

St. Margaret's Primary School

Standards & Quality Report

2008/09





*The Scottish Cup
comes to
St. Margaret's*



*Sheer determination
at the
athletics event*

Art
Exhibition



*French
Day*



*Homecoming
Concert*

*Bulb
Planting*



How did our pupils perform?....

FALKIRK COUNCIL
Education Services

St. Margaret's Primary School and Nursery Classes Standards & Quality Report Session 2008/09

| Attainment | | 2005/6 | 2006/7 | 2007/8 | 2008/9 |
|-------------|-------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Reading | St.Marg. PS | 85 | 83 | 86 | 89 |
| | EA | 84 | 85 | 85 | |
| Writing | St.Marg. PS | 85 | 83 | 80 | 85 |
| | EA | 81 | 81 | 81 | |
| Mathematics | St.Marg. PS | 90 | 90 | 82 | 89 |
| | EA | 87 | 87 | 87 | |

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

We are pleased with our overall attainment this session. It reflects the hardworking partnership between parents, pupils and school staff. The results match the expectations we had and targets we set for ourselves.

The percentages only show the minimum levels attained and don't indicate the significant number of pupils who have attained beyond these levels at all stages. This is not only something we are very proud of but reflects the capabilities of a great many pupils who are achieving beyond the national average.

Not all pupils learn and achieve at the same rate and for those pupils who have not yet reached these levels we are committed to support them to ensure they reach their full potential. We are, of course, committed to the highest level of teaching and learning for all our pupils.

Thanks goes to all staff for their commitment and hard work, to pupils for their diligent approach to their work, and to our parents and carers for their ongoing support and interest.

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 St. Margaret's Primary School and Nursery Classes 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. 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.

Iain Campbell
Headteacher



What we achieved in 2008/09

- This session we installed a further four interactive whiteboards in classes. This brings our total to 15 leaving only 2 classrooms and 1 nursery class without. Our hardworking PTA supported these purchases and provided financial support for a variety of other ICT equipment also.
- We had a very successful Literacy Review in April after an authority team visited the school. Overall the standard of teaching, pupil experience, assessment and programmes of study were judged to be very good. We were delighted.
- Our 'How Good Is Our Learning (HGIOL) in Mathematics is now well embedded and continues to provide opportunities for pupil self assessment, teacher assessment and information for parents. We are very proud of this document and encourage its use. Parents continue to make very favourable comments on its use and the degree of information they receive.
- We have just launched our HGIOL documentation for pupil writing experiences. Parents have now had the chance to view the new documentation and this will go into use next session.
- Staff have worked very hard making headway in the implementation of a number of aspects of 'Curriculum For Excellence' which will influence the education of our pupils over the years to come.
- Attainment is up in all 3 areas measured. This is very pleasing and illustrates the commitment of staff, pupils and parents.
- Achievement is very important too. This year we have had a very successful Nativity Play, a Homecoming Scots Event, the X Factor, a Summer Concert and all classes have performed assemblies.
- Sport features highly. We have very successful boys and girls football teams. We participated in a distance running event and our teams qualified for the Forth Valley finals. Our girls' gymnastics team participated in the Scottish Finals. Our P6 pupils participated in orienteering and athletics finals. Well done to all who took part.
- Our quiz team won the Braes Rotary Quiz shield and gave other local teams a run for their money in the Falkirk final. Our quiz team also won the Braes Safety Quiz.
- Our ICT website was launched. It provides updated information about school and is run by a team of staff and pupils.
- Parents groups have been wonderfully supportive once more. Our parent forum has just completed its second year. This group has taken a significant interest in school business and has provided a great deal of help. Our PTA is also wonderfully supportive to staff, pupils and the school as a whole. Their events provide a great deal of fun for parents and pupils and very welcome finance to purchase extra materials for all our pupils.
- We launched the new Sexual Health Programme this session. It will be fully implemented in 09/10 from Nursery to P7.
- Our school gardens are maturing beautifully and we look forward to a fine harvest of fruit and vegetables.
- We introduced 'Learning Logs' as a new format for homework. It has been very successful. An education evening to launch it brought in an audience of over 150 parents.
- A new format for inducting our new P1 pupils into school was welcomed by P1 parents.
- A questionnaire from our Greenpark Nursery to parents received positive, supportive responses about the quality of the nursery programme.
- Piloting of personal and social education by two classes and both nurseries was highly positive and will not only extend to the whole school but the practice we developed will extend for use in other council schools.
- A very successful art exhibition enterprise project was held in June. All pupils displayed work and parents attended and enjoyed the exhibition. Work was also displayed from staff, parents and the local community.
- On the removal of two elderly double class units a new extended playground was formed for P1 and nursery pupils.
- Both nurseries have worked hard to develop greater links with P1 staff, ensuring even smoother transition.
- Best effort plaques were awarded to a number of pupils throughout the year and P1M won the best effort shield for their production of a film which they showed to nursery pupils. The film was about coming to school.
- A successful 'Lifestyle Event' was attended by staff, parents and the community.

Our priorities for 2009/10

- It is our hope to install a further 3 interactive whiteboards so that all classes will have one.
- HGIOL Writing will be used in all classes from P1-P7 mirroring the use of HGIOL Maths. It will provide opportunities for pupils to record and analyse their work to promote self assessment and improvement.
- We hope to begin work on a HGIOL document for Reading to add to our other two documents. This will further enhance assessment opportunities for staff and pupils and provide additional information for parents and carers.
- We will implement the Sexual Health Programme in full at all stages Nursery to P7.
- All school staff will focus on the development of the new Curriculum for Excellence experiences and outcomes in English & Literature, Numeracy and Mathematics and Health & Wellbeing. This new documentation will form the backbone of our curriculum in these important subject areas.
- School will be involved in developing new planning formats, Personal Learning Plans and begin work on developing new reporting formats in line with Curriculum for Excellence priorities.
- Personal and Social Education and Citizenship outcomes will be embedded into practice for Nursery to P7. This very successful work developed in school will be shared over the education authority too. This work will support children in enhancing their personal skills in learning and with their relationships.
- All classes will contribute to the school website regularly to inform parents and carers of aspects of class work.
- The school will become even more involved with cluster schools in further extending this important learning community linked to Graeme High School.
- Increased liaison opportunities will be developed from nursery classes to P1, thus ensuring even smoother transition between these important stages.
- Our reading opportunities for pupils will be extended through the purchase of additional reading materials, including extending our core programmes.
- We hope to develop new strategies for topic studies and share this work with parents during open events.
- New Listening & Talking curricular work will be used at all stages to further enhance pupil opportunities.
- We intend to develop our grounds and gardens further. We also intend to increase pupil activities for play and add seating areas for use at breaktimes.
- After the success of our new rota for concerts and plays we will continue in this vein and provide opportunities for all pupils in the expressive arts once more.