

ANNUAL REPORT
2021 - 2022



Dear Parents,

In presenting this detailed Governor's Report I wish to point out that it is intended to give you an overall snapshot of the working of the school and how Governors and others with responsibility for the school have carried out their duties.

Should you wish to have any additional information or clarification on any aspect of the report I would be grateful if you would forward your request in writing within 10 working days of this report.

I commend the report to you for your consideration.

Yours faithfully,

Mr N Darragh



GENERAL AIMS OF THE SCHOOL

To develop the whole child

- **To recognise and appreciate each child's potential and provide opportunities for this to be developed to the full – intellectually, spiritually, physically, emotionally, socially and creatively.**
- **To provide a caring, secure, stimulating and imaginative environment where each child can achieve success and satisfaction.**
- **To help each child acquire a reasoned set of Christian moral beliefs and attitudes thus creating an atmosphere within which children will be encouraged to develop a sense of fair play, tolerance and respect for other peoples' views, attitudes and possessions.**
- **To provide a broad, balanced and relevant curriculum in keeping with the revised Northern Ireland Curriculum (N.I. Curriculum).**
- **To involve the parents, pupils Governors and wider community in the life and work of the school.**
- **To monitor, in a systematic manner, in line with the recommendations of the Northern Ireland Council for the Curriculum, Examinations and Assessment (C.C.E.A.) the progress of each child and provide parents with details of their children's achievement on a regular basis, including an arranged meeting and a written report at least once a year.**
- **To promote the professional development of all staff as effective, efficient teachers, through a continuous programme of in-service training.**

WHO ARE THE GOVERNORS?

CHAIRMAN **Mr. N. Darragh** **c/o Strabane Primary School**

SECRETARY **Mrs. C. Thompson** **c/o Strabane Primary School**

TRANSFEROR REPRESENTATIVES

Mrs. A. Smith **2022**

Mrs. L. Preston **2022**

Mr. R. Sproule **2022**

Mr. N. Darragh **2022**

EDUCATION AUTHORITY WESTERN REGION REPRESENTATIVES

Mrs. A. Clarke **2022**

Mr. R. Cummings **2022**

PARENT REPRESENTATIVES

Mrs. L. Hamilton **2022**

Mrs. P. Canning **2022**

TEACHER REPRESENTATIVE

Mrs. C. McDonnell **2022**

PRINCIPAL

Mrs. C. Thompson **(Non voting member)**

NOTE **Each Governor's name is followed by the date on which his/her term of office expires.**

WHAT ARE THEIR MAIN RESPONSIBILITIES?

The Governors are ultimately responsible for the overall management of the school.

Some of their responsibilities include:

- 1. The oversight of the curriculum**
- 2. Selection of staff and other personnel responsibilities**
- 3. Admissions Policy**
- 4. School Maintenance (shared responsibility with EA Western Region)**
- 5. Implementation of new legislation**
- 6. Fostering links with the local community and pursuing the objectives of Shared Education**
- 7. Health and Safety Legislation**
- 8. Financial Management of the school**
- 9. Child Protection Policy**

Procedures where the school has concerns, or has been given information, about possible abuse by someone other than a member of staff

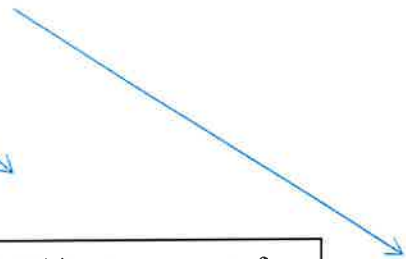
Child makes a disclosure to teacher or teacher has concerns about child.



Teacher refers matter to designated teacher.



Designated teacher meets with Principal to plan course of action



If doubts remain seek advice from E.A. / Gateway Team



If a referral is necessary, refer to Gateway Team/PSNI and advise EA Designated Officer

If no referral to Gateway / PSNI necessary

If no referral to Gateway / PSNI necessary

Tell Complainant

Yes – discuss with Gateway team/PSNI how parent will be informed

Is Parent the alleged abuser?

No – tell parent



CONTACT NUMBERS

EDUCATION AUTHORITY WESTERN REGION

Child Protection Support Service (CPSS)
02895 985 590

WESTERN HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE TRUST

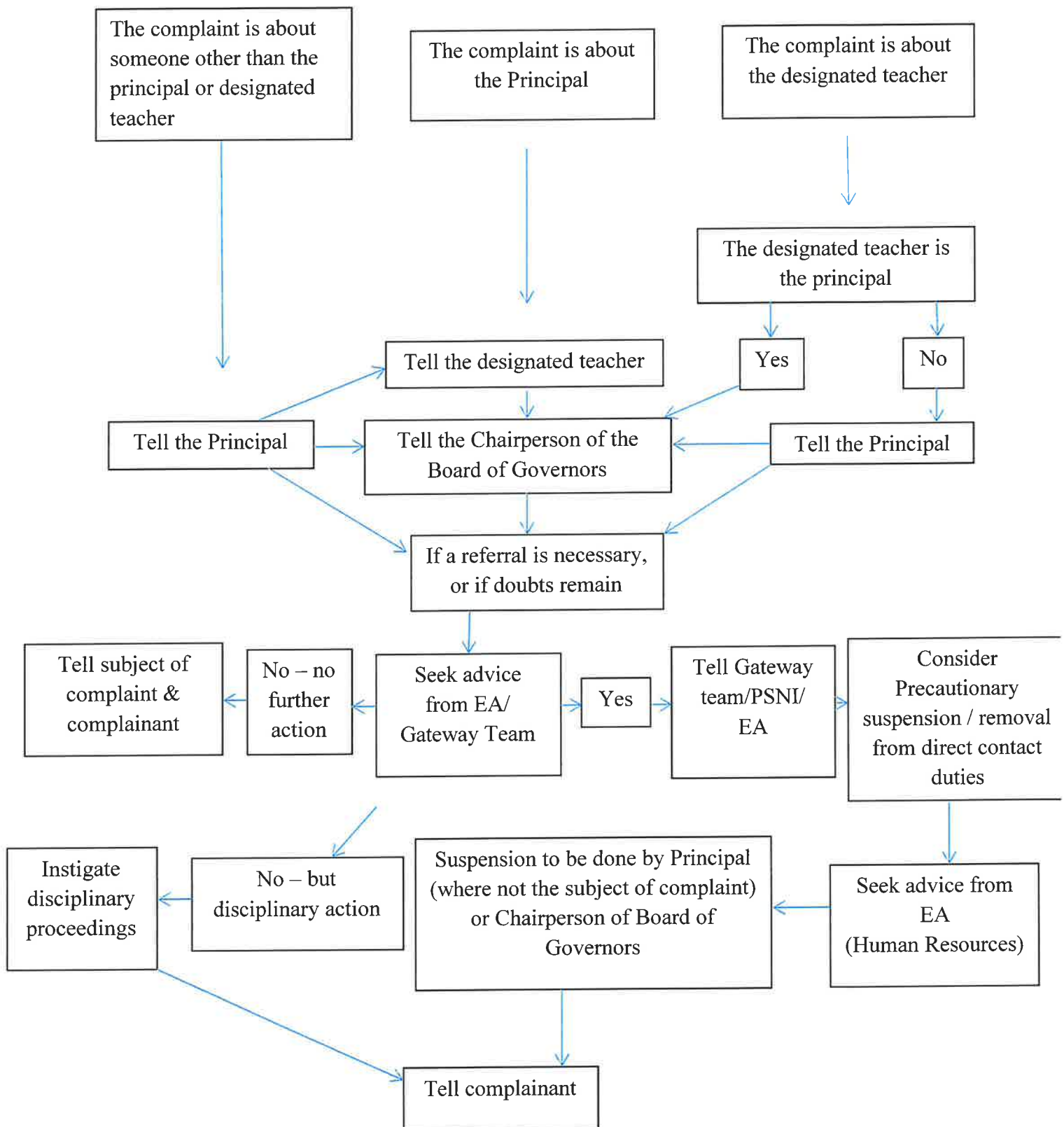
Gateway team, Western Tel. 027 7131 4090
Omagh Tel 028 82835 156

PSNI (Public Protection Unit)
CRU 028 9025 9299

Education Welfare Officer 02871 884 027

Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS) 02882 835 990

Procedure where a complaint has been made about possible abuse by a member of the school's staff



Events 2020 2021

August

17th – 21st August Five School Bakers Days for staff only

24th Aug Return to school for all children

Fire Drill

Principal budget meeting with EA

26th Aug Mayor's event for P7 leavers

28th Aug Staff Feel Good Friday

SEBD support in school (P4/5)

29th Aug P7 2019 2020 Confirmation

September

2nd Sept EWO and EA meeting

8th BOG meeting, Mrs L Gallen BoG retired

21st Election week for Pupil council and Eco committee

28th SDD 1

Maintenance work around the perimeter of school

4 Active Panel Boards installed in P1, P1/2, P3/4 and P7

New flooring in P1

30th EA Literacy Outreach support recommenced

October

1st National Poetry Day

5th Maths Extended schools began afterschool for P5 – P7

6th Engage Plan teacher begins

7th Gardening Club commenced

8th BOG subcommittee Meeting

9th DENI Census return

12th Educational Psychologist in school

ECO committee meeting

13th EA Stringed Music Tuition began

15th Educational Psychologist in school

Pupil council meeting

PTA Meeting on Teams

16th Harvest Assembly and Retirement Assembly for Mrs. Fallows and Mrs. Hepburn

Half Term

Schools were directed to close one week earlier by DE as a form of a circuit Breaker. Half Term Mon 19th Oct – Friday 30th Oct.

During Half Term Break

17th New fence in place partitioning car park from senior playground

21st and 22nd Oct Flu inoculations

Fencing works continued along the perimeter of the school at the council office side

Works continuing on Nursery Hygiene room

Works organised by EA in Boiler House.

November

2nd School reopened

Poppy Appeal week

Shoobox appeal week (we do not have an exact number for shoeboxes collected in our school however there were 3000 boxes online for N Ireland and 17 363 collected in N Ireland)

6th School Meal Census

- 9th – 13th Deaf Awareness Week
- 10th BOG meeting
- 12th Pupil council meeting
PTA Meeting at 7.30pm
- 13th PTA and Spar launched school fund raiser
- 16th – 20th Anti bullying week
- 16th Odd Socks day
Eco committee meeting
- 17th Meeting with EWO
- 26th Musical pathway to Learning commenced in Nursery, P1 and P1/2

December

- 2nd P2/3 visit to Post Office to post Santa Letters
- 5th Front perimeter fencing works began
- 7th Pupil council meeting
- 8th EWO Meeting
School nurse Flu sprays
- 9th DVD Singalong recording
- 10th Christmas Dinner
- 11th Christmas Carol Service
Election of New Parent Governor
PTA Christmas Raffle
- 14th Week of remote learning or face to face learning
- 18th School closed half day
- 21st – 23rd Deep clean in school
- 31st DE notified school would be closed until 11th Jan but with remote learning in place until then.

January 2021

- 4th SDD 2
- 5th P1 – P7 staff prepared remote learning packs
Nursery open
- 6th Remote learning began for P1 – P7
Supervision of pupils began in school
Instructed by DE to close Nursery
- 7th and 8th Nursery two days to prepare remote learning
Whole school notified by DE to close except to supervise the pupils of key workers and/vulnerable children until February Half term. LOCKDOWN
- 7th Admission's portal opened for Nursery and P1 applications
- 11th Collection of Home Learning Packs Nursery – P7
- 18th Paired Reading launched P4 and P6
- 21st BOGs meeting, Mrs. L Hamilton elected as new parent BoG
- 25th Parent teacher interviews began via telephone for Nursery – P6
Governor Annual Report sent to parents on 25th January 2021 on the school website
- 27th Paired reading programme for P4 and P6
- 29th P1 and Pre-school online admission's window closes

February

- 1st Energy Saving Week
- 2nd SEN Annual Reviews
- 8th Internet Safety Week
- 9th Safer Internet day
- 10th BOG Admissions meeting

11th BOG Admissions meeting

Half Term 15th – 19th Feb

15th New ramp tarmacked at entrance

22nd Student teacher began placement in P6/7 classroom

23rd New Life Counselling sessions on Zoom

March

1st Post-Primary admissions portal opened.
Principal and P7 parent interviews held this week

4th World Book day

Mon 8th March Nursery, P1, P2 and P3 returned to school for Face to face teaching

Teacher of the Deaf school visit

16th P7 admissions portal closes
Autism service in school P3/4
EA communication support beginning on a fortnightly basis in P1
Teacher of the Deaf weekly visits continue

17th School closed for St Patrick's day

18th Fire Extinguishers inspection

22nd P4 – P7 resumed face to face schooling

Play Trail inspection completed

P5/6 NI Water Seminar

SENIS support in P4/5 commenced

26th P7 Sister Perpetua visit with class for Holy Confirmation

29th March pupil of the month assembly

PATS electrical testing carried out

30th Lamb visit to Nursery
Non-uniform day, school closed half day for Easter holidays

31st Cleaners completed an intensive clean of school

Easter 31st March – 9th April

12th April SDD 4 for staff only.

