

## Head Teacher's Report to Parent Council. November 2017

Since my last report we have moved to our new management structure for the 3-18 ASG and the Extended Management Team is now as follows:

Head Teacher: Mr Graeme Smart

Depute Head Teacher (Job Share) : Ms Katy Lee and Mrs Aileen MacDonald

PT Primary: Mrs Meg McCrae, PT Secondary: Mr Neil Galbraith, Mrs Kirtsy Robson, Mrs Cle Jarvis and Mrs Heather Paterson.

At the start of the session we welcomed Mr John Wood and Mrs Sian Curley as probationer teachers in Kinlochbervie Primary and Scourie Primary. Mrs Jarvis joined us as PT Support for Learning across the ASG and Scourie Primary now has an early years and P1 class taken by Mrs MacDonald and Mrs Morrison with help from a former pupil Iona Harper Reynoldson.

Mr Cunningham has reduced his working week to three days since the October break and Mrs Smart works two days a week with S1 -3 and with the Primary Classes.

Our Quality Improvement Manager, Mr Barry Northedge has moved to a new role in Highland Council leading the Management of Schools project and we look forward to working with his replacement Mrs Alison Donald former Primary Head from Inverness. We wish Barry success in his new role and have no doubt we will still see him around from time to time.

Mrs Christine Gordon our Quality Improvement Officer is visiting in December and will return in March for what is essentially a mini inspection, it will be interesting to get her opinion on how things are progressing and she and her team will doubtless seek the views of parents, pupils, staff and other agencies.

As you will all be aware we now have all pupils across the ASG in Kinlochbervie on a Wednesday. This allows us to create good sized classes at P1+2, P3+4, P5+6 and P7. The younger pupils use the high school for PE, music and visits to the library and have contact with a number of high school staff, the older pupils see much more of the high school and we believe that this will be greatly beneficial for transition to S1. The benefits in terms of social interaction, in targeting support and in reducing the range of ability and ages teachers have to deal with are immeasurable. So far the feedback from pupils and parents has been hugely positive. The transport for the day is being paid for by using some of our Pupil Equity Funding (PEF) which is money provided by the Scottish Government in an attempt to help close the attainment gap. The amount of money we get is calculated by looking at the number of pupils who are in receipt of free school meals so I would urge any parent who thinks they may be entitled to these to claim as soon as possible. We will get money for the next two years at least but we are keen to ensure we get all we are entitled to.

The remainder of our PEF funding will be used to provide a training programme aimed at improving the standard of Learning and Teaching in classrooms. This will commence early in the new year with a group of ten volunteer staff from across the ASG

Both of the above formed part of our school improvement plan and we also included a review of the curriculum with a view to creating cohesive plans for all pupils from 3 – 18. A great deal of work on this has already taken place and our science curriculum plan for early years to the end of S3 has attracted the attention of the science development officer who wants to share it as an example of good practice.

Our sensory room is now up and running and has proved a real hit with everyone who has used it, it is great to see the nursery pupils making use of it as well.

The new library is also fully operational and the level of reading among our Primary and Junior Secondary pupils is a pleasure to see.

Our new minibus has arrived and has already seen a great deal of active service. Many thanks to the parent councils and others who contributed to the cost. The minibus is an ASG resource and will be available to be booked by all schools. We are getting short of people who can drive it. We need people with a D1 entitlement on their driving licence so if that is you and you would like to be a volunteer driver please get in touch.

Thirty pupils and eight adults from the High School had a fabulous trip to Vancouver in October, a report on the trip is attached to this report but it would be safe to say that everyone had a memorable experience. The parent's evening last week was very well attended and hopefully gave a young person's view of the trip.

We have a number of returning adults this year doing Higher English and N5 Mathematics. All seem to be enjoying the courses and we wish them every success.

Christmas is fast approaching and the usual round of parties and events will be coming up, please see the school websites for details and refer to the individual newsletters for important times and dates. I would also urge parents to look at the website for detailed information on what is happening in the schools particularly the "Window on Wednesday" feature. Each school's website also now has links to all the others to make navigation easier.

We end the term at 12.00 on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> December after our Christmas Service in the Church of Scotland. Parents and friends are welcome to join us at the service which will start at 11.00am. We return to school on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January.

Graeme Smart

Head Teacher

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