

Your Ref:

Education Services

Our Ref: DISTRICT\INFO\QI
INDICES\ES\REPORTS\PENNINGHAME PRIMARY

Woodbank

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22 April 2016

To:

Any enquiries please contact

Colin Grant

**All Parents and Carers of Pupils at
Penninghame Primary School**

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Dear Parent / Carer

**LETTER REPORTING ON PROGRESS OF PENNINGHAME PRIMARY SCHOOL SINCE
EDUCATION SCOTLAND REPORT OF 18TH DECEMBER, 2012**

Penninghame Primary School was inspected by Education Scotland in October, 2012. The inspection focussed on: 1) How well children learn and achieve; 2) How well the school supports children to develop and learn and 3) How well the school improves the quality of its work. Inspectors engaged the school in continuing engagement visits in November, 2013 and 2014. Education Scotland disengaged following this last visit, as a result of the very good progress made by the school.

As part of the quality reporting arrangements of Education Services, Dumfries and Galloway Council, I am writing to inform you of the progress made by Penninghame Primary School since the publication of the Education Scotland report in January 2015.

This letter sets out actions taken by the school in addressing aspects of development highlighted in the report.

Continue to develop opportunities for staff to lead key improvements and the sharing of effective practice

Staff are working more effectively in teams within working groups. They regularly share progress in staff meetings resulting in a wider understanding of curriculum knowledge. Staff move into different groups as priorities are achieved to give a broader development experience. Penninghame now has a Principal Teacher who is responsible for developing areas of the school curriculum.

A number of the teaching staff are on regional curriculum groups and they have shared ideas for learning and developed curriculum areas at Penninghame as a result. This has been a really positive experience for all involved as children have directly benefited through learning new art skills and maths activities have also been changed to deepen understanding.

Continue to develop aspects of self-evaluation that impacts on individual practice so that identified areas are followed up

Good progress has been made in developing aspects of self evaluation. Staff are required to think about how they teach the subjects in the classroom and how to motivate children to learn. Teachers share ideas and resources regularly to ensure there is a high quality of learning and teaching throughout the school and nursery. Staff are confident when sharing ideas and there is a real team approach to improving experiences for the children.

All curriculum areas have tracking sheets to ensure subjects are being covered and there is challenge for all children in their learning. To improve the learning for all children, staff have used the local authority's raising attainment toolkit to reflect on practice. They now set targets, make predictions and identify ways to make sure all children are achieving their potential. This is led by the Depute Head Teacher.

Extend children's involvement in teaching improvements in the life of the school

Children are now involved in a variety of working parties and groups. The Eco Committee worked very hard and achieved the Eco Schools Green Flag award in June 2015. The Pupil Council created an information leaflet for new parents about the school which helped towards the creation of a P1 information booklet. Pupils are also included in a Parental Wider Experiences working group and a Positive Behaviour working group. Parents have provided very good feedback on both initiatives.

The curriculum has been updated and there is now a whole school progressive curricular structure in place. The curriculum aims to use the local area around Penninghame and have as much community involvement as possible. Pupils are now involved in monthly curriculum monitoring meetings where the Head Teacher and Principal Teacher ask questions and gather opinions and suggestions for future learning. This gives staff knowledge of prior learning and allows them to challenge the children more. Children are now more involved in learning conversations with teachers. They get a chance to choose activities to help them learn what has been planned, and to reflect on their learning.

Penninghame Primary continues to have a significant capacity for sustained improvement. I wish to congratulate staff, children and parents on their commitment and hard work which underpins Penninghame Primary School's continuing success.

Yours sincerely

Colin Grant
Director of Children Young People and Lifelong Learning