

ORCHARD COUNTY PRIMARY SCHOOL & NURSERY UNIT



ANNUAL REPORT OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS 2019/2020





Past and Invest in Our Future

ORCHARD COUNTY PRIMARY SCHOOL

To Treasure Our

Mrs J McMillan - PRINCIPAL

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Dear Parent/Guardian

I am delighted to present this copy of the Annual Report of the Board of Governors for Orchard Primary School for 2019-2020. Hopefully you will find this report interesting and informative.

This is a summary of the activities of Orchard County Primary School over the last academic year. Due to Covid-19, the school year was shortened and therefore the pupils were unable to participate in a number of the usual events.

The aim for Orchard County Primary School is to ensure that each child reaches their maximum potential in a caring environment, that pursues excellence in education. This was again achieved through the many activities and opportunities the pupils were provided with.

This report confirms that the entire school staff continue to work hard in preparing for and delivering the Statutory Curriculum within a caring and supportive atmosphere. The school's ongoing success in meeting those aims has again been underlined in the outstanding achievements. This has again been accomplished by the teamwork of pupils, parents, staff and Board of Governors.

We wish to express our sincere thanks to Mrs Kirkland who retired in June 2020. She was a dedicated classroom assistant at Orchard County PS for many years. We wish her well for her retirement.

The Board of Governors would also like to record their appreciation of the Parent Teacher Association which raises money for materials and equipment, as well as raising the profile of the school in the community. Last year they were able to purchase another Imex board for the P4/5 classroom.

I welcome comments and opinions from parents on this report and any other issue concerning the school and its pupils. If you wish to comment or seek clarification on this report or indeed any aspect of school life, please contact myself through the school office.

I commend this report to you and hopefully you will find it useful.

Yours faithfully,

K. Twyble

Kenneth Twyble

Chairperson to the Board of Governors

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS 2019-2020

Introduction

This report has been produced by the *Governors of Orchard County Primary School* and is a summary account of the work that we have undertaken in carrying out our responsibilities for the management of the school during the year 2019/20.

The OCPS Board of Governors

Chairperson

Mr K Twyble, Transferors' Representative

Vice Chairperson

Mrs J Clarke, Transferors' Representative

EA (Southern Region) Representatives

Mrs S Murphy

Mrs J Cherry

Transferors' Representatives

Mrs J Mullen

Mr R Dalzell

Parents' Representatives

Mrs C Davison

Mr D Bell

Teachers' Representative

Mrs M Davidson

Secretary and Non-Voting member

Mrs J McMillan

The *Governors* are usually required to meet for a minimum of three times a year. During the 2019/2020 academic year, the OCPS Board of Governors met only twice due all schools being closed mid-March, due to Covid-19.

The Role and Responsibility of the Board of Governors

The Governors are responsible for the overall management of the school including:

- The Curriculum
- Special Education Needs
- Assessment
- The school budget under the provisions of the Local Management of Schools arrangements.
- The school premises.
- The admission of pupils to the school.
- Child Protection
- Security and Personal Safety
- Management of staff
- Appointment of teachers and ancillary staff.
- PRSD
- Teachers' Salary Policy
- School policies.
- School inspections
- School holidays
- Annual Report
- Creating links with the local community and pursuing the objectives of Shared Education

Sub-Committees

Sub-committees have been formed to consider reports and to make proposals for consideration by the whole Board in the following areas of responsibility:

- Finance
- Recruitment
- Complaints

Final decisions are reached by the full Board of Governors. Overall responsibility for the day to day running of the school continues to rest with the Principal and she is also responsible for the monitoring of school spending and for advising the Board on any problems that may arise.

Board of Governor Training 2019-2020

Members of the Board of Governors have attended training on the following:

	TRAINING AND SUPPORT PROGRAMME
TERM 1	Mr K Twyble 20-11-19 The Safeguarding Role of the Chair and Designed Governor
TERM 2	Mrs M Davidson and Mr D Bell 04-03-20 Recruitment and Selection

SCHOOL ORGANISATION AND STAFFING 2019-2020

PRINCIPAL	Mrs McMillan
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CLASS	TEACHER	DAYS	NUMBER IN CLASS
Nursery	Mrs Kaestner	5 days	26
P1/P2	Mrs Davidson	Mon-Wed, Friday	30
	Mrs McCormack	Thurs	
P2/P3	Mrs Erwin	Mon-Thurs	30
	Mrs McCormack	Friday	
P4/P5	Mrs Neill	5 days	31
P5/P6	Mr Crawford	5 days	29
P6/7	Mrs Allen	Mon, Tues, Fri	31
	Miss Barnes	Wed, Thurs	
SEN Withdrawal Teacher	Mrs McCormack	Wed	

