

Cairney School aspires to be a happy, safe and inclusive learning community where everyone is treated fairly and with respect and encouraged to be the best they can be. Through high-quality, enjoyable, learning experiences, we strive to inspire and challenge our learners to achieve their fullest potential. In our school, learning is an active, exciting, positive experience. We work in partnership with parents, carers and the wider community to enable our children to become

- **Successful Learners, Confident Individuals, Responsible Citizens and Effective Contributors.**



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Cairney School Newsletter No. 2: 22nd September 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

School improvement planning priorities

Recently we invited everyone to complete a questionnaire to get your views about the school. 5/13 questionnaires were returned and these are summarised as follows:

Progress towards school improvement plan last session (2020/2021)

		Strongly agree	Agree	Dis-agree	Strongly disagree	Don't know	Un-answered
1	In session 2020/2021 we started work to ensure the effective use of data to help us to monitor the children's progress with their learning.	40%				60%	
2	In session 2020/2021 we focused on 'Recovery', wellbeing and outdoor learning and ensured the children felt safe and secure after 'lockdown'.	100%					
3	In session 2020/2021, we continued to offer STEM family home learning (both during lockdown and on return to school). We also worked to further develop digital skills/confidence of pupils and staff e.g. use of Google Meets during Lockdown for live sessions, continued use of Google classroom, use of iPads for learning in the classroom and at home etc.	100%					

We collated the words that you suggested for priorities and created a 'Wordle'. The more often a word appears in the word list, the larger it will appear in the Wordle. The results show that **outdoor learning** and **Wellbeing** are the priorities identified by those that filled in the questionnaire.



Thank you for the comments that many of you took time to add to the questionnaires before returning them. They are very much appreciated! 😊

Your comments included:

'It was brilliant to see so much outdoor learning in 20/21. My son came home excited and engaged. It would be fantastic to see a return to outdoor learning in 21/22 for all the children'

'I love that the school is well known within the wider Cairnie community and that parents are respected and supported to participate through e.g. providing extra-curricular activities. I hope this can continue once things finally open up'

'In session 2020/21 the children had an unsettled year so continuing with wellbeing and recovery is still important'

'Every child should feel like they belong; Cairney School already promotes that through children of all ages playing together'

'Twitter is such a great way for parents to engage with their children' learning'

'I love that Cairney is a small school and that it is its own community where all ages mix and support one another'

'I was very impressed with all the STEM learning last year and really hope this continues into this session'

'All children should have sufficient support. Outdoor learning can play a vital role along with a sense of belonging and purpose'

'Dealing with emotions and friendships is so important in our children's happiness. I feel that outdoor learning is a great way to support this'

'Enjoying time outside in nature is vital for health and wellbeing'

Other priorities identified:

Climate crisis Sustainability Looking after our planet	<i>These are very much part of our curriculum and things we believe are important to discuss and explore in school. We will continue to develop the children's knowledge and understanding in these areas, especially as the UK is hosting the 26th UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP26) in Glasgow in November.</i>
Scottish Culture e.g. Doric language, music and songs, history, dancing	<i>We have been restricted in what we do re singing, dancing etc. due to Covid during the last 18 months. We still managed to teach the children some Scottish dancing outside last session! We look forward to being able to do more again now things are getting back to 'normal'. We usually have a focus on Scottish Culture early in term 3.</i>
Inclusion Supporting individual learning Meeting children's needs	<i>Getting it right for every child (GIRFEC) is a national policy. We work hard to ensure all the children at Cairney School get the support they need, that they are included and they reach their fullest potential.</i>
'Can discussions restart about creating a Parent Council?'	<i>Yes! The discussions about setting up a Parent Council were interrupted by Covid. There had been 2 meetings arranged with the Parental Engagement officer pre March 2020; we will start this process again</i>

Bullying was mentioned in the comments returned to school. Bullying is something that we take very seriously and is intolerable and unacceptable. We have recently revisited this topic at a whole school assembly and have introduced a 'worry box' in school where the children can confidentially post any worries they have; these are addressed by a member of staff and any necessary actions taken. We have adults in the playground before school and at playtimes. The children are encouraged to tell an adult if anything is upsetting them or worrying them. If you have any concerns at all about your child/ren, please do not hesitate to contact the school so that we can take any actions necessary.

Bullying – A Guide for Parents and Carers, which includes guidance on on-line bullying, is available from 'respectme' – Scotland's Anti-bullying Service on their website – www.respectme.org.uk

The information that you provided will help us to decide what to look at next to improve the school.

News from the classroom

In science, we are learning about living things and in our health lessons we are thinking about emotions and feelings and how we can manage those. We are also learning about Children's Rights and are working on improving our descriptive writing through creating and describing characters.

Dates for your diary

Friday 15th October: School closes for the October Holidays
Monday 1st November: School re-opens for Term
Thursday 18th November and Friday 19th November: School closed for In-service days
Tuesday 21st: December: School closes for Christmas.
Wednesday 5th: January: School opens for Term 3

Yours faithfully,

Dr. Kim C Aplin
Head Teacher



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Parent Comments and Ideas

Please share your child/children's out of school achievements

Name:

Signed: