

“Working together to inspire learning and achievement in
Highland Communities”



Kilchuimen Primary School

Standards and Quality Report

October 2009



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VISION AND LEADERSHIP

Date 9th October 2009

Dear Parent / Carer,

In line with Highland Council planning processes, I am writing to report on how Kilchuimen Primary school has developed throughout the last session. The intention of the report is to provide you with a full picture of current school life and to show you the impact which developments are having on your children's learning experiences.

During last session Kilchuimen Primary has seen changes in staffing, having to say farewell to Mrs Sandland and 'hello' to myself, Ms Scollay. We enjoyed working and learning from Mr McNeill our probationer who left at the end of June and also said a fond farewell to Mrs Mackay after 35 years teaching. This new academic session sees a three-class school. We welcome Mrs Gilchrist as a probationer teacher onto the staff.

Pupils have had the opportunity to participate in a number of exciting learning opportunities throughout the year, participating in music, drama and poetry performances. Pupils have also enjoyed welcoming many interesting visitors to the school through the Gaelic project, "Ainm is Aite", producing a recording and felted picture to mark their achievements. Funding from the Community Company grant enabled pupils to travel to Edinburgh, Newtownmore and around our local area. These trips have afforded our pupils an excellent opportunity to develop as confident individuals and to allow them to experience learning in diverse contexts. We aim to make learning a realistic experience for the pupils.

As we begin to engage and adapt to the Curriculum for Excellence and to adjust to the new classroom composition there are many exciting opportunities to improve and develop and I am confident as a school team with your support we can move forward with verve.

Yours sincerely,

Wendy Sutherland Scollay
Headteacher

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AIMS

The aims of Kilchuimen Primary School are to:

- 1 Make pupils, parents and staff feel welcome, safe and valued as individuals by: promoting a positive ethos, circle time, parental workshops, open door policy, regular staff meetings and effective staff development and review.
- 2 Promote a caring, happy and safe environment in which all learners feel welcomed and valued. This will be supported by an ethos of achievement, where all participate actively in learning and in the wider life of the school community.
- 3 Provide a platform for a broad and balanced curriculum within the new and exciting framework of a Curriculum for Excellence which will meet the needs of all our learners. The children will develop their capacities as successful learners, confident individuals, responsible citizens and effective contributors.
- 4 Encourage a sense of belonging, pride and responsibility within the community and to initiate and contribute to a range of community events.
- 5 Encourage children to achieve the very best they can academically and Kilchuimen will value and celebrate the wider achievements of the children in our care.
- 6 Encourage mental agility and enquiring minds, whilst recognising differences in learning styles and approaches of individuals.
- 7 Ensure equality and provide equal opportunities for all.
- 8 Continue to allow staff to develop according to their own and school needs through teamwork, staff development and review and personal professional development.

Date of last review of aims: [September 2008](#)

Aims developed by staff, and shared with pupils and parents, [September 2008](#).

Aims will be reviewed in [2010](#).

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PROGRESS WITH OUR IMPROVEMENT PLAN

2008 / 2009 Improvement Projects

Project 1 Title: Highland Literacy Project

We said we intended to:

- Develop pupils' skills in listening, talking, reading and writing.
- Improve pupils' attainment in reading and writing.
- Encourage pupils to become more successful learners, more effective contributors and more confident individuals.
- Experience a consistency in approaches to literacy teaching and learning across the primary and S1/2.
- Share with parents, teachers and pupils a common understanding of the principles behind and practices involved, in the literacy project approaches.

Here is the difference we made:

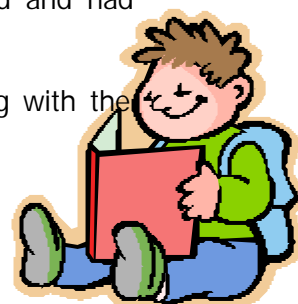
We have made excellent progress in this area. We have found that pupils are more independent in their reading. Pupils have access to a varied selection of reading matter due to the purchase of new reading books, playscripts, and reading for information books. Pupils report that they enjoy reading these new books and are keener to read them. Staff have found that pupils have grown in confidence when talking about texts. Reading attainment levels have increased by 2% this year. Writing attainment has seen an increase of 6%. Staff report that pupils' understanding of text has increased and pupils have the skills and confidence to read and understand non-fiction.

Support for pupils with difficulties or to challenge pupils is much more focused as the Highland Literacy approach ensures that tasks are specific and have measurable learning targets. Teaching strategies have been adapted so that they too are clear and focused. Pupils now work frequently in trios or pairs to complete their work and emphasis is placed on using discussion skills of listening and talking.

The feedback pupils receive about their learning is immediate and much more specific to the learning task.

We have been keen to promote reading in school and held a successful World Book Day where pupils shared their reading experiences and dressed as their favourite book character. Each class held competitions to design book covers or to create bookmarks. We were delighted to have Dr Fred Freeman, a distinguished author, in to visit the older classes to tell the children about Scots language. Pr 6/7 wrote, illustrated and had published their own book about, "The Highland Drover Dogs".

We will continue to build on the pupils' enthusiasm for reading by working with the author Barry Hutchison during the coming session.



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Project 2 Title ICT: Enhancing Learning & Teaching



We said we intended to:

- Expose pupils to a range of ICT.
- Develop staff and pupils ICT skills in relation to use of a range of technologies e.g. Powerpoint, digital camera, video, interactive whiteboard, and a range of software to support learning.
- Support pupils in their understanding of how best to use technology in the context of their learning.
- Use technology to enhance pupils' presentation of ideas, class and school projects.

