

FALKIRK COUNCIL
Education Services
Comely Park Primary School and Nursery Class
Session 2012 - 2013

Dear Parent /Guardian,

As you probably know, each year the government and the Council publish information designed to show how well Schools and Local Authorities are improving pupil performance year on year.

In similar fashion, we would like to tell you how we are progressing in Comely Park Primary School and Nursery Class. This leaflet has been designed to do just that. It is our "Standards and Quality Report" for Session 2012 - 2013.

Inside, you will find a brief description of the main things we set out to do at the start of last session and also our evaluation of how well we managed to achieve them.

Whilst we do many things in the course of a year, we have focused on what we consider to be the most important areas to give an overview of the progress we have made this year.

I have also included an outline of the School's main priorities for next Session.

I hope you find the leaflet helpful. If you have any questions about it, please do not hesitate to phone the school office for an appointment. I will be pleased to offer clarification.

Janice Collins
Headteacher



Comely Park Primary School and Nursery Class

STATEMENT OF AIMS

In line with Falkirk Council's Learning to Achieve Policy and through a partnership of teaching and non-teaching staff, parents carers ,the Integrated Learning Community and other agencies. Comely Park aims:

1. To develop successful learners through nurturing:
 - enthusiasm and motivation for learning
 - determination to reach high standards of achievement
 - openness to new thinking and ideas.
 - life long learning
2. To encourage children to become responsible citizens showing respect for self and others by making informed choices and decisions.
3. To teach the secure values and beliefs needed to develop confident individuals who will achieve success in different areas of activity.
4. To equip everyone in our school with the qualities needed to become effective contributors able to communicate in different ways and settings.
5. To ensure the highest possible standard of educational attainment by equipping all involved with the core skills and positive attitudes necessary for future success.
- 6 . To enable children to apply the physical, emotional and social skills needed to pursue a healthy
7. To promote and nurture the vital partnership between parents, carers, the community and our school.

The Aims of Comely Park are derived from and commensurate with the National Priorities and the Curriculum for Excellence as issued by the Scottish Executive. They have been shared with staff, pupils and parents. Our aims will be reviewed every third year and our next review is scheduled for 2015.

At Comely Primary we implement a curriculum where the experiences and outcomes help our pupils to become Successful Learners, Confident Individuals, Responsible Citizens and Effective Contributors.

We wish every child to have challenge and enjoyment in what they learn, that learning is coherent and has breadth and depth, that what they learn is relevant and there are opportunities for their personalisation and choice, that they progress at a pace appropriate to each individual.

Sports
Day

Outdoor Learning

JRSO

Our new makar

We won the Jubilee

Comely Park Primary School and Nursery Class
SIP Priorities for Session 2012-2013

- Positive Behaviour Policy - to review and update
- Outdoor Learning - a variety of activities to develop from nursery, courtyard. Playground and the wider community
- Science - group of teachers across the cluster developing a programme showing a progression of skills
- Pupil Profiling -introducing the Learning Journey profiles in the Nursery
- Tracking and Planning -staff group working on a Tracking/planning folder to ensure continuity and progression across the stages
- Health and Wellbeing GIRFEC- to ensure all staff are aware of GIRFEC and the use of SHANARRI when looking at supporting pupils
- Active Literacy P4-5 -to develop the use of Active Literacy strategies in Primary 4 and 5
- Quality Assurance procedures -to develop a robust and cohesive approach to quality assurance across the stages.

Priorities for School Improvement Plan for Session 2013 - 2014

- Involvement of parents in the school -how this can be improve
- All staff to use new Tracking folder and this will be monitored and evaluated
- Outdoor Learning- we will continue to develop the courtyard and playground and also look to make more use of the Wider Community
- Look at Reading genres and how this will be developed across the curriculum
- Continue to develop and review the Science programme in use.
- Health and Wellbeing this session will look at Social and Emotional Health of Staff, pupils and parents and the effects in the community
- An introduction to Interdisciplinary learning -looking at the merits of this way of teaching

To develop Active Literacy approaches in P4 and ensure clear progression in phonics and spelling P1-5.

Active Literacy approaches (phonics and spelling) are now embedded within P1-P3 and have been introduced in P4 and P5. Our class teachers are using a variety of strategies to engage pupils in phonic/spelling activities. We have a planned, progressive approach for the teaching of phonics and spelling from P1-P5 which will be developed further next session. Our pupils are motivated and engaged within literacy lessons with most pupils scoring above their chronological age and some pupils scoring well above their chronological age. We held two successful parental workshops for parents outlining the methodologies, teaching and learning strategies being used in class for Active Literacy. Parents provided us with very positive feedback.

