

HAMILTONSBAWN PRIMARY SCHOOL

ANNUAL GOVERNORS' REPORT

2014-15

Dear Parent

I am pleased to have this opportunity to present to you the Governors' Report for 2014-15 for Hamiltonsbawn Primary School. It is our intention that you should be kept informed about school activities and this report is one of a number of ways in which this information will be provided. Don't forget to also visit our new school website at: www.hamiltonsbawnps.com which is updated weekly.

The report can only be a *snapshot* of what goes on in the school, but nevertheless gives something of the flavour of the excellent work undertaken by Mrs Hunter and newly appointed Principal - Mr. Hutchinson (from 1st November) and all the staff. The school continues to very effectively meet the educational and pastoral needs of all the children and continues to engage in the latest technology having recently purchased I-Pads and new Numeracy scheme to develop more specific and 'active' learning.

Page 7 sets out the In-service courses attended by staff during the year thereby ensuring that our methods of delivering the curriculum are relevant and up- to-date. Pages 8-12 set out the achievements attained by the school during the year and also gives some indication of the variety of work undertaken. Pages 13-14 set out the extra-curricular activities undertaken by the staff and external coaches for the benefit of the children and I would stress that this is over and above the normal curriculum requirements and is much to the credit and enthusiasm of the teaching staff.

Please take a few moments to browse through the report and should you have any queries please contact Mr. Hutchinson or myself and we will be happy to arrange a meeting.

Yours faithfully

Rev. N. Hughes
Chairman

***HAMILTONSBAWN PRIMARY SCHOOL
BOARD OF GOVERNORS***

List of School Governors 2014-2018

Board Representative

Mr Wilson Greer

Mr William Parr

Parent Rep

Mrs Gina McCall

Mrs Dawn Park

Principal

Mr Derek Hutchinson

Teacher Rep

Mrs Karen Hunter

Transferors

Mr Andrew Johnston

Rev. Neville Hughes

Mrs Elizabeth Andrews

Mr Colin Kerr

Chairperson: *Rev. Neville Hughes*

Vice Chairperson : *Mr Colin Kerr*

Secretary: *Mr D Hutchinson*

What are their main responsibilities?

The Governors are ultimately responsible for the overall management of the school.

Some of their duties include:

1. The oversight of the curriculum.
2. The control of the budget (Shared responsibility with Education Authority Southern Region)
3. The provision of information to parents
4. The selection of staff.
5. The maintenance of the premises (Shared responsibility with Education Authority Southern Region)
6. The Admissions Policy.
7. Fostering links with the local community and pursuing the objectives of mutual understanding.

The Board of Governors are required to meet 3 times in the year, but in the year under review the full Board of Governors met 4 times and the Sub Committees met 3 times.

The Board of Governors are pleased to note that the school continues to grow in what it offers its children, maintains high educational standards and plays an increasingly significant role in the life of our community.

We congratulate the teaching and ancillary staff for their continued work and put on record our sincere thanks for their efforts on the children's behalf.

The Board of Governors are aware of the excellent staff relationships which contribute to an effective teamwork. They are delighted that the pupils in Hamiltonsbawn are receiving a first class education and are being given every opportunity to grow educationally, socially and spiritually in a happy and harmonious atmosphere.

STAFFING COMPLEMENT 2014-15

Teaching Complement

Mr. D. Hutchinson	Principal
Mrs. K. Hunter	V. Principal
Mrs. J. Johnston	Assistant Teacher
Mrs. C. McIlwaine	Special Needs/Principal Release/Job Share (1 day)
Mrs. L. Megaw	Job Share (4 days)
Mrs. L. Kelso	Assistant Teacher (Maternity Leave)
Mrs E. Morton	Assistant Teacher

Ancillary Staff

Mrs. V. McCann	Secretary
Mrs. N. Dougan	Classroom Assistant (Primary 2/3) Lunchtime Supervisory Assistant
Mrs. O. Robinson	Classroom Assistant (Primary 1/2) Lunchtime Supervisory Assistant
Mrs. P. Hutton	Special Educational Needs Classroom/Domestic Assist.
Mrs. Pauline Stockdale	Building Supervisor
Mrs. J. Muldrew	Crossing Patrol
Mrs. B. Irwin	Cook-in-Charge
Mrs. L. Walker	Kitchen Assistant

Pupils' Annual Attendance Rate.

Attendance at the school was very good. The average attendance for the year 2014/15 was **97.9%**. The school is delighted to inform parents that our attendance rate is exceptionally high. This obviously reflects the commitment parents and children have to the school and on the good relationships established between teachers and pupils.

The 2014-15 Academic Year proved to be a very busy and exciting year in the life and overall development of our school.

THE CURRICULUM

Under the Education Reform Order the responsibility of Governors for the curriculum has been increased. The day to day organisation of the curriculum remains the Principal's responsibility.

It is our responsibility to ensure that a broad and balanced learning experience is provided for all pupils. To this end the school has implemented the statutory requirements of the Northern Ireland Revised Curriculum. The N.I. Curriculum is now in place for all age groups with basic training being completed.

The Special Educational Needs Policy was implemented once again during the 2014/15 academic year. Children's needs were identified as early as Primary 1 and their names entered on the S.E.N. register. Individual Education Plans were drawn up for children who were having difficulty with Literacy and Numeracy and Mrs. McIlwaine worked with individual/small groups of children.

At the end of June trophies and awards were presented for academic achievement and endeavour. Runners up received medals and certificates. Achievement and Endeavour certificates continue to be awarded monthly to Foundation Stage, Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2. Certificates are also presented to children who achieve specific levels in ALTA (numeracy support programme) and Lexia (Literacy support programme)

The N.I. Curriculum is being implemented in every classroom.

The primary phase of the N.I. curriculum comprises:-

The Foundation Stage	Years 1 and 2
Key Stage 1	Years 3 and 4
Key Stage 2	Years 5 - 7

The curriculum for the three Key Stages is set out in six areas of learning comprising:-

1. The Arts (including art and design, music and opportunities to incorporate drama).
2. Language and Literacy (including talking and listening, reading and writing and opportunities to incorporate drama). Schools are also encouraged to teach additional languages.
3. Mathematics and Numeracy (focusing on the development of mathematical concepts and numeracy across the curriculum)
4. Personal Development (focusing on the development of emotional development, learning to learn, health relationships and sexuality education, understanding in the local and global community.
5. Physical Education (focusing on the development of knowledge, skills and understanding through play and a range of physical activities.
6. The World Around Us (focusing on the development of skills and knowledge in geography, history and science and technology).

Although the curriculum areas are set out separately, teachers should, where appropriate, integrate learning across the six areas to make relevant connections for children. Teachers have considerable flexibility to select from within the curricular areas those aspects they consider appropriate to the ability and interests of the pupils.

It is important that parents remember that the N.I. Curriculum is a skill based curriculum and are kept informed of all further changes and implications for the children.

During the 2014/15 Academic Year, parents have been kept informed of any changes with regard to the N.I. Curriculum, Transfer Procedures. The formation of the long anticipated Education Skills Authority (ESA) took place from April 2015.



