



Carrick Knowe PS Parent Council AGM

Brief Headteacher's Report

June 2020

I hope this finds everyone safe and well and looking forward to (hopefully!) the very beginning of some things returning to normal, even if that is not the normal we were used to before.

I would like to take this opportunity to say a huge thank you to all of the parents and carers of Carrick Knowe Primary School community for the wonderful support they have given us as a staff team, enabling us to continue to provide learning opportunities for our children as best we could in the recent challenging circumstances. As we know, the challenge has not yet gone, and we will face new and different challenges in August when the children and staff return to school, in whatever format that may be.

I do know that the support from yourselves and the wider community, including the many emails and messages of thanks and appreciation have helped the staff team, especially during our more challenging days!

**Classes & Staffing**

As you may remember from my last newsletter, in session 2020-21 we will have 13 classes instead of 14. This is simply due to more P7 children leaving than P1 children coming in. This is a trend which is evident across the whole city this year.

Miss McMillan, our probationer teacher in P6B and Mrs Smith who taught P3B will both leave us at the end of this session. I would like to thank them both for their commitment and hard work and wish them well for the future.

We had also expected to say goodbye to Miss Davidson who taught P1/2 this session. We are delighted to be able to keep her to teach in P3 next session but are extremely sorry that this is due to the ill health of Ms Mathieson who will not return to school in August. We wish Ms Mathieson a speedy recovery and hope to welcome her back later in the year.

We will have no probationer teacher this coming session and the full list of Carrick Knowe PS classes and staff for 2020-21 can be found on our website.

### Looking Back.....

Since March this year, there have been many disappointments with the closure of schools and the cancellation of events and celebrations we would have been looking forward to in the last term. However, "Looking on the bright side" is something we teach the children as part of our Building Resilience programme and we all need to take our own advice! As a school community, we have had many successes and reasons to celebrate up until the point of closure and these should not be overshadowed by the events of recent months. These have included (this is not an exhaustive list!)

- The (almost) refurbishment of parts of the school building.
- Moving forward as a school in embedding our school values into daily life.
- Achieving much of what was set out in our School Improvement Plan for the session - such as introducing a new approach to teaching writing in P3-7; working on effective moderation of children's learning and progress and considering how to make best use of our school grounds to enhance children's learning.
- Contributing to community events such as participating in the Remembrance Day Service at the cenotaph and laying a wreath.
- Some P7 boys being selected to represent Edinburgh following trials for schools' football.
- The Glee Club singing in the Children In Need choir and being on television!
- A group of P6 boys being crowned winners of the Edinburgh EuroQuiz heats and making it through to the national final!
- JUST managing to squeeze in the fantastic performances of the P6&7 show 'Pirates of The Curry-Bean'.

There were many, many more achievements - far too many to list - and we need to remember this when we think back to session 2019-20 and not focus on what we were not able to do.

Since March, staff, children and parents have worked incredibly hard, both from home and in the Hub Schools to keep learning going and we should all be extremely proud of ourselves.

### Looking Forward.....

As you might expect, Standards & Quality reports and School Improvement Plans (known as School Renewal Plans this session) will look quite different too. We still require, by law, to produce a Standards and Quality report and this will report on our achievements until the date of school closure. This will be submitted to the council by the end of the term and available on the website early next term.

Each School Renewal Plan within CEC will have very similar themes and priorities, mainly focussing on Health & Wellbeing, Nurture and Digital Learning and I will also share Carrick Knowe's School Renewal Plan with parents early next term.

We are currently working on ensuring we are ready to welcome children back into school in August and being able to provide a safe, nurturing and engaging learning space.

At the time of writing, we do not have a definite answer to how this will be organised, and I will update parents as soon as I possibly can.

I hope everyone is able to have some rest and relaxation over what will be a very unique summer holiday and I am really looking forward to seeing you all again in August.

Gail MacLean  
Headteacher