

North West Sutherland Schools

Head Teacher's report to Parent Council November 2019



Kinlochbervie High School:

Mrs Richards, our art teacher will go off on maternity leave early next term. We are working on arranging a replacement for her and I am hopeful that we will have someone in place with no break in cover.

Sally Czerwik is still absent and at the moment Catherine-Anne Munro is helping out to cover her hours.

Durness Primary School:

Christine Stokes, the student teacher who has been in Durness for the last few weeks leaves us today, we wish her well in her teaching career and thank her for all her work while she was with us.

A meeting of Durness Primary School parents took place on Monday this week with Mr Smart, Ms Lee, Mrs MacDonald and Mrs MacFarlane to discuss issues which are specific to Durness. Minutes will be circulated to all Durness Primary parents.

Work on the nursery has been delayed due to a problem with the tendering process but this has now been resolved and the work on this will start soon. Leanne McKee has taken up her post as PSA and will be working Monday to Wednesday from now on. Additional hours may be available but this requires some negotiation.

Scourie Primary School:

Iona Harper Reynoldson has joined the early years/P1 class as a student on a Level 6 Childhood Practice course. Iona will be with us 2 days each week for the rest of this school year.

Kinlochbervie Primary School:

Heather Davidson and Abby Forrest have settled in well in their new classes and feedback from parents and pupils is very positive.

Education Scotland:

We welcomed Mr Andy Brown, senior education officer from Education Scotland yesterday. Mr Brown spent some time discussing maths and numeracy in the high school with Mr Keitany and with Mr Smart and has promised a variety of resources and support which will be very welcome. He also commented very favourably on the work of the numeracy working group. He visited classes in Kinlochbervie Primary and was similarly very impressed with what he described as a "vibrant" atmosphere. Mr Brown then headed to Scourie where he joined the woodland day for a discussion with Mrs Curley about our recently awarded STEM grant. He will report back to us shortly.

Numeracy Working Group;

Today saw the launch of our "Times Tables Rock Stars" Initiative which aims to improve numeracy levels across the ASG. Please ask your children for details and encourage them to take part.

Sutherland Councillors:

I met with the Sutherland Area Committee last week at which a statistical report about the schools was presented to councillors. Copies are available and copies of my response are also available tonight.

Kenyan Connections:

A report on the recent visit to Kenya and plans for the future of this project is available, thanks to Katy Lee for preparing this.

Attendance:

This continues to be a concern particularly in the high school with a number of pupils having particularly poor attendance. Mrs MacDonald has spoken to these pupils and letters have been sent home but we would urge all parents to encourage your children to come to school as often as is possible and to consider very carefully any planned absences.