

3 December 2019

Dear Parent/Carer

In April 2017, HM Inspectors published a letter on Mount Carmel Primary School. The letter set out a number of areas for improvement which we agreed with the school and East Ayrshire Council. We subsequently returned to the school to look at how it had continued to improve its work, and published another letter in May 2018. 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.

Improve strategic leadership to support a systematic approach to change. This requires to be led by senior managers but involve all staff in both identifying and taking forward appropriate strategies

East Ayrshire Council have appointed a permanent headteacher who takes up post shortly after this inspection. The acting headteacher and depute headteacher provide clear direction to the work of the school. Staff have continued to increase the pace of change and are now more involved in making improvements. They willingly take on additional responsibility and as a result have more ownership of the changes taking place. Children have a stronger voice within the school. They are members of committees and improvement focus groups. There continues to be high expectations of behaviour across all classes and almost all children report they are happy and safe in school. The leadership team have a number of ways to monitor the work of the school. This is beginning to have an impact on raising attainment. However, the focus on raising attainment should continue to ensure all children reach their full potential and aspirations remain high.

Improvements have been made to the structure of the curriculum with clear progression pathways now in place across all subject areas. This helps children build on their learning more effectively as they move through the school. Staff have improved how target setting is used with children across the school. As a result children are now more confident in talking about what they need to do to do to improve. Most staff are now meeting children's needs more effectively in literacy and numeracy within classes.

Improve monitoring and tracking of children's progress and attainment across all curriculum areas to ensure that they achieve as highly as possible.

Staff now monitor and track children's progress in literacy and numeracy more effectively. Information on children's progress is now being used to target support for groups of children. The work to improve in class assessment and use of the national benchmarks is beginning to ensure that information on children's progress is more reliable. Staff are becoming more confident in their judgements on children's attainment. The leadership team meet regularly with staff to review children's progress. This helps them plan support for children more

effectively. Although improvements have been made to how staff monitor and track children's progress this needs to continue to be an area of ongoing focus to ensure children's attainment continues to rise.

Develop a shared understanding of the wellbeing agenda across the school. Improve the management of support for those requiring additional help with their learning or wellbeing.

Children are now more aware of the wellbeing indicators and what they mean in their lives. Staff are making good use of a self-assessment tool with children and this is being used for regular individual discussions to identify children requiring support. There is now a clear progression pathway used by staff for health and wellbeing ensuring children receive a broad range of experiences. Plans are in place to develop a programme to support the development of self-confidence and self-esteem across the school. Relationships continue to be strong and children report that they are safe and happy. Staff have established a nurture base within the school to help meet the needs of various groups. As a result children's social and emotional needs are being met more effectively and children are settled in school.

Approaches to developing individual learning plans for children with additional support needs has improved and children with identified needs now have plans in place. However, there is a need for staff to develop further how they write specific targets within these plans. This would support staff in measuring children's progress through these learning plans.

Raise Attainment across all stages.

Although there are many initiatives in place to raise attainment this is still a work in progress. How staff assess literacy and numeracy across the school has improved through the use of ongoing assessments and summative assessments. They should build on this progress and continue to develop assessment further.

Improved approaches to active literacy and numeracy are helping raise attainment. Improvements to the approach to the teaching of reading and writing are making early improvements to children's attainment. There is a need to develop further children's confidence in basic skills in numeracy. Staff should continually reinforce and revisit previously taught concepts in numeracy and mathematics. In literacy care should be taken to ensure that children are reading books appropriate to their level of reading ability at all times.

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. East Ayrshire Council will inform parents about the school's progress as part of its arrangements for reporting on the quality of its schools.

Sadie Cushley
Managing Inspector