



INVERARITY PRIMARY SCHOOL AND OUTDOOR NURSERY 2024



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(Please contact the school office)



DIGITAL SCHOOLS
AWARDS SCOTLAND

Contents

VISITS OF PROSPECTIVE PARENTS	3
SCHOOL UNIFORM.....	4
PARENTAL CONCERNS	4
THE COMPLAINTS PROCEDURE.....	4
PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT	5
BECOMING INVOLVED IN SCHOOL.....	5
SCHOOL ETHOS	6
SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY LINKS	8
POSITIVE BEHAVIOUR MANAGEMENT.....	8
CELEBRATING ACHIEVEMENT	10
EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES.....	10
PUPIL COUNCIL.....	10
LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES	10
THE PUPILS AND PARENTS VOICE.....	11
THE CURRICULUM AT SCHOOL, LOCAL AND NATIONAL LEVEL.....	12
EARLY LEARNING AND CHILDCARE	14
LIAISON WITH SECONDARY SCHOOL	14
SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT (School Specific)	14
MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS.....	14
IMPROVING STANDARDS.....	14
SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN	16
SCHOOL PERFORMANCE (Secondary schools only)	Error! Bookmark not defined.
HEALTH CARE.....	16
DOGS IN SCHOOL GROUNDS	16
USEFUL LINKS AND CONTACT DETAILS	18
ANGUS COUNCIL WEBSITE	18
OTHER WEBSITES	18

CONTACT DETAILS

School Name Inverarity Primary School

Address Inverarity, By Forfar, DD8 2JN

Telephone Number 01307 494 259

Website

Email Address inverarity@angusschools.org.uk

(Acting) Head Teacher Mrs Cirst Rajcoomar

Class Stages **P 1-3** Teaching Staff Mrs J Turrent Monday - Friday

P 4-7 Teaching Staff Mrs A McAuley Tuesday - Friday

Teaching Staff Mrs K Smith – Monday

Teaching Staff Mrs A Thompson – Wednesday - Thursday

Present Roll 43

Nursery 10

Denominational Status - non-denominational

Does the school teach by means of the Gaelic Language No

Email address for the Parent Council inverarity@angusschools.org.uk

Organisation of the school

Morning session 9.00 a.m.-12.25 p.m.

Morning interval 10.30 a.m.-10.50 a.m.

Afternoon session 1.25 p.m. – 3.20 p.m.

Outdoor / Indoor Nursery

Monday – Thursday 8.30 a.m. – 4.00pm

VISITS OF PROSPECTIVE PARENTS

[Choosing a school: a guide for parents \(Scottish Government\)](#)

Once your child has been allocated a place you will be invited along to meet the staff and children, to find out more about the curriculum and to share information about your child.

If you are considering enrolling your child at Inverarity School or Nursery you are welcome to contact the school to arrange to come along to meet the staff and children. This would give you the opportunity to find out more about the school or Nursery, and to share information about your child. These arrangements will be flexible to suit the needs of your child. The staff will discuss this with you during your initial visit.

SCHOOL UNIFORM

In order to develop a feeling of belonging and pride in the school we encourage pupils to wear the Inverarity School uniform.

- **BOYS** Grey trousers or shorts, white or red polo shirt worn with school red sweatshirt or cardigan/jumper fleece for outdoor-wear.
- **GIRLS** Grey Pinafore or Skirt, Red & White check dress, white or red polo shirt, red school sweatshirt or cardigan/jumper fleece for outdoor wear.
- **PE KIT** T-shirt and gym shoes or trainers with non-marking soles, in a bag with pupil's name.
- Uniform items embroidered with the school badge can be ordered online via SchoolTrends. The children will play and learn outdoors in almost all weather. Please ensure your child has appropriate clothing, such as wellies, cosy socks, warm jackets, sunhats etc. Legionnaire sunhats have been added to the available schoolwear to purchase online.

*currently pupils can wear navy or black plain jogging trousers; this will be reviewed for August 2024.

