



West Coats Primary School

Curriculum Update

October 2024

Dear Parents,

Staff at West Coats Primary School are continuing to develop and improve teaching, learning and assessment. We use the views of learners, inspection findings and current evidence to continuously improve the overall school experience for pupils. West Coats Primary School is working with The West Partnership 'Improving Our Schools' programme to support curriculum development.

This is the first quarterly curriculum update to share our progress with parents and partners. In this update you can find out more about:

- Teaching of Numeracy and Mathematics
- Masterclass approach to skills development
- Outdoor Play and Learning
- Positive Alternative Thinking Strategies (PATHS)

Teaching of Numeracy and Mathematics

During our recent inspection, Mrs Duff and His Majesty's Inspectors spoke with several children across all stages of the school about their experience of learning and teaching in numeracy and mathematics.

His Majesty's Inspectors observed learning and teaching and examined evidence, leading to the findings that:

- Children are ready to be more fully involved in setting targets for their learning.
- Teachers should plan learning that deepens and extends learning for those who are capable of achieving more.



This feedback is now being used alongside research to develop approaches to teaching and learning in this area. Next term, October - December 2024, some stages will pilot a model for teaching numeracy and mathematics that incorporates more flexible grouping and increased pupil involvement in setting their own targets for learning.

Some classes will work together and some classes will implement this model within their own classroom. We will evaluate this model in December 2024 using feedback from parents, pupils and staff. This will be used to identify next steps for January – March 2025.

Please contact the link member of the leadership team if you have any questions about this model (P1 – Kirsty Duff; P2-4 Shona Cameron; P5-7 Laura Miller).

Masterclass Model of Skills Development

This session we have improved the personalisation and choice of each learner's pathway through masterclasses. Each child has chosen six masterclasses that they would like to incorporate into their learning journey.

Masterclasses provide an opportunity for learners to develop a wide range of transferable skills including communication and collaboration, problem solving, creativity and digital skills. The skills children develop through masterclasses are tracked as part of wider achievement and participation.

Each child will complete their choice of six masterclasses this school session. Each masterclass runs from 2.15-3pm on a Wednesday afternoon.

P1-3 masterclasses include singing and performance, chess, Spanish, hockey, sign language, construction, dominoes, gymnastics, dance, gardening and arts and crafts.

P4-7 masterclasses include problem solving, yoga, first aid, coding, hair braiding, origami, fitness, running, debating, card games, woodwork, calligraphy, indoor curling, Italian café, clay, experimental science and dance.



Outdoor Play and Learning (OPAL)

We are working in partnership with Play Scotland and Outdoor Play and Learning (OPAL). OPAL aims to ensure every child has an amazing playtime every day.

The programme is designed to develop play opportunities in a strategic and sustainable way. We aim to ensure all children have access to a wide range of developmentally appropriate play opportunities in the school grounds. The resources available promote curiosity and creativity, encourage children to negotiate and problem solve and to lead their own learning outdoors.



Mr Tom Hamilton (Acting Principal Teacher) will lead this aspect of school improvement.

Positive Alternative Thinking Strategies (PATHS)

We have adopted a whole school approach to promote emotional and social wellbeing through the PATHS programme. PATHS dovetails with masterclasses and OPAL by supporting learners to develop skills in self control, emotional

understanding, relationships with others and interpersonal problem solving skills.

Children participate in PATHS lessons with learners from their year group. Everyone takes part in PATHS at 1.20pm on a Wednesday afternoon.



Please do not hesitate to contact the school to discuss any aspect of your child's learning journey or school improvement.