17 November 2026

Dear Parent/Carer

In September 2026, a team of HM Inspectors of Education visited Onthank Primary School. During our visit, we talked to parents/carers and children and worked closely with the headteacher and staff.

The inspection team found the following strengths in the school's work.

- School leaders and staff build positive relationships with children with children's rights central to their work. This is supporting a calm school environment and is allowing children to access their learning with little disruption. Children feel safe and supported well and are valued members of the school community.
- Staff are developing purposeful, high-quality learning environments that foster children's ownership, pride, inclusion and motivation to learn. Children are proud that their work is displayed across the school. This helps children take ownership of their classrooms and shared spaces.
- Children develop their skills effectively through a wide range of school activities and leadership opportunities, which they value highly. They develop a broad range of skills that help them develop confidence as leaders, promote children's rights, experience success in sports and contribute to school improvement.
- School leaders and staff understanding the context of the school and the needs of the children and families within its community. They work together to develop useful approaches to promoting equity. This is a positive feature of the school.

The following areas for improvement were identified and discussed with the headteacher and a representative from East Ayrshire Council.

- Across the school, teachers should make sure learning is matched more closely to each child's individual needs. This should help children build on what they already know and make the best possible progress in their learning.
- School leaders should continue to use information about children's progress in literacy to identify groups of children who need extra support. This should help more children improve their literacy skills and achieve higher standards.

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We gathered evidence to enable us to evaluate the school's work using two quality indicators from How good is our school (4th edition). Quality indicators help schools, local authorities and inspectors to judge what is working well and what needs to be improved. Following the inspection of each school, the Scottish Government gathers details of our evaluations to keep track of how well Scottish schools are doing.

Here are HMIE's evaluations for Onthank Primary School

Quality indicators	Evaluation
Learning, teaching and assessment	**good**
Raising attainment and achievement	**good**
Descriptions of the evaluations are available from: How good is our school (4th edition) Appendix 3: The six-point scale	

A more detailed document called Summarised Inspection Findings (SIF) will be available on the HMIE website at:
Onthank Primary School | Inspection Report | His Majesty's Inspectorate of Education in Scotland

What happens next?

We are confident that the school has the capacity to continue to improve and so we will make no more visits in connection with this inspection. East Ayrshire Council will inform parents/carers about the school's progress as part of its arrangements for reporting on the quality of its schools.

David McKellar
HM Inspector

On behalf of His Majesty's Chief Inspector of Education in Scotland

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