Nursery – please ensure that your child has suncream on and a sun hat on in warmer weather and wears layers of clothing including woollen items such as 2 pairs of socks in colder weather.

All clothing brought to school should be named or marked in some way. It is difficult for children to distinguish their clothing from others.

We have a collection of **used school clothing** which is still of a wearable quality. Please contact the school office for further information, thank you. Please also contact school to find out more about financial support for purchasing school clothing

PARENTAL CONCERNS

At Inverarity Primary School and Nursery, we work very closely with parents and carers to ensure that the children are safe, happy and learning. An important aspect of this is good

communication. If you have a cause for concern, please contact the school as soon as possible. Effective communication and dealing with matters as early as possible help to ensure that any issues do not develop into more serious problems.

As we are a small school all members of staff know the children very well and you may approach any member of staff to discuss any concerns. We will listen to your concern and agree a way forward with you.

Contact the school immediately if you have a concern. We want to deal with all matters as early as possible. Contact your child's class teacher via the school office in the first instance. If you would prefer to discuss the issue with a member of the management team contact:

- **Mrs Rajcoomar for school, and Mrs Rajcoomar or Mrs Cooper in nursery.**

The staff will listen to your concern and agree a way forward with you. They will follow-up with a telephone call following the concerns. This is to ensure all matters have been resolved.

THE COMPLAINTS PROCEDURE

[Angus Council complaints procedure](#)

PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT

BECOMING INVOLVED IN SCHOOL

In Inverarity we recognise the importance of working in partnership with parents to provide a stimulating and pleasant working environment. We value the important part that parents play in their children's education. We see partnership with parents as an effective way to enhance children's achievements and promote better school ethos and communication.

Parents are encouraged to become involved with the school in a variety of ways.

- The school has an effective and active Parent Council which enhances the overall education provided for our pupils. All parents are members of the Parent Council Forum and we would encourage parents/carers to attend meetings and take part in activities and events organised by the Parent Council e.g. Consultation groups, Fruity Tuck Shop, Halloween and Christmas Parties, Christmas Fair, Church Services and many fundraising activities.
- Parents are encouraged to share their views, ideas and opinions in several ways e.g. formal and informal parent/teacher meetings, Parent Council Forum, questionnaires and through our friendly open-door policy.
- Parent Helpers are welcomed in the school. There are many opportunities for parents and members of the community to share their knowledge and skills with the children. Volunteers help with, for example, sports clubs, running the school newspaper, school garden, accompanying children on educational visits and giving talks to the children. Parents wishing to volunteer should contact the school.

- We use 'Class Dojo' for Nursery and P1-7 as means to increase engagement further.
- Nursery continue to use the 'Learning Journals' platform. The Primary School will shortly begin using the Learning Journals to share meaningful observations and celebrate the children's successes within their learning.

The usual way we provide opportunities for Parental Involvement are:

During the school day:

- Sharing knowledge and expertise in some aspect of the curriculum, e.g. topic talk, history, science, health
- Practical activities in science, maths, social subjects, health education (e.g. first aid) or technology
- Reading stories to groups of children, playing reading/phonics games
- Teaching playground games
- Running or assisting to run a Lunch Club
- Supporting educational visits/trips
- School concerts – making costumes, props, supervision of children
- Road safety – Cycle Training

Outwith the school day:

- Fundraising events
- Trips e.g. sporting events, concerts
- Extra-curricular activities e.g. coaching, sports/art clubs/country dancing/school grounds – maintenance of garden/allotment areas

If you wish to be a regular parent helper, PVG (Protecting Vulnerable Groups) checks have to be completed. Please discuss this with staff.

All parents are invited to attend two Parents Evenings throughout the year. The second appointment is following the final report and is to discuss any issues or concerns that have arisen from this. At these meetings parents will have the opportunity to meet their child's class teacher in school or key person in nursery, for a 10-minute interview and hear about their child's progress. This is also an opportunity for parents to hear how they can best support their child's learning. Parents can also support as appropriate the completion of homework tasks as advised by the school.