In-Service Courses Attended 2014-15

Staff Member	Courses Attended	Date of Course
Whole Staff	Child Protection Training	5-01-15
Mr Hutchinson	Principals' Dissemination of Good Practice	3-03-15
	Computer Based Assessment (CBAs)	22-06-15
	ETI Principals' Meeting In Stranmillis College	5-03-15
	Video conferencing/partner school	21-04-15
	Sims Assessment Manager overview	21-04-15
	Introduction to I-Pads (AMMA Centre)	22-05-15
	UTU Leadership Conference	20-11-14
	School Development Planning – Clounagh Centre	13-05-15
Mrs. Hunter	Foundation Stage Cluster Meeting	19-05-15
	Child Protection Refresher Training	11-11-14
	Sims Assessment Manager	21-04-15
	Introduction to I-Pads (AMMA Centre)	22-05-15
Mrs. Johnston	Sims Assessment Manager	21-04-15
	CPD Project - Literacy	27-04-15
	CPD Project – Literacy Cluster in MHS	27-05-15
	Introduction to I-Pads (AMMA Centre)	22-05-15
Mrs. Megaw	WAU Cluster and Whole Day Training	19-11-14
	Primary STEM Project Dissemination Day	20-01-15
	Introduction to I-Pads (AMMA Centre)	22-05-15
	Sims Assessment Manager (C2k)	21-04-15
	WAU Cluster in Armagh TC	18-05-15
Mrs. McIlwaine	SENCO Cluster Meeting	3-01-15
	Q Skills and SEN Framework	18-03-15
	Introduction to I-Pads (AMMA Centre)	22-05-15
	Sims Assessment Manager (C2k)	21-04-15
Mrs. McCann	Overview for Census Return	2-10-14
	Admission and Generation of SELB Admission Forms Overview	10-12-14
Mrs Morton	Active Learning	18-11-14
	EPD	2-01-15 & 3-01-15
Mrs. Hutton	Introduction To I-Pads (AMMA Centre)	22-05-15
Mrs Robinson	Introduction To I-Pads (AMMA Centre)	

ASSESSMENT/REPORTING 2014-15 ***(and up to date information)***

In Years 1 to 7 teachers must assess children's progress in the Areas of Learning and in Thinking Skills and Personal Capabilities. During 2014-15 all schools have used the Levels of Progression to assess the Cross Curricular Skills in Year 3-7.

The Cross Curricular Skills are

Communication (Talking and Listening, Reading, Writing):- your child's ability to use language skills effectively in English and in all areas of the curriculum and in everyday situations.

Using Mathematics:- the child's ability to use and apply their knowledge and understanding of mathematics throughout the curriculum and in everyday situations.

Using ICT (Information and Communications Technology), - the child's ability to handle and communicate information, solve problems and ask questions, through using ICT in different contexts across the curriculum. However, a letter from the Minister of Education (May 2015) stated that UICT would remain non-statutory until the 2016-17 Academic Year.

The Cross Curricular Skills are important as they will help the children become independent and lifelong learners.

The Levels of Progression are a framework of assessment criteria that teachers use to assess the child's progression in the Cross Curricular Skills.

They are a series of statements that describe what pupils can do; and these range from Level 1 statement to Level 5 statements applicable to primary school (Level 5 the highest), and describe the knowledge, understanding and skills the child needs to demonstrate to achieve each level.

Teachers have used the Levels of Progression to make a judgement about the level the child has achieved at the end of Key Stage 1 and 2 (in Years 4 and 7) in Communication and Using Mathematics.

Teachers will use their judgement of their knowledge of the child and ongoing assessment information and the child's overall performance in a number of planned assessment activities or tasks.

The ‘expected level’ is the level that most children should achieve by the end of a Key Stage. At the end of Key Stage 1, the expected level is Level 2. At the end of Key Stage 2, the expected level is Level 4. *Most children* should progress at least one level between the end of Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2.

There is a moderation process to ensure that standards are applied consistently across all schools, so that you can have confidence in teacher’s judgements. This began in 2012/2013 on a voluntary basis and it has involved teachers working together to agree and set standards within the school but an external check of samples of pupils work that teachers assessed *was not carried out* due to Industrial Action by all Teacher Unions.

During 2014-15 Moderation in Mathematics and Communication was completed within school and internally moderated by Co-ordinators and Principal. CCEA has the responsibility for managing the external moderation process which did not take place due to Industrial Action by all Teacher Unions.

The new Levels place a greater emphasis on pupil’s skills rather than knowledge and understanding only. Because of this focus on skills, the new levels are ***more challenging*** for children. This will mean there will be a difference between the level an older child achieved following the old criteria and the level the child achieved in 2014-15.

