

Happy

Inclusive

Nurturing

Respectful

Carstairs Junction Primary School and Early Learning & Childcare

Our Wee School's a Good Wee School



J Armour

Head Teacher's Report – 22.11.23

Welcome

Mrs Armour welcomed and thanks everyone for their attendance.

Staffing As you will know Miss King was successful at interview for the post of Specialist Support Teacher within the Clydesdale Area and is a seconded post for 4 days per week until April 2025. The interview process for the post of Acting Depute Head Teacher is complete and Mrs Alison Bone has been appointed as the Acting Depute Head Teacher. Mrs Bone is currently Principal Teacher at Crawforddyke Primary School. Last session, she was Acting Depute Head Teacher at Law Primary School and comes very highly recommended by both schools. The start date is looking likely to be immediately after the Christmas holidays.

Manorview All plans are in place for the Christmas parties at Cornhill Castle Hotel. Miss King & I went to recce the venue and were very impressed with the proposed plans. A letter has been issued via Parents Portal with consents requested for some aspects of the day.

School Improvement Plan Update:

1. All stakeholders will continue to focus on curriculum development; contributing to the school rationale with a focus on the four contexts of learning.

At our November INSET, staff from our supported classes received input from Speech & Language Therapy in further use of digital technology to increase pupil voice and support written work.

Room 2 have recently introduced 'buttons' to...and QR codes to extend their reading library.

In Room 4 the children have been receiving feedback in their jotters through QR codes.

2. Provide high quality learning & teaching experiences in writing through use of learning intentions and success criteria. Talking and listening opportunities to be used as a vehicle to raise attainment in writing.

Over the past two weeks Miss King and I have been looking at evidence of learning through samples of pupil work in Literacy and having learning conversations with the children about it. The children were able to talk enthusiastically about their learning and there was evidence of engaging activities and strategies to challenge and support our learners as required. Thank you to the teachers and pupils for all their hard work.

3. Further develop Play based learning pedagogy at Early level and introduce play based principles to First & Second level.

Feedback from our Play Parent/Carer information session was really positive, with parents commenting on the benefits of Play.

Mrs Seaton continued to engage in South Lanarkshire Council's Play Pedagogy Professional Learning. The focus

Gillian Reilly, Primary Science and Sustainability Development Officer in SLC, led part of the November INSET on STEM. She shared with staff planners and a whole range of resources. As a next step the teachers will discuss the planners to see how they will fit within the planning at Carstairs Junction within the mainstream and ASN classes. Further ASN session is already in the diary for January with STEM ambassadors from within SLC leading this. audit of resources is also underway.

4. Equity Priorities:

As part of our Cost of the School Day policy we are always looking at a creative and innovative way to provide opportunities for our learners, seeking external funding where possible. Elaine Morrison, our YFCL, has secured funding for bikes through the 'Can Do Community Challenge Fund' in South Lanarkshire Council. Our funding application was aptly named 'Pedal Pals' as we wanted to source bikes so that everyone is able to take part in cycling initiatives and so that we can extend our use of outdoor cycling opportunities during the school day and after school. Mrs Morrison has secured a staggering **£9179!!!** This means we can purchase bikes and accessories to benefit our pupils.

Maintenance Agenda

Teachers in the Primary school and our ELC staff have self-evaluated the school under HGIOS/HGIOELC Quality Indicator 2.3 learning, teaching & Assessment. This enabled us to highlight our key strengths, how we know this and what we are planning as our next steps.

We are very thankful and appreciative of our P6&7 support in helping to prepare snack for Room 1. The pupils have volunteered on a rota basis to support with preparing the classroom and snack at break time. What responsible citizens!

What else has been happening at Carstairs Junction Primary?

P1,2,3 Book bag session was well attended. Mrs Morrison has been in touch with our P1 parents in the supported classes and has planned home visits.

Room 3 (Grp 1) are now taking part in Forest Schools. We are looking forward to hearing how they got on.

The Rounders after school club was well received by all pupils who attended. The Gardening Club was also a success, many thanks to Mrs Turner for leading.

J Armour
22.11.23