

HAMILTONSBAWN PRIMARY SCHOOL

ANNUAL GOVERNORS' REPORT

2015-16

Dear Parent

I am pleased to have this opportunity to present to you the Governors' Report for 2015-16 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 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 our Principal - Mr. Hutchinson, Vice Principal – Mrs Hunter 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, deploying I-Pads and availing of external support to enhance specific and 'active' learning. The school also invited former and current school choir members to perform as part of a concert with Belfast Community Gospel Choir (BCGC) in Mullabrack Parish Church, which was a huge success!

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 5 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 2015-16

Teaching Compliment

Mr. D. Hutchinson	Principal and P4/5 Teacher
Mrs. K. Hunter	V. Principal and P1/2 Teacher
Mrs. J. Johnston	Assistant Teacher – P6/7
Mrs. C. McIlwaine	Special Needs/Principal Release/Job Share (1 day)
Mrs. L. Megaw	Job Share (4 days) – P3/4

Ancillary Staff

Mrs. V. McCann	Secretary
Mrs. N. Dougan	Classroom Assistant (Primary 3/4) – Maternity Leave
Mrs. O. Robinson	Classroom Assistant (Primary 1/2) Lunchtime Supervisory Assistant
Mrs. P. Hutton	Special Educational Needs Classroom/Domestic Assist. Lunchtime Supervisory Assistant
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 2015-16 was **95%**. 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 2015-16 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 2015/16 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 2015/16 Academic Year, parents have been kept informed of any changes with regard to the N.I. Curriculum, Transfer Procedures. The Education Skills Authority (ESA) is now operational and replaces the former Education and Library Boards.

In-Service Courses Attended 2015-16

Staff Member	Courses Attended	Date of Course
Whole Staff	Active Maths Training Cluster	26/9/15 and 28/9/15
	SEN Overview by Mary Loughran	21/9/15
	REIM E-Safety Evening	10/2/16
	I-Teach Training	18/2/16 & 7/4/16
Mr Hutchinson	C2k E-Learning Partnership Programme	7/10/15
	E-Safety Resource Pack Launch	9/11/15
	Centralised Health Awareness Training for Schools	8/2/16
	Principal Child Protection Training	1/3/16
	Cross-Cultural Music Programme – St. Mary’s, Tassagh	10/3/16
	Go Google Roadshow – Armagh CH	6/5/16
Mrs. Hunter	Foundation Stage Cluster Meeting	16/5/16
Mrs. Johnston	CPD Literacy/Numeracy Project with Markethill H.S. and other local Primary Schools.	28/9/15, 7/10/15, 8/10/15, 9/10/15, 9/11/15
Mrs. Megaw	CBA Training in Clounagh	21/9/15
	Behavioural Support Course - Newry	25/2/16
Mrs. McIlwaine	SENCO Cluster Meeting - Dungannon	19/11/15
	Creative Use of Digital Media (AMMA Centre)	30/9/15 & 1/10/15,
	Creative Use of Digital Media (in school with AMMA Support)	3/11/15 & 4/11/15
Mrs. McCann	C2k House Keeping and Maintenance Course	24/11/15

ASSESSMENT/REPORTING 2015-16 ***(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 2015-16 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, UICT remains 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 2015-16 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 2015-16.

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 2016-17).

ACHIEVEMENTS/ACTIVITIES DURING THE 2015-16 YEAR

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

In September, the current and some former school choir members met to rehearse for the Belfast Community Gospel Choir concert held in Mullabrack Parish Church. The concert was a huge success, enjoyed by many parents and friends from the wider community. Mr. Hutchinson, Mrs Hunter and the choir worked very hard making a significant contribution to the evening.

In September the School Pupil Council held their first event, organising a Jumble Sale for all the pupils, raising a fantastic £230.

October saw our now annual Book Fair arrive in school. Our pupils always enjoy this opportunity to purchase new reading materials and helped raise £260 of new reading books through their participation. Thanks to our parents who supported this worthwhile initiative.

December saw the whole school involved in the production of, 'Straw and Order' held in Mullabrack Parish Church. The cast were fantastic and all children were involved, working very hard to make a significant contribution to its success.

