

West Barns Primary School

Standards and Quality Report 2015-2016

Amazing Year for Team West Barns!

We have now come to the end of another busy year at West Barns Primary School. Let's have a look back and see some of the things the school has been involved in this year...

In September we held a successful Curriculum Evening, attended by many parents. Kerry Barker, a Headteacher from Australia visited our school for 2 weeks and really enjoyed being part of our learning community. Our whole school project—Australia, was brought alive by Kerry's visit. At the end of September our Primary 7 pupils joined children from Innerwick, East Linton, Stenton and Dunbar Primary Schools for camp (residential holiday). We also launched our Raising a Reader project with Primary 1 families.

Staff from Pollockshields Primary visited the school in October to look at our Learning Journeys.



We celebrated Harvest by holding a Harvest Festival service, led by the Rev. Laurence Twaddle and collected food to donate to the Dunbar Food Bank. Parent Council provided refreshments and money collected on the day was donated to charity. Alexander Wichmann, a German student, visited us for a week and worked with pupils across the school. Parent Council organised a highly successful Halloween party. Our Primary 7 pupils took part in a series of activities at the Risk Factory.

In November we welcomed work experience students from Dunbar Grammar School. Most parents were able to attend our Parent's Evening and participated in our annual Parent's Survey. Our Primary 6/7 Class visited the Botanical Gardens in Edinburgh as part of the project. Our Pupil Council organised our Children in Need event.

As usual December was a busy month with pupils taking part in a Xmas House Challenge as well as enjoying Christmas Dinner and their Christmas parties. Our Primary 1-3 pupils produced a fabulous Nativity and all our pupils performed for parents at the end of term assembly. Parent Council again provided wonderful refreshments.



The New Year saw our French Assistant Celia, visit our school weekly to help us embed French across the school. We also welcomed Ms Nicholson to our Primary 1/2 class. Parent Council organised an excellent Burns Supper for the whole school.

In February we supported the Rotary Club in their Purple Pinkie programme and took part in the Dunbar Science Festival. Our Primary 4/5 class took part in a Money Sense workshop with the Royal Bank. March saw our Nursery Class visit the National Gallery in Edinburgh. Our Healthy Schools committee organised events for Sports Relief and we held our second Parent's Evening of the year which again was very well attended. We ended the term with an Easter Egg Hunt and a brilliant Easter assembly, followed by an Easter soup lunch provided by Parent Council. Ms Etchells joined our staff as a job-share class teacher in Primary 4/5.

In April our Primary 1/2 class visited Barns Ness Lighthouse and East Links Family park and our Pri-

Primary 1-3 pupils visited the Seabird Centre. In May the whole school took part in the Take it Home campaign to help protect our local environment including a litter pick at Seafield Pond. Our Primary 5,6 & 7 pupils undertook Bikeability Training and the JRSOs organised our school Walk to School Week. Despite the weather we held a very successful Sports Day. Primary 1-3 pupils enjoyed rock-pooling in Dunbar and our Primary 4-5 pupils visited the National Gallery of Modern Art. Our Parent Council organised an amazing Trail Run to raise money for the school.



June saw pupils across the school taking part in a variety of transition activities. We also staged a hugely successful Primary 4-7 show. Our Primary 7 pupils held their traditional meal with staff at Umberto's. The end of term assembly was particularly poignant as we said goodbye not only to our Primary 7 pupils but Mrs D'arcy-Burt, Mrs Govan, Mrs Dickson and Mrs McAlpine.

Themed Days/Weeks

Last September the whole school took part in our Australia topic which was made very exciting by the arrival of our visitor Mrs Baker.

We celebrated Burns Supper with a fantastic meal provided by our Parent Council and pipers from Belhaven Hill School.

At Easter we used our maths skills to solve problems in our inter-house Easter Egg Hunt. Pupils from P4/5 set the questions this year.

Sustaining Dunbar came along to help us organise our Take it Home campaign. The whole school was involved in picking litter and creating posters, animations, movies and newspaper articles to support our campaign.

Sporting Events

West Barns pupils have taken part in many different sporting activities and events this year. This has included taster sessions for rugby, club golf, badminton, gymnastics, cricket, football, karate, dance and hockey. In Golden Time we have offered rounders, ball games and outdoor learning. We have also taken part in festivals for football, rugby and hockey. Some pupils have taken part in Multisports and Riding Therapy.



