



Bankier Primary and ELC

Welcome Back

January 2025



Dear Families,

Happy New Year and welcome to 2025 at Bankier Primary School!

It has been lovely to see all our pupils back in school and hearing stories from the holiday period.

This is a big year for everyone at Bankier Primary School as we celebrate our 60th Birthday. Plans are already in draft for events that will remain in memories and hearts for years to come. Many of you have already shared your memories and photographs of your time at Bankier. We are thankful for these and will be in touch again to gather more information.

We are all looking forward to the year ahead and working with our pupils and families as we Reach for the Stars!

Kind Regards

Sarah Ritchie, Head Teacher



Resilient

As we begin our new term, class teachers are spending time with pupils revising how our values are enacted in our school and playground. Charters will be revisited to promote independence and resilience in our pupils.

Bankier Primary School Charter

UNCRC Article 3
The best interests of the child must be a top priority in all decisions and actions that affect

UNCRC Article 28
Every child has the right to a good quality education. All children should be encouraged to go to school and do the best they can.

UNCRC Article 31
Every child has the right to relax, play and take part in a wide range of cultural activities.

UNCRC Article 12
Every child has the right to express their views, feelings and wishes in all matters affecting them and to have their views considered and

UNCRC Article 19
Every child has the right to be protected from violence, from being hurt and mistreated, in body and mind.



Bankier Primary
REACH FOR THE STARS

Resilient	Equal	Achieving	Contributing	Healthy
Leamer Actions Ready/Respected/Safe by: ✓ Keep trying on all tasks ✓ Be patient ✓ Use errors to help you learn Staff Actions ✓ Provide new challenges ✓ Teach coping strategies ✓ Give help when needed	Leamer Actions Ready/Respected/Safe by: ✓ Let everyone take part ✓ Be kind ✓ Share Staff Actions ✓ Treat all learners fairly ✓ Respect each individual ✓ Help all pupils to be heard	Leamer Actions Ready/Respected/Safe by: ✓ Set targets ✓ Aim to improve ✓ Take pride in your work Staff Actions ✓ Encourage and reward effort, improvement and excellence ✓ Recognise all achievements	Leamer Actions Ready/Respected/Safe by: ✓ Share your ideas ✓ Try your best ✓ Co-operate with others Staff Actions ✓ Provide various types of learning opportunities ✓ Lead by example ✓ Have high expectations	Leamer Actions Ready/Respected/Safe by: ✓ Eat healthily ✓ Work and play actively ✓ Talk about how you feel Staff Actions ✓ Nurture physical, mental and social wellbeing ✓ Engage learners in active work and play ✓ Be kind and supportive

Bankier Primary Playground Charter
To be Ready/Respected/Safe we:

Resilient

Pupil Actions
✓ Little deal = talk to someone
✓ Big deal = walk away or tell an adult

Staff Actions
✓ Encourage children to keep trying
✓ Provide advice about challenges

Equal

Pupil Actions
✓ Share and let people join in
✓ Respect people's space

Staff Actions
✓ Be friendly and fair
✓ Have calm, restorative conversations

Achieving

Pupil Actions
✓ Play, have fun and try new things
✓ Make good choices

Staff Actions
✓ Observe what happens carefully
✓ Reward good choices

Contributing

Pupil Actions
✓ Keep the playground tidy
✓ Look after equipment and each other

Staff Actions
✓ Join in with play
✓ Provide playground equipment

Healthy

Pupil Actions
✓ Follow instructions
✓ Talk

Staff Actions
✓ Help people who are hurt
✓ Listen



Equal

Historically our curriculum focus for January has been Scots' Language. For the first time last year, we developed this to build skills in racial literacy. It was hugely successful and will be built upon this session with our One Scotland, Many Cultures approach. Pupils will still celebrate the life of the bard through poetry, story and song as well as learning about the many cultures that contribute to our modern Scotland.



Achieving

Every year we set down our improvement priorities for the year ahead. SIP Evaluation. These were shared at the beginning of the year. Staff have been working hard to realise these improvements. Below you will find an update of our progress so far.



Priority 1 - All pupils will demonstrate 12 months progress in numeracy and mathematics.

Why are we doing this?



This priority sits a part of the Council's Strategic Vision this focus under the 'Positive Attainment and Achievement for All Learners' improvement priority. Our quality assurance data from session 23-24 shows inconsistency in planning and delivery of numeracy and mathematics curriculum. In addition, CEM data from session 23-24 shows that 42% of pupils demonstrate a mental agility of their chronological age or beyond. This priority will improve create consistency and improvement in the pedagogy around numeracy and mathematics.

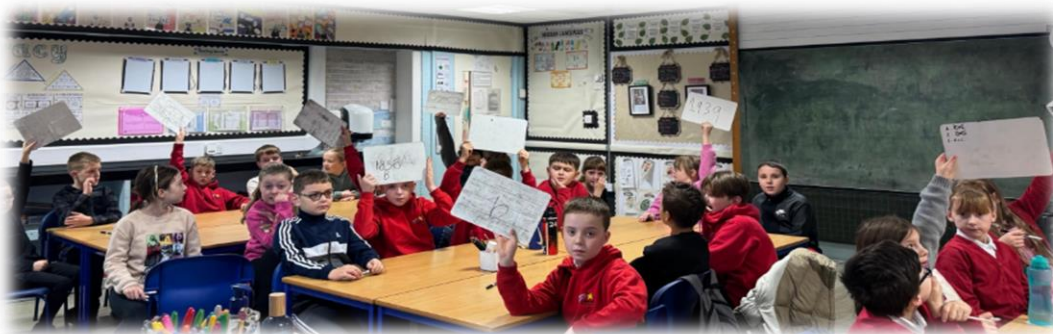
What we have done

- Collated data on staff and pupil attitude to numeracy and mathematics.
- Established a Times Table Progression Framework.
- Launched games based learning platforms TT Rock Stars and Numberbots.
- Introduced a progressive and interactive mental agility programme across all classes.



