

Head Teacher Report September 2020

A huge thank you to all the children, parents/carers and staff who have and are helping keep the wider school community safe. Everyone has adapted to the guidelines and rules.

As I approach the end of my first year as Head Teacher, I would like to say a huge thank you to you all for your continued support in what has been a very difficult and unique year. I feel very much a part of the community and hope to build on these strong links in the future.

I do hope that my second year will not be quite as eventful! 😊

Staffing

Mr Campbell is retiring from his post of janitor after 11 years at Cockenzie. Alan Taylor, our other Janitor, moved on to a new job. Mrs O' Neill has been off due to a broken ankle and will hopefully return after the October holidays. Mrs Saunders is covering the P4C class until Mrs O' Neill returns. Mrs Robertson, classroom assistant, retired during the summer holidays. In Nursery, Mrs McKendrick and Mrs Willison joined our team in August as Nursery Nurses. Miss Ness and Miss Banks both moved on to other schools. Mrs Robertson, our classroom assistant, retired in the summer holidays.

Review February 2020

The Review, carried out by the Quality Assurance Team, was very positive. The team were 'blow away' by the children. The Review was shared with parents/carers in March 2020.

- Leadership
- Capacity for improvement
- Validation of the school's Standards and Quality report

Through the positive leadership of the head teacher and senior leadership team, the review team is confident that there is capacity within the school to continue to drive forward the identified improvements.

The review team validates the evaluations within the school's Standards and Quality Report.

Key Strengths:

- The school values of curious, positive, successful and respectful are embodied within all interactions.
- Children who are happy, kind and are engaged in their learning. They are a credit to their school and their families.
- Staff who are highly committed to the life and work of the school.
- The focus on nurture, restorative approaches and inclusive practices which has led to a positive shift in the climate and ethos of the school.

Areas for Development:

- Continue to develop data informed approaches to improvement in order to identify priorities and plan appropriate interventions to improve outcome for learners.
- Continue to improve the quality and consistency of teaching and learning to impact positively on attainment.

Residential Trips	As advised by ELC there are to be no residential trips at all in this academic year. The P7 children have been informed, as have the parents/carers. All monies paid have already been refunded by the school. Thank you to Mrs Muir for organising the refunds so promptly.
Lockdown	<p>April 2020 – survey to parents/carers-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 130 responses • 90% using google classroom • Balance across all stages • 52% of parents/carers wished to continue with daily Learning/ 23% wanted weekly /21% no preference so kept at daily Learning updates • 62% said we were ‘getting it right’ with amount of learning • The most preferred activities were reading, written tasks, maths questions, outdoor and practical tasks • 24 Chromebooks were lent out to identified families • 20 Learning packs delivered by Senior Leadership Team • Close working with Port Seton Centre • Many staff volunteered for the Hubs to support key Worker children and vulnerable <p>June 2020 Back to School Pupil Survey</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 126 responses and almost all who responded said they felt positive about coming back to school <p>Nursery Parent/Carer feedback 30 responses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 86.7% kept in contact with nursery through blog • Parents/carers gave positive feedback about daily challenges, video and messages from nursery team, recipes and songs, specific activities related to themes
Attendance	The overall attendance rate to date this session for Cockenzie PS is 94.7%. The primary average across the authority is 93.5%
Nursery/ 1140	<p>We are currently operating 2 full days and alternative Friday half days for our nursery children. To avoid parents/carers accessing the main school playground and nursery building, children are being dropped off at the garden gate which is working well.</p> <p>Discussions around providing 1140 hours are underway and we are currently assessing capacity and risk assessment. We hope to make an announcement soon about 1140. We have a weekly compliance telephone call with the Early Years Team to discuss any concerns arising from the Scottish Government Early Years Guidance. We have 9 nursery nurses. We have 57 children split across the week. Each group have an allocated ‘half of the room’ and an allocated section of the garden. The children and staff have adapted well to the guidelines that we have to follow. The Nursery Team continue to plan together every 2 weeks to ensure consistency of experiences for all the children, as well as breadth and depth of the curriculum.</p>

Newsletters	Newsletters will now be issued on the last Thursday of the month.
Risk Assessment	School and nursery have a thorough risk assessment which is updated and shared with staff. Enhanced hygiene measures are in place.
Playground	<p>P1 and P2s have break at the same time, 10.15-10.35am. The classes use both the infant playground and the grass area in front of the school on a weekly rota basis. Both areas are divided into 2 separate areas in order to comply with Scottish Government Guidance. P3A/4A/4C/5A/6A/7A have their break 10.15-10.35 and lunch 12.15-1pm. P3b/P4b/P5B/P6B/P7B have break 10.45 -11.05am and lunch 12.45pm -1.30pm. After the October holidays we will switch around.</p> <p>We are very lucky that each stage has a huge area on the pitch and children are being brilliant are playing in their area. Each class (P3-P7) has a new football and cones for goals.</p> <p>Senior Leadership Team are also supervising over breaks and lunches due to the amount of cover needed.</p>
Lunches	Packed lunches are eaten in classroom. School pack lunches now include soup which is delivered to classrooms. After October holidays, warm food such as pizza, paninis, finger food will be on offer.
Uniform Shop	We are still providing uniforms to those who ask.