

**Dunrossness Primary School**  
**Living Laughing Learning**  
**Head Teacher report for Parent Forum 23.1.23**



**School Attendance:**

The Council has a stretch aim of 97%. Currently the school attendance is 94.98%

12% children have below 90%. Mainly due to illness but also some holidays/ events.

**Staffing:**

Finding relief teachers /learning support remains a challenge. We currently only have 1 supply teacher available to use who is reliable. Many are filling vacant posts which leaves very few available to cover sickness.

ASN teacher's role has been reduced to 3.5 days- this is apparently the allocated time for the number of children we have. However we have 12 children on stage 2 or stage 3 support but this does not include new starters in Nursery who have come in with high needs.

We have 2 support staff who are 1 to 1. And 2 part time LSW/A who are spread over the school equivalent to 1.5 members of staff. This means it is getting increasingly a challenge to meet the needs we have and close any gaps.

HT role is in class for the equivalent of 2 days, but this is spread out over the week. Makes it difficult to priorities other key tasks

Recruitment remains a challenge with up to 12 weeks for a request to fill a vacancy to be passed to executive manager for approval. This has improved slightly in the last few weeks.

Play practitioner post for NOOSC is currently being advertised with a closing date of 2 Feb. Miss Roberts is providing cover whilst we recruit.

EL support worker post has been re-advertised with a closing date of 26.01.

LSA post supported by PEF funding has been advertised twice and is currently going through the interview stage.

**School Dinners:**

Pupil Council met with the head cook on Friday as they had questions about school meals raised by the children particularly around allergies. There was opportunity to raise the question from parents on Facebook. Norma explained that the menu is designed by head office. However she has to change items quickly when there has been disruption- maybe delivery has not arrived or not been able to get something out of the freezer to defrost. The catering team go to great lengths to ensure the menu( which follows Scottish Government guidelines) is followed and the children are presented with food they eat.

**Breakfast:** It has been noted by staff that many children say they do not have breakfast before coming to school. Is there any way that we can offer some toast first thing in the morning? Would Parent Council support this financially if this is something that we could do?

**School Closure procedure:** So far school closures have been dictated by SIC, and when notice given the night before most have received the messages via email, Facebook and blog. When messages

come at short notice as they did last Monday- those who have asked for a phone call did receive one.

The parent calling tree is there for when we have to close the school early and there might not be very much time to get the messages out. Not all parents have given consent so they will not be on the tree as assume that they can get messages via email and Facebook/ blog or school will phone them.

### **School improvement Priorities:**

#### **1. Raising attainment in numeracy and writing through increased pupil involvement**

Children continue to have smaller classes for maths lessons using a mixture of white rose maths and other schemes.

Learning walks have focused on writing books- giving feedback to teachers about good practice as well as some aspects to think about. As a result we have looked at Marking and Feedback/assessment policy as our approach needed to be more consistent across the school.

Two teachers are taking part in a National Writing project with the aim of improving outcomes in P4 and upwards. As the result the teachers are seeing good improvements and growing confidence in writing. The plan will be to share what they have learnt to implement across the school next year.

### **Improving inclusion, pupil participation and motivation**

- Learning through play: Staff have been reviewing this as a whole school alongside the development of the explore and learn pedagogy in EY and P1/2. We have considered what learning through play looks like as children progress through the school and we have discussed how children can direct their own learning when there is a curriculum to follow. Two areas we want to work on is consolidating the project, enquiry learning for the upper school and the outdoor learning offer. This requires some serious upgrading of outdoor spaces for which there are several barriers- health and safety, funding , and working with leaning estates.
- Teaching staff have undertaken a review of our provision using the CIRCLE audit- this has helped us to identify areas where we can modify the provision to be more inclusive. One of these modifications is the installing of sound pads to improve the noise level in the hall and in the explore and learn room.
- A all school focus afternoon took place looking at the behaviour blueprint and how that works in school.

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#### **Enrichment opportunities:**

- AI project-
- Shetland lost songs
- P7 residential
- Pupil Council
- JRSOs
- ECO club
- Little librarians
- Various trips and visitors
- After school netball

- Community choir
2. Improving interactions and experience outcomes for Early stage learners in the outdoor learning environment ( including playground development)
    - Nursery have been focusing on literacy development throughout the learning environment both indoors and outdoors- with support from Lauren Smith- Emerging Literacy team.
  3. Embedding the UNCRC into all practice
    - **Right Respecting School.** The school has signed up for the Bronze award which is all about developing an action plan to embed children's rights in everything that we do. There is considerable evidence already in our current policy and practice, however the starting point is helping children understand these rights as laid out in the United Nations Conventions for the Right of the child which is now part of Scottish Law. Pupil council has formed a steering committee for this project and it would be good to have a parent councillor involved who can spare time in the school day to meet with children to look at developing the action plan.
    - A whole school focus afternoon is planned to introduce children to the Rights as well as an assembly led by Pupil Council.