Pupils reported:

- The Elkinon Boxes help me spell words and sound them out.
- I like to think how to spell words!
- When I read I like to sound out the words.
- I like our group activities such as dice spelling, air-write,
- I like the spelling homework because it is no longer boring!
- I also like how our teacher mixes spelling into my reading.

Parents reported:

- I now have a better understanding of what to do to develop/support my child at home.
- Explanation of all the stages was a great help in understanding where my child is.
- This will help me to try out slightly different techniques from those I have used so far.

Teachers reported:

- All pupils are involved and enjoy reciprocal teaching.
- Pupils are challenged and motivated by each other.
- Links well to our writing.
- Helps to identify any areas of difficulty/confusion pupils may have.

Next Steps

- Further training will be necessary for staff moving stages and support staff
- Consistent approach developed across school for language homework.
- Develop Active Reading strategies across stages.

Outdoor Learning - a variety of activities to develop the nursery, courtyard, playground and the wider community

Parents, pupils and staff at Comely Park have been working together to make improvements to our school playground. Children spend an average of 1500 hours in their school playground. The school is located in the middle of the town and our playground is a 'sea of concrete'. Everyone is now pulling together to make lasting improvements. We have been working closely with Jane Jackson at Falkirk Council who has been advising us about a range of measures to help make the space welcoming, interesting, challenging yet safe to play in. A recent national survey found that 97% of teachers recognise the developmental importance of playground activity. The benefits of Outdoor Play are many; intrinsic enjoyment, cultivation of social awareness and capacity for mutual support, opportunity to overcome fears and reservations, opportunity for hands-on experience not afforded by passive classroom learning and more attentive learning through improved play opportunities at break-time. We continue to look for ways to improve our playground and courtyard with the support of the sub group from the Parent Council,

To improve Behaviour within Comely Park School

During the November In-service day the whole staff team participated in a carousel activity to address 4 key questions. The 6 key questions were-

- Imagine a new member of staff is starting in August. Explain in as much detail as possible the traffic light system which would run in each classroom. For this activity staff were to picture a **perfect** school.
- What rewards and sanctions should take place in every classroom? How do we ensure consistency?
- Do you think a House System would work in Comely Park School? How would it work? How would it help with rewards and sanctions?
- What whole school initiatives could we taken on to help create a positive ethos in Comely Park School?
- What would the playground and dinner hall rewards and sanctions be?
- How could we inform parents of their child's behaviour, attitude and playground behaviour? How do we ensure consistency?

The same activity was then completed by a group of 8 parents and 8 pupils who met on 2 separate occasions for 2 hours. The results of the carousel activity were then prioritised and a house system was created. The house system was in place for term 4. Primary 7 pupils decided to name the houses after local parks - **Callendar**, **Dollar**, **Helix**

and **Victoria**. Primary 7 pupils were elected in a captains and vice captains and pupils were in houses for sports day. We have held one house meeting and we have had 1 house challenge - To create a house flag for sports day.

Pupils reported:

- It would be good if we could get a longer playtime if our house wins each week.
- I like being in the same house as my brother
- I would like the responsibility of being a captain or vice captain when I am in primary 7.

Parents reported:

- A house system would unite and bring children together from nursery to P7.
- It is a fabulous idea as it promotes a positive ethos around the school.
- It encourages pupils to co-operate with one another.
- They have a sense of belonging and responsibility

Teachers reported:

- It would be good if we could have a house system ready for sports day, it would make it really exciting.
- A fortnightly focus looking at manners would help with pupils' behaviour.
- A house system would create a positive ethos within the school. Pupils would be rewarded for good behaviour.

Next Steps

- **Must ensure that in session 2013-2014 the momentum of the house system is kept up.**
- **Session 2013 -2014 pupils will -**
 - Line up in houses
 - Receive points for meeting the weekly target
 - Each classroom to have a house display.
- **Focus on ways to improve Playground behaviour next session.**

To update the Science programme in line with Curriculum for Excellence

Questionnaires were distributed to all teaching staff in September, the results were collated and the RACI group worked at meeting the teachers' needs. These were -

- To have a consistent planning format for Science - This was produced for each level with a progression of skills.
- To create a whole school Science overview for what E'S AND O'S should be taught at each stage. A Fibonacci project was also incorporated into each stage. Where possible the Science topics were linked to current Social Studies topics.
- £ 1000 was spent on Science resources
- Science resource boxes were updated in line with the new whole school overview.
- A table of relevant resources, websites and parents who would be available to support the teaching of Science was produced for each level and for each E and O. Mrs Krause, a parent, worked closely with Mrs Gallivan to produce this.
- Due to popular demand 2 Science clubs ran for Primary 5 pupils. The focus for this was life cycles. Mrs Krause a parent supported Mrs Gallivan with the delivery of this club.
- The School Science policy was updated.



