



# St John's Continuous Improvement Journey.

*Practise like you've never won and perform like you've never lost.*

## Teachers working together to improve learning and teaching.

Our teaching staff have worked

collaboratively over a two year period to make sure that

learners :

- Know what they are learning
- What level they are working at
- What to do to improve their work.

lessons and give feedback children have said that they:

- Feel more confident with their learning.
- They understand what the next steps for their own learning are.
- Are able to set goals for themselves and achieve them.

increase in learner motivation and engagement.

Learner attainment in literacy and numeracy has improved in part due to our staff working together and providing a consistent approach from P1-P7.



From these changes in how we present

We have noted an

## We are a Gold Rights Respecting School.

In 2019 we were delighted to be awarded our Gold Award as a Rights Respecting School. This award recognises all the work learners, staff and parents do to make our school a

safe, happy and nurturing place to attend.

Moving on we are continuing to work together to improve all aspects of our school through our pupil voice groups– Taking

Teams. Our Talking Teams meet 6 times over the school year and organize events and plan changes to make our school and local community a happy place.

## St John's, Hamilton

Parent/ Child improvement update  
June 2020

### Joint working.

- ⇒ Teachers visiting schools in Learning Community to observe writing lessons and work on moderation of writing.
- ⇒ Teachers achieving recognition for leading change to teaching in classes.

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## Mud Kitchen!

This session, Caroline our Early Years Worker has set up a Mud Kitchen at the top of our playground. We can play and learn in the kitchen.

Whilst using the equipment we have improved our:

- Imaginative skills
- Creativity
- Problem solving skills
- Sharing and turn taking
- Empathy

We have developed our opportunities to try out STEM activities– (science, technology, engineering and maths)

Primary 7 had the chance to apply knowledge they had learned about bridges by using loose parts to build a bridge which could take their weight.

Primary 6 constructed towers to try out their theories about protection and put them into practice with an egg drop

challenge.

Younger children tried their hand at constructing dens, building tree swings and

creating new games for others to try out.



## Rainbow Room raises confidence.

In October 2019 we increased the opportunity to attend our

Nurturing classroom from 1 day to 2. Our nurturing classroom is named by our

Children, the Rainbow Room.

Children can come to our Rainbow Room in groups of 6

or less and work with Mrs Murray and Caroline.

Learners state that they are:

- Happy to come to school on the day they attend the Rainbow Room.
- More confident in noticing signs about their

feelings.

- Feeling more positive about themselves.

**“I love the Rainbow Room it is the best.”**

**Annabelle P3.**

## Playroom ready for fun.

This year Mrs Jamieson took over our Playroom and set it up for P1-P3 children to use over the week.

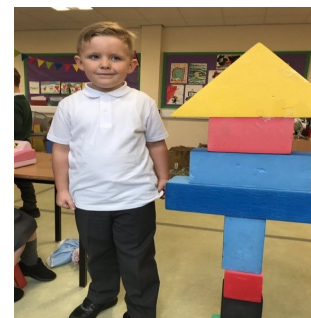
The activities were set out to give learners a chance to consolidate class learning, develop communication skills and enhance social skills.

Our Learners have really enjoyed the use of this new activity area and we have special requests from our

older children to give them time next year to become more involved.

Next session we will build up-

on the good work started and included older learners.



# Changes in the way we teach literacy.

This session we have focused on our teaching of literacy. As a staff we have engaged in high quality training and have come back to school keen to try out all the new ideas.

We have ensured that lessons include lots of activities to make you think, challenge yourself and to get your brain working well.

All of our teaching staff are now trained in Active Literacy Approaches and some are

also trained in using the Talk for Writing Approach. We will continue with our staff training programme next year as well.

From the changes in our approach to the teaching of writing we can see lots of improvements;

P1-91% expressed enjoyment of Talk for Writing lessons and 96% were able to retell a story using a story mat in the correct sequence.

P4-86% expressed satisfac-

tion when they completed a story and 71% reported they had started writing stories at home.

P7-76% expressed an interest and enjoyment in story writing and 87% stated that creating the success criteria as a group/class helped them to improve their writing.

Next year we are going to continue training teachers to use the Talk for Writing Approach.

## Talking Teams.

We have very strong pupil voice groups which lead changes across the school. Everyone in our school is part of a Talking Team which meets 6 times over the school year.

There are lots of different teams for learners to join

depending on their interests:

- Community Choir
- Rights Respecting School Team
- Fair Trade Team
- Outdoor Learning
- Sports Team

- Literacy Group
- Media Group
- Health & Wellbeing

Each of these groups leads change to improve our school and our community.

**"I like visiting the Old Folks Care Home to sing"**

**Sophia P7**

## Cost of the School Day.

This year we have been very aware of how expensive it is to attend school.

We had a parent focus group to look at changes which could help parents and schools work together. Our Pupil Council had lots of

practical suggestions as to how to have fun but not cost a lot of money.

We have changed the way we organize our school calendar to ensure that events which might cost money are spread out through out the year.

We have encouraged parents to buy non branded uniform and are having themed events where parents do not have to buy costumes or send donations into school.

We have written a Cost of the School Day policy and will adhere to it next session.

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### ***Our Values are;***

***R-reliable***

***E- enthusiastic***

***S-sharing***

***P-polite***

***E-effective***

***C-caring***

***T- team***

## Afterschool and lunchtime clubs.

In session 19/20 we saw an increase in the number of

children attending lunchtime clubs in comparison to after school activities.

In St John's we have a wide range of clubs for children to attend:

- Football
- Netball
- Tennis
- Karate
- Games Club

- Outdoor Play
- Dance
- Lego
- Choir

Due to increasing demands on parents we will take into account the requests to have more clubs running over lunchtimes and less at the end of the school day for next session.

### **Moving Forward–**

#### **Session 20/21 we will be working on-**

Keeping all users of St John's safe and secure by making new procedures for social distancing.

Continuing to build a culture of collaborative and professional learning across the school.

Continuing to develop active literacy teaching strategies in conjunction with SLC Literacy Coaches and adopt the Talk for Writing Approach.