SECRETARY	CLASSROOM ASSISTANTS	SUPERVISORY ASSISTANTS
Mrs J McCluskey	Mrs W Barker *Miss D Leonard Mrs G Boyd *Mrs B Kirkland *Mrs J Beattie *Responsibility for individual SEN children	Miss D Leonard Mrs G Boyd Mrs M Mullen
NURSERY ASSISTANT	BUILDING SUPERVISOR	CLEANING STAFF
Mrs L McMahon	Mrs L Corrigan	Mrs M Mullen
UNIT CATERING SUPERVISOR		
Mrs C Martin		

EA Peripatetic Teacher for Music Support

Mr W McClean and Mr R Bothwell

EA Peripatetic Teacher for Literacy

Mrs F Mullen

Extra Curriculum Activities Offered by Staff		Extra-Curricular Support Offered by Outside Coaches	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hockey Netball Badminton Cross Country ICT Choir Technology 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ECO Guitar Cookery Knit & Knatter Science Club Board Games 	Mr J McIlravia	Rugby
		Mr M Tipton	Football
		Mr R Ballantine	Tennis
		Mr N Cruise	Guitar

SCHOOL HOURS

Nursery	8.50 am - 11.50 am
P1-P3	8.50 am - 1.50 pm
P4-P7	8.50 am - 2.50 pm
Break Time	10.30 am - 10.45 am
Lunch Time	12.10 pm - 1.00 pm

STAFF CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**Whole School Training**

All Staff	• Child Protection	28-08-19
	• RISE Speech and Language Training	18-11-19
	• G Suite Training	24-02-20
	• Collaborate Ultra Webinar	20-5-20, 8-6-20
	• Maths Problem Solving SE	
	• Izak9 training SE	

NON-TEACHING STAFF IN-SERVICE TRAINING

Assistant	Training Course Title	Training Course Start Date
Mrs McCluskey	• One School engagement Session	22-10-19
Mrs Beattie	• Epilepsy Training	17-10-19
Miss Leonard	• Autism and Positive Behaviour	22-10-19
	• Roots Of Empathy Workshop	28-2-20

TEACHING STAFF IN-SERVICE TRAINING

Teacher	Training Course Title	Training Course Date
Mrs McMillan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trauma Informed Course Positive Behaviour Policy Course One School Engagement Session Principals' Health and Well Being Conference C2K GSuite Training Internet Safety workshop C2K e Learning Conference Google Classroom 	24-09-19 07-10-19 & 21-10-19 22-10-19 24-10-19 21-11-19 10-02-20 03-03-20 31-3-20
Mrs Davidson	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SEN Course ASD & Anxiety SEN Code of Practice RISE Ready To Learn 	18-09-19 26-11-19 31-01-20 10-03-20
Mrs McCormack	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RISE Following instructions through movement 	11 & 25-11-19 ,5-12-19
Mrs Neill	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shared Education Online Collaboration SIMS Course (C2K) 	23-09-19 & 24-09-19 25-02-20
Mrs Erwin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> First Aid Course RISE- Ready to Learn 	07-10-19 & 15-10-19 10-3-19
Mr Crawford	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Forest Schools Course STEM Course ASD & Anger Course Autism and the Promotion of Positive Behaviour C2K e Learning Conference and STEM 	24-09-19 16-10-19 19-11-19 02-12-19 03-03-20
Miss Barnes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Epilepsy Training 	17-10-19
Mrs Kaestner	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Early Years Engagement event SDP Media Training Getting Ready to Learn Course Child Protection Course - DDT Sharing from the Start clusters ACE Developing Flourishing Preschools Webinar 	15-10-19 23-9-19, 2-12-19 & 3-12-19 10-03-20 12-03-20 16-9-19, 9-1-20 30-06-20
Mrs Allen	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> First Aid Course 	07-10-19 & 08-10-19

LIAISON WITH PARENTS

This school has an 'Open Door Policy' and encourages parents to take an active part in their child's education and school activities and events.

The school seeks to inform parents of school activities through Parent/Teacher Interviews in November and February, Individual Education Plans (as necessary throughout the year), Questionnaires, a September 'Meet the Teacher' Parents' Meeting, an Annual School Report - issued in June 2019, new parent induction days and other specific school events including Book Fairs, Coffee Morning and Sports Day.

The P7 parents were given guidance on the transfer procedure. Annual SEN reviews are conducted with parents, SENCO and relevant teachers.

PTA

This year the school asked the PTA to continue to help purchase replacement interactive panels for the classrooms. A great team of parents, staff and pupils enjoyed a year of fundraising activities, which included designing Christmas cards and mugs and creating memorable events such as a Glow Party. They had regular second hand uniform sales and clothing collections. The PTA continued to raise funds through Easy Fundraising shopping. We were very pleased that they raised a total profit of £1,219.48. This helped towards purchasing an Imex board in the P4/5 classroom.

The PTA had planned many other activities but due to the pandemic, and school closures, these did not happen.

