



## Cornbank St James Primary School Improvement Plan 2020-21



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.

### Health and Wellbeing

This session we have focused on the introduction of Zones of Regulation across the school. This was already being used within our ELC setting. Children have become more confident in recognising different emotions and are building a toolkit of strategies which help them when they are feeling 'blue' or 'red'. This approach recognises that we all have different emotions at different times. Staff have completed training and information about Zones of Regulation has been shared with families.

We also ensured that we had a range of activities within our 'Recovery Curriculum' when children returned to school in August and we continue to engage with outside agencies to support our learners. We have been part of 'Jigsaw' - the Penicuik Mental Health project, which gives opportunities to access a range of mental health support services including individual and group therapeutic sessions.

### Raising Attainment—Numeracy

The Numeracy Enquiry Group has developed mindmaps for use at P5-7 level in order to help pupils identify their next steps in Numeracy. These are in the process of being rolled out. We continue to look for opportunities for children to apply their learning in new situations and we held a variety of practical activities during Maths Week Scotland for P4-7, including a scavenger hunt, work on the Golden Ratio and the Leaning Tower of Pisa. We also developed different assessment activities allowing pupils to apply their learning in new situations and have put in place moderation activities for staff to ensure that our teaching and assessment activities are robust and demonstrate progression. There have been ongoing assessment activities, following our return in August and March. Our use of Basic Maths Facts has had to be adapted to take into account Covid 19 restrictions and Sumdog is now used more consistently from P3-P7 to support recall of basic facts.

### Raising Attainment—Literacy

Throughout this session, the Literacy Group has supported staff to meet learners' needs, both in school and on virtual platforms. Following an audit of staff and pupils' knowledge, the Group has continued to embed the use of Signalong, by incorporating weekly reminders into Google Classrooms. In spite of restrictions, cross-stage moderation of both reading, and listening and talking has been undertaken, using recordings. Reading, and listening and talking policies have been updated, following discussion with staff. The school is registered for the First Minister's Reading Challenge, to be developed further next session. The Literacy Cupboard has been reorganised, with out-of-date resources being disposed of and new novel sets purchased. Primary 1 story sacks have been refreshed and are now ready to be used again.

### Digital Learning

Never has the use of technology to support learning and teaching been so prominent in our lives as this past year. The importance of Digital Skills and access to technology has been recognised in Midlothian Council's decision to give every school age pupil a device such as an I-pad or Chromebook as part of their £10.5 million investment in digital learning and representatives from our Digital Learning group are part of this process. We are once again liaising with Informatics Students from Edinburgh University Informatics to identify and review tools and supports to enhance the teaching of Computer Science in school and we continue to offer opportunities to access and use Google Classroom, Google Docs/Slides & Forms, as well as Kahoot, I-move and Scratch Junior to engage, motivate and inspire our pupils.