

29 January 2019

Dear Parent/Carer

In November 2018, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited Balloch Primary School. During our visit, we talked to parents/carers and children and worked closely with the headteacher and staff.

The inspection team found the following strengths in the school's work.

- The headteacher and staff have made a successful start to setting up a new school. In a relatively short period of time, they are bringing together the approaches of two previous schools to assist in realising their new motto, "Be Brilliant at Balloch".
- Children are friendly, confident and enthusiastic about their learning.
- There are emerging improvements in children's attainment, particularly in numeracy at the early level.

The following areas for improvement were identified and discussed with the headteacher and a representative from West Dunbartonshire Council.

- Build on the most effective practice within the school, and research findings, to develop consistency in high-quality learning, teaching and assessment.
- Use assessment more effectively so that children are clearer on what they are doing well and how they can make better progress. Teachers should continue to build a picture of the progress that children are making across all areas of the curriculum, as well as in opportunities for achievements.
- Continue to raise children's attainment. This should include achieving higher standards in reading and writing. Across the school, children should read more for enjoyment.

We gathered evidence to enable us to evaluate the school's work using quality indicators from [How good is our school? \(4<sup>th</sup> edition\)](#). Quality indicators help schools, local authorities and inspectors to judge what is working well and what needs to be improved. Following the inspection of each school, the Scottish Government gathers details of our evaluations to keep track of how well Scottish schools are doing.

## Here are Education Scotland's evaluations for Balloch Primary School

Quality indicators	Evaluation
<b>Learning, teaching and assessment</b>	<b>good</b>
<b>Raising attainment and achievement</b>	<b>satisfactory</b>
Descriptions of the evaluations are available from: <a href="#">How good is our school? (4<sup>th</sup> edition), Appendix 3: The six-point scale</a>	

A more detailed document called Summarised Inspection Findings (SIF) will be available on the Education Scotland website at:  
<https://education.gov.scot/inspection-reports/west-dunbartonshire/1004581>.

### What happens next?

We are confident that the school has the capacity to continue to improve. We will make no more visits in connection with this inspection. West Dunbartonshire Council will inform parents/carers about the school's progress as part of its arrangements for reporting on the quality of its schools.

Joan C. Esson  
 HM Inspector