SCHOOL ETHOS

At Inverarity Primary School, our decision making has the child at the centre, ensuring learners are supported in achieving their potential through support, challenge and nurture. The school values the important part that parents play in their children's education and sees partnership with parents as an effective way of enhancing children's achievements and promoting a positive school ethos and good communication.

As well as the parent's evenings, we encourage parents to contact the school if they have any issues regarding their child's schoolwork or progress. Parents are welcome to call the school to discuss any issues with the class teachers. Often a quick chat can clarify and clear up any issues quickly.

Parents of children in the nursery have daily contact with the Nursery staff and are encouraged to share information and ask questions at these times, as restrictions allow.

Nursery children have individual profiles where their learning is documented. Parents can access their child's profile online and to add any information they wish to share.

Parents of Primary 1-7 pupils are encouraged to ensure that their weekly homework is completed. This is shared on a Thursday and is to be returned by Tuesday each week.

We are committed to developing pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural values. We do this through the ethos and the curriculum. We do this in partnership with parents and take account of the needs of pupils and the views of parents.

We welcome and encourage diversity and individuality, while emphasizing our common commitment to moral values such as honesty, respect for others and compassion and justice. All who are involved in the life of our school have the right to be respected as individuals and carry the responsibility to act in a considerate and respectful manner towards others. We implement council policy on equal opportunities and racial equality. All pupils have access to the full range of educational experiences available within the resources of the school. We are committed to eliminating discrimination on the grounds of race, religion, gender or disability.

We have links with the local ministers at Inverarity Parish Church and the Community Church in Forfar. At times they visit the school and the church allows the school and nursery to use its building for services. As this is part of 'Religious Observance' parents/carers can choose for their child not to participate.

The Head Teacher and Chairperson of the Community Council regularly attend the Community Council.

SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY LINKS

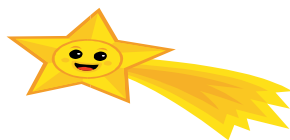
Partnership with parents and the local community are highly valued and we try to encourage the involvement of the whole community in a variety of ways:

- Our local church supports our celebrations, concerts and shows both in school and at the Inverarity Parish Church
- We hold regular Community Cafés to welcome all members of the Inverarity school community to help us celebrate the learners' successes
- We work closely with the local Inverarity Community Council
- Our Parent Council supports and organises local events for the whole community to enjoy
- Parents help with activities in the classrooms and with transport to extra-curricular events
- We have close links with all schools in the Forfar and Brechin clusters and take part in many cluster events, often joining up with other rural schools
- Classes visit the local farm shop, farms and the library to enhance the curriculum
- We work with local groups and clubs to broaden the experiences of our children such as: Forfar Academy Pupil Led Sports Coaching, Forfar Community Trust and Strathmore Rugby Club
- Working closely with our Active Schools Co-ordinator, our P6 and P7 children are mentored in leadership skills to support them leading their own clubs

POSITIVE BEHAVIOUR MANAGEMENT

[Angus Council anti-bullying policy](#)

Good behaviour is essential to good learning and to children being happy in their school. The aim of our school and nursery is to provide an atmosphere of mutual respect and collective responsibility. Pupils, parents and staff all have an important part to play in producing and sustaining this positive ethos. The interactions between staff, pupils, parents and members of the community clearly demonstrate the very positive ethos which is fostered within Inverarity School and Nursery.



Our School and Nursery motto-

"Shine like a star and go far!"

Our Shared Vision - In our school community we will work together as a team to develop our children as successful learners, confident individuals, effective contributors and responsible citizens by providing a safe, friendly, supportive and inclusive environment where motivating and challenging learning experiences take place.

Our School Values.

- Kindness
- Responsibility
- Respect
- Happiness
- Honesty

Our Aims

We aim to-

- have a happy welcoming school and nursery.
- make learning fun, exciting and challenging.
- use resources imaginatively.
- encourage everyone to do their best.
- work together as a team.
- Keep the school eco-friendly.

Each class group devise their own class expectations/rules. The children are involved in these and therefore take ownership of these. The school values are referred to within the playground, classroom and at the weekly assembly. Many strategies are available to support behavioural expectations and children are encouraged and praised for making good choices.