The PTA continues to be a member of Parentkind and is still waiting to be called forward by the Charity Commission to formally register as a charity.

The PTA usually meets once a month and all parents, from nursery to P7 are very welcome to come along to meetings.

NEWSLETTER AND WEBSITE

The Orchard County Newsletters and school website continue to provide information which celebrates school achievement and prepares families for all activities.

Our school website, which was established with School Web Design for the main school and nursery, enables you to view pupils' class activities, these are regularly displayed. Information/forms/menus/letters are also available for parents.

The school app can be downloaded on to parents' devices to aid effective communication. Messages and emails can be sent directly to parents through the school website.

CROSS PHASE - LINKS WITH LOCAL SECONDARY SCHOOLS

Staff from local Secondary Schools visited the school and spoke to P7 pupils. P7 pupils also visited local Secondary Schools for a musical, activity based days and Open Nights.

DESTINATION OF SCHOOL LEAVERS

We had 23 P7 pupils transferring to 4 different post primary schools.

Clounagh JHS	17
Killicomaine JHS	3
Royal School Armagh	2
Royal School Dungannon	1

THE CURRICULUM

The Governors are confident that Orchard County Primary School continues to provide a safe, secure and stimulating learning environment and offers a great variety of learning opportunities suitable to the needs of each pupil. Staff expertise and resources are well utilised to assist each child as they strive to reach their maximum potential. Due to reduced government and EA finance, the staff attended fewer courses organised by RTU, CCEA, ETI, the EA and other agencies but they have still been able to keep up to date with the ongoing changes and developments within education via online training and Shared Education courses.

All classes have been involved in leading whole school assemblies and parents are very welcome to attend when their child's class is leading assembly.

The staff continues to engage in a range of strategies to support under achievers in both literacy and numeracy. Additional SEN support was again given both individually and in groups alongside Reading Partnership Sessions and Literacy support from a teacher within the EA's Literacy Peripatetic Service.

Due to the pandemic and the sudden school closure, the staff quickly upskilled and provided excellent remote learning. Staff provided remote learning from March to June. This was provided for all pupils, Nursery to P7 through Google Classroom and the Home Learning section of the school website. We had a whole school online Hot Chocolate Friday, an online sports day and P7 final assembly, to celebrate the achievements of the P7 pupils. The staff participated in online training and staff meetings.

ACHIEVEMENT

Academic progress has been maintained on every level and our reports reflect a school where the vast majority of children appreciate the importance of striving to always give their best. Our high level of good manners and respect for others has always been maintained and most importantly, both inside and outside the classroom, pupils have further developed the excellent name of Orchard County Primary School.

Standardised testing was postponed to the autumn term of 2020.

ETI PRIMARY INSPECTION 9th March 2020

Due to industrial action by the teaching unions, the school staff were advised not to participate in any ETI school inspection process. The inspectors were therefore unable to observe teaching in the classrooms. They were however invited to the whole school assembly and met with the Principal, the senior leadership team and Chairman of the BOG. The Safeguarding team agreed to cooperate with the Safeguarding aspect of the inspection only (like approximately 85% of NI schools).

The Leadership Team of the Designated Teacher, Mrs Davidson, the Principal, Mrs McMillan and the Chairman, Mr Twyble, met with the inspectors to present and discuss the ETI safeguarding proforma and their safeguarding responsibilities.

The parent, staff and pupil questionnaires were not distributed due to the industrial action.

A selected group of eight P6 pupils were chosen by the inspectors for a discussion about school life and safeguarding.

The inspectors reported back their findings to Principal and Designated Teacher.

The ETI thanked the leadership team of the Principal, Designated Teacher and Chairman for engaging with them and for providing the safeguarding proforma, policies and for allowing access to the P6 pupils. They explained that it was ETI's legal duty to carry out the safeguarding aspect of the inspection and that the outcomes would be limited due to the industrial action. They explained that they can only comment on the evidence at the time of inspection.

Key Findings

ETI reported that the P6 pupils spoke maturely and respectfully about school life. The children articulated their views confidently and were able to explain the skills they are developing through working with others in roles such as librarians, 'digital leaders' and members of the eco-committee and school councils. They talked about their important roles within school and how they contribute to the decision making within school.

The pupils were very positive about school life and stated that they were happy in school. They talked a lot about their friends from St Patrick's PS and spoke very positively about Shared Education. They also spoke positively about the wide range of extra-curricular activities offered to them in school.

They spoke positively about school and their learning. They highlighted their enjoyment of using information and communication technology to support their learning and they are well informed about how to stay safe online. They stated how school was a safe place and they were very aware of who they could speak to if they had a problem. They spoke positively about 'Hot Chocolate Friday' and how they could chat to Mrs McMillan at this time. They were very well informed about how to stay safe online.

