



# **Nethermains Primary**

## **Standards and Quality Report**

### **2006-2007**



**A report for all parents/carers and interested parties**

## Standards & Quality Report: Session 2006 - 2007

By June 2007, we achieved the following:

### Curriculum

We started to review Religious & Moral Education programmes of work and to link these more closely to national guidelines. We purchased RME items for pupils to use during their topics related to other world religions e.g. Islam in P2 (Miss Young). Reverend Barrie continues to work regularly with the school for collective worship at assemblies and services. He, also, joins us outwith school hours for Prayer Walks where pupils compose prayers based on the theme of the day e.g. "Friends" or "Harvest".



### Attainment

Pupils were introduced to new assessments in Writer's Craft following in-service training for staff. New, and challenging, spelling resources were introduced: "Searchlights for Spelling". Every mainstream child in P4-7 has increased his, or her, spelling age in the first year of our new resources, coupled with a more active approach to learning and teaching in spelling. The quality of P1 (Miss Herraghty) writing was developed using a Storyline theme when Yvonne McBlain worked with pupils and staff. Our early Enhanced Provision (Mrs Milroy) used Storyline to develop pupils' creativity using the theme of "Frosty the Snowman". Frosty was played by a Primary 7 pupil who helped develop listening, talking, creativity and writing skills in our younger pupils.



## Learning & Teaching

Science was brought to life in P4 (Miss Tadrowski)) and P6 (Miss Winning) with the introduction of some new resources. Also, moderators from Education Services observed the teaching of Science in these two classes. From all schools visited, they stated that they saw the best Science teaching here, with excellent links to science strands and very good use of assessment strategies. Following staff development, P5 (Miss Merilees) pupils entered the Storytelling Festival, with one of our pupils presenting an outstanding performance in this area (as stated by McLaren House Personnel).

Other cultural opportunities included:

- \* The visit of a Canadian storyteller (P5-7)
- \* Denny Burns Society judging our Burns Poetry competition (P1-7)
- \* Scots' Music workshops (P6 & 7)
- \* Break-dance workshop (P3)



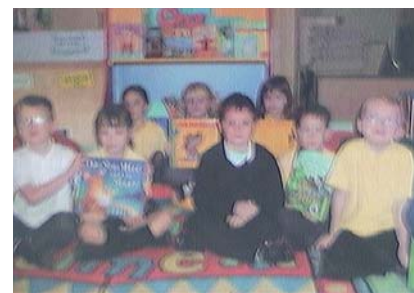
## Ethos & Support for Learning

We became Falkirk Council's first primary school to achieve Health Promoting School status. Our very good inclusive ethos and support for learning systems were recognised during the school's Performance Review by an external team from Education Services. We have been recommended to other schools who have contacted us, as an example of good practice. Parents, too, commented favourably on this area during a DVD made by the local SEN group at the Community Flat. Their trust in us is very reassuring.



## Resources

Nethermains Primary School Board supported the school with a donation of money to top-up reading texts. The library has been moved to the upper level where it has been refurbished. An extension project to house our nursery class was completed. Each classroom was repainted and refurbished with new floor and wall cupboards during the summer. This has brightened each learning environment.



## Management & Leadership

Falkirk Council's Absence and Attendance procedures have been put in place. Groupcall was introduced and has been helpful in reminding parents/carers to contact school about pupils' absences. Our absence rate is greatly affected by the number of pupils withdrawn from school for family holidays.

## Other Information

Mrs Russell and Miss Bermingham established a Newspaper Club and launched our first "Nether Blether". The Falkirk Herald have expressed interest to feature our newspaper in theirs (they see the "Nether Blether" as competition to them)! Mrs Ford and the choir entertained visitors from Westpark Church in school, then they sang carols in Denny town centre when one of our pupils helped switch on the Christmas lights. Miss Lawther and Ms McGlynn led a successful P7 residential trip to Dalguise. Mrs Muir and her P6 & 7 pupils impressed our Quality Improvement Officer on a visit to school, when they wished him 'Happy Birthday' in French. Mrs Beaton revamped our chill-out Zone, organising and making an inventory of resources. This has brightened this area where adults can work with pupils. Following training, Mrs Grant started our first "Seasons For Growth" Group. "Seasons For Growth" is a specialised course with a focus on pupils' Personal, Social and Health Education.

Parents/Carers have supported educational visits, helped organised resources. Their help is invaluable.

All non-teaching staff provide a tremendous support to the effective learning and teaching, as well as, the all-round life of the school. I am fortunate to lead a dedicated, caring and committed teaching and non-teaching staff who work hard for the benefit of all pupils.



Our Priorities for Session 2007-2008 include:

- ✚ Updating RME, Science and some Technology programmes to link them more closely to 5-14 strands and to A Curriculum for Excellence
- ✚ Establishing and developing our nursery class and welcoming our young children and their families into our school community
- ✚ Developing the use of ICT hardware and software across the curriculum, including gathering teachers' plans on a shared area
- ✚ Working with parents to establish our first Parent Forum following the end of School Boards
- ✚ Staff familiarising themselves with major new documentation: A Curriculum for Excellence, How Good Is our School? (version 3), Improving Scottish Education etc.



## How did our pupils perform?

<b>Attainment</b>		2004/5	2005/6	2006/7
<b>Reading</b>	<b>Nethermains</b>	71	77	63
	<b>EA</b>	83	84	85
<b>Writing</b>	<b>Nethermains</b>	77	76	63
	<b>EA</b>	79	81	81
<b>Mathematics</b>	<b>Nethermains</b>	76	75	72
	<b>EA</b>	86	87	88

(Note : EA = Average for all Falkirk Council Primary Schools)

## Pupil Attendance

<b>Performance(measured in average number of half days' absence per pupil)</b>		2004/5	2005/6	2006/7
<b>Absence</b>	<b>Nethermains</b>	19	22.4	94.7%
	<b>EA</b>	18.1	19.2	95.6%

Every child in Nethermains Primary achieves in many ways. Our attainment is one snapshot of the bigger picture of achievement.

I am very proud of the achievement of our pupils, staff and school community, as shown in the content of this report. Our school achievements reflect the hard work of pupils and staff and the strong links that we have with parents/carers and other partners.

A meeting was held for interested parents/carers, to launch our Standards and Quality Report. It was explained to pupils at an assembly.