Here is the difference we made:

We have begun to make good progress in this area, but we will need to continue to build on the work begun during the coming session.

A school audit of the technology available to use revealed that more funding will need to be allocated to this area. The school is poorly resourced in regards to technology however, we have addressed this through the purchase of cameras with the Tesco Token scheme, running as a pilot for Assis laptops and being gifted digital projectors from Cauldeen Primary School.

Pupils have become familiar with taking pictures which now enhance the school news letter. Older pupils have used software such as Powerpoint and Photo Story 3 to enhance their presentation skills. As a staff and as pupils we will continue to extend our knowledge of the application and use of these programmes.

Further hardware will need to be purchased to develop the use of ICT. Good use is made of the interactive whiteboard in the Pr 5/6/7 class. We will receive two more with the new classrooms. Pupils tend to be engaged and enthusiastic when this is used as a medium to teach.

As part of a pilot scheme, we were given 10 Assis notebook laptops. These have proved to be very useful, allowing pupils to work in pairs as part of a lesson to work on the internet or to record information. A wireless network was installed to allow greater access to the internet. Pupils' research skills have been greatly enriched through this medium.

Our new website is now live and pupils will have the opportunity to impact on the content of this over the coming session.

Pupils have a good knowledge of how to use technology within a variety of settings. We will continue to build upon the work which we have begun and to embrace new technologies as they appear.

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Opening of Glendoe Dam with the Queen



The Sponsored Spell



Pr 7 Girls on the Move at Abriachan Forest



World Book Day
Our favourite book characters



The Art Bus visits



Pr 7 visit Edinburgh and the Scottish Parliament



The Great Glen Energy Co-op
Pr 5/6 feeling the wind



Sports Day!



Walking the old drover's road,
cooling off in the burn.



Roger Ravenbeard Scourge of the Ocean
The whole school began a great cast of pirates.



Hard at work!



Problem Solving during our Pirate Day



Braving the elements at the Crossing Event.

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SUCSESSES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

Attainment in National Assessments

We are pleased to report a rise across the board in reading, writing and maths, this compares well with the Highland averages. Almost all pupils' attainment levels are in line with teacher expectations. The impact of the Highland Literacy Approach can be attributed to the rise in language attainment levels. We shall continue to embed the approach during the coming session.

School successes this year

Drover Dogs

Pr 6/7 took part in a very successful project in conjunction with Highland Print Studios. The children learnt about the Highland Drovers and wrote stories about the journey which these dogs had made on their own. With the help of John McNaught they created lino prints to accompany the story. Three copies of this special book were published, one copy has been donated to the Drover Exhibition in Dingwall Mart.

Highland Virtual Art Gallery

Pupils took part in the Highland Visual Art Competition and we were delighted that we had a number of winning entries. Their work can be seen displayed throughout Highland projected on walls.

Glendoe Dam Poetry Competition

Scottish and Southern Electric were celebrating the opening of the dam and commissioned a poem to be written to be displayed up at the dam. We were delighted that Daniel Sheridan and Eirinn Hosie's work was selected. Accompanied by Jamie Walker and Morgan Bloor, the pupils attended the opening ceremony where the poems were read out to Her Majesty the Queen.

Wind Turbine Naming Competition

The Great Glen Energy company were looking for names for their new wind turbines and 5 winners from Kilchuimen were picked. The winners were: Dean MacDonald, Roisin Adams, Lisa Henderson, Jessica Drinkwater, and Holly Maclean. They were invited to attend the opening ceremony.

South Highland Schools Cross Country

Pupils took part in the South Schools Cross Country and Connor McKinnon came in sixth out of a field of 125 runners.

Inter-school Sports Competition

This is the first time in a number of years that the school has participated in the competition. Hamish Stoddart and Shaina Archibald did a sterling job of representing the school in a number of competitions. They were subsequently named Sporting Stars of the Year by Matthew Mclver, the Active Schools Co-ordinator, and presented with a trophy for their efforts.

Football

We have taken part in the small schools football tournament and Turnbull Trophy for football.

Lunchtime and after-school clubs

20 children regularly participate in the Lunchtime Basketball Club, and a further 10 take part in the after school Badminton Club.

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LIFE AND WORK OF THE SCHOOL COMMUNITY

Pupils' Voice

All the classes had lots to tell us about school. Here are some of their views:

P1/2/3

“I like my class”; “ I like to draw”; “ The people in the school is nice”; “I like doing maths”; “I like playing with connect”; “I like lunchtime and playtime best about school”; “I like reading in the blue group”; “ I like Mrs Gilchrist because she’s kind to the Pr 2’s”.

The older classes

“ We get a good education and we get to hang around with our friends”; “I like doing dancing and drama and being with our mates”; “ I like the school trips and the nice teachers”; “ I like going swimming, hanging out with friends, playing on the laptop and science”; “We like going out to play”; “We like going to the fun pool at swimming”; “The people in the school are very kind”; “I like going on the mini laptops and play time”; “We like the school field”; “ I like French”; “ The school is good and the school is cool”.

Many pupils highlighted the swimming as being one of the best things for them. The Pr 7 children also mentioned the trip to Edinburgh and the Drovers Dog trip as a highlight of their time in Kilchuimen. The Pr 7 girls were also very enthusiastic about, “Girls On The Move” programme.

When surveyed, the playground was the main area which the pupils felt needed improving; suggestions ranged from the installation of a Jacuzzi and swimming pool, to monkey bars and a climbing frame.

Parent Views

Feedback regarding the newlook newsletter is positive, a parent reported; “Good to get all the news and events happening. Making it easy to put all dates on calendar in advance”.