

Dear Parents/Guardians

I have pleasure in presenting to you the 27th Annual Governors’ Report. It is intended to give you an overall picture of the working of the school and how the Board of Governors and others with responsibility for the school have carried out their duties.

Should you wish to have any additional information or clarification on any aspect of the report I would be grateful if you would forward your request in writing.

Yours sincerely

Mr T McArthur

(Chairperson)

April 2023

**WHO ARE THE GOVERNORS?**

**CHAIRPERSON**: Mr T McArthur **SECRETARY**: Mrs A Willis

The Board of Governors is made up of 9 voting members plus the principal who does not vote. They are nominated or elected by various bodies connected to the school.

**Transferor Representatives**

Rev P Houston

Mrs G Nutt

Canon H Given

Mr T McArthur

**Education Authority (Western). Representatives**

Miss H McNicholl

Mr R Smyth

**Parents Representatives**

Mr M Hanna

Mr T Mullan

**Teacher Representative**

Mrs S McDonald

**Principal**

Mrs A Willis

**WHAT ARE THEIR MAIN RESPONSIBILITIES?**

The Governors are ultimately responsible for overall management of the school.

Some of their responsibilities include:

(a) The implementation of the curriculum

(b) Selection of staff and other personnel responsibilities.

(c) Admission Policy

(d) School Maintenance

(e) Implementation of new legislation

(f) Fostering links with local community and pursuing the objective of Mutual

Understanding

(g) Management of the School Budget

During the period from September 2021 to December 2022 the Board of Governors met a total of 6 times to discuss the following items of business:

* Admissions criteria Nursery & School
* Finance
* Child Protection
* School Development Plan
* Action Plans for 2021/22
* Staffing
* Recruitment
* Policy reviews
* Special Educational Needs
* Principal’s PRSD review

One of the functions of the Board of Governors is to manage the School’s budget share. Governors had control over a fully delegated budget of £953,526

Here is a breakdown of expenditure for the 2017/2018 financial year.



**September 2021-June 22**

**Term 1**

**September**

We welcomed 37 new children into Primary One and 30 into our Nursery. Our own school minibus continued to operate to and from school to meet parental requests for those families who live within two miles of the school and do not qualify for EA transport.

Maisie Priestly was voted Head Girl and Daniel Brammeld-Jackson as Head Boy by the Primary 7 pupils and school staff. Following on from the success of previous years we didn’t appoint a group of prefects for the school year, but chose children on a monthly basis; thus giving all P7 pupils who showed they could keep the Golden Rules and be good ambassadors, an opportunity to be prefect.

Mrs Willis joined the school as the newly appointed Principal. During this time the school was still operating under Covid guidelines. It was felt that the health and wellbeing of pupils and staff should be paramount so the post of ‘Health and Wellbeing Coordinator’ was created and internally advertised. Mr Fleming was successful in this appointment.

During the second week of September the school received a visit from their District Inspector, John McCusker. The focus of this visit was on outdoor learning as well as early reading. Mr McCusker was positive about the focus and the vision for the school going forwards.

School received funding from ‘Happy Healthy Minds’ Department of Education Wellbeing initiative. This money was utilised to employ a school counsellor. Extended schools funding was also used to employ a Spanish tutor for all pupils as well as a speech therapist for the Foundation Stage pupils.

This term saw the return of after school clubs as well as breakfast club. The Dry Arch also resumed their weekly 2 year old programme as well as their baby massage classes.

**October**

In October the Parent Teacher Association organised and delivered a Halloween trail which was open to the public. It was very well attended, and adults and children enjoyed the range of activities on offer.

Shared Education with Faughanvale Primary School resumed. The partnership was between Primary One pupils at both schools with a focus on outdoor learning and maths.

**November**

One Kind Word Week took place from the 15th to the 19th of November. The week started with an assembly highlighting how important kindness is- all classes took part in this themed week by using a specially selected story applicable to each key stage. The book acted as a stimulus and wall displays reflected how effective and beneficial this week was.

During the week of the 15th November pupils engaged in a Mathletics challenge and certificates and rewards were given to top point scorers.

The Head Boy and Head Girl along with Mrs Willis attended the Remembrance Sunday event at the Services Club in Limavady and laid a Poppy Wreath on behalf of the school community.