We performed well in the inter-school cross country competition, swimming gala and Meadowbank Athletics event. The whole school enjoyed our Sports Day and Potted Sports event.

Mrs Hay and Mr Cross have worked hard to train our budding footballers this year. We were invited to play inter-schools football matches with Belhaven Hill School and other cluster schools.

Many thanks to Mrs Hay, Gareth Hill and Active Schools for organising many of these events (and parents for transporting pupils too).

Enterprise Events

Our pupils have been busy this year raising money for charity. This has included Healthy School Committee arranging Sports Relief events including assembly, Pupil Council arranged a fabulous Children in Need event which included the famous Sponge the Teacher event. Eco Committee have looked after the school garden and grounds. Our Junior Road Safety Officers have supported the Walk Once a Week campaign. Our Healthy Schools Committee supported the Run for Gold initiative. The whole school supported The Dunbar Rotary Club in their Purple Pinkie appeal and took part in the Take it Home eco campaign. Many thanks to parents and families for helping us to support all these activities.



Using Parent's Opinions To Improve Our School

Parents and families took part in our annual button survey in November 2016.

You Said...

17% of parents didn't know if we handled behaviour issues effectively.

...We Did!

If your child's behaviour is of concern to the school we try and contact parents immediately to let them know. Next session we will be updating our Behaviour Policy and sharing it with parents.

You Said...

18% of parents were not sure that their child would know what to do if they were being bullied.

...We Did!

All staff encourage pupils to speak to someone if they are unhappy at school. Every pupil completes a Wellbeing Wheel survey every year and staff discussed any areas of concern with pupils. This year we worked as a whole school on a project to understand and stop bullying.

You Said...

20% of parents didn't know if we followed up their concerns effectively.

...We Did!

If you have voiced a concern about the school or our work we aim to contact you to let you know how we have dealt with it at the soonest opportunity.

You Said...

18% of parents didn't know if we have an effective Parent Council

...We Did!

Parent Council works very hard in supporting the school through fundraising, providing volunteers and organising events. They have recently extended their membership to include more parents and anybody is welcome to attend their meetings.

Keep communicating with us! Your opinion matters and helps us move West Barns Primary forwards.

What did we aim to do this year

Develop our curriculum to increase the learning, progression and achievement of all pupils in science, social studies and technology...



Staff have been working with colleagues from Innerwick and Dirleton to develop a clear skills progression for science, social studies and technology. This will support pupils in developing an understanding in how their skills in these areas develop and how they can use them in different contexts including life, learning and work.

Our next steps... to implement the skills progression into our learning and teaching so that our pupils enjoy a clear progression of skills development from Primary 1 to 7 supported by a clear overview of learning and appropriate assessment.

Continue to improve pupil skills, confidence and attainment in maths and numeracy at all levels...

The school continues to use an active approach to teaching numeracy and maths and pupils enjoy playing games, solving practical problems together and participating in interactive teaching sessions as well as the more traditional approach of practising the skills using textbooks and jotters. The whole school took part in the third spring times table / number bonds challenge. This is helping them develop their mental maths skills and will be continued next year. We have invested in new more maths resources based on the East Lothian Number Academy training and staff are beginning to use these across the school.

We continue to find different opportunities for pupils to use their maths skills across the curriculum and share these with parents and families through the Learning Journeys. This year we held an open afternoon to share our learning in maths and numeracy with parents and families.

We have found that diagnostic assessment and focussed support has helped those pupils who find numeracy difficult to gain a better understanding and raise their attainment.

Our next steps will be to continue to raise confidence and attainment in numeracy and maths for all pupils across the school. All staff are to be trained in Number Academy.



To ensure that all pupils can speak 2 foreign languages by the time they leave primary school...

This year all pupils at West Barns have been learning French. We have been integrating this into the daily life and work of the school. All teaching staff have attended staff training in support of this and many of our staff speak fluent French too. Our interest French was heightened by the arrival of Ceilia our French Assistant. Pupils learn a second language from Primary 7—German.



Our Next Steps will be... to continue to regularly use French in our learning and life around the school.

.....and did we achieve it?