Safeguarding- the ETI reported that the evidence provided (ETI Safeguarding Proforma, related policies and information file) reflects broadly the guidance from the Department of Education. ETI explained that this is the highest level possible without seeing the out workings of the safeguarding by observing pupils in the classroom. The report was published on the ETI website on 24th April 2020.

REVIEW OF THE YEAR

2019/20 has been a very busy year in the life of Orchard County. We have had great success in and out of the classroom again this year. As usual the children have had the opportunity to take part in a wide range of after school activities, hockey, netball, football, rugby, tennis, badminton, cross country, swimming, Eco club, cookery, choir, knitting, and guitar clubs.

We were involved in our third year of Shared Education with St Patricks and P7 you participated in a wide variety of fantastic activities and made a few new friends along the way.

We started our year with a brilliant coffee morning organised by these P7 pupils and raised an amazing amount, £660 for **MacMillan Cancer Care**. This is always so well supported and a great school and community event. Many of our visitors commented on the warm welcome they received from our P7s that morning.

In term 1 Mrs McCluskey trained the P5/6/7 pupils for the Flahavan's Primary Schools Cross Country League trials and she had a number of P7s who were so enthusiastic and represented our school so well.

In October we also enjoyed a brilliant Glow Party and the pupils and staff were all exhausted dancing the night away.

We had a great anti-bullying week and the children had some excellent discussions with their class.

Four of our P7 pupils worked very hard and sat the AQE transfer tests and achieved some amazing results. We were very proud of you and the effort and preparation that you put in.

In December we had a whole school Carol Service in the church. This was a lovely family evening and many of the pupils narrated and sang. It was an evening to remember. We also took the P7 group on tour to two residential care homes and the residents were delighted with the instrument playing and singing.

We also had a Christmas Jumper Day and raised £190 for Save the Children and had our annual Christmas dinner with lots of singing and fun. We also donated 97 filled shoeboxes to the Samaritan's Purse International appeal.

In January we planted crocus bulbs around the school grounds with the Rotary Club for the Purple for Polio appeal.

We also attended the P6/7 Clounagh Musical - Summer Holiday, this was fantastic.

In February we started our 'Hot Chocolate Fridays' and the pupils enjoyed coming and sitting on our new beanbags having a chat, some hot chocolate and a biscuit with your friends.

In February we had Safer Internet Day and pupils in each class were taught the online safety messages.

In March we had a fantastic Book Week with our annual book fair and earned £568 worth of books for our Accelerated book library. The pupils also dressed up on World Book Day and had some brilliant activities that week.

In March we also had the water bus visit school and P6/7 had a great Victorian Day.

Miss Leonard shared the Roots of Empathy programme with P4/5.

What a busy year we had but there were so many things that we didn't get to experience in the remainder of the year such as the Portadown Music Festival, the swimming gala, the Easter Bop, the many sports tournaments, sports day and of course our P7 residential to the Share Discovery Village.

School was closed on 20th March due to the pandemic. Teachers quickly reverted to remote/online learning through Google Classroom. Daily lessons were posted and work was returned, marked and feedback was given. The staff also made telephone calls to check in on their pupils and parents. SEN classroom assistants kept in regular contact with their pupils by telephone. As well as teaching remotely, the staff continued to provide supervision from March to June for children of key workers.

Throughout the year we reported to parents twice verbally and once in a written report.

NURSERY

2019/20 was another busy year in Orchard County Nursery Unit. The staff led parent information sessions through the Getting Ready to Learn Programme on sleep, attention, nutrition and screen time, speech, language and communication, behaviour and self-esteem, motor skills and sensory awareness

The nursery staff developed a Shared Education partnership with Apple Blossom playgroup through the Sharing from the Start programme. They developed a programme on diversity and inclusion through the use of puppets. Unfortunately, due to the school closure this programme did not get completed.

In term one, nursery pupils, parents and staff had a sponsored walk & refreshments in Peatlands Park to raise money for outdoor resources such as wheelbarrows, a digger, mud kitchen resources, natural fine motor resources, signage and music resources.

In November the nursery had a very well attended open evening. In December all the pupils took part in the Nursery Nativity production.

Throughout the year we were again very grateful for the parents who assisted with activities in nursery and accompanied pupils on their many visits to the train station and train journey, Armagh Planetarium, the library. They had many themed days throughout the year and welcomed visitors such as Debbie Doolittle's Wildlife, Debutots, CEF and Jo Jingles.

SHARED EDUCATION - The CASE Peace IV partnership with St Patrick's PS continued in its third year. All pupils from P1-P7 were involved. The pupils enjoyed many trips and we were able to purchase many new resources through the funding provided. The SE programme was not completed due to the early school closure caused by Covid-19.

