



**FALKIRK COUNCIL**  
*Education Services*

# **Avonbridge Primary School**



## **Standards & Quality Report Session 2008/09**

Dear Parent/Carer,

As you probably know, each year the government and the Council publish information designed to show how well schools and local authorities are improving pupil performance year on year.

In similar fashion, we in Avonbridge Primary School would like to tell you how we are progressing in our school. This leaflet has been designed to do just that. It is our “Standards and Quality Report” for last session.

Inside, you will find a brief description of our main achievements during last session. Whilst we do many things in the course of a year, we have focused on what we consider to be the most important areas.

In similar fashion, I have outlined the school’s main priorities for next session.

I hope you find the leaflet helpful. If you have any questions about it, please do not hesitate to phone the school office for an appointment. I will be pleased to offer clarification.

Marlyn Yorkston  
Headteacher



## What we achieved in 2008/2009.....

- During the February In-Set day, staff looked at the Curriculum for Excellence outcomes and experiences for Maths. Staff took existing planning and incorporated these where applicable. Where gaps were found, they inserted the outcomes into our plans in the appropriate place. This was a good exercise which allowed staff to become more familiar with the outcomes and experiences in maths. The new plans have been used successfully in the last term of the session.
- The Small Schools group organised a joint In-Set Day on 18<sup>th</sup> May for all teaching staff. Part of this day provided an opportunity for staff to look at the new Outcomes and Experiences in Literacy and match them to plans we use currently. The evaluations from all staff who attended were very positive saying that this had been a worthwhile exercise. All seven small schools will use the amended plans after the Summer break.
- A teacher from all Small Schools in Falkirk Council agreed to be part of a working group to organise and plan a World of Work Day. Mrs. Garioch was the representative from Avonbridge. They met for their first meeting on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> September 2008 and several more times throughout the session. Lynne Lauder, Education Enterprise Co-ordinator, was part of the group and directed the others as she has helped plan similar events for other Clusters. Each teacher took on board different tasks and the event was arranged for Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2009. Coaches were hired to take staff and pupils to the event which was held at Forth Valley College, Falkirk.

The workshops included St. Andrews First Aid, the Royal Bank of Scotland, the Royal Highland Education Trust, Airth Castle, Physio Focus, Karen Henderson – Graphic Design and Central FM. The event was opened by Lynne Lauder and Anne Callan, Quality Improvement Officer, gave the closing remarks. Feedback from staff and pupils was very positive and we hope to run a similar event again in the future.



The children enjoyed the activities at our World of Work day.

- Staff and pupils have been involved in several enterprising activities this session some which have been related to topics and some which have been stand alone. We nominated three new Enterprise Champions this session: Mrs. Garioch – teacher, Mrs. Rankine – Support for Learning Assistant and Mrs. Sweeney – parent. We were also successful in achieving our Gold Enterprise Award. Miss Yorkston attended the Enterprise Champions Award Ceremony at Carronvale House on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> May 2009 along with the three champions and two pupils from the school where we were presented with our certificates.



One of our Enterprise activities P7 organised a display at Christmas where pupils, staff and parents/carers could write a message instead of sending a Christmas card. This raised £35 for the 7-up Challenge charity



We received our Gold Enterprise Award

- Staff have been looking at new ways of trying to encourage parents/carers to become more involved in their children's learning. We met on three occasions during the session when we discussed suggestions and came up with some new ideas for next session which you can look forward to.



These were Enterprise activities which also involved parents/carers. P3/4/5 wrote a play about the death of King Alexander and P6/7 wrote a play about the death of Mary Queen of Scots.

- We have not yet received our Eco Schools Green Flag accreditation, but the application will be submitted early in the new session. Jen Barret, Waste Education Officer, came to school on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June to look at our application and give us some advice. Our gardening club was also running again over the last six weeks of the session. The pupils and teachers tidied up the garden and planted some new plants. We are grateful that Mr. Spears came to help on a few occasions.



