

Cornbank St James Primary School Improvement Plan 2023-24



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 working in enquiry groups and contribute to the improvement work across the school. As always, we appreciate your support, contributions and feedback.

Health and Wellbeing

We have been focussing on developing our learning environments using the Summary of Circle Inclusive Practice Scale. In October and January, we worked with our ASN Support Officer to familiarise ourselves with this document in order to meet all learners' needs. We are implementing designated calm spaces in every classroom. So far learners have been surveyed and ideas collected on what best helps them to regulate their own emotions. We have used these valuable views to create calm boxes, including the resources mentioned consistently across each class. We aim to launch and implement these by Easter with clear expectations on how they will be used.

We will also introduce whole school classroom visuals using essential Boardmaker symbols in addition to our daily timetable visuals and we have began designing a whole school nurture space to support learners in small groups with social skills and building self esteem.

Raising Attainment—Literacy

Earlier on this session Midlothian Council introduced their new progression planners for reading. This focuses on comprehension in greater detail. Staff are now familiarising themselves with this. Our new library is now open and books are being refreshed—thank you to everyone who was able to donate to this. Our House Captains are also working to refresh a number of the novels that are used in class.

We carried out Writing Moderation in school in October, using refreshed assessments, to confirm the levels children had attained. We worked with PHS, Strathesk and Sacred Heart colleagues to look at the writing process and how this develops from primary to secondary school.

Raising Attainment—Numeracy

This session we are working on developing our learning and teaching in Numeracy. We have been using Midlothian's refreshed planning which has an increased focus on using concrete materials to support learners at all stages. We have invested in a range of resources to do this and staff are working together to upskill each other with them. Different strategies are now being developed with children across the school.

Assessments which were introduced last session are now in use across the school, ensuring a more consistent approach. Together with our ASG Development Officer, we have developed interventions to support children with Numeracy, which are in use in a number of classes. Numeracy moderation will take place later on this term, which helps teachers further confirm levels within their classes.

Learning and Teaching

The main aim of our Learning and Teaching work this session is to support children to identify their own strengths and next steps. Following our January in-service day, all classes now have a 'Feedback Friday' session with a focus initially on Writing. Children may be self or peer assessing their work or using the time to work on their identified next steps. We are continuing to ensure children have the strategies to be independent learners with the knowledge they need to talk about their work. Following the February break, we will be looking at different strategies for working on next steps, such as traffic lighting work, and further embedding self/peer assessment. We have also worked with colleagues across our Penicuik ASG on teaching and learning, with a joint CAT Session at the High School in September.