Term 1 started with joint staff development training in mental maths and problem solving. Staff embedded this into their daily numeracy planning and lessons. The staff also received an afternoon of Izak9 training in October which developed other mental maths and problem solving ideas. In 2019/20 we had four projects running; P1-P3, P4/5, P5/6 and P6/7 and each project was given a day to plan together at the beginning of September for the year ahead.

Projects

P4/5 - World Around Us (Sept-Oct)

The P4/5 project used World Around Us as their specific subject area and looked closely at the theme of 'Apples'. The children from both schools enjoyed learning about the history of Armagh's Bramley apples and apple tasting as well as incorporating cross-curricular links of numeracy (data handling), art (replicating Paul Cezanne's fruit paintings), ICT (designing and completing a healthy eating campaign poster) and PDMU (The healthy plate). To complete their project, the children enjoyed an engaging and informative trip to the Palace Stables, Armagh for their 'Apple Week' celebrations.

The teachers used the money from this project to purchase ICT equipment for their classrooms which included ten 7" Lenovo Tablets, a wireless visualiser and a Logitech HD webcam. This was so the children could further enjoy collaborative learning and engagement through the use of modern technology - Google Classroom & Collaborate Ultra.

P1-3 - Literacy (Nov-Dec)

The P1-3 project focussed specifically on developing talking and listening skills through familiar tales and genre. Before the project commenced, the FS/KS1 staff met for RISE training; 'Developing Language skills in the classroom'.

The activities each week were varied, painting/drawing/drama/games/writing/DVDs etc. Attention and listening, following instructions and receptive language games were also incorporated into each session successfully. A range of fiction and nonfiction texts including big books and interactive stories provided the children with exposure to a variety of genres. Circle time was very successful in helping the children get to know each other better. Children were able to see their similarities and differences, likes and dislikes and became aware of the things they had in common. The children particularly enjoyed the Theatre Company performance and it provided excellent opportunities for developing communication skills. As part of the Literacy focus included a non-fiction element, a nurse was also invited in to talk to the children. The children worked in groups to decide on questions to ask her. This was an excellent lesson for the development of their communication skills.

After the project the teachers commented that the children's skills in listening and attention were developed considerably through the use of new resources- eg. Puppets, story sequencing puzzles and alphabet spots bought through funding. P1-3 also enhanced their outdoor play facilities by purchasing a pirate ship with funding from Shared Education.

P5/6 - World Around Us (Jan-Feb)

This project focused specifically on RMS Titanic. They began by building on the 2018/19 programme as both classes were involved last year, pupils were assigned into new groups and developed new friendships. Mixing is encouraged through icebreaker activities. A tour of each school was organised and the days were split evenly between both school settings. Activities were varied and included discussion, questioning, quizzes, practical experiments and discovery learning, art, craft, music, PE, WAU with coverage of Geography (our location, points of interest in journey of Titanic), Science (floating/sinking, temperature measurement of ice melting, effect of salt on ice, making ice-cream, properties of materials water, steel, waterproofing and protective coatings) and History (life in early 20th century considering travel, class system, occupations, education and communication). The emotional impact of the Titanic disaster was dealt with in group discussions and helped open minds to the way we behave in difficult and threatening situations and helped everyone to open up about fears and how they might react in such a challenge. The children enjoyed having W5 Science Show to Orchard County for one of their sessions, where they took part in science experiments together. After the face to face lessons, children then submitted projects that demonstrated an increased knowledge of the topic and the surrounding aspects, improved ICT and research skills.

From the funding, this project bought some more 7" Lenovo Tablets for their room and a Logitech HD webcam.

P6/7 - PDMU - Us in the World (Jan-Feb)

Both classes were first to take part in the programme 2 years ago so knew each other well, no need for so many ice breakers. The children had an opportunity to listen to and ask questions of people from 4 different job sectors and were able to complete activities based on sorting jobs into the Private and Public sectors. They developed their research and ICT skills by finding out about their best qualities and assets, helping them decide on a 'dream job'. They listened attentively to the advice of PSNI officer Sue Wright and worked in groups to create an internet safety board game. Lots of great ideas came from this session and it was a good opportunity for the children to show their creative side. The children enjoyed cross curricular links by taking part in a Maths Trail in OCPS and designed a SE Jenga tower with slogans associated with the lessons they had covered during the previous sessions. (Respect, sharing, integration, etc.). Children also enjoyed a mindfulness session from Relaxed Kids at OCPS.

Training

Mrs Kinsella (St. Patrick's) and Mrs Neill (OCPS) took part in G Suite and Collaborate Ultra training in September and November. This training proved very useful when the schools were closed due to Covid-19 as the co-ordinators had trained the rest of their teaching staff on the use of this technology and so it could be used for remote learning.