Primary 7 pupils are given increased responsibility, such as being prefects and playground buddies. Many of them run lunchtime clubs for their peers or the younger children which are very popular. Our P7 prefects are also tasked with organising events during the school year such as Comic Relief Red Nose Day. They thrive on this and understand that they are an example to younger pupils.





CELEBRATING ACHIEVEMENT

Children work hardest when they know their work will be appreciated and praised. Staff encourage pupils at all times and in all activities to give their best. Their effort may be rewarded verbally by praise, or non-verbally by a smiley face or sticker.

The whole school celebrates achievement on a regular basis to reward pupils for good work, effort or kindness. Children's successes are celebrated at the weekly assemblies and on Class Dojo.

EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Activities are organised throughout the school year according to availability of support staff, time, finances and space. The children will have opportunities to participate in sporting activities when possible and participate in some Forfar cluster festivals. This year we have joined with another rural school to send a shared team to some of the sporting events to ensure they are provided the same opportunities.

A variety of extra-curricular activities are available throughout the session as restrictions allow. As we are a small school these activities are organised in consultation with pupils and cater for the interests of the pupils.

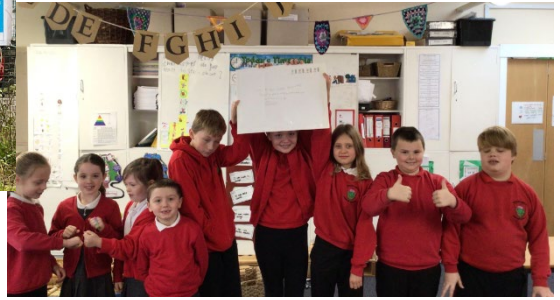
- Various educational outings will take place during the school year to support the learning the children are undertaking.
- P1-7 after school or lunch time sports clubs including basketball, Cross Country and Football Training.
- Primary 7 are given opportunities to meet peers from other local primary schools in order to support their transition to secondary school.
- We have lunch time clubs running most days of the week. Currently they are football, basketball and coding led by our P7 prefects. We also have a lunchtime newspaper club organised by one of our parents.

Leadership Groups

We are keen to allow our learners to use their voice in Inverarity Primary School and as such each pupil is a member of one of our Leadership Groups. The school has four 'Leadership Groups' within the primary school.

Currently, these are

- Rights of the Child



- Leadership of Learning
- Digital Wellbeing
- Learning for Sustainability

These groups allow all children to have a say in matters which are important to them and helps to ensure that all children feel valued and are aware of what is happening in the school. They are involved in taking forward school improvement priorities and addressing emerging issues as they occur. Several of the groups are also working towards an external reward such as achieving our 'Silver Rights Respecting School' status.

LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

In Inverarity School and Nursery your child will learn in a variety of different contexts and groups including ability, co-operative and social. Wherever possible we also take advantage of opportunities for our pupils to work with pupils of other schools across Forfar Academy Cluster and the wider Authority. We are developing our learning environments both indoors and outdoors to encourage creativity and to stimulate learning. We value the children working across age groups also. Our whole school assemblies have children working in 'vertical groups' with each group including children from P1 to P7. The P7 children take on the role of Leader and Assistant Leader to complete tasks.



THE PUPILS AND PARENTS VOICE

Personalisation and choice is one of the seven principles of curriculum design. Children and young people throughout their education will have the opportunity to discuss with their teacher the context in which they learn and how they will approach the learning. Staff will discuss new learning with the children at the beginning of a new topic. Together they plan the areas of specific focus e.g. Transport - British modes of transport. This will be shared with parents via the terms Planning Sheet. Parents will be invited to support the learning by sharing resources from home e.g. what is involved in being a bus driver. Parents will be invited to comment on the planned work for their child at various points throughout the year.