REPORTING THE CHILD’S PROGRESS IN THE CROSS CURRICULAR SKILLS

Year 1 and 2 – comments on the child’s progress in Communication, Using Mathematics and Using ICT

Years 3,5 and 6 – comments on the child’s progress in Communication, Using Mathematics and Using ICT based on the Levels of Progression

Years 4 and 7 – comments on the child’s progress in Communication, Using Mathematics and Using ICT based on the Levels of Progression, plus the level the child achieved in Communication and Using Mathematics (and Using ICT from 2014-15).

NINA and NILA, a Numeracy and Literacy Computer Based Test were not carried out during the Autumn term due to their being so many technical problems the previous year (not statutory). These will be considered in 2015-16 if significant technical issues have been resolved by CCEA.

ACHIEVEMENTS/ACTIVITIES DURING THE 2014-15 YEAR

The staff and children worked extremely hard during the year and the following are some of their achievements:-

In December the whole school were involved in a Carol Service held in Mullabrack Parish Church. The Carol Service was a huge success, enjoyed by many parents and friends. All the children worked very hard making a significant contribution to its success.

Poetry Week

Primary 5-7 children went to the Navan Centre to take part in Poetry Week. It was based around the Armagh Rail Disaster. Some amazing poetry was written when we returned to school. Sam Hutchinson (P6) and Leila Graham (P6) were School Winners.

Eco-Schools

Having been awarded a prestigious Eco-Schools Green Flag by the environment charity TIDY Northern Ireland, the Eco Club set to work towards their 2nd Eco-Schools Green Flag over the next 2 years. The Eco-Schools Programme is the world's largest Environment Education programme and aims to make environmental awareness and action an essential part of the life and ethos of a school.

The internationally recognised Green Flag is the highest award given to Eco-Schools and symbolises excellence in the field of environmental activity.

Special Needs

Reading Partnership, took place in the first and second terms of school this year during September to December and from January to March. Children worked with Olive and Paula, our classroom assistants, over a period of ten weeks for three 15 minute sessions per week. Parents of the children involved also worked at home to complete the reading involved and this supported the work carried out in school. The children's reading age was tested before reading partnership began and after the programme was completed. The reading age of all of the children involved increased considerably. Reading Partnership is a very valuable programme and the children's significant increase in their reading age reflects this.

Paired Reading evening was delivered by Mrs McIlwaine and Mr. Hutchinson for all P4 Parents. Those parents who attended agreed to work with their child through the 8 week programme with all children showing significant reading progress when assessed before and after the initiative.

Lexia is our literacy support computer programme that is completed during class time. There are children working on Lexia from Primary 2 right up through the school completing tasks to progress through the levels they are working on. Children are working on Lexia on a daily basis in school.

Alta Maths is our numeracy support computer programme that is also completed during class. Alta Maths supports children from Primary 4 with their Numeracy. Children complete a test at the end of each level. Alta Maths continues to benefit children who have been identified as needing numeracy support.

School Choirs

During the Autumn Term the Senior Choir took part in our Harvest Assembly.

Then preparations began for the Christmas celebrations. We participated in the Carol service at Drumminis Church on Sunday evening, 14th December. The Senior Choir visited the Hamilton Care Home in Armagh on Friday 5th December, Mullabrack Young At Heart Group, Hebron House in Hamiltonsbawn and also sang in Tesco's Portadown on 18th December.

During the Spring Term both choirs prepared for Portadown Festival, both winning their categories overall, a fantastic achievement!

In the Summer Term we prepared for our Spring Concert on Wednesday 3rd June, with Senior and Infant Choirs, P1/4 children and P5/7 children, piano, brass and Musical Theatre groups taking part and enjoyed by parents and friends. This was a celebration of all musical activities in school throughout the year and raised just over £1000 which was used to purchase 10 new I-Pads.

Staffing

Clara Wilson continues to teach Music Theatre and piano and Mrs. Kenny from the Education Authority (Southern Region) Music Service continues to provide Brass Tuition.

Mr Millie, new principals PRSD Advisor visited school and introduced himself to Mr. Hutchinson and PRSD Governors, agreeing targets for the current academic year.