P6 teachers, Mr Crawford (OCPS) and Mrs Bradley (St. Patrick's) attended 'Developing Effective Sharing Through the Curriculum - STEM in the Primary School' course, in Stranmillis University College, Belfast in October and November. The course was directly related to aspects of their topic, 'Titanic'. This provided excellent support to plan and integrate ICT coding, Science experiments based on water, ice, floating, transport etc. and all appropriate for the age group of our programme. They were able to plan to integrate these new ideas, approaches and skills to their sessions and they were readily received with full participation.

The planned Investigative Maths, Outdoor Play, and Drama and Writing training did not happen.

SE Stage 2 Funding

During term 3 & term 1 2019 The numeracy co-ordinators of both schools completed a joint project on developing Numeracy throughout the school. The staff focused on reviewing the school policies. New numeracy resources were purchased also.

Nursery Shared Education - Sharing from the Start

The nursery staff developed a Shared Education partnership with Apple Blossom Playgroup through the Sharing from the Start programme. They developed a programme on diversity and inclusion through the use of puppets. The staff planned together. Unfortunately, due to the school closure this programme did not get completed.

SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Following a staff audit, a School Development Plan and detailed Action Plans for 2019-20 were discussed, agreed and presented to the Board of Governors. Link Governors met with subject co-ordinators as they shared their action plans for Year 3 of the School Development Plan to bring about improvements. The plan is amended during the three years to take account of the changing needs of the school. The focus for the year was:

Numeracy- to update the policy, develop the use of Numicon in KS1 and mental maths and problem solving and the use of izak9 in KS2.

Literacy-to promote reading through accelerated reader, book club, book fair, library van visits and World Book Day activities.

ICT- develop online collaboration, digital leaders.

WAU-link topics to the SE programme, develop outdoor activities for Foundation Stage

Health & Well Being- promote the daily mile, snack and chat Fridays, Health & Wellbeing champions, P4/5 Roots of Empathy programme. PASS testing with all pupils to help remove any barriers to learning.

Review the Positive Behaviour Policy.

SCHOOL POLICIES

The staff, in consultation with pupils, parents and governors have produced a wide range of pastoral care and curriculum policies that are suited to the needs of current legislation, good practice and the Revised Curriculum. This year the following policies were reviewed - Numeracy, Safeguarding, Attendance, Code of Conduct for Staff & Volunteers, Code of Conduct for Visitors, Critical Incidents, Complaints, Critical Incidents, Drugs policy, Educational Visits, Fire Safety update, First Aid & Administration of Medication, Teaching & Non-Teaching handbooks, Health & Safety, Use of Reasonable Force, Health & Well Being and Pastoral Care.

Governors, parents, pupils and school staff have been consulted on all of these.

SCHOOL COUNCIL

Two pupils from each class (P4-7) formed the School Council. They met on a number of occasions throughout the year. They discussed various issues and came up with ideas to improve school life for all pupils. They organised house prizes, researched and ordered new play equipment for break and lunchtimes, new bean bags for Hot Chocolate Fridays, new friendship benches for the MUGA. They met to discuss the new school core values and the review of the Positive Behaviour policy. They decided to partake in the shoe box appeal instead of receiving Secret Santa gifts.

School House Reward System

This year the House Reward System continued, based on a number of different challenges e.g. good manners, good work and behaviour. Pupils were able to earn tokens for their house and work towards a termly prize.

ASSESSMENT

Due to an ongoing dispute over assessment in Primary Schools, Teaching Unions have recommended that schools do not report levels to the Department of Education. Pupils' individual levels were not reported to parents of P4 and P7 pupils.

Pupils in P1 completed Baseline assessments, British Picture assessment and Language Link assessments. P3-P7 completed Standardised Assessments in reading, spelling and CAT (intelligent tests) during term one. Term 3 assessments did not take place due to the school closure. Parents were informed of the outcome of all assessments at the end of year written report. The majority of standard assessment was completed online. PASS testing was introduced for all pupils to assess the mind-set of pupils and help identify any obstacles impacting negatively on pupils' attainment.

ATTENDANCE

The school actively discourages parents from removing children from class during term-time and we acknowledge parental support in the school's excellent 95.4% attendance rate for Nursery to P7 for 2019/2020.

PUNCTUALITY

Punctuality continues to be good for the vast majority of children and we commend both parents and pupils for this. Unfortunately, there are a small number of pupils who regularly arrive late and this is not only detrimental to their own learning but also disrupts the education of others. Picking children up promptly at collection times is also essential to the smooth running of the school. Parental cooperation is greatly appreciated.

YEARLY CALENDAR

The 2019/2020 calendar was again action-packed and busy. The pupils have been provided with a wide variety of opportunities and experiences. Unfortunately, the school year ended on the 20th March 2020 due to the pandemic. The Governors wish to record their appreciation to the staff who provide these experiences for all pupils.

