

7 February 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

In September 2019, HM Inspectors published a letter on Arisaig Primary School and Nursery Class. The letter set out a number of areas for improvement which we agreed with the school and The Highland Council. Recently, as you may know, we visited the school again. During our visit, we talked to children and worked closely with the acting headteacher, depute headteacher and staff. We heard from the acting headteacher, depute headteacher and other staff about the steps the school has taken to improve. We looked at particular areas that had been identified in the original inspection. As a result, we were able to find out about the progress the school has made and how well this is supporting children's learning and achievements. This letter sets out what we found.

**In the school and nursery, develop approaches to assessment in line with national guidance, to ensure it informs high quality planned learning and teaching which meets the needs of all children.**

Overall, staff have continued to build their understanding of children's progress using a range of assessments. Staff have recently worked with local schools and Education Scotland to develop further their understanding of effective use of assessment. As a result, staff now have a clearer understanding of children's progress towards achievement of a level. Staff now use assessment well to identify interventions to support children's learning and to inform learning and teaching. In classes, staff now provide children with more appropriate challenge and support in their learning. In both classes, children are now motivated and engaged in their learning.

Nursery children are now learning in a purpose built indoor and outdoor space. Practitioners continue to provide a rich and wide range of learning experiences bespoke to individual needs. Children enjoy nursery and respond well to adults during their play. They are making good use of the wide range of experiences in the local community and within the nursery. Practitioners plan and assess children's progress well and they can identify clearly how they support and challenge individuals.

**Develop approaches which allow children to increase their understanding of their own learning. They should be supported to develop their resilience in learning and take more responsibility for their own learning.**

Children across the school and nursery are developing well their skills in leading their own learning. As a result, they are becoming more resilient and confident and are starting to articulate their individual successes, progress and next steps. All children have clear targets now for literacy and numeracy which are reviewed and updated regularly. All children engage in regular learning conversations now where their success and next steps are discussed. Children's progress is shared regularly with parents to involve them in the process. In the older class, children are continuing to present as independent learners. They enjoy opportunities to be challenged and make decisions as to how they want to learn. Support staff help children who have difficulties in their learning very well. As a result, children with additional needs are making good progress.

## **Raise attainment in literacy and numeracy.**

Teachers now have a clearer understanding of children's progress and attainment. Children now write more frequently and older children can talk about the features of different types of writing. Staff provide helpful feedback to children in writing to help them improve further. As a result, children's attainment in writing is improving. At early level, children are beginning to write independently. Children's skills in mathematics are beginning to improve. Older children are beginning to develop their skills in making mental calculations and they have a better understanding of measure and graphs. Staff should continue to develop further children's learning across all areas of mathematics and increase their understanding of mental maths strategies.

## **What happens next?**

The school has made good progress since the original inspection. We are confident that the school has the capacity to continue to improve and so we will make no more visits in connection with this inspection. The Highland Council will inform parents about the school's progress as part of its arrangements for reporting on the quality of its schools.

Judith Reid  
HM Inspector