Pupils in Primary 5 participated in a cultural diversity programme through the ‘Good Relations officer’ in Causeway Coast and Glens –Primary 5 pupils received 4 visits from local specialists, and they learned lots of information about countries such as Poland and China

The school once again supported the Samaritans Purse Shoebox Appeal and a total of 56 shoeboxes were collected.

Lafyette School Photographers were in school on the 22nd and 23rd November to take individual and sibling photographs.

A number of pupils participated in a Cross Country Race organised by NI Athletics with 1 pupil making it into the finals.

To celebrate the centenary of NI the Mayor of Causeway Coasts and Glens, Cllr Richard Holmes helped us plant a tree and unveiled a plaque which was made by Limavady Memorials. While the Mayor was here the Eco School Team were able to ask him questions about environmental issues.

On 29th November Ruth Riley our Nursery Assistant received her prestigious Pearson teaching award at an award ceremony in London.

During November and into December a number of Primary 7 pupils sat the AQE transfer test over three consecutive Saturdays.

**December**

December began with our Open Day on Saturday 4th December. Over 40 new pupils and their parents attended for our School Open Day with all staff showcasing what the school has to offer and the wealth of opportunities available

On Friday 10th December the PTA lead an outdoor craft fair and Santa Trail. Once again this was open to the local community and was well attended.

During December funding was received from Kingsbridge and the school created a Nurture Room. The General Manager Anthony McKenna came to visit and was extremely impressed with how the money had been spent and what had been created. The school contacted EA Nurture Staff and organised a visit with Brenda Shields. Brenda modelled a lesson and was extremely impressed with what we had created within our own budget.

The nursery resumed their Friday activities with weekly Jo Jingles sessions in the Assembly Hall

The nursery pupils showcased their amazing talents with a wonderful Christmas performance. As the school was still operating under Covid guidelines this performance was recorded and a link sent to parents. Our KS1 pupils also performed a lovely Christmas Nativity which was shared with our parents and our KS2 pupils sang a range of beautiful Christmas Carols which were also shared via social media.

**Term 2**

**January**

The new term started off with a new set of after school clubs on offer- all pupils from P1-P7 were offered a range of clubs which they could attend after school- these included Mini Professors, Rugby, Football etc Children were very excited about attending clubs again and bookings were made via the school app.

Forest school programme resumed for P3 and P4- all pupils and staff worked with Emma from the Play Trail. Pupils enjoyed being in the woodland trail and learning new skills.

Swimming was ongoing with P5 pupils completing their swimming block and P6 and P7 beginning their block until the end of May.

The Enrolment ceremony took place on 19th January. Monsignor McCanny lead this service for Primary 4 pupils who were preparing to make their First Holy Communion.

On 24th January the school celebrated National Compliments Day. In Assembly Mrs Willis explained the importance of compliments and children produced a range of cards, artwork to give to people in school who have helped them

Nursery Pupils took part in Nursery Skill PE Programme focusing on gross motor skills and balance

School Counsellor and Speech and Language Therapist continued to attend weekly

**February**

For Primary 6 pupils who wished to sit their AQE Transfer Test preparation work got underway with additional materials being offered for parents to purchase. Pupils had two transfer sessions per week- one to complete a test and second session to look at corrections and common mistakes and exam technique.

Mental health and well-being week took place between the 6th to the 13th Feb. Mrs Willis took an assembly explaining to children how they can help improve their own well –being and who to ask for help if needed. Parents were also offered a zoom session regarding safety online- this was organised by Parenting NI. A zoom link was also shared with parents on ideas to support anxious children and ways they can help and manage this at home.

Literacy and Numeracy Monitoring took place this month. Co-ordinators selected a selection of books and evidence of work in conjunction with teachers’ planners and ensured work was pitched appropriately, there was clear differentiation and a range of practical and interactive tasks. Feedback was given to each Key Stage. This is the first monitoring sessions to take place since Covid.

Twilight Sessions took place for all staff in February. Mrs Willis led training for each Key Stage from 3-6pm on 3 separate evenings and both staff and classroom assistants attended- the focus was on curriculum delivery and classroom practice in relation to where staff and pupils are in relation to everything that has happened in the last 2 years. Staff provided feedback which highlighted how much the staff benefitted from this input.

IFA Coaching resumed and all P5-P7 pupils received one session per week for 6 weeks on skills and fitness

Forest School sessions resumed this month. Pupils in Primary 3 and 4 enjoyed weekly Forest School lessons in our woodland trail. There were led by Emma from The Playtrail

A number of pupils are parents were selected to represent and take part in staged photos for the road safety calendar.

