



East Plean Primary School and Nursery Newsletter

February 2024

School Improvement Journey

We had a very successful Validated Self Evaluation Visit on 30th and 31st January. Validated Self-Evaluation involves a team of education partners who will work with an establishment to observe learning experiences, interactions and spaces. Partners will engage in discussion with groups of staff, learners and parents/carers/partners and consider the range of evidence produced by an establishment. It will offer evaluation and validation of an establishment's own self-evaluation. This practice supports and secures our improvement journey.

The visiting team had a tour of the school with our Young Leaders of Learning, a briefing of the school context and our evaluation of teaching and learning and transitions (our focus) and then they visited classrooms. The team spoke with learners, parents/ carers and staff.

Our feedback was positive and reflected our self-evaluation well.

Some of the key strengths identified during the visit:

- The children we encountered were a shining example of the school values and were very proud of their school.
- Staff have a deep understanding of the context of the school and school is at the heart of the community, serving all families with respect.
- Trusting relationships permeate across all aspects of school life thereby creating high aspirations for all.
- Highly evident that there are consistent approaches across all levels ensuring learner readiness.

From classroom visits, the team identified that explanations and instructions are clear across the school allowing children to feel safe and secure in their environment.

They could hear and see that staff have a holistic understanding of the children's needs enabling them to plan well-timed effective interventions to support learning and wellbeing.

The team felt communication is excellent across all levels.

The VSE team made particular mention of the focus on listening across the school. They could see that children are attentive and ready to learn.

The VSE team's message to learners, staff and parents: "We would like to wholeheartedly thank everyone at East Plean, in particular the children for making the experience such a purposeful, enjoyable visit. Many thanks!"

Our learners spoke confidently about their learning, school and progress. It was a rich opportunity to share our successes and achievements with colleagues from across Stirling. #powerofPlean

Mrs. R. Donnelly (Headteacher)

Pupil Progress Meetings

Our Pupil Progress meetings will be held in school on Wednesday 28th and Thursday 29th February. You should have received your child's appointment time, which has been sent home in schoolbags. If you did not request an appointment time but would like to meet with your child's class teacher, please contact the school as soon as possible to make an appointment. Please take time to look at your child's writing jotter during your visit to school next week. We have been working hard to develop our writing programme in school this term. You will be able to see your child's progress in writing in their jotter. We are very proud of the hard work and progress our learners are making and we know you will be proud of your child's writing too.

Defibrillator



We have been very fortunate to have been gifted a Life-saving Defibrillator. This was gifted by one of Stirling Council's suppliers, as part of their annual community benefits offering. East Plean was chosen as a suitable site for the defibrillator. Our village is now fortunate to have two defibrillators. It has been situated on the front wall of the school.

This new defibrillator at the school is registered on the national defibrillator network in conjunction with the Scottish Ambulance Service and other heart organisations.

Our school and nursery community recently had training on how to use a defibrillator. We hope that this training can be a regular opportunity making sure that as many people as possible feel confident and able to use a defibrillator if it was needed.

Community Café



Our Community Café is returning for 2024. Our Baristas look forward to serving you from 9.30am-10.30am on the following dates:

Wednesday 21st February

Wednesday 28th February

Wednesday 13th March

Wednesday 27th March

Learning Out and About....

Primary 1 have been visiting Plean Country Park this term. They took part in a Gruffalo Hunt finding clues from the story and created characters from the Gruffalo story with natural materials.



Primary 6 participated in an excellent farming session with RHET, learning about eggs, potatoes, soil and cereals. They milked a cow, participated in an auction, sat in a tractor and met a sheep and her calf. Wow, what a busy day of learning outside the classroom!



Primary 7 have been learning about India this term. Their learning about Rangoli art took them outside, brightening up our playground with their creativity. Thank you, Primary 7.



Primary 5 have been looking outdoors, exploring Scottish landmarks. They have put their learning to good use building, designing and creating models of famous Scottish landmarks. You can take a look at their models when you visit the school next week for Pupil Progress Meetings!



Young Leaders of Learning



On Monday 5th February, our Young Leaders of Learning visited the Parent Council meeting to explain their role and to request funding to put in place an outdoor learning programme.