13th April Pupils return for Term 3
First Holy Communion classes begin with P4

15th EA Music postponed - MPL and instrumental tuition

16th Covid Lateral Flow testing roll out began

19th Breakfast club recommenced

P7 Love for Life

Autism NI week

PTA Meeting

21st Fire Drill
Cricket NW coaching began with P5/6, P6 and P7
SEBD support P1

22nd Board of Governor Meeting

26th School photographer

27th Photographer in school

EWO liaison meeting

AAIS in school

1st Holy communion continues

28th P1 and Nursery parents notified re admissions

29th Pupil council meeting

May

- 3rd School closed for bank holiday
- 5th Cricket coaching continues weekly for P5/6 – P7
- 6th Highland Dancing commenced for 5 weeks for P1 – P4/5
Eco meeting
- 10th NWRC student assessments
Health and Wellbeing Week
- 11th Sign language workshops in P1 and P1/2
- 14th Notification regarding Awards for all for school and staff
- 5th P4 Holy Communion
- 17th Annual summer testing begins
Sign language workshops in P1 and P1/2
AAIS P7
- 20th World outdoor classroom day
- 28th Educational psychologist
- 31st Spring Bank holiday

June

- 1st SDD 5
EWO liaison meeting
- 4th Whole school distribution of house competitions and allocations
- 7th Anti-Bullying policy out for consultation – pupils, staff and parents
Dodgeball tournament begins
PASS testing P3 – P7
- 8th Encore filming with P7
- 9th P7 Stormont tour online
- 12th P7 Placements notification
- 14th Post-Primary's Induction processes begin
- 15th Junior's Summer Fair
- 16th Senior's Summer Fair
- 17th Junior Sports Day
Senior Sports Day
BOGs Admission's subcommittee meeting
- 17th P7 Trip to Oakfire and Lifford cinema
NWRC assessment P6
- 21st School council raffle
- 23rd Playgroup Graduation day
- 24th Annual Prize giving
Pupil council meeting
- 25th P7 Leavers' dinner
- 26th P7 Holy Confirmation
- 29th BOGs meeting at 7.30pm
- 30th June school closes half day

2020-2021 Financial Statement

Strabane PS

INCOME	£	EXPENDITURE	£
Savings/Deficit from 2019/2020	39,699	Teaching Staff	694,525
Budget Share 2020/2021	833,431	Non-Teaching Staff	142,767
DE Additional Funding (Covid)	17,262	Mileage	54
Nurture Units	0	Protective Clothing	186
Literacy Numeracy CPD plus (STE)	0	Course Fees	238
Total Class Size Policy	0	cleaning materials	1,120
Pilot Early Year	0	Fuel Oil	5,154
Irish Medium	0	Electricity	4,697
Teachers Arrears 17/18	31,354	Water	2,343
EMAs	0	Toilet Requisites	845
Closing Schools Funding Adjust	0	Waste Disposal	878
Funding Corrections - Other	0	Maintenance of Buildings	939
Total EF Collaboration	0	Maintenance of Grounds	3,858
Vulnerable Persons Relocation Scf	0	Maintenance of Furniture/Fitting	120
Shared Education	3,406	Telephones	1,552
DE - CFF Addition	0	Postages	76
SENCo funding	6,967	Printing & Stationery	2,487
Getting Ready To Learn	1,246	Photocopying	6,148
Extended Schools	16,606	Food	508
DE Additional Funding (Virtual lea)	440	Contractual Cleaning	14,460
DE Additional Funding (ENGAGE)	25,448	Hire of Equipment/Facilities	252
DE Additional Funding (Health & V)	3,200	Professional Fees	-446
Total Allocation	979,059	Hire of Transport	157
PTA Fundraising Income	0	Books/Practice Materials	17,420
Covid Adjustment	8,069	Licence Fees	1,176
Rounding Adj	0	Instrumental Tuition	445
TOTAL	987,128	School Swimming Program	98
		consultancy staff	1,300
		Furniture & Fittings <£1000	
		Sub Total	903,357
		Capital - COMP	16,343
		Capital - F&E	
		Capital - Veh	0
		TOTAL	919,700
		Carry-over to 2021 2022	68,772
		Total	987,128
		TOTAL Spend	988,472

*Audited
2 Round
correct*

16-11-21

Norman Doherty

STRABANE CONTROLLED PRIMARY SCHOOL

SCHOOL FUNDS 2020-2021

INCOME		EXPENDITURE	
Carried over from 2019/20	£1591.74		
Photographer	£625.37	Photographer	-
Cash for Clobber	£63.76	School Council	£259
Bookfair	-	Bookfair	-
EA Music Refund	£445	Postage	£14.98
PTA	-	EA Music	£420.75
Donations	£404.98	Prizes/Gifts	£265.07
		Books /Equipment	-
		Educational Shows/Visits	-
		Licence Fees	£349.20
		INSET	£50
		Summer Fair	-
		Bank Fees	£70.18
		Maintenance	£161.46
Total Income	£1539.11	Total Expenditure	£1590.64
Total Resources	£3130.85	Carry Over to 2021-2022	£1540.21

SCHOOL TRAVEL FUND

INCOME		EXPENDITURE	
Carried Over from 2019/20	£123.37	Bank Fees	£16.15
Parental Contributions	£		£9.65
		Parent refund	£50
Total Income	£	Total Expenditure	£75.80
Total Resources	£	Balance carried forward	£47.57

Audited
 & found
 correct

16-11-21

Norman Delaney

REVIEW OF THE 2020/2021 YEAR

Enrolment and Staffing

The upward trend in enrolment continues. By the end of the year we had 270 pupils on roll. The Department of Education also turned away 18 applications for Nursery in 19/20 and 6 applications in 20/21 for the Nursery. Our teaching compliment including the principal was 11.68 teachers. Our SENCo teacher worked four days per week and an additional SEN teacher also worked five full days per week with children across the school who have additional needs as well as provided additional Covid support.

Our school facilitated three student placements from our local Colleges of Further Education providing us with students doing childcare qualifications. We also provided a placement and experience for a student teacher from Liverpool's John Moore University. All of these programmes enabled us to provide a large measure of one-to-one and small group support for many pupils as well as in class help for teachers.

At the end of August 2021, Mrs. Margaret Connelly, our School Cook since 1994 retired after 27 years of service in our school. We wish to thank Mrs. Connelly as valued members of staff for her dedication and service to our school over the years.

Ancillary Staff

Once again the ancillary and auxiliary staff demonstrated their commitment and care for our children in numerous and very practical ways and we must record our grateful thanks to them. Their important contribution continues to help make our school special.

Ancillary Staff

1 Secretary	30 hours
2 Classroom Assistants P.1	25 hours and 20 hours
1 Classroom Assistant P.2	20 hours
8 Classroom Assistants	(Special Needs Allocations)
2 Nursery Assistants	20/13 hours
Caretaker 1	21.6 hours
Caretaker 2	14.4 hours
1 Part-time cleaner	10 hours
1 Part-time cleaner	10 hours
1 Part-time cleaner	9.6 hours
4 Supervisory Assistants	5 hours each
1 Crossing Patrol	15 hours

Parent Teacher Association

Our 'Calendar of Events,' at the centre of this report, demonstrates the school has had another active year even though Coronavirus has impacted in regard to face to face events and training. Much of what we would traditionally have done reverted to online platforms and events held within class, staff and school bubbles. Nevertheless, with careful and strategic planning, and with the team effort from the entire school community, we succeeded in running many events which at one point seemed unlikely, however, an opportunity to diversify and move in new directions was created.

Our much longed for and treasured events such as the Summer Fair and Sports Day were held. We organised two separate events for both the Fair and Sports Day and the events ran smoothly with great fun and enjoyment had by all. The PTA were very supportive as always. Amongst other events undertaken we had two Draws for the pupils, one at Christmas and one for the summer fair. We had a raffle held in our local Spar shop in November and thank you to the shop for their partnership in this fundraiser. There was great excitement with two top prize winners and a class prize in every room. At Christmas time, we released a singalong DVD featuring our children with every class singing two pieces on the stage. Huge thanks to our parents who supported the school's events, bought raffle tickets, purchased Christmas DVDs, contributed significantly to the successful summer fair and freely contributed to the PTA subscription of £10 per family. We have so much to be thankful for and the fun had by our pupils as well as the benefits as a whole should not be underestimated.

PTA Funds have been critical in providing our school with the following:

- Covid Restart. This valued money allowed us to purchase the necessary signage and resources central to allowing our school to reopen earlier than normal on the 17th August 2020.
- give all new Nursery pupils a free high visibility vest
- supplied Gift tokens and plaques for prize day
- funded Jo Jingles in the Nursery
- funded office and classroom essentials
- funded prizes for Pupil of the Month and Accelerated Reader
- continued subscription to the Mathletics computer programme
- electrical equipment
- **Lexia Reading 50 licenses**
- petty cash expense for maintenance around the school
- Reading Books £273.30
- 5 large Umbrellas for home time bubbles
- P7 Leaver's End of Year books

We are grateful to our ever growing list of sponsors and supporters of our school.

Finally, we would like to express again, our gratitude to all the parents who attended events, supported fundraising efforts and who helped in any way with fund raising. Your support is valued. Thank you too for donations throughout these events and for books sent to school for the purpose of the School Book Fair helping us to raise funds.

Bookfair

Unfortunately, we were unable to have our "Travelling Book Fair" during the year and the annual Pupil council's Book Fair in March which traditionally coincided with World Book Day had to be canceled due to the Lockdown. Nevertheless, the school's summer fair had a parent supported bookstall which boasted many high quality, good condition second hand books for resale. We are indebted to the parents for helping us in this very practical manner. The single greatest benefit of course is that obtained by our children when they see how important reading is and gain quality books to keep for themselves. Thank you again for your support.

Key Stage Assessments 2020/21

Please note that the 2020/2021 data has not been produced based on Covid-19 affecting assessments from March 2020 – June 2021.

Pantomime

Our annual school pantomime at Christmas had to be postponed this year due to the pandemic. Nevertheless, the classes, in consultation with their peers and staff, chose two songs to perform on the stage which were then recorded and produced in DVD form for parents and family to purchase. The children were excellent as always and the experience was seen as capturing the children at that moment in time as we journeyed through such challenging circumstances. It must also be noted that it allowed the classes to see and hear other classes around the school, connecting one another, as there were extremely minimal opportunities for interactions between class bubbles.

Sport

Again, Covid -19 affected the normal levels of participation in sporting events particularly those which normally take place in Term 3. Nevertheless, a variety of sporting activities and Physical Education lessons continued in-house with a focus on improving children's Mental Health and Wellbeing alongside promoting physical education and participation. The Primary 5/6, Primary 6 and Primary 7 class participated in the North West Cricket Union School Partnership programme for all of Term 3. Highland Dancing commenced for all classes from P1 – P4/5 classes on a weekly basis. The rounders competition was subsidised with a dodgeball tournament and due to the bubble system in school, a House System was created. This generated considerable excitement and fun – as well as noise when the winning House was announced!

Finally, our annual Sports Day saw a well-coordinated change of plan to a split Sports Day sponsored by our local Spar shop once again alongside Healthy Kidz. We had a Junior and Senior Sports Day with many new races introduced allowing opportunities for success across the range of skills in Athletics. Well done to so many of our pupils who participated with many pupils achieving outstanding results and success.

Extended Schools

With Extended Schools funding we were able to continue with the breakfast club every morning before school and offer our pupils free fresh fruit at break time one day a week. Once again our after school have been able to compliment our curricular provision with an after school Maths Catch up programme for P5, P6 and P7. We continued the WellComm Speech and Language Toolkit for the nursery and continued the Musical Pathways programme to Nursery, P1 and P1/2. The Accelerated Reading programme continues to be very successful and we have extended this license as well as purchased new resources here. The senior children were able to avail of the services of 'New Horizons' for an after school gardening club culminating in a stall at the summer fair and as well as 'take homes' for planting.

Parental Involvement

This section must begin with a focus on the mammoth task undertaken by staff, parents and pupils when we entered another period of Remote learning last from January 2021 – March 2021. Communication was primarily through Seesaw as well as phone calls, emails, school website and paper packs supplied during the entire year. The collaboration and partnership between school and home was for the most part successful. Challenges were encountered and it was a time of chartering territory where we longed to be back to face to face teaching. Alongside remote teaching, supervised classes were set-up as per DE guidance for pupils whose parents are key workers. Considerable changes and adaptive measures were successfully implemented by all.

As well as any informal meetings parents had with teachers, formal parent interviews took place in October and Easter for children getting Learning Support and in February for the whole school with P7 parents having interviews in November. These interviews had to be conducted via telephone – thank you for your support. Parents also received a detailed report about their child’s achievement in June. In addition to this P7 pupils were presented with Records of Achievement in line with our Annual Prize Day.

P4 and P6 parents were given the opportunity to do Paired Reading with their children during the Jan – March 2021 Lockdown. Thanks to the work of the PTA and parental support, parents and children have access to the ‘Mathletics’ programme from home.

Both the Mother’s Day and Father’s Day breakfasts, which traditionally see large numbers of parents and grandparents come along on each occasion, had to be cancelled.

Parents of children in the nursery unit benefited from the WellComm Speech and Language Programme. The Getting Ready to Learn initiative promoted Parent’s understanding of the importance of **reading** with their children at home from a young age, an understanding of how **early reading experiences** can impact on their child’s future learning and achievement. The GRTL programme provided funding to purchase Home Learning Packs to ‘gift’ to each child and family.

Parents of children entering Nursery and P1, as well as any new pupil within P2 – P7 had an induction day in August.

The digital home learning programmes such as Lexia, Accelerated Reader and Mathletics allowed parents to link-in with the children’s learning from home.

Music

Special tuition in cello, viola and violin continued to be provided by the EA Western Region when school was open for face to face teaching. Children P1-4/5 were involved in the Highland Dance programme. Musical Pathways to Learning was enjoyed by our Nursery and the P1 and P1/2 classes. Sadly, Springfest concert, Jazz Taster sessions and the Strabane Rotary Choir Competition were all cancelled due to Covid. Assemblies were conducted through the year using Microsoft teams with many songs and hymns played through the school website videos as well as live in school on Teams including Harvest, Christmas carols and Easter. P7 pupils embraced an opportunity with Encore to produce a Leaver’s video including solos, choral and dance steps

Curriculum

As you can see from the information set out under in service training staff were once again involved in training to update and extend their expertise and experience. Information gleaned by teachers at INSET was disseminated to staff during Exceptional closure days, Baker days and staff meetings. Of particular note is the extensive and additional training taken to upskill staff in areas of remote teaching and learning as we traversed the year.

Training continues on training staff to overcome pupils’ barriers to learning, develop knowledge of Special educational and additional needs, support children with medical conditions and promoting Shared Education.

In **Mathematics** teachers and pupils continue to use 'Mathletics' (P2-P7) and have extended their use of this at home. The average time spent online per student in Mathletics for the 2020/2021 year was on average 63.4 minutes per pupil per month. It was an integral and invaluable resource during the period of remote education. Teachers are assigning tasks regularly as homework activities and pupils are using the programme to receive the benefits it offers. The point system has been an effective incentive for pupils in Key Stage 2. There was whole school participation in Maths Week (10th – 18th Oct 2020) to promote Problem Solving & boost motivation.

There was a clear focus on the teaching of Maths across the curriculum demonstrated through samples of work & photographs as well as cross-curricular planning throughout the school.

The Maths Catch up programme was available for pupils in Years 5, 6 and 7 underachieving in Maths and improved confidence and standards. Year 7 engaged in IXL digital Mathematics resource.

In **Literacy** teachers continued to use the highly motivational Accelerated Reader programme throughout KS2. We had 31 million words and 10 children became word millionaires during the year. Three P7s managed to read over Two Million words with our top reader managing 2 753 684 words! Reading continues to be a high priority throughout the school with a purchase worth over £3000 of additional reading material for Nursery – P7. New library books were purchased for Accelerated Reader as well as prizes as an incentive to reach targets set. Book scoops and Key Stage meetings demonstrated the different approaches being used to evidence children's responses to reading. Our Literacy coordinator attended, online, an EA training session on Evaluations.

Paired Reading continued, despite lockdown, in Year 4 and Year 6 whilst our traditional Book Fair was held during the summer fair. World Book Day was successful online on the 4th March. All classes took part in National Literacy Day in October and wrote poems. Every class demonstrated good delivery of Literacy across the curriculum in particular in the areas of reading and writing.

In **ICT** this year, six new promethean Smart boards were purchased and installed with teacher training to accompany these. There was also a further ten I-Pads purchased and some Microsoft Surface tablets that are now used regularly within the school. A substantial step was made with the internet speed where the broadband width was increased from 10mb to 50mb which has transformed the use of all ICT resources within our school. The new roll-out of computers took place in March and a further 10 laptops have been installed leaving us in a very favourable position to deliver ICT lessons in the future. Seesaw training took place in the August Baker Days and all classes from Nursery – Primary 7 effectively delivered remote learning during the lockdown period. During lockdown, all classes used Seesaw to delivery lessons and communicate with parents and pupils. Accelerated Reader, Mathletics and Lexia all continued to be used successfully throughout the year, especially in association with remote learning. Those children who did not have access to a device and who were identified in the target groups were supplied with a Chromebook. Because of our new resources and increased internet speed, online testing was carried out in record time over a three-week period for all children in Primary 3 to Primary 7. The school's website received over 26 000 hits during 2020/2021.

Our school continues to promote the **STEM** subjects (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) in order to enhance the growth of our economy and help our young people become more employable. This year proved particularly challenging both with the delivery of after school sessions and remote learning. Nevertheless, lessons connected to the class topics were shared to enable pupils to experience STEM both in school and from home. P5/6 Term 1 WAU Topic → Energy:

Pupils enjoyed this topic and learnt a lot about the need to reduce our energy consumption. Pupils learned to become aware of the need to promote renewable energy sources and are enthusiastic about this. P5/6 took part in a Sentinus STEM workshop on renewable energy and created their very own mini wind turbines.

Our Nursery, P1 and P1/2 pupils again experienced an innovative music programme called '**Musical Pathways to Learning**'. In addition to improving musical skills children's attention and listening skills including their capacity to distinguish between sounds was enhanced. All the teachers involved reported significant benefits for their class and the children's engagement was good especially considering the delivery of this was done online.

Following the Department of Education's decision that '**Shared Education**' should be an integral part of education in Northern Ireland, our school continues to develop and build upon the previously established partnership with Sion Mills Primary School. The overall aim of the project is to improve educational standards and reconciliation by enabling schools to work collaboratively more often.

However due to the impact of the Covid19 pandemic on pupil participation, EA deemed the 2020/21 academic year as a 'Transition Year', with a focus on Teacher Professional Learning. EA SESP worked in partnership with DE, EA colleagues and other external agencies to develop a TPL Menu which was available for all partnerships to avail of. The modules allow teachers and practitioners to develop their skills to support the delivery of Shared Education when pupil participation resumes. Three TPL modules were completed by staff members, with online training in the following areas; Using ICT to support partnership working, Teaching sensitive and controversial issues and Skills for Sharing.

In addition to the sharing of and organisation of TPL opportunities, the Shared Education Co-ordinator was responsible, in conjunction with her counterpart from Sion Mills PS, for the submission of three tasks, namely a Partnership Self Evaluation, in conjunction with the ETI framework, a Partnership Article and a Partnership Dashboard visual, in order to clearly demonstrate the growth and progression of the partnership throughout SESP.

Covid affected **attendance** significantly throughout the school however credit should also be given to our Leaver's in P7. 13 P7 children gained full attendance certificates, 1 pupil gained 4 years whilst 2 pupils achieved 7 full years' attendance. Well done!

Pastoral Care

Despite changes and alterations to the structure and practices of school life as a result of Covid19 mitigations, almost all of the internal elements of the preventative curriculum were successfully delivered over the course of the academic year. In addition to the cross-curricular delivery of PD&MU in all classrooms, with a greater emphasis on pastoral care upon pupil return to school, we continued to utilise a monthly thematic approach in conjunction with our pupil of the month awards scheme. All classes participated in the NI Anti-Bullying Week programme, completing a uniform activity in all age groups to reflect the theme of 'All different, but all united against bullying.' In addition to this our school council successfully planned for pupil participation in 'Odd Socks' day in conjunction with the theme for the week.

Also on a whole school level, despite Covid19 school closure, all pupils were involved in 'Internet Safety Day' with Seesaw utilised to share information and age-appropriate activities to ensure key messages were enforced and shared at a time whereby our on-line activity and usage was at an all-time high.

We were again able to successfully deliver our 'Health & Well Being' Week in school, with the theme of 'Nature' very much linking with current global concerns and indeed the emphasis that there has recently been on outdoor learning. With support from outside agencies including New Horizons & Strabane Scouts, and the many volunteers from our school community including past members of staff, Governors and parents who all so willingly gave of their time, pupils from all classes availed of fun, outdoor and engaging daily thematic activities to encourage them to discover, observe and connect with nature, in attempt to promote and enhance their understanding of having a healthy mind and body.

Although intervention from outside agencies have been minimal this year due to Covid19 regulations, we continued to avail of the services of New Life Counselling and again have utilised the experience of 'Love for Life' sessions, in the delivery of RSE to the Year 7 pupils. One new initiative which was successfully delivered this year in conjunction with the theme of inclusion was a 'Deaf Awareness Week', with all classes availing of on-line information sessions, and in person workshops being delivered to both the Year 1 & Year 1/2 classes as a follow up. Similarly, we too participated in the events of Autism NI week, with a considerable monetary collection being made to the charity on behalf of our school community.

Love for life is in its fourth year. **Pupil council** was full functional even during the pandemic with elected roles within the committee. In November we ran our annual Anti Bullying week with an odd socks day. The school also participated in both the Healthy Munch Bunch challenge (for the 13th successive year).

Finally, 29 Year 7 pupils participated in and successfully completed their cycling proficiency training (with Cycle Helmet award) in June – another 100% pass rate.

In Service training 2020 2021

August

- 17th – 21st Five School Bakers Days for staff only
All teaching and non-teaching staff completed ACEs online training
- 21st Child Protection training for whole school
- 27th P1 teacher Deaf Awareness Training- (The National Deaf Children's Society)

September

- 10th Principal EA Directed time budgets webinar
- 16th Principal Cultivating Resilience within schools' webinar with Shane Martin
- 22nd SENCA training P5
P1 teacher Deaf Awareness Training- (Kerry McAleer, Teacher of the Deaf, EA)
- 23rd P5 teacher "Fostering Wellbeing in the School and Classroom" - online Middletown webinar
- 24th SENCA training P5
- 29th P5 teacher Seesaw: Beginners – Set up, creative tools and more – Blended NI course
Principal PASS webinar
- 30th P5 teacher "Supporting Home and School" - online Middletown webinar

October

- 1st National Poetry Day
P5 teacher – Seesaw training
- 2nd SEBD support in school commenced (P5/6)

5th BBCNI Digital Teach Meet Week
NWRC student placement began in Nursery
Maths Extended schools began afterschool for P5 – P7

7th P6 teacher Extended Schools Cluster Meeting
P1/2 Teacher Tutor Webinar

28th P1/2 teacher Creative Learning Centre: Scratch Junior

November

2nd Nursery teacher - The importance of play in the early years
SEN CAs in P4, P5 and P6: Middletown Centre for Autism Classroom assistant training began
Monday 2nd Nov 2020 and ran for 5 sessions every Monday with Question and Answer sessions every Thursday.

3rd Teacher of the Deaf in school

5th NWRC student placement began in P6/7

9th – 13th Deaf Awareness Week in school

9th Consultation meeting with Educational Psychologist

Nursery teacher - Outdoor play in the early years

10th New Life Counselling sessions recommenced

11th SEBD - Principal and VP

16th – 20th Anti-bullying week

26th Musical Pathways to Learning programme commenced in Nursery, P1 and P1/2

December

4th Nursery Cluster

8th Nursery teacher Child protection training

P5 teacher- Strabane and Derry District Council zoom cluster Meeting re ECO members Waste management

Nursery cluster meeting

11th Gardening club

SEBD in school

31st DE notified school would be closed until 11th Jan but with remote learning in place until then.

January 2021

4th Staff Development Day 2

6th Whole school notified by DE to close except to supervise the pupils of key workers and/vulnerable children until February Half term. LOCKDOWN

11th Nursery cluster meeting

14th Principal Child protection refresher online training

P1/2 and P5 teacher Seesaw with BlendEd NI: Extra Session

18th Paired Reading launched P4 and P6

21st P1/2 Teacher Tutor: Supporting Early Career Teachers Through learning conversations

25th P5 teacher Emotional regulation in the classroom – primary workshop with StriveNI

P5 teacher BlendEd NI, ‘To Infinity and Beyond’, Using augmented reality to explore the topic of space

27th Zoom Strabane and Area Principals’ meeting

29th P5 teacher Stranmillis Blended Learning Webinar – Primary – ‘The Pedagogy and Experience Blended remote learning using Seesaw and Google Classroom.

February

1st Energy Saving Week

Principal BOG online portal navigation session

P5 Teacher commenced 6 week course on Apple Teaching and iPad skills training.

3rd BOG training online ‘Managing and Supporting Staff Attendance’

- Principal training on the new Post-Primary admission's process.
- 4th New C2k router fitted in school
New C2k PCs fitted in school
- 8th Internet Safety Week
- 9th Safer Internet day
- 10th P5 Teacher EPD webinar
- 11th Nursery ETI meeting
- 13th P5 teacher Parent and Professional Workshop Strive NI
- Half Term 15th – 19th Feb**
- 22nd Principal attended EA BOGs training on BOG remote meetings
- 24th Principal EA training online for using Microsoft Teams.

March

- 2nd Principal online training on CSSC Ethos Toolkit
BOG online training on CSSC Ethos Toolkit
- 4th SEN Teams management meeting
Principal EA Locality Leadership Meeting for Primary and Nursery Principals
- Mon 8th March Nursery, P1, P2 and P3 returned to school for Face to face teaching**
- 10th SEN CA 3-day training course (medical).
- 15th Child Protection Refresher Training for new staff.
- 16th Autism service in school P3/4
EA communication support beginning on a fortnightly basis in P1
Teacher of the Deaf weekly visits continue
- 22nd P6 Teacher Extended school cluster meeting
- 30th SMART board training for 5 teachers

April

- 12th SDD 4 for staff only.
SEN, Staff Meeting, Health and Well-being
- 14th EA Literacy support recommences with 4 pupils.
- 15th Music postponed MPL and instrumental tuition
- 19th P7 Love for Life
Autism NI week
- 22nd Principal Virtual shared learning conference
- 23rd EA Music tuition
Nursery cluster
- 29th P6 Action for children

May

- 5th Nursery staff GRTL Early mathematical experiences: shapes and measure course
Principal Blended learning in action seminar
- 7th SENCO SIMS training
- 10th Health and Wellbeing Week
Principal and P6 teacher C2k
Nursery cluster training
Principal Effective PE sessions and implementing well-being in school
- 11th Sign language workshops in P1 and P1/2
Nursery Early education and outdoors activity
- 12th Principal NAHT AGM
Nursery SENEYIS training
- 17th Sign language workshops in P1 and P1/2
AAIS P7

- Nursery GRTL - CAHMS
- 20th World Outdoor classroom day
Principal EA Health and wellbeing programme
Principal EA's Educational Leadership Conference
- 25th Principal and Nursery seminar on pre-schools admissions via CSSC.
- 26th Principal NAHT
- 27th Nursery cluster
P7 teacher SESP TPL ICT
- 28th Nursery cluster

June

- SENCo EA Training AAIS – 'Moving on Up' Transfer training for Primary Professionals
- SENCo EA Training AAIS – Sensory Processing and Autism Spectrum Disorder
- 1st School Development Day 5
- 3rd Principal – EA Leadership and Management
Principal Just2easy seminar
- 8th Literacy coordinator Action Planning cluster session online
- 9th Vice Principal SESP TSPC
- 17th Numeracy coordinator Action Planning cluster session online
- 21st Principal and Secretary online training re digital payroll
- 22nd Numeracy coordinator day
- 23rd Literacy coordinator day
- 25th SESP coordinator day
- 28th ICT coordinator day

Learning Support

In September 2020 there were fifty-five children on the Special Needs register at stages 1 – 5 of the Code of Practice (including six pupils who have a statement of SEN and benefit from having the support of a classroom assistant). Five more pupils have since received a statement of SEN during the 2020 – 21 school year.

Pupils are on our SEN register for one or more of the following reasons – Cognition and learning difficulties, Specific literacy difficulties (SpLD.), Social, emotional and behavioural difficulties, Communication and Interaction difficulties (including ASD), Physical difficulties.

Pupils were monitored throughout the year and moved either up or down through the Code of Practice stages according to their level of need. This year thirteen pupils were removed from the register. This is because their needs are now not significant enough to require provision additional to or different from that generally available for all children. This figure also includes pupils who had previously been at Stage 1 of the old Code and have now been taken off the SEN register following the restructuring from a 5 stage to a 3 stage system. Seven new names were added throughout the year as concerns were identified. These decisions were agreed by class teachers, SEN teachers and parents and were based on standardised tests scores, teacher's assessment and reports from outside agencies. A separate register is used for those who have medical needs only e.g. food allergy.

Thirty-three pupils were withdrawn from class by the two part - time Learning Support teachers to work on literacy, numeracy and social skills. In consultation with the class teacher Education Plans were drawn up with targets which are achievable and measurable (SMART). Work was delivered at an appropriate level, broken down into small steps and taught using a variety of strategies and materials. Throughout the year progress was monitored and assessed and provision altered accordingly. If a need

was evident which could be addressed by one of the outreach support teams a referral was made to the appropriate outside agency. Parents were kept informed and they had the opportunity to discuss their child's progress with the special needs teachers (by telephone) at least twice during the year, or as required.

Two children were put through the literacy screening process, both of whom met the criteria to receive outreach support. This is one-to one support for an hour each week with a peripatetic teacher provided by the EA.

Outside agencies used by our school include-

The EA peripatetic teacher for Specific Literacy Difficulty (literacy service)
The EA peripatetic teacher for Moderate Learning Difficulty (SENIS)
EA Language and Communication support
SBEW team Knockavoe Resource Centre, (behaviour/ wellbeing)
Speech and Language Services
RISENI multi-disciplinary team – individual and group support for both child and parents
AAIS Autism Advisory and Intervention Service
Middletown Centre for Autism
CAMHS

These services are under significant pressure and waiting lists are getting longer so it is of great benefit to our pupils that they receive a good level of support within the school.

Some ICT and after school activities which also proved successful in raising standards included- Paired Reading Programme, Lexia computer programme (for use at home and in school.), Mathletics computer programme (for use at home and in school.), Extended schools Maths 'Catch Up' clubs, Accelerated Reading and Educational Apps e.g. Spellosaur.

Despite restrictions due to Covid, we continued to up-skill our staff in regards to dealing with autism and Asperger's syndrome. Three staff members availed of online training from Middletown Centre for Autism, and a further member of staff completed an online course on emotional regulation. Further AAIS training on sensory processing difficulties, and in supporting ASD pupils with transition to post-primary was completed in the summer term. The Behaviour Support Team continued to provide advice and strategies to help address issues to a teacher and a classroom assistant.

We also continued to work towards earlier identification of pupils needs throughout the school. The training received through the SEN CPD Literacy Project continues to form part of our established practice, as staff have a fuller understanding of literacy difficulties and strategies which may help support pupils. When concerns are raised, close collaboration between SENCo, Principal and Class teachers help us to decide a course of action e.g. referrals or withdrawal support. Ability and attainment tests are available to be used by the SENCo on individual children to help gain more information.

Eco-Schools

Strabane Primary School has now achieved a fourth Green Flag in March/April 2020.

We continue to boast a very active and committed Eco committee who were presented with their badges and official membership via our virtual assembly.

During 2020/21 we took part in a range of competitions related to Eco-Schools throughout the year:

- ➔ *P5/6 class entered Staedtler KS2 Sow and Grow competition.*
- ➔ *P2/3 and P4/5 took part in the Ulster Farmers' Union competition.*
- ➔ *P7 pupils took part in the 'Design an Eco-Hero' competition.*

Pupils really enjoy taking part in competitions and have developed a greater understanding of eco-related topics through doing so.

P6 pupils enthusiastically took part in the After-school Gardening club. Some pupils continued to develop this interest outside of school which was a great extension to the programme.

During our Health and Well-being Week (May 2021), Mrs. Smith, Mrs. Fallows and staff from New Horizons hosted gardening activities which all pupils took part in. P6 pupils also planted flowers which were sold at the school Summer Fair in June 2021.

We were delighted to receive a bug motel from SGN Natural Gas in 2021. Pupils and staff worked collaboratively to gather materials for the bug motel with staff from New Horizons Garden Centre helping us to set it up within the school grounds. The bug motel has created unique opportunities for outdoor learning this year as well as increasing biodiversity within the school grounds.

We took part in National Daily Mile Day on Friday 28th May as a whole school. Miss Allen took part in an online webinar – *"NI does the Daily Mile with Stranmillis UC"* (26/5/21).

During the year we promoted the importance of Outdoor Learning and spending time being active outside in order to promote the health and well-being on both pupils and staff.

Health and Well-being Week took place on the 10th - 16th May 2021. This was a very successful event which promoted the importance of looking after our mental health and well-being through spending time outdoors. Pupils really enjoyed the activities: Move it Monday, Plant it Tuesday, Work Out Wednesday, Take 5 Thursday (Nature) and Feel Good Friday. To culminate this, aim the whole school took part in the World Outdoor Classroom Day – Thursday 20th May. P5/6 pupils also took part in Fist Pump 5 lessons from SUNI which focused on Mental Health and Well-being.

All classes took part in Recycling Week and completed relevant activities – e.g. designing posters about the importance of putting rubbish in the bin and creating new recycling logos.

Pupils learnt about the theme for this year – 'Together We Recycle' and considered the importance of working on this together as a team in our community order to achieve the best results. Pupils took part in two of the Eco webinars as part of KS2 homework activities. Many pupils from our school contributed to the live webinars and asked relevant questions which were put forward to the hosts.

Pupils completed written activities in response and enjoyed discussing the webinars in class. Pupils have an increased understanding of problem of plastic waste in our world and appreciate the need to tackle this problem. Pupils in P5/6 created posters with an Anti-Litter message for the #LitterLessTogether campaign.

Classes are encouraged to recycle and reuse paper where possible throughout the year.

For the Eco-Schools Global Awareness topic, our pupils once again gave very generously to the online Samaritan's Purse Christmas Shoebox Appeal.

School Council

Despite disruption to the school year and various Covid19 mitigations, the school council have yet again met on a regular basis to discuss, organise and participate in a variety of events, in order to address issues of importance to the whole school community.

Firstly, in conjunction with 'Anti-Bullying Week,' the council planned and organised 'Odd Socks Day' with staff and pupils alike adorning a variety of colourful, spotty, stripy, patterned odd socks, reflecting the theme of the week, 'All different, but all united against bullying'.

Unfortunately, the impact of Covid-19 school closure at the beginning of the 2021 year, somewhat impinged upon the plans and activity of the council during the second term. However, upon their return to school, the council quickly resumed their positions and conducted business in the third term with renewed enthusiasm. Activities included the generous purchase of whipped ice-cream for the whole school community as part of our 'Feel Good Friday' celebrations during 'Mental Health & Well-being Week' and our first ever joint Eco and School Council Meeting to discuss plans submitted by the student body to improve outdoor spaces within our school grounds. We look forward to future liaisons between both factions and hope that the next academic year will see some of the ideas discussed come into fruition.

Budget

Full LMS budget expenditure details are provided elsewhere in this report as is information about the school's own accounts. Once again we have to acknowledge the fundraising efforts of the PTA and thank you the parents sincerely for the time and energy you put into ensuring the events the PTA organised were successful. All schools now have to demonstrate that they are sustainable across a range of criteria. This includes enrolment, finance and educational standards. In all instances our school was once again recognised by the Education Authority as secure.

Health, Safety and Security

Work has so far been completed on ensuring the entire school grounds are secured with a perimeter fence. Secondly, the works on internal fencing has been completed including pedestrian gates to secure the intake and exit of Junior and Senior pupils throughout the day.

The traffic management of the school is currently undergoing a Minor Works Application with plans being progressed to reconfigure movement of traffic alongside protection of pedestrian pupils and adults using the car park. A new ramp entering and exiting the school grounds has been placed at the main entrance gates which serves as added protection to slow down traffic throughout the premises.

Works have now been completed on our new Nursery Hygiene room as well as an entirely new refurbishment of the toilet facilities in the Nursery. Maintenance and work organised by EA in Boiler House have also been fulfilled.

Our digital CCTV is fully operational. It functions 24 hours a day for overall site security and access control exists on all outside doors. All visitors are required to report to reception and sign in and out. A monitored intruder alarm protects the buildings after working hours and all equipment has security markings. The waste bins are secured away from the building as a fire prevention measure and a fire detection and emergency lighting system was installed in 2015 along with the new state of the art intruder alarm. The Education Authority installed a bunded oil tank in a protective cage away from the school building in May 2017 to enable us to comply with new health and safety legislation.

Accessibility

To facilitate access arrangements a disabled parking bay is available to blue badge holders (**only**) directly in front of the main entrance and all doors into the school have ramps. The main doors are also equipped with automatic opening apparatus as is the assembly hall. Finally, a chair lift operates to the classrooms on the first floor. This gives all pupils full access to every facility the school has to offer.

Nursery

The nursery plans in accordance with the 2018 Northern Ireland Curricular Guidance for Preschool Education. It was once again awarded the Gold Educating and Promoting Healthy Eating 3.2.1. award by the Western Health and Social Care Trust.

The WellComm speech and language programme continues to be implemented in the nursery, (funded through Extended Schools), providing speech and language screening and appropriate support for all nursery children.

For a fifth year, the nursery implemented the DE 'Early Intervention Transformation Programme'. This enabled the nursery to provide each child and family with a home learning pack.

Packs included a varied range of resources to support and develop the home learning environment;

Activity ideas: Key messages and information around the 4 themes:

1. The Big Bedtime Read
2. Healthy Happy Kids
3. Education Works in Preschool
4. Ages and Stages

Funding for this programme has been secured for 2021/2022.

Music was enjoyed through online Musical Pathways to Learning sessions, aiming to promote the importance of rhythm and rhyme in early literacy.

Summary

The Governors continue to be greatly encouraged by the excellent support proffered year in and year out by the PTA committee in particular and the parents in general. The high esteem which the school is held in by the wider community is also clearly demonstrated by the significant number of sponsors we have for our various activities. We wish you to know that your help is very much appreciated and does indeed make a difference to our children. Parental support also plays a significant part in the good attendance figures of 94.6% which also include the Nursery.

We are also delighted that the kitchen continues to maintain its Grade 5 food hygiene rating from environmental health – the highest grade possible – this is an excellent achievement for Margaret and her staff.

Likewise, we wish to take this opportunity to express our thanks and appreciation to the principal and staff of the school for the continued high level of commitment and the excellent standards achieved both inside and outside the classroom. The Governors wish to congratulate the principal, teachers, parents and children for their efforts over the past year and commend this report on the life and work of the school to you all.