

West Barns Primary School

Standards and Quality Report 2016-2017

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. Our Primary 7 pupils joined children from Innerwick, East Linton and Stenton Primary Schools for camp (residential holiday). We also launched our Raising a Reader project with Primary 1 families.

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. 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 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.

In February we supported the Rotary Club in their Purple Pinkie programme and took part in the Dunbar Science Festival. We ended the term with an Easter Egg Hunt and a brilliant Easter assembly, followed by an Easter soup lunch provided by Parent Council.

In May Our Primary 5,6 & 7 pupils undertook Bikeability Training. Despite the weather we held a very successful late Sports Day. 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 Umbertos. The end of term assembly saw Miss Clarke leaving us as well as saying goodbye to our Primary 7 pupils.

Themed Days/Weeks

Last September the whole school took part in our Roald Dahl project.

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 P6/7 set the questions this year.

Our Healthy Living Masterclass Day held with Stenton PS was a huge success.

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. 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.

Mr Gray has 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.

Miss Gordon and Mrs Whiteley-McPhee ran a successful running and athletics club.

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



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.

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.



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 a road safety 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.



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...

The school has been implementing a clear learning 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 continue 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.



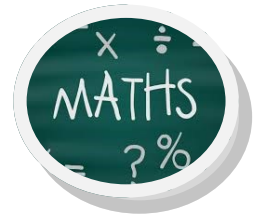
Continue to improve pupil skills, confidence and attainment in maths and numeracy at all levels...

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 times table / number bonds challenge. This is helping them develop their mental maths skills and will be continued next year. We received a grant of £9000 from Education Scotland to train staff in Number Academy. We have also invested in more new Number academy maths resources and have also bought lots of problem solving activities too.

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.



To improve pupil skills, confidence and attainment in listening and talking at all levels...

This year all pupils at West Barns have been developing their listening and talking skills through providing the children with lots of opportunities to practice these skills in their learning and the daily life and work of the school.

Our Next Steps will be... to continue to regularly give our pupils opportunities to develop and support their listening and talking skills in different contexts.



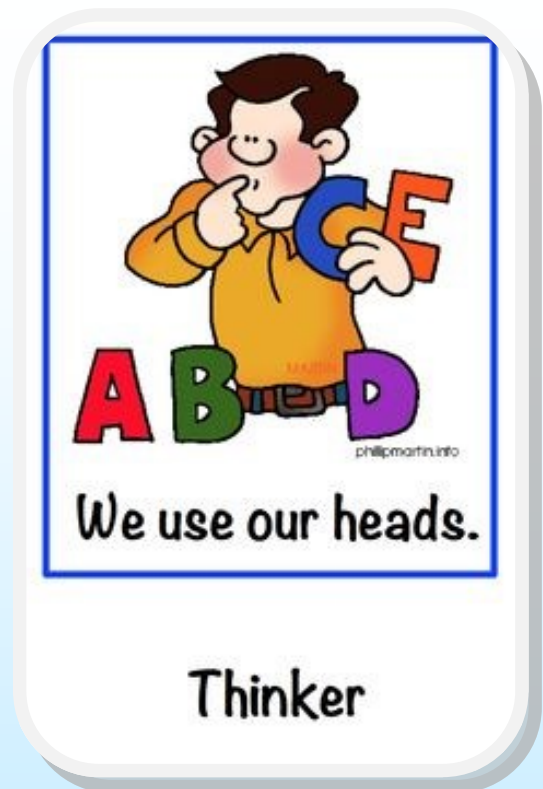
Continue to help our pupils develop as reflective learners...

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.



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

School Improvement

about these developments please contact the school for a copy of our School Improvement Plan.

- Continue to develop our children's numeracy and maths skills.
- Develop a Growth Mindset across the school community.
- Continue to support all children to think and talk about their learning and how they can improve.
- Continue to develop our skills and knowledge of a modern foreign language.
- Develop the learning and play in our Nursery to provide support and challenge for all our children.