

20 June 2017

Dear Parent/Carer

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

In April 2016, 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 and at other aspects of the school's work, as proposed by the headteacher. 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

Since the previous inspection, there have been improvements in how staff assess children's progress in literacy and numeracy. As a result, staff have a better understanding of what children are good at and what needs to happen to help them improve. There now needs to be a clearer focus on planning specific support for children to ensure they make better progress. Whilst there have been improvements in attainment for a few children across the school, overall there remains significant scope to improve attainment in literacy and numeracy for all children. There continues to be a need to develop approaches to reading to ensure that children enjoy reading and are developing a wider range of skills. Across the school, children require more frequent opportunities to write at length. Children continue to require greater opportunities to explore and discuss mathematical concepts and apply their learning in relevant contexts.

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

Across the school, children are now more engaged in their learning. In most classes, active learning approaches are helping children's level of motivation and enthusiasm. Children say that there have been improvements in how they learn in class. They can identify how active learning in subjects such as science is making learning more enjoyable. In almost all lessons, children have opportunities to work together in pairs and groups and to discuss and share ideas. The school should ensure that they provide suitably challenging learning opportunities for all children.

Children have responded well to opportunities to participate and lead on whole school initiatives such as the pupil council and Eco Committee. The focus on improving behaviour across the school is having a positive impact on the overall ethos and climate for learning.

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

The school has begun to develop a rationale for the curriculum. Staff should continue with this work and ensure that the rationale includes a clear strategy for raising attainment in literacy and numeracy. Staff are beginning to use newly-developed planning frameworks in literacy, numeracy and health and wellbeing. These are helping staff build on prior learning. The school needs to continue to develop the curriculum, at a faster pace, to ensure that children are making progress and improving their knowledge and skills in all areas of the curriculum as they move through the school.

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

The headteacher and The Highland Council have worked together to develop a plan to address areas for improvement since the previous inspection. A plan is also in place to identify how the school will raise attainment in literacy and numeracy. There is a need to increase the pace of improvements to ensure they are leading to better outcomes for children. The school has developed approaches to tracking children's progress and attainment. Staff now need to make better use of this information to help children improve in their learning.

What happens next?

The school has made some progress since the original inspection. We will liaise with The Highland Council regarding the school's capacity to improve. We will return to carry out a further inspection of the school within twelve months of the publication of this letter. We will discuss with The Highland Council the details of this inspection. When we return to inspect the school we will write to you as parents informing you of the progress the school has made.

Monica McGeever
HM Inspector

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