		Key Events and/or Visitors 2019/2020
AUGUST	29th	Beginning of Autumn Term
SEPTEMBER	6th	Student in for work experience in Nursery and KS1
	9th	Parents' Meeting P4/5 Tennis Presentation
	10th	P1-3 Shared Education Planning Day
	11th	P4/5 Shared Education Planning Day P1/2 Trip to Peatlands
	12th	P5-7 Shared Education Planning Day
	13th	Nursery Shared Education Planning Day
	16th	Extra-Curricular activities start Nursery Shared Education Planning Day
	19th	Health Visitor in Nursery PTA AGM
	20th	Speech Therapist in school
	23rd	P6/7 Assembly Shared Education Planning Day
	25th	P4/5 Shared Education GL Assessment Information
	27th	Macmillan Coffee Morning
OCTOBER	1st	Transfer meeting with Mrs Finlay
	2nd	P4/5 Shared Education Day Occupational Therapist in Nursery
	3rd	Fire & Rescue Talk to P5 Shared Education meeting Imex board fitted - P4/5 room RISE Meeting PTA Meeting
	4th	Cross country - Lurgan Park Windows 10 upgrade Alarm service
	9th	P4/5 Shared Education PTA Clothing collection
	11th	School census
	14th	Maths Week
	18th	P5-7 Shared Education Planning Day

	21 st	P5/6 Assembly Student in for work experience (3 days)
	21 st -25 th	Parent/Teacher Meetings
	23 rd	P4/5 Shared Education PTA Glow Party
	25 th	Nursery Trip to Peatlands
	28 th -31 st	Half Term
NOVEMBER	1 st	Half Term
	4 th	Opus Family and Individual Photographs
	6 th	P1-3 Shared Education Rotary Club - planting crocus bulbs
	7 th	BOG Meeting
	8 th	Christmas shoeboxes to be left into school
	9 th	AQE 1
	11 th - 15 th	Anti-Bullying Week
	13 th	P1-3 Shared Education Shoe Boxes collected Attendance Audit Open Evening
	14 th	P2/3 RISE NI programme
	15 th	Early Years Inclusion Service visit
	18 th	P1/2 Trip to Ranfurly House
	23 rd	AQE 2
	26 th	RISE N-P2 Parents' meeting Mackey eye care visit to P1/2
	27 th	P1-3 Shared Education
	28 th	RISE NI class programme
	29 th	Roots of Empathy Nursery trip to Portadown Train Station
	30 th	AQE 3
DECEMBER	2 nd	Cross country - Portadown Rugby Club
	3 rd	Autism Advisory & Intervention Service in school
	4 th	P1-3 Shared Education
	5 th	Nursery Trip to Planetarium RISE NI class programme
	6 th	Link Officer in school
	10 th	Carol Service - Annaghmore Parish
	11 th	Carol Service - Annaghmore Parish
	12 th	General Election - School closed
	16 th	Flu vaccine - whole school Choir singing at 2 Residential Care Homes
	17 th	Nursery Nativity
	18 th	Christmas jumper day and school Christmas dinner

	19 th	Party Day
	20 th	Last day of Autumn Term
	23 rd - 31 st	Christmas Holidays
JANUARY	1 st - 3 rd	Christmas Holidays
	6 th	Spring term begins
	7 th	Admissions open for Nursery and P1
	8 th	KJHS Vice Principal talk to P7
	9 th	P6/7 Swimming
	13 th	Dungannon Integrated talk to P7
	15 th	P5-7 Shared Education
	16 th	P6/7 Swimming
	20 th	Rotary Club in Assembly
	22 nd	P5-7 Shared Education Student in for work experience (3 days) PTA Clothing bank collection EPD Observation - MD & HB
	25 th	AQE Results
	27 th	P4/5 Assembly Ready to Learn Parents' training - RISE
	28 th	Literacy service in school
	29 th	P5-7 Shared Education
	30 th	P6/7 Swimming Admission close for Nursery and P1
	31 st	P6/P7 Clounagh JHS Musical
FEBRUARY	1 st	Nursery Health Visitor P2/3 Café opens for the week
	4 th	Nursery Health Visitor Nursery Shared Education meeting
	5 th	P2/3 Trip to Tayto P5-7 Shared Education
	6 th	P6/7 Swimming Nursery Shared Education PTA Meeting
	7 th	5 A-side football tournament Hot chocolate Fridays begin
	10 th - 14 th	Parent Teacher Meetings
	10 th	Wire Testing Nursery - Debutots
	11 th	Safer Internet Day
	13 th	P6/7 Swimming Nursery Trip to Library BOG Meeting
	14 th	Shared Education Meeting
	17 th - 21 st	Half Term

	25th	Pancake Day Jo Jingles in Nursery
	27th	P6/7 Swimming Nursery Shared Education
MARCH	2nd -6th	Book Week
	2nd	Nursery Superhero Day
	3rd	Book Fair Nursery Princess Day K'nex challenge
	4th	World Book Day Dress Up School council 12.10pm
	5th	P6/7 Swimming P6 Nursery reading to Nursery Water Bus - P4/5 Link Officer in school PTA Meeting
	9th	Inspection - ETI
	10th	Book Fair being collected
	11th	P6/7 Victorian Day
	12th	P6/7 Swimming
	17th	St Patrick's Day - Off School
	20th	School closes due to Covid 19

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

With the introduction of LMS (Local Management of Schools), each school receives an annual budget, which is largely based on the number of pupils attending the school, with other factors such as the number of free school meals and pupils with Special Educational Needs also being taken into account.

