27 October 2026

Dear Parent/Carer

In August 2026, a team of HM Inspectors of Education visited James Aiton 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.

- Led by the highly effective headteacher and principal teacher, all staff work collaboratively to create a calm, respectful and supportive ethos. Children demonstrate a strong sense of belonging and pride in their school. They are motivated, confident, and treat each other with kindness and respect, reflecting the school's ethos in their daily interactions.

- Equity is firmly embedded within the school's values, culture and daily practice. Staff know children and families very well and work effectively to support children to engage, achieve and succeed.

- Staff use data very effectively to monitor children's progress and identify those requiring additional support. They implement highly effective strategies and targeted interventions to close gaps in learning. These approaches are having a significant and positive impact, leading to improved levels of attainment in literacy and numeracy across the school.

- Staff demonstrate a strong commitment to highly relevant professional learning, for example in numeracy and literacy recovery, enhancing children's engagement, progress and success.

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

- Senior leaders and staff should ensure that feedback consistently supports children to recognise their strengths and next steps. This will help children to make the best possible progress in their learning.

- Teachers should help children identify, discuss and apply their skills confidently across all areas of learning. This will help children recognise their strengths, make connections across their learning and apply their skills more confidently in new and unfamiliar contexts.

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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 James Aiton Primary School

Quality indicators	Evaluation
Learning, teaching and assessment	**very good**
Raising attainment and achievement	**very 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:
James Aiton 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. South Lanarkshire Council will inform parents/carers about the school's progress as part of its arrangements for reporting on the quality of its schools.

Lorraine Shaw
HM Inspector

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

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