

Head Teacher's Report

13th September 2018

We currently have a **school roll** of 117 children which is an increase from last year. This includes a return of 8 children to the Gaelic Medium education in the school.

We have a stable **staff** with the new addition of Miss MacLennan in P4/5 as a Newly Qualified Teacher and Mrs MacVicar as Gaelic Medium teacher.

School Improvement - Our annual report and plan is available on the school website. Last year our focus was on Profiling and STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Design and Maths) -

Our profiling is now well established and we hope to be signed off by the authority to continue our profiling so that we have a more continuous form of reporting to parents with a shorter report at the end of the year. More information on this will be displayed at parent meetings in early October. Feedback from the area on our key assessment tasks as part of this were that they were of a very good quality and met all expectations.

In STEAM we focused on Science and Maths. We had considerable input in the first few terms with Dr.Ritchie and this has increased the enjoyment and enthusiasm around learning in Science. We created our maths packs and worked with the Area Maths Development Officer to look at developmental progressions in maths learning, how we assess and plan for this. Staff are now more able to identify gaps in learning and plan learning to close these.

Further more detailed information is given at the start of the school improvement report and plan and Our Curriculum Rationale has been updated in light of these – again available in more detail on the school website/ at parent meetings.

This year our main improvement priorities are:

- STEAM - Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Design and Maths – This year we hope to concentrate on Digital Literacy, Art and Design and continued mathematics.
- Sustainability – This will focus on Global Citizenship, 1+2 Languages, International Education and continuing to increase our outdoor learning provision. As part of this we hope to go for several awards including Rights Respecting Schools, Fair Trade Aware, Connecting Classrooms, John Muir for P4-7, RSPB for P1-3 and online safety.

Detailed action plans for these are set out towards the end of the school improvement report and plan.

A new Child-friendly School Improvement posters have been created (shared tonight and on blog, on display around the school and at parent information evenings) and children are all members of Citizenship groups which will look at various elements of these. These groups include: Learning Detectives (previously Pupil Council), Eco, Rights Respecting Schools, Wellbeing, Digital Leaders, Charities and Celebrations. *We hope to have a parent link from the Parent Council to link with each of these groups.*

We have also adapted our 'Golden Time' to be a Skills Academy with a focus on developing a progression of skills over the six week blocks. These will be assessed in their pupil profiles. The first of session of these groups include Fine motor skills, construction, art & design, drama, gardening, Gaelic singing and dancing, P6 Baking, P4-6 Knitting. *We require someone to help with the baking if you know of anyone who may be able to help.*

Pupil Equity Funding – Last year our Pupil Equity Funding of £12000 was used to provide maths and numeracy training and resources including home learning packs, supply cover to allow teachers to go and observe good practice from colleagues, ICT equipment and resources – Education City, Chromebooks and

tablets to use with Spheros and workshops during our Health and Wellbeing week. While there were some issues with these, we hope to be better able to evaluate their impact in this ongoing year.

This year our £14000 Pupil Equity Funding will be used for focused support for maths for targeted children, further supply to allow teacher to share good practice, HT Writing Challenge and Literacy packs to increase enjoyment and attainment in writing, Goblin kit car and Science home learning kits, further ICT equipment (already arrived) and Education City, Health and Wellbeing Week and Numeracy Development Officer.

Staff Training - Miss Mullin and Miss MacDonald (P4/5) will complete their Highland Council, 'Lead On' leadership training in December. Miss MacDonald's project as part of this has focused on Digital Literacy to support children with additional needs while Miss Mullin's has focused on Modern Languages and Global Citizenship. She will continue this with training to become a Language Ambassador this session. Both continue to have significant impact on teacher's professional learning and ongoing improvements in children's learning and experiences.

Mr Macleod in his second year of training to become a Literacy Leader within our area – looking at emerging Literacy practices. Staff have all received training on different reading approaches, spelling and will complete writing training over the Inset days.

I will continue within the Excellence in Headship programme for Head Teachers to continue to develop my leadership skills to enable us to deliver excellence and equity for the children in Glenurquhart Primary. Last year this looked at being part of the Columba 1400 Head Teacher Academy and enabled us to build links with HTs across Scotland and learn and share together. This year programmes focus on Digital Learning, Pupil Equity Funding and Parental Engagement.

Miss MacDonald and I will also attend the Scottish Learning Festival in Glasgow for the Inset days. The focus this year is on STEM and over the two days, both of us will take part in various seminars related to this and meet various exhibitors.

All our PSAs will receive First Aid training over the Inset days also.

We continue to share a close, positive partnership with parents and thank them for their continued support throughout.