Poetry Week

Primary 5-7 children went to the Navan Centre to take part in Poetry Week. Some amazing poetry was written when we returned to school. Lloyd Holmes (P6) and Leila Graham (P7) were School Winners. This was also Leila's second year in succession winning a prize.

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. Some of their highlights included constructing a recycled Greenhouse from plastic bottles to grow tomatoes and installing raised beds to grow a variety of vegetables. These were served in the school Meals kitchen, donated to the local Bawn Pantry Coffee Shop and sold during a Community Eco Sale raising £70.

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 BCGC Concert and Harvest Assembly.

Then preparations began for the Christmas celebrations. We participated in the Carol service at Drumminis Church on Sunday evening, 13th December. The Senior Choir visited the Hamilton Care Home in Armagh on Friday 11th December and also sang in Tesco's Portadown on 17th December.

During the Spring Term both choirs prepared for Portadown Festival, with the Junior Choir placed second in their category and the Senior Choir winning their category overall for the ninth consecutive year, a fantastic achievement!

The Senior choir also had the privilege of performing to a large audience at the Education Authority Music Services Concert in Lismore Comprehensive.

In the Summer Term we prepared for our Spring Concert on 17th May, 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 £800 which was used to purchase new play and classroom resources for the new Term.

In March, the ABC Council invited our P6/7 pupils to participate in a cross-cultural music programme at St. Mary's, Tassagh. The children thoroughly enjoyed watching and joining in various dances from around the World such as Japan and Romania.

Staffing

Clara Wilson continues to teach Music Theatre and piano. Also congratulations to Clara on the birth of her first child. We look forward to welcoming her back in the New Year! Also to Mrs. Kenny from the Education Authority Music Services who continues to provide Brass Tuition.

Mr Millie, (Principal PRSD Advisor) visited school to meet and plan with Mr. Hutchinson and PRSD Governors, agreeing targets for the current academic year.

Child Protection

Our annual Child Protection and Health Awareness week took place on Monday 19th October to Friday 23rd October 2015. Every morning the children were served with a healthy breakfast and our sincere thanks to all our sponsors, J.D Hunters and Irwin's Bakery, for providing the different healthy produce.

An Open Evening/Supper with Santa was held on 25th November 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 evening 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.

Charities Supported in 2015/16

Wings Appeal, The Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal, Cedar Stamps, Shoe Boxes for Romania, NSPCC, Southern Area Hospice and Action Cancer 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 Southern Area Hospice for Children, raising almost £400. 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 2015-16 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 the Kilcluney 3G facility with 9 teams participating. The winners of the Burns Shield were Mullaglass Primary School. A mixture of boys and girls from P4-P7 represented our school at the various tournaments and thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

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

The Summer Term also saw the introduction of Galaxy Coaching who delivered a 6 week athletics programme. This also prepared our Key Stage 2 pupils well for the Olympics event held at Markethill High School, organised by Markethill Primary School. They took part in 100m, 200m, relays, bean bag throwing, long jump, triple jump and cross country events. Many of our pupils returned to school having achieved ribbons to mark their successes.

The final 4 weeks of the Summer Term saw the introduction of Cricket with the visit of a pro from Armagh Cricket Club to put the children through their paces. Again this proved a very successful activity and was enjoyed by all participants.

The P6 and P7 children worked with Dave Wiggins from SUSTRANS to participate in Bikeability training throughout the year. This involved an element of cycling safely on local roads as well as other whole school initiatives which encourage our pupils and community to walk, scoot or cycle to and from school and will hopefully go towards achieving Silver Level Status next year. 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 P5/6 children and worked with Mr. Hutchinson 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.

Mr. Hutchinson and Jamie from the AMMA Centre held a series of After School Workshops based on The Battle of the Somme. These involved Primary 7 pupils and a parent or grandparent using I-Pads and Art to design and programme a game on an App called Sketch Nation. These digital games were then added to the Internet for other children to play and evaluate. A great experience, one we hope to develop further next year!

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

Road Safety News – Road Safety is continually taught throughout the school using the road safety calendars. 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 15th 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.

