

# THE FLORA STEVENSON PRIMARY SCHOOL



## School Improvement

August 2018 – June 2019

Information for Families

I am delighted to be able to reflect on our achievements from last year and inform you of our priorities for 2018 – 2019.

The combined strength of the Parent Council and Staff Team along with our valued relationship with the City of Edinburgh Music School, has ensured that our Improvement Plan has at its core our children.

I love being a part of the Flora's Family. As we move forward I would like to thank you for your support and encouragement and know that as we all work together we will ensure that every child matters and every child achieves.

Ms McGhee and everyone at Flora's

## FLORA FIGURES

We created a whole school approach to mental maths, Flora Figures! Our staff team worked collegiately to create planners, activities and home learning walls. Children have been encouraged to reflect on their learning and have been involved in self and peer evaluation. This has helped them know what they have learnt, what helped them learn and where they need to go next. We held an event for parents and carers (over 140 people came!) where the rationale for Flora Figures was explained and those who attended had the opportunity to visit classrooms and try out activities.

## IMPACT

- ✓ The percentage of children achieving their expected Curriculum for Excellence level has increased. In Primary 4 the number of children has gone up from 70% to 91%. In Primary 7 it has gone up from 56% to 89%
- ✓ Time for mental maths is protected
- ✓ Feedback has shown that parents are finding maths homework easier to manage

*'After the first block of Flora Figures I am already seeing a difference in the enthusiasm and engagement of my class. They are motivated and are enjoying the activities'* teacher

*'I'm impressed with the effort the school have made into making maths fun, this is a brilliant initiative and it was great to get such a good info session'* parent

## FREST START

We introduced Fresh Start a literacy intervention for P5 – P7 pupils. Our Support for Learning Teacher and two Pupil Support Assistants were trained and 51 children from p5-7 participated in sessions. Regular review and assessment took place.

## IMPACT

- ✓ Fresh Start assessments have shown progress. One child before the intervention had a score of 83 which leapt to 103, one child's score was 72 and is now 134
- ✓ There has been a significant improvement for children with English as an Additional Language
- ✓ Dedicated training for PSAs which has resulted in them feeling upskilled. They enjoy leading the sessions

*'When children first came they weren't willing to put their hand up and answer questions but once I had done it for five or six weeks the children were more eager to take part in the discussion whether they thought their answer was right or wrong'*

PSA

*'I feel a lot better about spelling and I think I have got better. It's good because we are in a small group and I feel ok asking for help'* pupil

## GROWTH MINDSET AND RESILIENCE

All class teachers engaged in professional dialogue based on Shirley Clarke's book *Growth Mindset, Every Child a Learner*. Class Teachers planned, delivered and evaluated agreed lessons with their own class. Teachers produced personal action plans and chose a focus area. This included teacher reflection and evaluative comments along with children's responses. Class teachers went in to one another's classrooms to share practice, share success and give advice. Our Building Resilience work has been embraced by children, staff and families. Work adorns the Hall of Happiness and children share their reflections as a class, as a stage and in assemblies. Children and staff are using language which encourages us to give it a go!

## OTHER KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

- ✓ Play therapists have been working with children
- ✓ Staff have been trained in using the CIRCLE document and Up, Up and Away. The resources help staff evaluate children's needs and how to address them
- ✓ Staff attended a conference with Bill Rogers. Staff are using more consistent language to promote positive behaviour.
- ✓ Weekly sessions run by the Centre for Peace and Justice for P3 and P4 pupils
- ✓ P6 pupils participated in sessions organised by the Children's Parliament
- ✓ In order to raise awareness of the life of the whole child, parents delivered sessions at our Inservice Day about supporting children with Additional Support Needs
- ✓ Our Parent Council were the first in Scotland to organise a screening of the film *Resilience*. Led by Suzanne Zeedyk the event was attended by over 150 people
- ✓ Working group of HT, Parent Council, pupils and class teachers identified elements of a good transition. This will be carried forward next session.

# At Flora's we matter At Flora's we achieve

Our School Improvement Plan for 2018 – 2019 is based on our school motto and we are being guided the Scottish Government's National Improvement Framework Priorities.

Our main priorities will include

## LITERACY & NUMERACY

- Dedicated Maths Master for 3 days a week focussing on support and challenge
- Continue with Flora Figures including producing a booklet on progression
- Continue with the Fresh Start programme and introduce Read, Write Inc for P3 and P4 pupils
- Focus on a whole school approach to Problem Solving
- Early Years focus on listening and talking through reading and re-reading

## NARROWING THE ATTAINMENT GAP

- Our Pupil Support Assistants have been trained in playbox, lego therapy group, emotion talks, talk and move and TIP (Therapy Inclusion Partnership)
- Employing play therapists to work individually with children
- Working with external organisations including Edinburgh Cyrenians, SHE Scotland and the Centre for Peace and Justice
- Early Years Practitioner developing outdoor learning in P1

## HEALTH & WELLBEING

- Continuing with our work on Developing a Whole School Voice
- Increasing pupil voice in learning including developing Learning Walls, Holistic Assessments, Using Make, Say, Write, Do to assess learning, and continuing our use of floorbooks and talking tubs
- Relaunching our school values with a focus on, we respect ourselves, others and learning
- In partnership with the Parent Council working toward being ACE aware (Adverse Childhood Experiences) and a Trauma Informed School
- Working with our Parent Council to launch and promote the use of the Solihull Approach so that every family and member of staff in the Flora's Family is aware of the resource
- Supporting new families and children when they join the Flora's Family

## DEVELOPING A YOUNG WORKFORCE

- Working with Cluster Colleagues to develop STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) from Nursery to P7
- All children from P1-P7 will be involved in a Flora's Forum