

Education & Learning Directorate

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Your Ref:

Our Ref: DISTRICT\INFO\QI\INDICES\ES\REPORTS\
NITHSDALE\DUNSCORE PS\LET001-JB\EB\RL

24 June 2021

To:**All Parents and Carers of Pupils at
Dunscore Primary School**

Any enquiries please contact:

Jim Brown

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Dear Parent / Carer

**LETTER REPORTING ON PROGRESS OF DUNSCORE PRIMARY SCHOOL SINCE
THE EDUCATION SCOTLAND REPORT OF JUNE 2020.**

Dunscore Primary School was inspected by Education Scotland in September 2018. The inspection focussed on leadership of change, learning, teaching and assessment; children's attainment and achievements and ensuring wellbeing, equality and inclusion. Inspectors engaged the school in continuing engagement visit in December 2019. Education Scotland disengaged following this last visit, as a result of the good progress made by the school against the main aspects for improvement.

As part of the quality reporting arrangements of Education and Learning Directorate, Dumfries and Galloway Council, I am writing to inform you of the progress made by Dunscore School since the publication of the Education Scotland report in June 2020.

Improve assessment approaches ensuring that teachers' professional judgement accurately shows children's progress through Curriculum for Excellence levels.

Teachers continue to build on their improved confidence in accurately assessing children's progress through Curriculum for Excellence levels. They work closely with Partnership and Cluster colleagues to moderate professional judgements and to share best practice. This collaboration in sharing the standards confirms our professional judgement of children's progress is more accurate and robust.

Teachers make good use of these assessment approaches to carefully plan learning activities which match learner needs, ensuring that all children continue to make appropriate progress. This was evident in the well-matched learning activities shared during the periods of remote learning. This work, alongside robust tracking and monitoring meetings, underpins the collective determination of all school staff to secure sustained improvement in children's attainment across the curriculum.

Raise children's attainment in literacy and numeracy. Ensure that all children experience high-quality learning and teaching. This includes checking that planned learning and interventions improve children's progress.

Improving learning and teaching remains a focus across all children's learning. In literacy and numeracy, and children continue to make better progress and achieve higher standards of attainment. Despite the pandemic and two periods of remote learning, the school reports that 83% of children are on track or above in their learning. Scottish National Standardised Assessments undertaken this term at Primary 1, Primary 4 and Primary 7 confirm that high-quality planning for learning and teaching is supporting positive progress.

Teachers are making better use of robust tracking information to consistently promote positive levels of pace and challenge in learning and teaching. This information is used to support an increasing range of interventions across the school. These interventions are supporting children to learn at the appropriate level and to make good progress in their learning.

Raise expectations of children as independent learners. Develop their skills in knowing their strengths and what they need to do to improve.

Teachers make good use of learning conversations to enable children to talk with confidence about their strengths and what they can do to improve. This links well to the planning of high-quality learning and teaching experiences, which in turn motivate children to further develop their independent learning skills and to have high expectations of their own progress.

Children are more confident in talking about themselves as learners and have had further opportunities to develop their pupil voice through the Rights Respecting Schools work.

Further develop the leadership skills of all staff working with children to increase the pace and impact of change within the school.

Key roles and responsibilities for staff and pupils are promoting leadership at all levels. This included planning for and leading improvements and providing further opportunities for parent involvement in the life and work of the school. Further development of pupil voice activities has supported the school to gain their Bronze status from UNICEF for the Rights Respecting Schools work. The school now plans to take this work forward and have registered to work towards Silver status.

During the pandemic, opportunities to have parents and partners in school have been limited, however staff have capitalised on Remote Learning and Home Learning to further involve parents in their child's learning.

The commitment of staff and the effective leadership at all levels across the school has ensured good progress in addressing the Education Scotland's recommendations. The school continues to demonstrate capacity for improvement.

I congratulate all the staff and children, as well as parents and the wider school community, on the good progress made over the last year.

Yours sincerely

Jim Brown
Head of Education (Curriculum & Quality) and Chief Education Officer