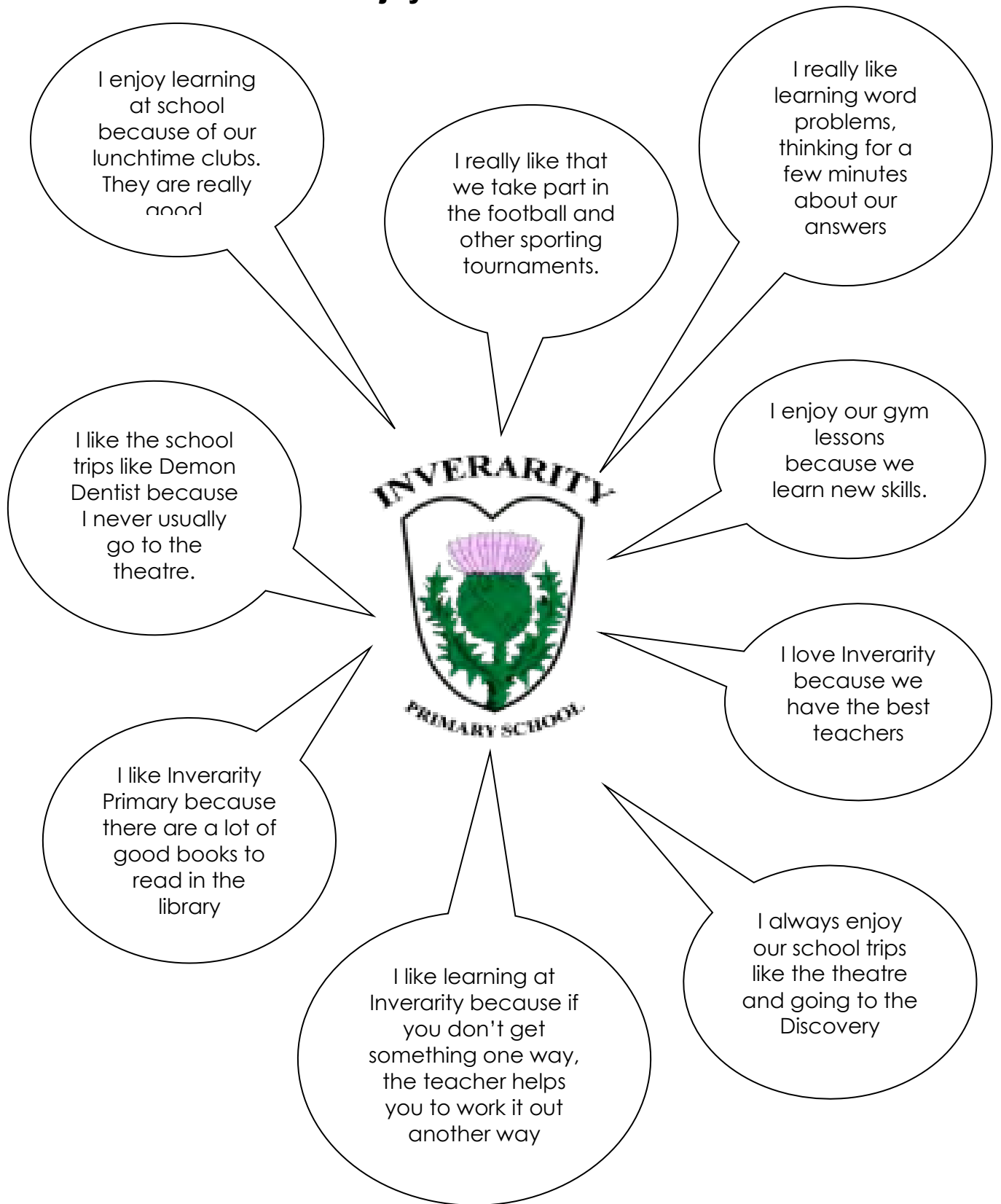
THE CURRICULUM AT SCHOOL, LOCAL AND NATIONAL LEVEL

More local information can be found through the link above. There are links to national information at www.angus.gov.uk/linksforparents.