The LMS budget report covers the financial year from April to March.

Total school budget for the year 2019/20	£612,402
Total school expenditure for the year	£536,154
Total budget carry over April 2020	£ 76,248

Our school is in category 4 as it was predicted that we would need to access our surplus and will have a surplus balance at the end of the year.

SCHOOL FUND

School fund is generated from income such as donations from parents which are requested at the start of September which helps to assist the school with affiliations fees, supporting transport for school trips, whole school subscriptions to Mathletics, prizes, outdoor play equipment and additional resources for each classroom. This account is audited annually.

CHARITIES

1st SEPTEMBER 2019 - 31st AUGUST 2020

The School has been able to donate to the following charities	
Wings Appeal	£42.61
Macmillan Cancer Support	£660
Save the Children - Christmas Jumper Day	£190
Poppy Appeal	

ORCHARD COUNTY PRIMARY SCHOOL PTA 2019-2020

The school asked the PTA to continue to raise funds to help replace the interactive whiteboards in the school. We made good headway with the Textile Recycling Days, the children designing their own Christmas cards and mugs, another great Glow Party and earning money through the Easy Fundraising online shopping tracker. Unfortunately, the World Book Day Fireside Quiz was rudely interrupted by the global pandemic, which put a stop to our other fundraising plans too. We managed to raise £1276.05 in total and helped Santa gift each pupil a selection box (with help from ASDA and a very generous TESCO donation) and funded the purchase of the P7 Leavers' Ties.

The PTA has temporarily suspended being a member of Parentkind until we are up and running again and is still waiting to be called forward by the Charity Commission to formally register as a charity.

Financial Report for up to 31/08/2020, which has been independently examined by Mr David Bell:

ORCHARD COUNTY PRIMARY SCHOOL PTA 2019-2020

INCOME	£	EXPENDITURE	£
Opening Balance			
18.09.19	147.82		
Uniform Sale	17.00		
Textile Recycling	244.00		
Glow Party Income	663.00	Glow Party Expenses	148.00
Christmas Card and Mug Sales	971.75	Christmas Card and Mug Expenses	677.18
		Christmas Selection Boxes	82.49
Easy Fundraising Shopping	185.48		
Fireside Quiz			
Donations	20.00		
		P7 Leavers Ties	121.90
		Credit Balance 31.08.20	1,219.48
	<u>2,249.05</u>		<u>2,249.05</u>

USE OF BAKER DAYS/STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAYS 2019/2020

	Date	Key Focus for Development
1	22 nd August 2019	SEN Management
2	23 rd August 2019	Health Awareness Training
3	27 th August 2019	Shared Education Planning Day
4	28 th August 2019	Child Protection Annual Training
5	1 st July 2020	Data

Development Days (Exceptional Closures - Additional to Holidays)

	Date	Key Focus for Development
1	28 th October 2019	Izak9 and Numicon Training
2	17 th February 2020	ICT
3	18 th February 2020	Numeracy Policy and Planning
4	6 th April 2020	Literacy Policy and Planning
5	26 th May 2020	Assessment/Data - Postponed due to school closure

THANK YOU

The Governors wish to again record a very special thank you to the Principal, the Senior Managers and the excellent staff (both teaching and non-teaching) here in Orchard County. We are blessed with a committed, hard-working and dedicated staff. In everything they do, the children are considered first and we thank each and every one of them for their commitment to this school and for the support they continue to give to the Principal. A special thanks to the staff for the way they adapted their teaching this year and still maintained excellent contact with pupils and parents.

The Governors also sincerely thank the parents. They continue to support our staff efforts so enthusiastically and they have continued to listen and trust the staff with their children's education. Our pupils, parents, teachers and governors continue to work brilliantly as a team and this partnership will continue to develop as we aim to ensure each child is always happy and actively learning. We would like to sincerely thank the hardworking PTA who organise fund raising events to provide a necessary and major source of funding.

Finally, as usual the Governors wish to thank the most important group involved with school life - the children. We want to say a big thank you to them for listening to, their teachers and all of their helpers and giving their best throughout this difficult year. They all gave their very best and, most importantly, always respected our school staff and our school rules throughout the year. Without doubt, they have again done us, their parents and, most importantly, themselves proud throughout the 2019/2020 school year that was very different to the normal school year.
