

14 March 2017

Dear Parent/Carer

**Inverbrothock Primary School and Nursery Class  
Angus Council**

In December 2015, 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 Angus 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.

**Improve levels of attainment to ensure all children achieve as well as they can.**

Children in the nursery continue to make good progress in their early literacy and numeracy skills. Most children at P1, P4 and P7 are achieving in line with national expectations for their stage in reading, writing and numeracy and almost all in listening and talking. Higher expectations of children's achievement are more evident and teachers' predictions suggest a move towards almost all children achieving in line with national expectations or beyond across all aspects of literacy and numeracy. Children are able to identify improvements in their writing, reading and problem-solving skills over the last session. Their view is well supported and evidenced in their classwork, displays of their latest and best work and through lesson observations. Children are writing longer and better developed pieces more often, across a wider range of genre. More consistent, quality focussed feedback to children about their writing is helping them to clearly understand what they need to do to improve. Children are developing their digital skills through their involvement in 'coding' where they engage well with both their peers and the technology. We have asked staff to give further consideration to ensuring that the needs of potentially higher attaining children are well met at all stages.

**Further develop and improve the curriculum in line with national guidance and expectations of Curriculum for Excellence.**

Staff are now working more collegiately to improve curricular programmes in line with Curriculum for Excellence guidance. At all stages teachers are now collaborating well to plan interesting and worthwhile contexts for learning. Topics have been refreshed to ensure they are meaningful and relevant and provide appropriate levels

of challenge for all children. Children continue to have a say in identifying aspects which they would like to find out more about. In the nursery, children's learning continues to be driven by children's interests. Staff are increasingly taking more responsibility for leading aspects of curriculum development including in outdoor learning. A review of health and wellbeing experiences has led to an appropriate focus on topics more relevant to the school community. At all stages children are enjoying speaking French as part of their daily routines. Approaches to teaching digital technology have been improved and are being used well to enhance and celebrate learning. The school uses Twitter as an effective means of capturing and sharing learning with parents. An exceptionally well-attended curriculum afternoon provided parents with a better understanding of how mathematics is taught and an after school staff-led French club for parents is helping them to better support their children at home. We have asked staff to continue to progress their plans to develop improved programmes to support children's learning in mathematics, numeracy, music and social and emotional wellbeing.

**Simplify approaches to self-evaluation to bring about a greater impact on children's experiences.**

In the time since the last inspection, staff across the school and nursery have focussed appropriately on improving approaches to learning and teaching in reading, writing and mathematics. Staff are benefiting from engaging in high-quality professional dialogue to share best practice and research what works well. Audits of approaches to numeracy have helped to identify commonly agreed aspects of excellent mathematics lessons and staff have prepared personal action plans to improve their approaches and raise attainment further. As a result, children's attainment is improving and teachers' confidence in both planning and assessing children's learning is growing. Approaches to planning for the medium and long term have been reviewed to ensure they are less bureaucratic. Both principal teachers demonstrate highly effective leadership skills in the way they guide developments in both literacy and numeracy. The depute headteacher has capably led a refreshed, better resourced and more targeted approach to meeting pupils' needs which is being well received and having positive impact for both children and staff. The senior leadership team, led very effectively by the headteacher, have supported all staff well in ensuring a united approach to whole school improvement which is clearly benefitting children in their care. We have asked staff to continue to ensure that children's views about learning are gathered and acted upon in their future plans for Learning Councils, with an emphasis on in-class learning and what works well for them as learners.

## **What happens next?**

The school has made very 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. Angus Council will inform parents about the school's progress as part of its arrangements for reporting on the quality of its schools.

Donald A. Macleod  
HM Inspector

If you would like to receive this letter in a different format, for example, in a translation please contact the administration team on the above telephone number.

If you want to give us feedback or make a complaint about our work, please contact us by telephone on 0131 244 4330, or e-mail: [complaints@educationscotland.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:complaints@educationscotland.gsi.gov.uk) or write to us addressing your letter to the Complaints Manager, Denholm House, Almondvale Business Park, Livingston EH54 6GA.