The Young Leaders of Learning role is to work in partnership with young people from other schools to improve all learners' school experiences. Young Leaders of Learning visit partner schools to talk about strengths and areas for improvement. When learners see good practice in other schools, they bring ideas back to talk about how further improvements can be made in their own schools.

Our Young Leaders of Learning partner schools are: St Mary's Primary School, Bannockburn and Allan's Primary School, Stirling. We have visited both schools and they have visited East Plean. During visits, we share the strengths of our school and our action plans for improvement and enjoy a tour of each school.

We also have opportunity to learn from each other and share ideas. We shared the work we have done with Marvel, the classroom calm areas and resilience tools with St Mary's Primary School.

Our Young leaders of Learning were inspired by our visit to Allan's Primary School. They enjoyed seeing and using their outdoor learning resources and activities.

As a result, of the visit to Allan's Primary School, our Young Leaders of Learning looked at our playground spaces, thinking about resources, materials and researching ideas and equipment. The Young Leaders of Learning also spoke with Primary 1-7 about their ideas for the playground during House Meetings.

They would like to create an outdoor learning space in Zone 4 (Astro Area). This space would have resources and materials to play with, create, build and explore.

They would also like to create a quiet, reading area (Zone 5) in the back playground. To enhance this area the plan is to have a canopy erected over this space and have some seating placed under the canopy.

As Primary 7 learners, they would like to leave a legacy which enhances learning experiences for younger learners in East Plean Primary School.

Our Young Leaders of Learning spoke well and Parent Council have agreed to donate £1000 to support the purchase of the materials required.

Visit East Plean Primary School's website!

<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/st/eastplean/>

Follow us on Twitter



@Eastpleanps

Parent Council Meetings 2024:

Monday 4th March 7pm

Monday 13th May 7pm

Monday 3rd June 7pm

Parent Council Events

Thursday 25th April Primary 1-7 Spring Fling Parties

Volunteers to help at the parties would be very welcome. If you are able to help, please contact the school office. Thank you.

William Simpson Care Home

We are delighted to work in partnership with William Simpson Care Home and our learners have participated in a number of exciting creative and worthwhile experiences. We are looking forward to a more opportunities to work together with our friends at William Simpson this term. Primary 5 will be visiting the Care Home to participate in arts and crafts activities. Our Eco group will be involved in a gardening project and we have a real treat planned for World Book Day! Reading with a difference will come to Plean! Thank you to staff and residents in William Simpson Care Home for their support, partnership, fun and learning. #powerofPlean



Dates for the Diary

Friday 23rd February 11am Primary 4 Assembly for parents/ carers

Wednesday 28th, Thursday 29th February 5-7pm Pupil Progress Meetings

Tuesday 5th March Primary 7 Adventure Day at Bannockburn High School (more information to follow)

Friday 8th March 11am Primary 7 Assembly for parents/ carers

Monday 18th, Tuesday 19th March Primary 6 Bikeability sessions in school

Friday 22nd March 11am Primary 5 Assembly for parents/ carers

Wednesday 27th March 2pm End of term service in Plean Church (Primary 6 leading)

Thursday 28th March School closes at 3.15pm, nursery closes at 6pm for spring holiday

Monday 8th April Nursery reopens for summer term

Monday 15th April School reopens for summer term.

Extra- curricular Clubs

This term **Inspiring Communities** are hosting a Primary 7 Lego and Craft Club on Tuesday afternoons. Inspiring Communities are also running a Lego Club during lunchtime for Primary 4 on Wednesdays.

Primary 6 will be participating in **Macrobert Arts Short Film Club**, run in East Plean Primary School by Macrobert Arts staff. The sessions will take place on Tuesdays after school. The Short Film Club will provide learners the opportunity to watch short films and then create movie-inspired posters. Following the completion of the sessions, the posters will be displayed in the Balfour Centre. Learners will also be invited to a free film screening in Plean cinema.

Staff will be running a number of **sports** lunch clubs this term and next which will support our Gold Sports Award application. If **parents/ carers** are interested in supporting or running a sports club or activity, we would be delighted to welcome you into school. Please contact the school office if you would be willing to participate in a sport club for a few weeks.