As with all schools, the Board of Governors must operate within a delegated budget and as a result, we were very sorry to say goodbye to one of our teachers, Mrs Kelso. However we were delighted that she has taken up a full-time teaching position close to her home in Cookstown Primary School from September 2015. We wish her every success and thank her for her dedication in Hamiltonsbawn Primary School.

Child Protection

Our annual Child Protection and Health Awareness week took place on Monday 13th October to Friday 17th October 2014. Every morning the children were served with a healthy breakfast and our sincere thanks to all our sponsors, J.D Hunters, Irwin's Bakery, Chapman's and Tesco's, for providing the different healthy produce.

All new volunteers have gone through the Access N.I. vetting process.

The Annual Jumble Sale took place in the Autumn Term and the proceeds helped pay for new Science and Technology resources.

An Open Evening/Supper with Santa was held on 3rd December 2014 and this was very well attended. Mr. Hutchinson spoke to prospective parents twice during the evening and these were well received and attended. Our Santa's Grotto was creatively transformed from a classroom into a magical wonderland and was booked out with every slot in the afternoon full. Santa was excellent and chatted with every child who came to visit, with each child receiving a gift from Santa and a beautiful coloured photograph of their visit the following week. The Christmas Fare was a whole school effort that raised **£535** (an amazing total) and all in school were delighted with the support from the local community.

The Annual Book Fair took place in January and was a great success. The total amount raised was £720 and we were able to spend 50% of this amount on books for our class library.

Charities Supported in 2014/15

Wings Appeal, The Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal, Cedar Stamps, Shoe Boxes for Romania, NSPCC, Childline and Southern Area Hospice and money raised was forwarded to these very worthy causes.

This year, instead of receiving Christmas presents from pupils, the staff invited parents to make a donation to the Northern Ireland Cancer Fund for Children. **£350** was received. Thank you all for your generosity to this worthy cause, your giving will make a difference and will help to support many children and their families at such a difficult time.



EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES DURING 2014-15 YEAR

The Senior and Infant Choirs met weekly in preparation for various school functions, activities and competitions throughout the year.

Christine Russell has been in school throughout the course of the year coaching pupils from P1-7 in hockey. Children are progressing well and have been working towards their Stick Star awards from P4-7. During the summer term the Primary 1 and 2 children were introduced to early hockey skills. After school hockey from P5-7 took place during the year.

There have been various football tournaments this year. A number of girls only 5-a-side tournaments at the Orchard Leisure Centre, Armagh and mixed gender tournaments - Tandragee Christmas Cup, Christian Aid 5-a-side, The Cope PS, Drumhillery PS, St. Joseph's PS, Killylea P.S. tournaments and of course our own football tournament which was held at Richill Recreational Centre with 10 teams participating. The winners of the Hemmingway Cup were Bleary Primary School. A mixture of boys and girls from P4-P7 represented our school at the various tournaments and thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

The IFA have sponsored a football coach for P1-P3 children, to come into school one day per week to focus on the fundamental skills of football. All the children are progressing well.

The Netball Tournament took place on the 5th June with many small schools attending. The winner this year was Churchill Primary School

The P6 and P7 children worked with Dave Wiggins from SUSTRANS to participate in Bikeability training. This involved an element of cycling safely on local roads and led to the achievement of a Bronze Level Award. Cycling Proficiency also took place during the Spring Term for the P. 7 children with Mrs McIlwaine. The Primary 7s worked very hard to complete their cycling training and worked hard in the playground with their bicycles to complete the training for this life long skill.

Good News Club met in the Autumn Term.

Literacy/Numeracy Support began in January and continued until May.

ECO Schools ran all year with a group of P6 children worked with Mrs Morton achieving their goals on their Action Plan.

Football, ICT, Choir and Arts Clubs took place with a wide variety of Active Community Coaches also visiting to coach Hip Hop Dance, Badminton and Tennis.

School Council - Organised various non-uniform themed days, a jumble sale, a table quiz evening and Fun Night during the year.