**March**

On the 5th March all pupils and staff took part in World Book Day. Everyone dressed up as a character from a book and a lot of fun was had by all. Every class focused on a specific book for the week and completed activities relating to it. All classes produced displays in their room and Literacy work for that week was tailored to each class’s book. For example, Mr Crown’s class P7 wrote letters to authors and to date he has received 2 replies.

Nurture Room Training- Mrs McDonald took part in online training regarding our nurture room. The training outlined key criteria that a nurturing school required. Mrs McDonald provided feedback to all staff.

The School Council met this term and discussed how we could support the children in Ukraine – they decided on a non-uniform day and over £700 was raised.

Staff identified a real need for children to be provided with a morning snack- in conjunction with SuperValu all children will receive a healthy snack daily.

Habitat for humanity worked with P5-P7 pupils outlining the importance of Recycling.

All pupils from P5-P7 completed a workshop with the Nerve Centre on Space- this included the use of green screens and making animations. Both Staff and pupils spoke very highly about this support.

In Key Stage 2 the Dry Arch delivered Internet Safety Talks for P6, P6/7. Each class had over an hour’s session and children were given the opportunity to discuss and explore all matters related to Cyber matters. The workshops were very thought provoking and children explaining some of their fears and worries while always explaining that many aspects of online is very useful. In the evening we had a workshop for parents- 9 Mums attended and all reported how beneficial and eye opening this workshop had been. It was facilitated by the Dry Arch was the presenters were excellent at conveying the message to parents about online safety- please note this is the first face to face parent workshop to take place since Covid.

Causeway Coast and Glen provided funding for schools to grow and produce their own crops and demonstrate to children how we can produce food in a more sustainable way. Classroom Assistant Chris Neill oversaw the project and is provided the children with a lot of knowledge and skill about looking after plants.

Mrs Elaine Powell retired from her lunch time supervisor after 23 years. The school celebrated her commitment to the school and pupils and presented Mrs Powell with a bunch of flowers.

**Term 3**

**April**

P3 and P4 pupils completed their Paired Reading Programme- this was an opportunity for the child and parent to read at home in a manner which fosters independent reading- over 65% of the pupils participated and feedback was very positive.

An Easter Disco was organised by PTA for Nursery to P7 prior to Easter holidays and children all enjoyed being able to take part in “normal” events again

The school hosted two Stranmillis students working in both KS 2 and FS –Both students worked very hard and built up a good rapport with pupils and staff.

In April we provided free snacks for all pupils at break time- this initiative was very popular- Kingsbridge very kindly donated £800 so we could continue to provide snacks for the months of May and June. We are truly indebted to their support

A lovely relationship developed between the P1 and P2 pupils of Ballykelly and Faughanvale through Shared Education. Pupils met up on numerous occasions at both schools and the main focus was on outdoor learning and Numeracy.

A Bingo night took place in Drummond Hotel in order to raise money for a P1 pupil with leukaemia- the response was simply overwhelming –a total of £5000 was raised and this sum of money was given directly to the family

**May**

This year the school has continued to embed PATHS- (focusing on emotions and feelings throughout the school) Tutor Lindsay Givan lead a staff meeting on the research to support a PATHS approach in school.

P6 and P7 pupils took part in First Aid training delivered by Red Cross- this was excellent and all children benefitted greatly

An organisation called Love for Life attended and spoke to all P7 pupils about changes and puberty- An age appropriate talk was also delivered to Primary 6 pupils. Staff and pupils feedback indicated that this was a very informative and worth while session.

Cyber info was provided for P5 pupils following the success of the P6 and P7 workshops – this was facilitated by the Dry Arch and again staff feel that this should be an annual event for KS 2.

The school promoted Fair Trade and a bun sale was organised to raise funds for a child we sponsor- over £200 was raised.

A School Book fair took place and this year we raised our highest sum ever- over £2500 was raised and the school receive £1460 to spend on books. It was lovely to see the book fair back in school and pupils and parents enjoying choosing books together.

Confirmation and First Holy Communion took part in May- both events were very successful with Msr McCanny commenting on how well the children were prepared and what great ambassadors they are for our school

P7 Residential Trip to Carlingford took place at the end of May- the children were excellent, and the trip was very successful- Mr Crown, Mr Fleming, CA Laura, and Mrs Willis all went on the trip. The P7 pupils who did not attend the trip enjoyed a range of fun activities in school which included a day at the bowling alley.

