plan ahead in terms of staffing. As with the previous funding, we have invested in additional Learning Support Worker hours to enable us to provide support within literacy and maths lessons as well as targeted interventions. We have used PEF to continue paying for Accelerated Reader as this system motivates children to read for enjoyment. Progress in reading indicates the effectiveness of the programme. We continue to use eight Clicker licences to support independent writing laptops and the Nessy programme which supports our dyslexic learners. This year we have introduced a new Maths Scheme- White Rose Maths which is based on a mastery approach using practical materials and images. The scheme is designed to focus on the understanding of number and maths through children using reasoning approaches, and it will run alongside other schemes and resources that are already being used by teachers. Both Mrs Leslie and I are teaching groups from Maths classes, so all teachers can focus on a smaller group of children.

School Roll and Attendance

Our school roll is currently 90 with 32 registered in nursery for this year. Our classes are: P1/2- 22; P2/3/4- 24; P4/5/6 – 23; P6/7 – 21.

Attendance figures for last year were 92.59% and unauthorised absences were 1.84%. These figures are still relatively low and the unauthorised absences are due to an increase in family holidays and trips. We have had no exclusions this year. Illness in the Term 3 and 4 was high due to Covid and other ailments both in children and staff.

Staffing

Covering staff absence has been a challenge since Christmas as there are not enough supply teachers to go around. This has been compounded by the lengthy delays in recruitment by HR. It is often taking up to 2 months before a post is advertised and another 2 months for the final offer to come through. This means that Dunrossness, along with other schools have called on supply staff to back fill vacancies while recruitment takes place- leading to a greater shortage of supply staff to cover absence.

The school has successfully recruited a play practitioner to run NOOSC and also a fulltime ELC support worker who has started in post, and full time and part-time ELC practitioners- who are waiting for final

offer. We are currently advertising for a part-time ELC support worker and waiting for a part-time Learning Support Assistant to be advertised.

NOOSC

This is now up and running everyday after school and so far has 21 children regularly using the provision.

There are a few parents that continue to ask about breakfast club starting again. I have spoken to the Council and they will not be offering this as part of their child care remit. It is possible to run an informal provision that does not come under the Scottish Care Commission, but the school does not have any funds available to staff it. However it may be possible for Parent Council to run some kind of provision on a volunteer basis.

Attainment and Achievement

The majority of our learners are achieving at the expected level for literacy, numeracy and health and wellbeing. Teachers are aware of the gaps in children's learning and have worked hard along with children to address these gaps, but for some of our learners recovery will take longer.

Numeracy

P1 82% achieving early level.

P4 81% achieving first level

P7 73% achieving second level

Writing

P1 68% achieving early level

P4 73% achieving first level

P7 66% achieving second level.

Reading

P1 56% achieving early level

P4 82% achieving first level

P7 93% achieving second level

Health and wellbeing

P1 81% achieving early level

P4 72% achieving first level

P7 67% achieving second level

Priorities for 2022-23

From Parental Consultation June 2022. 26 responses were returned. Results were published in the June newsletter. Here is a summary:

Strengths of the school:

Nurture in the school

Learning and Teaching

Health and Wellbeing

Themes most important for the school to be focusing on at the moment:

Nurture in the school

Learning and Teaching

Health and Wellbeing

Outdoor learning

Learning through play/exploration

Staff Consultation: August 2022.

We met together as a whole school team and thought about the strengths of the school as well as the areas to develop.

Strengths of the school:

Children's Learning	Children's Development	Children's Experience
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Social Skills• Academic Skills• Using Initiative• Independent Skills• Life Skills• Acceptance• Understand how they learn best• How to care for themselves and others	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• An understanding of the importance of learning to learn• Confidence• Independence• Happy in themselves and who they are• Manners/Communication	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Being able to contribute to school and community• Educational Experiences• Being listened to and listening to others• Nurture• Positive learning experiences• Positive Relationships• Inclusion

Areas to work on:

Children's Learning	Children's Development	Children's Experience
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Practical Skills• Resilience• Try new things and not give up at the first attempt• Outdoor skills• Literacy Skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Developing new interests• Problem Solving/Resilience in the Playground - Resolving conflict• Sharing/Listening• Behaviour• Emotional literacy	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Play-led Learning - Covid impact• Outdoor Learning• Positive Experience - Some children do not like school• New experiences

Pupil Consultations: Focus Friday event June 2022

The areas Children wanted to work on:

Rewards: Children liked the peg reward system but thought that they were not rewarded fairly across the school. Now they use their peg colour to work toward a class based reward. The pegs are being used by teachers/staff to notice and praise children for their growth mindset, and learning skills as well as actions linked to the school values.

Celebrations and Assemblies: the children asked for more assemblies and ones where their learning is celebrated so now we are having an assembly each week and every fortnight is a celebration assembly. We are building up again a bank of community members who can come into to talk to the children about different themes.

Pupil and Eco committees: having a range of pupils from different year groups on these committees and lot of ideas about projects for these groups to work on- including developing the playground equipment and more outdoor learning.

Through consultation with all stakeholders and taking into account to national and local priorities, we have decided to focus on the following areas much of which is continued from last year's plan.

1. Raising attainment in numeracy and writing through increased pupil involvement
2. Improving inclusion, pupil participation and motivation
3. Improving interaction and experience outcomes for Early stage learners in the outdoor learning environment (including playground development)
4. Embedding the UNCRC into all practice

Our maintenance priorities include:

- Health and well being
- Nurture
- Behaviour Blueprint

The Standards and Quality Report and School Improvement Plan for this session will be submitted to the Local Authority and published on the school blog. We will work on the Children's Improvement Plan through Focus Days and the Pupil Council.

Pupil Council- worked on the ideas for playground developments last term. The New Elected Council will be starting shortly with representatives from P3 through to P7. I will support Pupil Council

Eco Committee (from P4,5,6,7) will also be voted on this week with a core topic of Climate Action and we plan to become a Climate Action School. Ms Scalan will continue to support the children with this

JRSOs (from P6s) worked hard last year to promote road safety across the school and they took a leading role in improving safety and behaviour on the school buses. Their work culminated in a presentation to other schools in the Town Hall in June. The new JRSOs will be starting soon- supported by Mrs Henderson and Mrs Smith.

Little Librarians- We have now a very enthusiastic group of volunteer children to help promote reading, by keeping the library tidy, and displaying books as well as helping children to choose books to read and making suggestions for new book stock. They are being supported by Zuzanna O' Rouke from the Sandwich library. There is quite a lot to do in the library to keep it sorted and easy to find books, so we will be looking for a couple of parent volunteers who would be able to come in to do that.

South Mainland Cluster: The three schools, for Cunningsburgh, Sandwich and Dunrossness have resumed meetings in the Summer Term to collaborate and plan how we can work together to enrich the experience that all our children have. We are planning enrichment days such as a Stem Day for P7s and a Get active day for possibly P5/6.

The effects of the pandemic have been and will continue to be wide ranging for children, families and staff and add to that the cost of living crisis, the year ahead could be challenging for many. However over the last year- even with the disruption of absence we have seen an increase in children's wellbeing and confidence. I would like to thank the staff for their commitment and dedication to giving the best support and learning opportunities to the children in their care, and to the parent forum and committee who have continued to support the school through trying times. As a school community we intend to continue to build on progress made over the last year, extend experiences and support children in all areas.

Gina Finch

8th September 2022

