

25 September 2018

Dear Parent/Carer

**Bishop Eden's Primary School
The Highland Council**

In April 2017, HM Inspectors published a letter on your child's school. 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 headteacher and staff. We heard from the 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.

Raise attainment in literacy and numeracy.

Overall children's attainment in English language and literacy and in mathematics and numeracy is now improving. Children's progress is now tracked and monitored well. As a result, staff are now planning better targeted support for children to ensure they can attain more. Significant progress has been made in reading as a result of a 'back to basics' approach put in place by the headteacher. Staff are leading improved learning activities using a better range of classroom resources. Writing standards across the school are now showing improvement with children enjoying more opportunities to develop their use of vocabulary. They write across a range of writing styles, such as the book review completed by learners in P7. There is now a consistent approach to planning for numeracy and mathematics, which includes learning, teaching and regular assessments. Gaps in learning in areas of mathematics and numeracy have been identified and specific interventions have been planned and provided for individual children. The school utilised additional Attainment Scotland funding and Pupil Equity Funding to provide additional staffing which is supporting improvement in numeracy.

Improve children's experiences through challenging and high quality learning and teaching.

The school has made positive progress in learning and teaching. Children continue to be more engaged in their learning. Positive relationships between staff and children were evident throughout the school and behaviour was of a high standard during the inspection visit. The school has placed wellbeing and nurture at the heart of its work. The addition of 'bubble time' has provided a nurturing and calm place to provide very targeted support for a few children. This is led by a skilled pupil support assistant and a children's services worker. Staff now plan learning better and use

clearer explanations and improved questioning skills. There are useful plenary sessions to check over what children have learned. Children are ready now to take further ownership of their own learning. Staff should develop their partnerships with parents and families more to support their children's learning further.

Develop the curriculum to ensure all children progress well and achieve success across all aspects of their learning.

The school has made positive progress in the development of the curriculum. The curriculum rationale captures very well the unique context of the school, outlining clear links with the cathedral and having a focus on the core areas of literacy and numeracy. Staff are using appropriate planning frameworks in literacy, numeracy and across curriculum areas. They recognise they need to continue to develop the curriculum to enable children to make further progress across all subject areas. The curriculum benefits from strong local community partnership work which is developing skills for life and work. Staff should continue with their plans to develop outdoor learning further.

Develop effective approaches to self-evaluation which lead to improvements across the school and better outcomes for children.

The headteacher shows a very clear commitment to the use and further development of self-evaluation to ensure the school continues its journey of improvement. This is demonstrated very well in the extensive improvements that have been overtaken since the previous inspection visit. This includes advances in the quality of learning and teaching through the provision of improved tasks and better activities and resources. Impact from this work is demonstrated, for example, through the improvement in reading skills, improved children's behaviour, and improved systems to monitor and track attainment. In her short time in post, the headteacher is already respected by staff, parents and children as a very hard working, strong leader. Almost all staff are now part of an shared culture of reflective practitioners. A wide range of approaches are used now to evaluate the quality of the school's work.

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 and the Area Lead Officer about the school's progress as part of its arrangements for reporting on the quality of its centres.

Aileen Monaghan
HM Inspector

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