Our Gardening Club started up again in the Summer term and we planted some new plants in our tyres

- Our Quality Improvement Officer, Anne Callan, and an Acting Quality Improvement Officer, Rhona Jay, came out to school on 6<sup>th</sup> May 2009 to look at improvements we had made since our inspection in May 2007. They spent the whole day with us, visiting classes, talking to pupils and staff and looking at evidence. They reported that we had made mostly good and very good progress with the areas in our Action Plan. Praise was given to all staff for their hard work and effort.



P1/2 pupils wrote simple words looking at picture cards and sounding out the words.



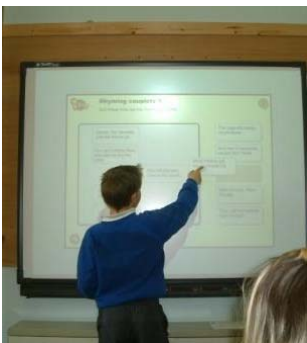
P1/2 pupils learned about money after by being shopkeepers and customers.



Pupils took part in the Small Schools 'Talking for Scotland' competition.



P6/7 learned about the Countryside Code on their visit to Argaty Farm.



The pupils enjoyed learning with I-Read the interactive Reading program



Once again, pupils from Avonbridge Primary School took part in the 'Day of Dance'



P3/4/5 performed at our Burn's Afternoon.



P6/7 used ICT to create a short video about school events.



P6/7 took part in the Orienteering Festival at Callendar Park.



The school pupils are working towards their green flag.  
As part of our recycling we donated books to the Malawi project organised by 'Falkirk Churches Together'.



P7 pupils enjoyed themselves at 'Choices for Life'.



Some of our P7 pupils had a great time at Dounans Outdoor Centre

## Our priorities for 2009/2010

- Curriculum for Excellence is our main priority for session 2009/2010 in line with Scottish Government guidelines and Falkirk Council Local Improvement Priorities. We will be particularly focusing on Literacy, Numeracy and Health & Wellbeing.
- Staff will take part in Thinking Skills training along with teachers from the other Small Schools. This will focus on the Six Thinking Hats technique where the children will be encouraged to look at important decisions from a number of different perspectives with each hat encouraging a different style of thinking.
- It is important that teachers are able to evaluate the learning and teaching that goes on in their classroom, so next session we will work on self-evaluation in an effort to continue improving this.
- We will work hard to achieve our Eco Schools Green Flag this session.
- We have been thinking of different ways to encourage parents/carers to become involved in their child's learning. We had more workshops and events which parents/carers could attend during session 2008/2009 and we will continue this and try out some new ideas in session 2009/2010. We hope that you will support us with these.



We invited parents/carers to our  
Book Afternoon



Some of the pupils dressed up as their  
favourite book characters for our  
Book Week in February

## How did our pupils perform?....

Attainment		2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09
Reading	School	81	71	79	79
	EA	84	85	85	85
Writing	School	76	71	75	75
	EA	81	81	81	82
Mathematics	School	89	85	88	85
	EA	87	88	87	88

Small school targets will fluctuate substantially depending on the number of children on the roll during the session. Children who enrol or leave the school part of the way through a session will make a substantial difference to the school's figures.

Although we are asked to report our figures in percentages, this does not give an accurate indication of attainment in small schools as we may have as few as 4 pupils at a stage meaning that 1 child could represent as much as 25%.

This session our school targets were as follows:

Reading      74%      Writing      74%      Mathematics      78%

Our actual performance was:

Reading      78.78%      Writing      75.75%      Mathematics      84.84%

We are very pleased that we have met, and exceeded, our targets for the session in Reading, Writing and Mathematics. We also have pupils at most stages who have attained higher levels than would be expected for their stage.

**I must commend all of our pupils and staff for the dedication and hard work, during last session, which contributed to these results.**