What we will do next

- Carry out peer observation of numeracy lessons.
- The leadership team will undertake a learning walk focussing on numeracy.
- Work collegiately to develop a common language around numeracy.
- Pilot a concrete, visual, abstract approach to mathematical concepts.





Priority 2 - 90% of pupils at Bankier Primary School will engage positively with reading and reading attainment will meet the council literacy stretch aim of 80%.

Why are we doing this?



This priority is part of the Council's Strategic Vision this focus and sits under the "Excellent Educational Experiences for all learners" improvement priority. Bankier Primary School is in an area of low amenity. There is no library and the library van has been withdrawn. Attainment in reading is strong yet engagement with reading beyond the classroom is low and this priority aims to address this.

What we have done

- Registered for Reading Schools Accreditation.
- Identified reading targets and shared these with staff.
- Developed our visual environment to support a reading culture.
- Surveyed parents on attitudes to reading.
- Piloted the use of an online reading resource.



What we will do next

- Launch Star Reader Awards.
- Disseminate use of online reading approach across the school.
- Establish regular library access for pupils.



Priority 3 - Moderation of Writing

Why are we doing this?



This priority is part of the Council's Strategic Vision and sits under the 'Positive Attainment and Achievement for All Learners' improvement priority. Self-evaluation data gathered at cluster level highlights that confident teacher judgement in writing is not consistent and a shared understanding of the standards to achieve a level needs to be developed. In addition, ELC and teaching staff in all establishments have identified moderation as a key priority for improving their own practice. This priority aims to enhance the cross-sector cluster partnership working, supporting effective professional dialogue through collegiate working.

What we have done

- Met with cluster colleagues to learn about the moderation process.
- Worked collegiately with cluster colleagues to plan a writing lesson.
- Pupils have moderated writing across schools.



What we will do next

- Meet with cluster colleagues to moderate pupil writing.
- Plan next steps for writing procedure and policy in school.



Achieving



Our ELC Team has also been hard at work implementing their improvement priorities. Here is an update on progress to date.



Priority 1 - Identify and utilise an off-site area for learning and teaching and establish links with partners to support offsite visits.

Why are we doing this?



Over the last year staff have made a considerable effort to develop the outdoor area in the ELC. They have also upskilled themselves in using the outdoors by participating in high quality professional learning on fire building and gardening. Staff are keen to put this learning into practice with children.

At Bankier ELCC many children spend the majority of their session outdoors. The ELCC has a large outdoor area with grassy areas, large sand pit and some hard standing. There are some small containers in which flowers and vegetables have been grown. Loose parts play is promoted.

Opportunities to play and learn outdoors need to be improved and off site experiences introduced.

What we have done

- Co-created a rationale.
- Risk assessed the off site premises.
- Audited resources.
- Invested in climbing apparatus.



What we will do next

- Plan woodland visits.



Priority 2 - By June 2025, Bankier ELC will have embedded Froebelian Flagship elements across practice.

Why are we doing this?



Froebelian Principles as articulated by the Froebel Trust to support building a shared vision and values which underpins Froebelian approaches and philosophy.

The Falkirk Froebel Flagship aim is to ensure Froebelian Principles underpin practice, and these principles are valued, lived and incorporated into all elements of early learning and childcare for the benefit of each child, family and practitioner. Last session Bankier ELC achieved the first step towards gaining Flagship Status. By embedding the emerging practices and procedures the setting hopes to achieve Flagship Status.

What we have done

- Revised home visit procedures to include sharing the vision and rationale.
- Cascaded the Froebelian professional learning programme.
- Introduced tracking system for holistic assessment practice.



What we will do next

- Moderate assessment and observation practice.



Contributing



Save the date!

This year we will celebrate our 60th Birthday with a Through the Decades Concert. Pupils from Primary 1 to Primary 7 will tell the story of our incredible school from 1965 to 2025.



Keeping In Touch

Please remember that we have a new e-mail address.

bankierprimaryschool@education.falkirk.sch.uk

E-mails sent to our old account will be rejected.

Bankier Primary School and ELC values and encourages contributions from all in the school community. The term ahead has lots of opportunities for families to join the learning. Here is a list of events planned this term.



Date	Event
24.1.25	Burns' Assembly @ 1.45pm
31.1.25	Primary 6 Assembly @ 1.45pm
14.2.25	School and ELC closed for February Holiday
17.2.24	School and ELC closed for February Holiday
18.2.25	School and ELC closed for Staff Development
7.3.25	World Book Day Fundraiser
14.3.25	Primary 3 Assembly @ 1.45pm
1.4.25	School Concert @ 1pm
2.4.25	School Concert @ 1pm
3.4.25	Easter Service
3.4.24	School and ELC close at 3pm for Easter holidays



Healthy



This year we have lots of new opportunities for pupils to ensure positive health and wellbeing.



Miss Craig will lead a dance club for pupils in P4 to P7.

Miss Ritchie will lead a drama club for pupils in P5 to P7.



Miss Lavery will lead a basketball club for pupils in P5 to P7.