**June**

School Trips were also able to resume this year- P1 and P2 went to Sperrin Fun Farm, P3 and P4 to Gortnaghy Play Park and P5-P7 went to Limitless Adventure- The PTA kindly contributed towards the cost of buses.

Sports Day took place on 9th June and it was lovely that parents could attend. Sports Day was very well attended.

Afternoon Tea took place on 9th June- this was a lovely opportunity to thank all those in our community who do so much to support our school. This was funded via the Jubilee grant

Nursery induction took place with Mrs Willis and Mrs Loughridge leading the presentation. Nursery graduation also took place on Friday 10th June. Parents were invited into the school assembly hall.

Breakfast Club and After school clubs have continued throughout this term and participation has been very pleasing.

Mrs Willis and Mrs McDonald visited The Fishmongers’ Hall in London as part of the 750th celebrations on the 16th and 17th of June- the school made an art display which was placed in Fishmongers’ Hall as part of the event- the school made a copy and this will be displayed at the bottom of stairwell 2.

A Primary 7 leavers took place and parents were invited to attend. The Right Honourable Hector McDonnell was in attendance and presented the Head Boy and Head Girl with their Fishmongers watch as well as a small gift for all Primary 7 pupils. Pupils and parents were treated to a Barbeque afterwards.

The Primary 7 pupils also celebrated their primary school experience with a leavers disco facilitated by the PTA.

We said a sad farewell to Mrs Brudell in June. Mrs Brudell had been a teacher at the school for 28 years. The school recognised her contribution to the school with a celebratory afternoon tea. Pupils also presented Mrs Brudell with a range of cards and keepsakes during a special assembly.

**September 22-December 23**

**Term 1**

We welcomed 35 Primary 1 pupils and 28 Nursery pupils. The school also welcomed Miss Martin to the post of Primary 5/6 teacher. A second speech and language class was established and as a result Mrs Vowles Downey was appointed class teacher of this unit with Melisa Mullan as Classroom assistant.

Ella Downey was voted Head Girl and Freddie Moore as Head Boy by the Primary 7 pupils and school staff. Following on from the success of previous years we didn’t appoint a group of prefects for the school year, but chose children on a monthly basis; thus giving all P7 pupils who showed they could keep the Golden Rules and be good ambassadors, an opportunity to be prefect.

Pupils returned to school on 1st September and enjoyed the buzz in the playground with the ‘selfie boards’.

Our year round clubs [Breakfast club, Foundations stage club and Homework club] resumed on Monday 5th September.

Afterschool Clubs started on 12th Sept and ran for 6 weeks- all pupils from P2-P7 had a selection of clubs they could attend daily- all info is on school App and parents could book online making the clubs system much more time efficient

In September a Spelling presentation evening took place for P3 and P4 parents- there was an excellent turn out for this informative session lead by the Primary 3 and Primary 4 excellent turn out- approx. 50 parents attended- Mrs Lockington. Mr McGinnis and Mrs McDonald presented the workshop to parents

This year Shared Education was offered to all P1-P4 in both Ballykelly PS and Faughanvale PS. The focus is on Outdoor Learning.

Outside agencies providing support returned for another year to Ballykelly PS. These included Speech Therapy, Counselling, musical pathways and support from the Dry Arch as well as Rise NI. This year Play Therapy was added to the list of support offered and the school welcomed Krystle from ‘Inner Child Play Therapy’ to school on a weekly basis.

Pupils who were enrolled for the AQE benefitted from weekly after school revision clubs lead by all KS2 teachers as well as Mrs McDonald and Mrs Willis.

In September a hugely successful Coffee morning for McMillan took place. Many parents donated cakes and buns and there was a great turn out. The school raised over £1000 for Macmillan.

Swimming recommenced for P5 and P5/6 this term

The school purchased a new online platform called Lexia which is aimed at supporting pupils in literacy. This resource can support up to 50 children for three weekly twenty minute sessions.

**October**

The school continued to strengthen links with Kingsbridge Private Clinic by attending the official opening of the Liz Dallas Outpatients centre. The school also hosted Kingsbridge training academy into school on the evening of 10th October to offer lifesaving CPR training to the local community.

