

## Struthers Primary School



6<sup>th</sup> October 2014

Dear Parent/Carer

### **Struthers Primary School**

As you may recall, HM Inspectors of Education visited Struthers Primary School and published a report on the findings of their visit in August 2012. As part of the reporting process, South Ayrshire Council is required to inform parents of the progress being made at Struthers Primary School. A Quality Improvement Officer and a primary school head teacher visited the school in September 2014. We heard from staff, parents and children how the school has continued to improve. We also visited classes to look at aspects of the school's work and particularly at the areas for improvement identified in the inspection report.

This purpose of this letter is to share information with you about how Struthers Primary School has further improved the quality of children's learning experiences.

### **How well do children learn and achieve?**

Children at Struthers Primary School are enthusiastic, motivated, engaged and confident learners. Across all stages children increasingly take responsibility for their learning. They have a good understanding of what they are good at in their learning and can identify what they need to do to improve. They use their pupil profiles to discuss and set learning targets. Children are active in their learning and respond well to activities they lead that enable them to learn together in class. They confidently plan and contribute to projects and activities linked to their school and community, such as gaining their second Eco Schools Green Flag, Dyslexia Friendly School Gold Award, and UNICEF Rights Respecting School Award. They feel that staff listen to them and respect their views.

Overall, children continue to achieve well. Staff have worked hard to further develop children's literacy skills and this is evident in the high quality pieces of extended writing on display. The focus now is to ensure children's reading skills are further improved and developed. The quality of children's learning and achievement in numeracy has improved. The well planned Active Start programme is engaging children in developing their mental agility. Across the stages, children benefit from active approaches to mental mathematics, especially in the upper school.

ICT is used very effectively to support children's learning. A focus on developing digital literacy using health and wellbeing indicators has had a significant impact. Children wrote, produced and directed an internet safety film which has been recognised at both local and national level. Children enjoy their

lessons and respond well to the new and interesting approaches to learning linked to science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

### **How well does the school support children to develop and learn?**

Staff work hard to give children a supportive and positive learning experience. Children are engaged, included and very well supported in their learning. Staff monitor and carefully track the progress of children. The use of electronic assessment information is used to target support for identified children. Staff work well together to make sure any barriers to children's learning are removed. A number of approaches, including Friendship finders, Buddies, Knex Lunchtime club, and the Bounce Back programme have been developed in response to the needs of children.

Children benefit from a broad range of learning opportunities both in and out of the classroom. Across the school staff work well together to ensure improvements in children's learning. Struthers Primary has a very well established whole school approach to health and well being and children benefit from many opportunities to take on additional responsibilities. They talk knowledgeably about being safe, healthy, achieving, nurtured, active, respected, responsible and included and can clearly express their views regarding keeping safe and well.

Parents are kept informed of school activities and developments through weekly newsletters. They comment favourably on the recent improvements in communication and welcome the increased opportunities offered to them to be involved in the life and work of the school

### **How well does the school improve the quality of its work?**

The headteacher provides strong leadership to the school and is highly respected by children, parents and staff. She is well supported in this work by her senior management team. Staff demonstrate their commitment to improving the school through their collegiate approach and willingness to take on leadership roles and professional learning opportunities. The school values of inclusion, respect, honesty, loyalty and responsibility are clear in the daily life of the school.

### **What happens next?**

The head teacher and staff have worked very hard to demonstrate the school's capacity to improve. Struthers Primary school is well placed to continue improving.

*Should you have any comments about any aspect of this report, you should write in the first instance to Chrissie Quinn, Quality Improvement Officer, Educational Services, County Buildings, Wellington Square, Ayr KA7 1DR, or contact Chrissie Quinn, at [Chrissie.quinn@south-ayrshire.gov.gsx.uk](mailto:Chrissie.quinn@south-ayrshire.gov.gsx.uk) - Tel: 01292 616662.*