

West Barns Primary School

Standards and Quality Report 2017-18

Another 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 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. Neil Watson and collected food to donate to the Dunbar Food Bank. Primary 6/7 pupils provided refreshments as part of our Project Plenty. 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 and carers 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. We also held a successful Curriculum Evening, attended by many parents. We invited Stenton Primary School to be part of our STEM Masterclass day.

As usual December was a busy month with pupils taking part in a Xmas House Challenge as well as enjoying a Panto, Christmas Dinner and their Christmas parties. Our Primary 1-4 pupils produced a fabulous Christmas Show and all our pupils performed for parents at the end of term assembly. Parent Council again provided wonderful refreshments. In January we took part in the Dunbar Rotary Quiz.

In February the P5-7 pupils treated us to an excellent performance of Dragon Days. In March we supported the Rotary Club in their Purple Pinkie programme and almost all our parents and carers attended Parent's Evening. We ended the term with an Easter Egg Hunt and a brilliant Easter assembly. In May Our Primary 5, & 7 pupils undertook Bikeability Training. We held a very successful Sports Day. Our P7 pupils attended a STEM day at Dunbar Grammar School and the whole school took part in an Expressive Arts Masterclass Day.

June saw pupils across the school taking part in a variety of transition activities. Our Primary 7 pupils held their traditional meal with staff at Umbertos. The end of term assembly saw Mrs McLean (P3/4), Mrs Finn (Nursery), Miss Lonie (Student Teacher) and Mrs Robertson (Playground Assistant) leaving us as well as saying goodbye to our Primary 7 pupils.

Themed Days/Weeks

All our pupils were given the opportunity to develop their numeracy, literacy and food technology skills by taking part in Project Plenty supported by The Ridge.

Our STEM and Expressive Arts Masterclass Days were well supported by Dunbar Grammar School, Edinburgh University and many local businesses and individuals.

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, 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. Eco Committee have looked after the school garden and grounds and took part in the Big Garden Bird Hunt. Our Junior Road Safety Officers have supported our P1 pupils to deliver a road safety campaign. The whole school supported The Dunbar Rotary Club in their Purple Pinkie appeal. Many thanks to parents and families for helping us to support all these activities.



What did we aim to do this year?

Continue to develop our skills and knowledge of a modern foreign language.

The school has continued to embed French from P1-P7 and German from P6 through daily classroom routines and experiences including active learning with play, songs, stories etc. and the use of technology. We have begun to use the Learning Journeys as a way of sharing our learning with parents.

Staff continue to develop their own skills through in-house training and attending courses and conferences. Pupils and staff are developing confidence in using French and German in formal and informal ways across learning and in every day life in the school.

Our next steps... to invite parents and carers into school to share our learning in French and German.



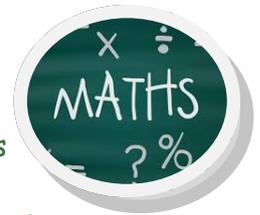
Continue to develop our children's numeracy and maths skills at all levels...

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 a maths challenge. This is helping them develop their mental maths skills and will be continued next year. Across the school most pupils are making appropriate progress in maths and numeracy and those pupils who aren't are being supported to develop their skills.

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. Parents and carers are now developing a better understanding of how their child learns in maths and numeracy.

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. We continue to train staff in the Maths Recovery techniques and engage with East Lothian's Framework.

Our next steps will be to continue to identify support and challenge needs to raise confidence and attainment in numeracy and maths for all pupils across the school.



Develop a Growth Mindset across the school community.

This year all pupils at West Barns have been developing resilience, self-efficacy and confidence through following a Growth Mindset philosophy across the school. Children now are more able to view mistakes as a learning experience and believe that talents can be developed and abilities can be built over time.

Our Next Steps will be... to continue to develop and build on the Growth Mindset philosophy across the school.



Continue to support all children to think and talk about their learning and how they can improve.

We have continued to develop and improve our use of Learning Journeys as a tool for learner and teacher reflection, support target setting, skills evaluation, parental sharing and evidence gathering. Pupils are becoming increasingly more independent and focussed on reflecting on their learning and can identify strengths and next steps.

Our next steps... to continue to look at how we can help pupils reflect against the National Benchmarks in each area of the curriculum and share this information with parents.

reflective



We find ways to be better.

Develop the learning and play in our Nursery to provide support and challenge for all our children.

In Nursery we have continued to develop our practice through professional reading and research. We have used this information to develop a learning environment built on positive, nurturing and challenging relationships which is leading to higher-quality learning. We have seen our pupils becoming increasingly more independent and engaged in their play, especially in outdoor learning and develop positive and supportive relationships across the nursery.

Our next steps... to continue to develop our playroom and outdoor learning area to support all pupils to play and learn.



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.

School Improvement

- Continue to develop our children's numeracy and maths skills.
- Develop restorative approaches across the school community.
- Continue to develop our skills and knowledge of a modern foreign language.
- Support health and wellbeing across the whole school community.
- Develop our learning, teaching and assessment of science, technology and social studies.
- Develop the learning and play in our Nursery to provide support and challenge for all our children.