A number of sporting events took place this term. The Flahavans Cross Country event was held with 12 pupils selected and one pupil reaching the finals. A swimming gala was also held in Bangor. A team was put forward and children had the opportunity to swim in an Olympic size pool and for many this was their first gala to attend

Parent / teacher meetings took place on Mon, 24th, Tuesday 25th and Wed 26th October. These meetings were back to face to face and staff and parents were pleased to be able to meet in person again.

During the week of parent teacher meetings the PTA organised a Halloween pop up costume swap and uniform shop

Pupils were invited to wear fancy dress on Friday 28th October and all children attended the Halloween PTA disco.

**November 2022**

Spanish recommenced for all pupils from P1-P7. We are able to offer these weekly lessons through Extended Schools funding. It is wonderful to see how pupils mastery of Spanish is developing each year.

Anti-Bullying week took place and Dry Arch delivered a Cyber online safety talk to all Key Stage 2 pupils and a workshop was organised for parents in the evening- staff also delivered PATHS lessons and Mrs Willis led assembly focusing on kindness and friendship- teachers also focused on displays linked to Anti Bullying week and this will be incorporated into our PATHS video for model school

Mrs Willis, Head boy Freddie and Head Girl Ella all attended Remembrance Day Service at the Cenotaph in Limavady. A wreath was laid on behalf of the school community.

**December 2022**

The school’s annual Open Day took place on Sat 3rd Dec. Parents and children were invited to join one of three time slots. Each session began with a short address from Principal and then tour guides showed groups around the school. Each tour made reference to the range of clubs and visited the woodland trail, Spanish, ICT, P1 classroom and Playroom, Nursery, Nurture Room, Music and PTA. The school organised flyers and banners to promote the event and updated the school prospectus.

To celebrate all of the hard work this term the pupils were all treated to a range of fun Christmas activities. This included Mini professor for P5 and P6, Storyteller for P1 -P4 and Parky the Magician entertained children on the day of our Christmas Lunch

Primary Seven pupils were invited to watch the show at Limavady High School- Bugsy Malone and they were also invited to St Mary’s to take part in a STEM Science Day

The school choir were invited to sing at the Luncheon Club at Ballykelly Presbyterian church and the Carol service. The Choir are excellent ambassadors for our school and both events were enjoyed by all.

The PTA organised a Craft Fair and Santa Experience- this event was very well attended, and parents and children really enjoyed the range of activities on offer.

Once again, the pupils showcased their excellent singing and acting skills. Primary 1 to Primary 4 performed the Christmas Show over 2 days- this year it was called Fireside Nativity- the show was excellent, and parents/ families were so complimentary and were delighted that this event could take place as it had done pre Covid.

Mr Crown took football team to a tournament at the Campsie- Ballykelly Primary made it to the semi-finals

**Leavers destinations**

P7 pupils transferred to the following post primary schools in September 22:

Limavady Grammar School-14

Limavady High School-12

St Marys Limavady-10

**Charities**

The school once again supported the Samaritans Purse Shoebox Appeal and a total of 56 shoeboxes were collected in Nov 21 and 65 in Nov 22

The Poppy Appeal raised £277 and pupils really enjoyed purchasing the wide range of merchandise on offer.

The School Council organised a non-uniform day for the families of the Ukraine and raised over £700. This money was donated to the British Red Cross

The school promoted Fair Trade and a bun sale was organised to raise funds for a child we sponsor- over £200 was raised.

A Bingo night took place in Drummond Hotel in order to raise money for a P1 pupil with leukaemia- the response was simply overwhelming –a total of £5000 was raised and this sum of money was given directly to the family

In September a hugely successful Coffee morning for McMillan took place. Many parents donated cakes and buns and there was a great turn out. The school raised over £1000 for Macmillan.

In December the school supported the LCDI toy appeal, and many families donated preloved or new toys to the appeal which helped a number of families throughout the local community.