- The school makes every effort to ensure that parents are kept up to date with information regarding the curriculum and how this is delivered in the school and nursery. The school posts on Learning Journals and Class Dojo. In P1-7 there are termly curriculum planning sheets and in nursery the planning and Floor Books are regularly available for parents and carers.
- The school is developing its curriculum further during sessions 2023-2024; this will involve the staff, pupils, parents/carers and wider community. This work will continue into Session 2024-2025.

Curriculum evenings for parents such as the 'RWI to support literacy' evening are held annually.

What do the learners enjoy in our school?



EARLY LEARNING AND CHILDCARE

In Scotland all three and four year olds, and some two year olds, are eligible for up to 1,140 hours a year of funded early learning and childcare (Nursery). Our outdoor nursery class offers sessions between 8.30-4pm, 4X days a week in term time. Other attendance patterns are available in other Angus Council settings and in our wide range of partner nurseries, playgroups and childminders. To find out more about the benefits of ELC and the options available, visit our dedicated ELC web pages at www.angus.gov.uk/earlyyears.

LIAISON WITH SECONDARY SCHOOL

The school maintains close links with Forfar Academy and other Primary Schools within the Angus area. Our teachers and in some cases our pupils visit other schools and establishments and other teachers and pupils visit us. This process is necessary for the professional development of staff, reciprocal understanding and the establishment of curricular consistency.

The school maintains links with Forfar Academy and other Primary Schools within the Angus area. Our teachers and our older pupils, visit other schools and establishments and other teachers and pupils visit us. This process is necessary for the professional development of staff, reciprocal understanding, and the establishment of curricular consistency.

Pupils from Inverarity Primary who reside within the catchment area will normally transfer to Forfar Academy following the completion of their Primary 7 year. (Contact details: Forfar Academy, 22 A926, Forfar DD8 3TG. 01307 492 200)

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT

MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS

We have continued to deliver Curriculum for Excellence outcomes within interesting and relevant contexts keeping pupils actively involved in their learning. In consultation with all stakeholders, we have and will now continue to develop our curriculum rationale. We are developing planning skills with the pupils, encouraging them to build on prior learning and identify next steps and to develop a 'language of learning.'

We are introducing the children to Zones of Regulation to help support the children with their mental wellbeing. Nurture principles are at the heart of everything we do to ensure our children are skilled in their own emotional regulation and recognising the emotions of others.

Primary 1-7 use 'loose parts' (old tyres, crates, etc.) to develop their creativity and social skills in the outdoors. Children also play outdoors in nearly all weathers and families are encouraged to send appropriate clothing with their children to school to support this.

During session 2019-20 we had an inspection by Education Scotland HMIE. We were delighted with the outcome of this inspection which identified many strengths of our school and nursery. The inspection confirmed that we are moving forward in the right

direction. You can read more about the inspection here <https://education.gov.scot/education-scotland/inspection-reports/reports-page/?id=3046>

In school and nursery we have, and continue to, work towards –

- Increasing reading skills and reading for Enjoyment through various experiences such as Reading Circles, RWI Phonics, Spelling and Accelerated Reader.
- Increase engagement, motivation and understanding of mathematical concepts through an increase in use of Numicon across the school, increasing available outdoor maths resources and targeted tutor groups (after school) for invited pupils.
- Develop and deliver an engaging P2-7 curriculum using Inter-disciplinary learning and opportunities and experiences from our local context. We greatly value play, indoors and outdoors, across the school but particularly in Nursery and P1.
- Provide opportunities for wider achievement within the school day and celebrate experiences from outwith school and nursery.
- Encourage Pupil Voice and collect school improvements through our weekly Leadership Groups.

IMPROVING STANDARDS

During session 2023-24 we have increased engagement with digital learning through an updated digital learners' policy, increased access to devices, reducing barriers to home learning access and wider use of GLOW and learning websites to support learning. Our learners are becoming digitally literate as recognised in our recent Digital Schools Award.

Attendance at school remains high with the majority of pupils having attendance of 90% or above. Attendance is monitored and we work with parents to improve attendance and punctuality where appropriate.

