

North West Sutherland Schools

Head Teacher's report to Parent Council September 2018

#### Staffing:

We are delighted that Mrs Katie MacFarlane has started with us this session as PT Primary in Durness Primary School. Katie was formerly a Principal Teacher at Balfron primary in Stirlingshire and has already made a big impact in Durness.

John wood and Sian Curley have both started as full time teachers in Kinlochbervie Primary and Scourie Primary respectively.

The early years/P1 class in Scourie continues this year and is proving very popular with pupils, parents and staff.

Our ASN budget for this year has been cut but not by as much as we feared and by using the Pupil Equity Funding and by using a small surplus from last year we are able to maintain our PSA allocation at the same level as last year albeit with a bit of adjusting where the hours are allocated.

We took part in a pilot scheme to review Admin and Clerical staff management and I am pleased that Paula MacLeod has been appointed to a permanent post as Admin Team Leader. Paula will now be line manager for all clerical staff across the schools.

The Modern Languages post which is vacant at present had been filled but the teacher we appointed withdrew at the last minute. The post will be re-advertised but in the meantime John Fisher, a former Depute in the High School will cover the certificate classes and Miss Lockhart will teach Spanish to the junior classes.

Mr Mounfield is off sick at the moment and his classes are having to be covered by supply teachers. We hope to see him back at work soon but in the meantime I will offer some Maths support during elective time and between Mr keitany and myself we should be able to ensure that classes remain on course.

#### Vision, Values and Aims:

We have registered all four schools with the UNICEF Rights Respecting Schools Award programme, this aims to embed the rights of the child in our curriculum and in the daily life of the school. It is an exciting and challenging programme and more detail will be coming home over the coming weeks and months.

#### London:

We had a very successful trip to London earlier this month with a fascinating visit to the houses of parliament with our MP Jamie Stone buying us all a coke on the member's terrace. We also took in all the sights of London, saw The Lion King at the Lyceum Theatre and visited Greenwich Market, the Royal Observatory and the Cutty Sark. The trip was rounded off with a visit to the Harry Potter Studios before we flew home. Well done to all the pupils whose conduct throughout the trip was a

credit to them and the school. Thanks also to Paula, Keith, Anne and Jo for all the supervision and to Paula and Keith for the planning in advance.

Wednesdays:

We continue to bring all pupils in the ASG together on Wednesdays this session, this has been a real success last year and we will continue to use some of our Pupil Equity Funding to cover the transport costs.

New High School Timetable:

A few changes have been made to the structure of the school day. A letter has been sent to all parents outlining these changes but essentially lunch will now be at 1.25pm, the day will start at 8.50 and end at 3.50 except that on Friday we will finish at 1.25 with transport leaving at 1.40. Lunch will continue to be served at 1.25.

Internet Safety:

A presentation by the NSPCC on internet safety will be given on Wednesday at 3.30 in Kinlochbervie Primary School. All parents from all four schools are welcome to attend.

New Name:

Following a positive response to our consultation we have decided that the schools will now be known collectively as North West Sutherland Schools. In the near future we will ask the pupils and the community to assist in the design of an appropriate logo. We are of course retaining the individual identities of each of the four schools but we needed a collective name which was better than Kinlochbervie 3-18 ASG.

Attendance:

This is slipping again, particularly in the high school and we need to have a good level of attendance to allow continuity in classes and to ensure that all our pupils achieve their full potential. We understand that some absence is unavoidable but I would ask parents to ensure that their children are at school unless there is a very good reason for absence.