Staffing

**21-22**

**Teaching Staff**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Mrs A Willis | Principal |
| Mrs H Loughridge | Nursery |
| Mrs C Donaghy | Speech and Language Class |
| Mrs S McDonald | Special Needs Coordinator and Vice Principal |
| Mr T Brown | Primary One |
| Mrs J Moore | Primary One/Two |
| Mrs J Whyte | Primary Two |
| Mrs J Brudell | Primary Three |
| Miss C Lockington | Primary Three/Four |
| Mr G McGinnis | Primary Four |
| Mr D Lynch | Primary Five |
| Mrs Cromie/Mrs Vowles Downey | Primary Five |
| Mr Fleming | Primary Six/Seven |
| Mr Crown | Primary Seven |

**22-23**

**Teaching Staff**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Mrs A Willis | Principal |
| Mrs H Loughridge | Nursery |
| Mrs C Donaghy | Speech and Language 1 |
| Mrs Vowles Downey | Speech and Language 2 |
| Mrs S McDonald | Special Needs Coordinator and Vice Principal |
| Mrs O McAuley [Mrs Cromie one day per week] | Primary One |
| Mrs J Moore [Mrs Cromie one day per week] | Primary One/Two |
| Mrs J Whyte | Primary Two |
| Mr T Brown | Primary Three |
| Miss C Lockington | Primary Three/Four |
| Mr G McGinnis | Primary Four |
| Mr D Lynch | Primary Five |
| Miss R Martin | Primary Five/Six |
| Mrs J Semple | Primary Six |
| Mr M Fleming | Primary Seven |
| Mr Crown | Primary Seven |

**Ancillary and Auxiliary Staff**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Mrs S Nicholl | Secretary |  |
| Mrs M Ford | Classroom Assistant | Primary One |
| Mrs H Shiels | Classroom Assistant | Primary One/Two |
| Mrs A Bellingham | Classroom Assistant | Primary Two |
| Miss D McMichael | Classroom Assistant | Special Needs |
| Mrs P Mullan | Classroom Assistant | Special Needs |
| Mrs E Powell | Classroom Assistant | Special Needs |
| Mrs S Donaghy | Classroom Assistant | Speech & Language Class |
| Mrs M Mullan | Classroom Assistant | Speech & Language Class |
| Mrs W Harkin | Classroom Assistant | Special Needs |
| Miss L Hamilton | Classroom Assistant | Special Needs |
| Miss C Hyndman | Classroom Assistant | Special Needs |
| Miss Lisa | Classroom Assistant | Special Needs |
| Mr J Thompson | Classroom Assistant | Special Needs |
| Mrs S McImoyle | Nursery Assistant | Nursery (part-time) |
| Mrs R Riley | Nursery Assistant | Nursery (part-time) |
| Mrs C Hyndman | Classroom Assistant | Special Needs |
| Mrs L McWilliams | Classroom Assistant | Special Needs |
|  | Classroom Assistant | Special Needs (Nursery) |
| Mr D Devenney | Building Supervisor |  |
| Mrs H Donaghy | Cleaner |  |
| Mrs K Melarkey | Cleaner |  |
| Mrs K Laughlin | Cleaner |  |
| Mrs M Moore | Cleaner |  |
|  |  |  |
| Mrs S Donaldson | Supervisory Assistant |  |
| Mrs E McArthur | Supervisory Assistant |  |
| Mrs E Laughlin | Supervisory Assistant |  |
|  |  |  |

**PREMISES**

We submitted 4 Minor Works Applications to the Education Authority for approval. These applications focused on an upgrade of water fountains throughout the school, update of CCTV equipment, resurfacing of the bottom corridor as well as repainting of road markings within the school.

The school secured a second Speech and Language unit in September 2022. This resulted in a full upgrade of two existing classrooms including new cupboards, flooring, lighting and new windows in one classroom.

The Eco- Committee and gardening club helped to maintain our Woodland Trail and garden areas. All pupils planted vegetables in our new planters in the school garden.

A pollination garden was created beside the Nursery which comprised of an outdoor classroom and polytunnel as well as a range of shrubs and beds intended to attract bees.

**EXTENDED SCHOOLS**

A budget of £17,611 was allocated for 2022/23 school year; with an additional £5,398 available as part of a cluster with neighbouring schools. Action Plans for Breakfast and After Schools club, Primary Modern Languages, Forest School and Wellbeing were submitted and approved. The cluster funding provided Speech & Language Therapy support for Primary One and Counsellor 2 hours per week for 29 weeks.

We offered a range of clubs from 2.00 to 3.00pm for younger children and 3.00-4.00pm for older children. The range of clubs over the year was extensive and taken by our dedicated teaching and non-teaching staff and by specialist coaches and sporting or musical organisations.

**PARENT/TEACHER CONSULTATION**

Parent/teacher meetings take place once a year giving parents the opportunity for a detailed interview with the teacher about the child’s progress and areas for development. Interpreters from the Inclusion & Diversity Service were available for newcomer parents to help with their parent/teacher meetings.

