Cornbank St James Primary School Improvement Plan 2018-19

This newsletter is an opportunity to update our Cornbank Community with the progress we have made this year on our School Improvement Plan so far. All staff are in groups and contribute to the work across the school. As always, we appreciate your support, contributions and feedback.

Ethos—Vision, Values and Aims

The Enquiry Group have collected and used all feedback from children, families and our community to develop our Vision, Values and Aims. We are delighted to have these in draft form and to share them with everyone. Throughout the term we have been exploring our Vision and Values further with pupils. We are continuing to use a Restorative Approach to promote positive behaviour. Time has been allocated each day for pupils to reflect on the day, to discuss good choices as well to have the opportunity to engage in play and build relationships.

Raising Attainment—Numeracy

As part of a project, looking at raising attainment in Penicuik schools a small group of children are working further on fractions. We have continued to develop our skills in analysing data and identified our next steps as a school in Numeracy and Maths. Staff are looking at resources for Problem Solving and at how we integrate this into lessons. We have developed our Numeracy policy to ensure a consistent approach to teaching this across the school. Staff are continuing to meet to moderate children's work.

Raising Attainment—Literacy

The Literacy Group has been looking at the teaching of spelling across the school including evaluating the resources used at each stage. We have decided to extend the use of the Jolly Grammar programme, currently being used in P1-3, to P4-7 from next session. This programme builds on previous skills and will provide consistent, progressive learning across all stages. Staff have met to moderate writing and are about to do the same for listening and talking. 'Signalong' is being used in some classes to support communication and literacy skills.

Visible Learning

The Enquiry Group meets regularly to research and share strategies, working with other staff to embed these across the school. We have created a 'Feedback Aspiration', detailing how feedback is used to help learners identify strengths and next steps. The Group is working on a 'Cornbank Teacher' poster, similar to the 'Midlothian Learner'; pupils identified the characteristics of an effective teacher, teachers contributed ideas, and parents will have opportunities to do so at Parents Consultations.