Road Safety News – Road Safety is continually taught throughout the school using the road safety calendar and our pupils featured on this year's calendars for 2015. Other road safety booklets and resources were also used. May was active travel month where children and parents were encouraged to walk, scoot or cycle to school. Every Wednesday morning, teachers met pupils at the local shop to walk to school in high visibility vests. Walk to School Week also took place during this month and a very high percentage of our pupils supported this week by walking and received prizes.

Sports Day took place on 23rd June, with ALL pupils travelling to Richill Recreation Centre to participate. Everyone had a great day participating in the events and the pupils were well supported by parents and family.



EDUCATIONAL VISITS DURING 2014-15 YEAR

The children went on a number of educational trips during the 2014-15 academic year.

Primary 1-2	Autumn Walk to Gosford Forest Park
Primary 2	Trip to Chapman's Farm Fresh
Primary 5-7	National Poetry Week – Navan Centre
Primary 4-7	Members of the Senior Choir travelled and sang at Tesco's, Christmas Tree Lights in Hamiltonsbawn, Druminnis Carol Service and to Armagh Care Home, Hebron House Nursing Home, Hamiltonsbawn and Mullabrack Young at Heart meeting.
Primary 5-7	Travelled to Markethill High School to see, "Practically Perfect"
Primary 1-2	Visit to Tesco's, Meadows Portadown 'Food To Fork'
Primary 1-7	Christmas Outing to the Cinema.
Primary 6	Markethill High School/Royal School, Armagh and City of Armagh High School Activity Days
Primary 7	Transfer Children attend Markethill High School in June for Tests
Primary 6/7	Residential to Shannaghmore
P3-7	Swimming Lessons at Armagh Swimming Pool on Mondays & Fridays
P7	Travelled to Palace Stables 'Be Safe'
P4-7	Tall Ship Workshop and visit to W5, Belfast
P7	Love For Life, Lisnadill P.S.
P1-P3	Fort Evergreen, Warrenpoint



VISITORS TO THE SCHOOL

The School Nurse visited the school to see Primary 1 children and a selection of other children throughout the school.

Canon Hughes, Rev. McKnight, Rev. Finlay, John Hewitt, Captain David Williamson and Mr. Cecil Rodgers were regular visitors at our morning assembly.

Mr Colin Tinsley held a week long Bible Club during March.

A Portadown Fire Brigade Officer gave an interesting talk to the P5 children.

Santa Claus arrived at the Infant Christmas Party and older children enjoyed a disco in the evening.

Mr. James Maxwell, Markethill High School, Mr. David Cunningham, City of Armagh High School and a representative from Dungannon Integrated College spoke to the Primary 7 children prior to their Open Evenings.

Jeannie Graham worked with the P5-7s for a six week period. They considered being assertive, respectful and being able to say 'no' within situations where drugs, alcohol or cigarettes are being offered.

Eleanor Jones from Pearson visited school to introduce the Heinemann Active Maths resources which were later purchased.

We also purchased generic construction resources from Cathy Smith of ELS.

Adrian from C2k visited to deliver teacher training in the area of Assessment Manager and how teachers can enter and track pupils progress.

Mr. Johnston a first year Stranmillis student spent 3 weeks in Primary 2/3 and 3 weeks in P6/7 completing his School Based Work during the Spring Term. We also had the pleasure of Miss Emma Dalzell for a week in June as she completed her PGCE.

Chantelle McCullough, Chloe Gowing and Jessica Rowland, past pupils of Hamiltonsbawn Primary School spent 1 week on work experience from 15th-

19th June. They worked really hard getting lots of experience and helping with the end of year clean up.

Roots of Empathy – A Roots of Empathy instructor, attended school regularly from October to June and worked with the P3/4 children. The children were taught how to care for small babies, e.g. safety, teething, sleeping, etc. Essie and her mummy visited the school for the ROE sessions and the children have watched her development closely. A Celebration Day took place in June.

Harvest – For our Harvest Assembly in October 2014 the P6/7 class performed. George Ballentine was present and shoeboxes were donated for ‘Noeleen’s Helping Hands Markethill’ charity.