- I found the Science club very interesting
- The club was good fun and I learnt more about minibeasts
- I liked moving around the different groups each week
- We got to touch the minibeasts which I found interesting and great fun



- The progression of skills is now very clear.
- I now know how to plan for Science.
- The pupils in my class really enjoyed attending the Science club.

Next Steps

- Monitor Science teachers' plans.
- To create step by step lessons for each Fibonacci project follow Teacher questionnaires in May 2013.
- Look at tracking Science.
- Work closely with Falkirk High School to deliver relevant Science CPD to the staff of Comely Park School.

Enhancing pupils' learning experiences by developing a whole school approach to Tracking and Planning.

Planning and Tracking across the Early, First and Second Levels have been updated following a thorough review of current practice. Staff were enthusiastic about developing a more streamlined, whole school approach to planning and tracking pupil progress. There are many benefits to be gained by management, staff, pupils and parents through the implementation of our new planning and tracking procedures. Through robust planning documents, staff are able to plan meaningful and relevant educational experiences, provide interdisciplinary learning opportunities and identify next steps in teaching and learning. Staff are able to plan for progression and differentiation, whilst through tracking pupil progress identify opportunities for challenge and the need for support. Planning will take account of the principles of curriculum design and allow teachers to easily identify opportunities for learning across disciplines.

Tracking will allow for consistency amongst teachers and across stages, as well as providing evidence of pupil progress within each Level. The new tracking procedures will ensure coverage of experiences and outcomes within a Level whilst enabling a more coherent transition process. Transition information will be more relevant, ensuring pupils' learning is continuous, well paced and children are challenged. Furthermore, teachers can plan for progression ensuring lessons are meaningful and relevant at each stage.

Planning and tracking in this way supports teachers to deliver high quality lessons, allows the senior management team to monitor the quality of learning and teaching at Comely Park, ensures children are continually aware of their progress and know their next steps in learning. This will ultimately result in more robust reporting procedures which means parents will also be better informed of the progress of their own children and their next steps in learning.

Feedback from staff:

Teachers reported: Helping to develop the new planning and tracking resources was a positive experience.

Teachers reported: I am looking forward to using it.

Teachers reported: I look forward to using the new documents!

Teachers reported: New resources are much appreciated by group and wider staff too.

Highlights of 2012/2013

August/September	October
Primary 7 Prefects appointed	Waste free day

Pupil Council Representatives appointed Each stage filled their planter	Sportathon Memory Pebbles Halloween Disco
November	December
Bookfair Children in Need Family Ceilidh Very successful Book week with many stories told by Authors, Journalists and our own Grandparents Road safety Week	Swimming Gala Comely Christmas Nativity Shoe box appeal Strathcarron concert Choir out visiting local Residential homes Pantomime
January	February
Visit by Author Stuart Reid P7 Burns Supper P4 Assembly P7s to Falkirk High	P6 Assembly P7 One voice Concert
March/April	May/June
Rotary Quiz Science Showcase Earth Hour Bookfair Comic Relief P3 Assembly P3 trip to Tall Ship P5 visit Frankie and Benny's P1 trip to Science museum P7 residential trip to Dalguise Visit by Royal Observatory to P6	P6 Athletic Championship Cross County Championship Introduction of House System May Fun Day P6 Activity day at Callendar Park Sports Day P7 trip to Amazonia P4 trip to the Hippodrome P2 trip to Peoples Palace P4 trip to Callendar House Pied Piper Theatre Group P5 trip to Science Museum P2 Assembly Happy day and Big Fit Walk P7 Induction Days and Ceilidh P7 Show-- School Daze Nursery and Primary 1 Inductions Active Literacy Workshops P5 Assembly

Comments Sheet on Standards and Quality Report

We hope you enjoyed reading this year's Standards and Quality Report. We are always keen to hear the views of our parents and carers. If you would like to make any comments regarding this year's report please complete and return the slip below.

Comments:

Signature:

Date:





