

23 May 2017

Dear Parent/Carer

**Innellan Primary School  
Argyll and Bute Council**

In September 2015, HM Inspectors published a letter on your child's school. The letter set out a number of areas for improvement which we agreed with the school and Argyll and Bute Council. Recently, as you may know, we visited the school again. During our visit, we talked to children and worked closely with the headteacher and staff. We heard from the headteacher and other staff about the steps the school has taken to improve. We looked at particular areas that had been identified in the original inspection. As a result, we were able to find out about the progress the school has made and how well this is supporting children's learning and achievements. This letter sets out what we found.

**How well is the school continuing to review and develop the curriculum in line with national advice to ensure that it leads to improvements across all children's learning?**

Children continue to enjoy school and benefit from the strong 'family' ethos across the now two classes. They work very well together in groups sharing ideas and cooperating with each other. They also like the opportunity to work on tasks by themselves which helps them improve their own learning. Children are now motivated by their learning consistently well throughout the day. They talk with staff continually about what interests them and how they might go about their learning. Children are very pleased with the levels of support and encouragement they receive from all staff within the school.

Staff have worked very hard to address the gaps in children's learning identified at the last inspection. They have approached this in two ways. Firstly, staff have worked closely with children to find out where the gaps in their learning are and have planned lessons as appropriate. This is ensuring children gain the knowledge, understanding and skills they need to progress in their learning. This work is ongoing. Secondly, all staff have shown leadership in reviewing and developing the curriculum. They have improved the programmes in literacy and numeracy and have continued to enrich the quality of health and wellbeing experiences, in particular, outdoors. Staff have processes in place to make sure they plan learning experiences across the curriculum which meet the learning needs of the range of ages within each classroom. Opportunities for children to make links in their learning through studying a particular interest, learning outdoors and within the community continue to motivate children.

**How well is the school developing monitoring and tracking further to ensure it supports children to attain as highly as possible?**

Staff are becoming much more confident in making sound judgements about children's progress. They work very effectively as a team to plan, assess and evaluate learning across the school. Staff have made a good start to monitoring and tracking children's progress. As a result, they are able to make well-judged interventions when children need extra support and challenge. With the support of Argyll and Bute Council, staff have the capacity to develop further their processes for assessment, monitoring and tracking which will help them have a clear overview of children's progress through the school. Continuing work with their partner school and local cluster will enable staff to work as a wider team to take a closer look at national standards. This will help them ensure their expectations of individual children's attainment and achievement is high enough.

**How well is the school continuing to develop leadership to ensure that staff at all levels take appropriate responsibility and improve outcomes for children?**

Across the school community there is a strong sense of teamwork and willingness to improve the outcomes for children. The revised vision, values and aims is giving the school community a clear direction. Staff at all levels now take responsibility for leading improvement across the school. Support staff collaborate very well together to ensure high levels of appropriate personalised support for individual children. Alongside teachers, they liaise well with outside agencies and local partners. Teachers are reflective and evaluate their classroom practice continuously. They talk regularly with children about their learning. They are providing an increasing range of well-judged opportunities for children to lead their own learning and aspects of school improvement. The remit of the principal teacher has been revised with a clear focus on improving outcomes for individual children. She is currently leading the school as acting headteacher. With the support of the school community she is skilfully ensuring the current plans for school improvement are being progressed. Argyll and Bute Council have very recently put in place arrangements to ensure continuity within the staff team for August 2017. In doing so, the school has the capacity to continue to improve and build on its strengths.

**What happens next?**

The school has made good progress since the original inspection. We are confident that the school has the capacity to continue to improve and so we will make no more visits in connection with this inspection. Argyll and Bute Council will inform parents about the school's progress as part of its arrangements for reporting on the quality of its schools.

Shona ES Taylor  
HM Inspector

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