The attainment gap within the school is predominantly between children who have additional support needs (such as Dyslexia, working memory difficulties, Autism) as compared to pupils with less barriers in their learning. Supporting children with additional support needs is a strength of the school. All pupils who require an individual learning plan have this in place, it is created and evaluated in partnership with parent/carers and other professionals and the children have visual targets and are therefore aware of what their next steps are. There are many group and individual interventions in place and all staff know children well. We work well with our partner agencies and ASN colleagues to ensure we provide the best support for all of our learners.

Quality learning and teaching is evident through well planned differentiation sessions. We are working closely with another rural school in the cluster to plan and moderate the learning and teaching of writing to ensure we continue to raise attainment within Literacy.

Outdoor maths resources have been purchased and organised; many pupils and parents have shared that their child feels engaged and motivated when learning outside.

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

The school is currently engaged in two main areas of improvement for session 2023-2024 which focus on raising attainment within Literacy and developing our Curriculum Rationale:

- High quality learning and teaching experiences for Literacy will be planned for, through moderation and collaboration, to develop the pedagogy and teaching practice within writing
- A shared language of learning will be developed amongst teachers, learners and families to help support the children's writing ability and progression, providing writing opportunities in the classroom and outdoors
- Through high quality interdisciplinary learning experiences, children will access their curriculum entitlements with particular focus on play, rights and skills indoors and outdoors
- Assessment data will be gathered and analysed to ensure robust understanding of our learners' abilities and progress in order to inform and improve our planning and next steps

READ, WRITE, COUNT

The Read, Write, Count programme aims to support parental engagement in literacy and numeracy. Gift bags are distributed annually to all P2 and P3 pupils in Scotland by Scottish Book Trust. The gift bags contain essential literacy and numeracy materials to support children's learning, as well as advice and support to parents.

Studies show a direct link between a strong family learning environment and progress in reading, writing and counting. In addition to the parent guide included in the gift bags, the Parent Club [website](#) offers a range of hints, tips and advice to help parents engage in their child's learning.

PARENTZONE SCOTLAND

Parentzone Scotland is a one-stop shop website for information and advice on education and learning in Scotland. The website continues to be updated and improved and can be accessed [here](#). Why not check out the website for ideas on how you can support your child's learning.

HEALTH CARE

You can contact your school health staff at: -

Whitehills Health & Community Care Centre

DOGS IN SCHOOL GROUNDS

We understand walking your child(ren) to and from school/nursery is an ideal opportunity to walk dogs. However, the safety and wellbeing of our pupils, families, staff and community is paramount. Also, some children feel intimidated or unsure of dogs.

So, please ensure dogs (except for assistance dogs) are not brought into school grounds.

And if you are walking your dog to and from school, please remain at a reasonable distance from the school gate.

This will enable children and adults to enter and exit safely.

We'd ask you to pass this information on to other adults who bring and/or collect your child(ren) from school.

Child Protection Coordinator

If we think a child has come to harm as a consequence of possible abuse, we need to report it.

At least one member of staff in each school is responsible for child protection matters. They will have had special training in this area.

In our school the Child Protection Coordinator(s) are: Mrs Cirst Rajcoomar (Acting) Head Teacher and Mrs Jane Turrent (Acting) Principal Teacher

If you want to know more about child protection and the safety of children, contact the school. There is also information about child protection on the Angus Council website.

As a school we have good contacts with health professionals, social workers and the police. Any or all of them may offer support, or become involved, if concerns of abuse arise.

USEFUL LINKS AND CONTACT DETAILS

Angus Council
Angus House
Orchardbank Business Park
FORFAR
DD8 1AN
Tel: 03452 777 778
Email: ACCESSSchoolsLearnBSU@angus.gov.uk

ANGUS COUNCIL WEBSITE

Visit angus.gov.uk/schools for information that applies to schools across Angus on topics including:

- holidays
- meals
- school payments
- attendance and absence
- assessment and reporting
- transport
- drugs education
- religious and moral education
- transitions
- ...and more

OTHER WEBSITES

Find useful links to other websites at angus.gov.uk/linksforparents