One of the highlights of the 2015-16 year was the P6/7 Residential to Edinburgh with Cope Primary School from 31st May to 3rd June. The children did so much over a short space of time visiting attractions such as Edinburgh

Castle, Motherwell Butterfly Farm and Insect World, Ibrox Football Stadium and M & D's theme Park. This is a trip they will certainly never forget! Thanks to Mr. Hutchinson, Mrs Megaw and Mrs Johnston for giving up their time to accompany and keep the children safe during this residential experience.



Race For Life Event held in Gosford Forest Park raising £1500 for Action Cancer



EDUCATIONAL VISITS DURING 2015-16 YEAR

The children went on a number of educational trips during the 2015-16 academic year.

- Primary 1-3 Autumn Walk to Gosford Forest Park
- Primary 2 Trip to Irwin's Bakery, Portadown
- 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 Hamilton Court Care Home.
- Primary 5-7 Travelled to Markethill Courthouse to see, "Peter Pan"
- Primary 1-2 Visit to Tesco's, Meadows Portadown 'Farm 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 Edinburgh (4 days)
- P3-7 Swimming Lessons at Armagh Swimming Pool on Mondays & Thursdays
- P7 'Love For Life' programme in Moyallon P.S.
- P4-5 Parkaneur Forest to meet Spires Integrated (Partner school) and engage in team building activities.
- 'House' Prize Trip to The People's Park, Portadown. (Below Christmas House Challenge)



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, Naomi, the Gwyne family 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. Livingstone, 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.

Adrian from C2k visited to setup marking and report writing templates so teachers could continue to track pupil's progress.

Megan Cochrane, a fourth year Stranmillis student spent 3 weeks in Primary 1/2 and 3 weeks in P4/5 completing her School Based Work during the Spring Term.

Bobby Armstrong spent a few afternoons with Mrs Hunter's class to gain some work experience for her course in Newry High School.

Mike Reardon and Alderman Jim Speers (see picture below) met the KS2 pupils to receive their concerns about the lack of Sports facilities within the village. Mr. Hutchinson and Wilson Greer met with Gerard Houlahan and the ABC Council to discuss possible ways forward regarding such a facility on the old park site.



Harvest – For our Harvest Assembly in October 2015 the P4/5 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 Christmas Production of ‘Straw and Order’ was well supported with Mullabrack Church Hall full. The choir performed at the turning on of the Christmas tree lights in Hamiltonsbawn, Druminnis Carol Service, Hamilton Court and Tesco’s Portadown.

Mr Millie, principals PRSD Advisor visited school and worked with 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 24th May when, Canon Hughes, Rev McKnight and Rev Finlay were present. The whole school sang, The Primary 5’s led us in prayers and the Senior Choir lead the music. The ministers then visited the classrooms. Everyone had an enjoyable morning.

Archbishop Richard Clark and Canon Hughes visited school on 11th March to meet the pupils and speak with them in Assembly.

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 2016.

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

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.

Jane Dalgeity from Behavioural Support visited school a number of times throughout the year providing guidance and support for staff dealing with specific situations.

The ACE Team visited school to work with some specific children and also offered a programme to our P2/3 pupils on 'Managing our Emotions'.

Bawn Bunnies Playgroup – The Playgroup opened in September with 16 children and 20 in January 2016 under the guidance of their leaders and lots of hard work behind the scenes from the committee, especially Mrs Andrews (Chairperson), Mrs Hunter (Vice Chair) and Mrs Megaw (Secretary) for taking the lead, and for all their efforts during the year.

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 November, 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 was 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 through the School website and text service, providing information for parents and keeping them informed of the activities in school.

The school website is proving to be a valuable tool in keeping parents updated www.hamiltonsbawnps.com. Its 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. Limited photos are placed on this so as not to take the audience away from 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.

Rear playground was resurfaced and we await new line markings.

On-going problems with surplus water at rear of school were finally resolved with piping and manhole drainage installed.

Electrical appliance testing was carried out.

Shelving of P.E. Store.

Industrial Clean of Bawn Bunnies classroom and resources area.

Erection of new paper towel dispensers and installation of hot water tap and external cold tap.

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 accurately.