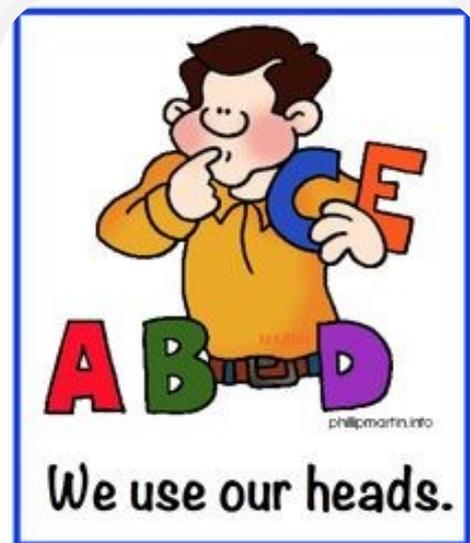
Continue to help our pupils develop as reflective learners...

This year we have continued to use Learning Journeys/Learning Stories for all pupils from Nursery to Primary 7. Children regularly reflect on what they have learned and what skills they are developing. They can discuss their learning with the staff and choose pieces of evidence for their Learning Journey. The pupils are then able to identify their next steps. Pupils are able to share their learning with parents and families on a regular basis when they take the Learning Journeys/Stories or I Can... books home. Twice a year pupils have a learning interview with their class teacher and together they write a Learning Review.

Parents and families have been very impressed by the Learning Journeys/Stories and I Can... books and we bind these and send them home for parents to keep at the end of Nursery, Primary 1, Primary 4 and Primary 7.

Children are encouraged to become involved further in their learning by encouraging them to set the learning questions at the beginning of project work, choosing between different activities in literacy and numeracy and allowing them to decide how to research and present findings in different areas across the curriculum. We have continued to develop pupil's thinking skills through Making Thinking Visible and Cooperative Learning techniques and by using more complex questioning techniques across their learning.

Our next steps... to continue to use Making Thinking Visible, Cooperative Learning and more complex questioning in our learning and teaching to help pupils to continue to develop as reflective learners.



Thinker

Leadership Opportunities

Across the school we are providing more meaningful leadership opportunities for all our pupils. All our pupils are members of a school committee and work on a variety of projects throughout the year including leading events and assemblies. Our Primary 1-2 pupils are given the opportunity to be a committee member for a term.

We now have a well established system of Buddies for our Nursery pupils when they move into P1.

Many pupils have positions of responsibility in the day to day running of the school including roles as class librarians, looking after the school garden and organising pupils' milk and take leadership roles within their own classrooms.



Staff Professional Development

Ongoing professional staff training is important in ensuring that we provide our pupils with the best learning experiences possible. Throughout the year our staff have been busy developing and refreshing their skills.

All our teaching staff all took part in Cluster training in delivering French across the school and Number Counts, which was delivered by our own Mrs Hay. They have also been involved with other local schools in developing reflective learners, and looking at how we can improve writing and maths. Support staff have undertaken refresher training in autism, developing motor skills and First Aid. Staff have been involved in developments at school, authority or national level. This has included the Head Teacher training with HMIe as an Associate Assessor. She has also been trained to deliver PREVENT training to staff across the Dunbar Cluster and is currently undergoing Named Person training. Mrs Whitford also visited many schools in Australia this summer and undertook Peer Principal Self Evaluation training with the NSW Education Department. Mrs Hay is now training other teachers in our cluster in using the Number Counts maths assessments to support pupils in numeracy. We have also supported staff in the First Steps to Leadership course.

Mrs Whiteley-McPhee and Mrs McCaw have been trained in Making Thinking Visible techniques. Mrs. Whiteley-McPhee has also taken on the role as our Modern Foreign Languages expert and has led the teaching of French across the school. All our teaching staff have taken part in further training in delivering French. Mrs Hay and Mrs MacLeod attended an interesting course on raising attainment in boys. Our Nursery staff have been training staff and pupils across the school in outdoor learning and supporting Miss Gordon has been trained in using iPads to help pupils self-assess in PE.

Staff across the school regularly work together on planning, assessing or developing learning and teaching. We have also worked closely with other schools in developing our thinking and practice in effective transition at Early Level, developing reflective learners and meeting learners needs. The school has again supported students from Dunbar Grammar School this year.



What are we improving next year?

We will share our progress in these developments on a regular basis during the year. If you would like to know more about these developments please contact the school for a copy of our School Improvement Plan.

- Pupils' skills, confidence and attainment in maths and numeracy improves at all levels.
- Pupils' skills, confidence and attainment in listening and talking improves at all levels.
- Continue to promote reflective learning to improve attainment and engagement in learning.
- Achievement and skills development in science, social studies and technology are improved at all levels.

School Improvement