Christmas – Santa visited the Junior Christmas Party in December. The pupils enjoyed the seasonal party and disco respectively. Our Carol Service was received well and Mullabrack Church was full on 10th December. The choir performed at the turning on of the Christmas tree lights in Hamiltonsbawn, Druminnis Carol Service, Hamilton Court and Hebron House Care Home and Tesco’s Portadown.

Mr Millie, new principals PRSD Advisor visited school and introduced himself to Mr. Hutchinson and PRSD Governors.

Piano Lessons – Piano lessons have continued with Clara during the school day. The children have been making good progress and some have been entered for London College of Music Exams. Clara has continued with her Music Theatre Tuition.

RE Inspection – The RE Inspection took place on Tuesday 2nd June when Captain David Williamson, Canon Hughes, Rev McKnight, John Hewitt and Rev Finlay were present. The whole school sang, The Primary 4s led us in prayers and the Senior Choir lead the music. The ministers then visited the classrooms. Everyone had an enjoyable morning.

The Educational Welfare Officer attended to review children’s attendance and other welfare issues.

OPUS Photography attended school to take the children’s photographs. Educational Psychologist and Psychology Assistant visited the school during

the year to use screening tests with some children.

New Primary 1 Parents and children visited school at Christmas time to see Santa, and then later in the year in preparation for starting school in September 2015.

Education Welfare Officer, Marie McClelland spoke to the Primary 7 children on Transition from Primary to Secondary School 'Moving On, Moving Up'.

Gareth and Lindsay Gwynne from CEF Ministries attended the P1-3 and P4-7

Peripatetic Teacher William Hanna attended school during the spring/summer term to give advice and to teach individual children.

Bawn Bunnies Playgroup – The Playgroup opened in September with 16 children and 20 in January 2015 under the Leadership of Miss Dawn Latham, her deputy leaders and lots of hard work behind the scenes from the committee, especially Mrs Andrews (Chairperson), Mrs Hunter (Vice Principal) and Mrs Megaw (Secretary) for taking the lead, and for all their efforts during the year.

Play park – The much anticipated new play park was officially opened on 14th October. A great morning of celebration was had by all who attended, including representatives from SELB and Armagh City and District Council.

SCHOOL LIAISON

Links between the school and the parents were actively promoted during the year. A number of special events were held during the year and the parents were invited. These are regarded by parents as a useful means of communication and were extremely well supported

Parent/teacher interviews were held in October providing parents with an opportunity to discuss their children's progress in the school. In February there was a further opportunity for parents to meet with teachers if they wished. An annual report is issued in June to all parents. All of this provides a useful indication for the parents on their children's progress.

Communication with parents is on-going during the year by letters the children bring home and in the continuation of the 'Hamiltonsbawn Herald', providing information for parents and keeping them informed of the activities in school.

A new website has been launched (February 2015) providing much information for parents www.hamiltonsbawnps.com. It's popularity and usage figures continue to grow as teachers all contribute to it now and keep the calendar up-to-date. It also features many local businesses and recently is also able to host videos. A school Facebook Page has also been setup containing notices and news (no photographs as these are featured only on the school website).

PREMISES

Minor works were carried out during the year, in line with Health and Safety requirements.

Fire Safety – All equipment was checked and serviced. Hall doors were repaired to allow them to close automatically.

A new vinyl floor surface was put in resource area.

Alterations were made to gates to playground of PLAYGROUP.

On-going problems with surplus water at rear of school still being investigated by SELB.

Fence erected between school and neighbours house. Kerbing and tarmacking laid.

Electrical appliance testing was carried out.

Heavy doors were highlighted and adjusted accordingly to allow children to open these more easily.

Summary of End of Key Stage Assessments

It is not possible to include end of Key Stage Assessment data in our Governor's Report due to:

1. On-going industrial action by schools supported by the main Teaching Unions;
2. Specific guidance from the main teaching unions advising schools against the publication of any Key Stage data;
3. The fact that there is no benchmarking data available from DE on which to compare *our pupils* performance with the Northern Ireland percentage.

