

15 May 2017



Dear Parent / Carer

### **Pupil Equity Funding**

Thank you for your responses to our request for suggestions in relation to the Pupil Equity Funding. This funding will enable targeted interventions to close the poverty related attainment gap.

A number of you identified a nurture class in a dedicated, resourced space. The school is currently involved in Education Scotland's Primary Nurturing Approaches pilot. This work means Onthank is ideally placed to provide targeted nurture intervention in the context of a whole school nurturing environment. The additional funding has enabled this plan to be extended to include a Nurture room which will be resourced with a nurture teacher and learning support assistant. An early childhood practitioner will also be appointed to support early intervention and nurture in the earlier stages.

The work that has been taking place in P7 with Relax Kids will be extended to other stages next session. This, along with the appointment of a young person's mentor, will support positive mental health and equip pupils with strategies to develop resilience and relaxation. In addition to this, as part of the Scottish Attainment Challenge, a Homelink worker has now been appointed to support families in the James Hamilton Education Group. A principal teacher will also be appointed with the remit to co-ordinate and oversee this initiative.

In addition to Nurture resources, assessment materials will be purchased to ensure there is systematic tracking of attainment. This will provide information required to measure progress in raising attainment and identify areas requiring additional support and challenge.

Literacy resources will also be purchased to build on the substantial spending that has been made on reading texts this session. Our successful bid for a grant from Kilmarnock Rotary Club (KRC), enabled us to buy a selection of books for pupils involved in overpaired reading support from KRC. We have also had financial support from Ashleigh Scot Ltd and Hub South West which funded the purchase of a substantial selection of reading books.

The Pupil Council are working with their classes to identify resources, including library books (titles and authors) which will be purchased using School Funds. Outdoor learning resources are also a priority for investment.

The Gaelic Pupil Equity Fund will enable family learning by visiting and taking part in the MOD for the first time. Onthank Gaelic Department is celebrating it's 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary in September, so a celebration of Gaelic learning and literacy will be taking place and this will include books for the enjoyment of reading.

Yours sincerely

Mrs K McCartney  
Head Teacher