Parents are kept informed by a weekly sway, a termly magazine, a texting service, the school prospectus and the school’s website. The school also has a facebook page as well as Instagram account. Parents can also access the See Saw app for pupils in Nursery-Primary 4 and Speech and Language.

**P.T.A.**

The PTA organised numerous events for both the children and parents. The children’s termly themed discos, The Christmas Santa Trail and Craft Fair and the Primary 7 leavers disco and Barbeque were all well supported and lots of fun for everyone.

We are indebted to the PTA for their continued hard work and commitment to the school. Money raised this year helped the school to create a Nurture Room. They also subsidised events and trips throughout the year for all the pupils by paying the transport costs.

The Board of Governors wishes to record their thanks to the PTA for its continuing support to the school particularly in terms of the financial assistance it provides and the range of activities it organizes for the pupils and the parents of the school.

**CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT (including Staff Development Training Days)**

During 2021-23 the main foci for school development included:

**Nurture**

* Whole staff training on Adverse Childhood Experiences
* Whole staff training from the EA Nurture service on Nurture in school and also ‘Take Five Nurture Approaches’ in class.

**Literacy**

* Developing a core book approach to the teaching of literacy in Foundation stage and Key Stage 1
* Booster groups for targeting underachievement and challenge more able children
* Developing children’s cross curricular skills through literacy
* Continue programmes to promote parental partnership

**Numeracy**

* booster groups for targeting underachievement and challenge more able children
* developing a whole school approach to solving mathematical problems
* continue programmes to promote parental partnership

**ICT**

* school website SeeSaw App and social media Facebook updated and kept current to inform parents and community of the life of the school

**Nursery**

* recording of observations to ensure progression for all learners across the six areas of the pre-school curriculum
* promoting high standards of attainment by focusing on the achievements of all children and setting targets for individuals

**Play Based Learning**

* providing high quality learning experiences to promote the development of children’s language.

**SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS**

The school’s Special Educational Needs Policy is in line with the Education (NI) Order. This enables staff to fully implement the requirements of the Code of Practice on identification and assessment of special educational needs published by DENI.

Pupils with barriers to learning are identified as early as possible and following discussion with the parent the child may be placed on the Special Need’s Register. Personalised Education Plans are written by the teacher, shared with the children and their parents and monitored by the SEN coordinator, Mrs S McDonald.

P1 parents were invited to communication and language sessions as part of the Induction process.

Trained volunteers in Reading Partnerships supported targeted children with their reading.

New resources – Lexia, Rapid Readers and online resources were used with SEN children and monitored on their effectiveness

SEN classroom assistants continued to support pupils through the delivery of a number of programmes such as reading partnerships and also interventions to support pupils fine motor skills.

Provision mapping was completed for the whole school and proved a valuable tool to ensure resources are adequately distributed and staff expertise is effective.

This year the school trialled the new PLP format and are setting and reviewing twice yearly.

The school benefitted from the support of the following outside agencies:

• Educational Psychologist and Educational Psychologist Assistant

• Reading Centre teacher for specific literacy difficulties

• Peripatetic teacher for moderate learning difficulties

• Language and Communication team

• Behaviour Support Team advisory service

• Advisory support from Autistic Spectrum Disorder team

• The RISE NI team

• Dry Arch Hub

• School Nurse

The school also sourced outside support from Brenda Welsh-Speech and language therapist.

Staff undertook training to meet the needs of the school and to continue their own professional development.

The Department of Education issued schools with five School Development Days and five Baker Days.

During the five Baker Days the staff focused on:

• School Development Planning/ Data Analysis/ Action Plans

• Classroom preparation and Key Stage meetings

• Nurture Training

• Play Based Learning in P1 & P2

• Safeguarding training

The School Development Days focused on:

• Data analysis and target setting

• PLP training and new SEN framework

• Foundation Stage Play

• Reviewing School Development Plan

The Governors and staff will continue to work to achieve our mission statement for all the children in our care.

Mission Statement

Our mission above all is to: Provide a caring secure environment where individuals of all backgrounds, races and religions can feel welcome and valued and are encouraged to learn and to develop to their full potential.

The above is a true record of the discharge of the functions of the Board of Governors of Ballykelly Primary School and is signed on behalf of all members by the Chairperson, Rev A Wilson.

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