I am very pleased to deliver this head teacher report on what has been a very successful year at so many levels in Saint Vincent’s Primary. In the true spirit of encouraging pupil voice and developing leadership, I have invited two of our senior pupil councillors Harvey and Ethan to join me in giving their views on key aspects of our school. I also hope that their attendance at the parent Council will help foster existing links between the pupil and parent council. To begin let me outline some of the key changes in school resources and organisation since our last AGM. This year we have provided a summary document of key messages entitled “Looking Back to Look forward” which will also be available on the school website.

**School Organisation and Resources**

* Current Roll is 315 in 12 classes ( increased by 21 since this time last year )
* Staffing Changes : Appointed Depute Head , 2 new permanent class teachers ,1 Area cover teachers, 2 NQT’s and continued with our 2 job share Principal teachers
* Current Support staff 8 from 11 last year reflecting the identified change in pupil need.
* Re-design of two open spaces into two classrooms
* 2 C touch boards (one of which was sponsored by the Parent Council Race Night )
* Introduction of new resources. Numeracy, Reading , Health and Wellbeing

**Looking back to move forward**

A key priority in improvement plan for 2015/16 and over the next two years was to develop a progressive and challenging curriculum that would develop pupil knowledge and skill**s.** We want to inspire learners, transform learning and build community and raise attainment. This year we began by focusing on literacy. We have also continued to work on Health and Wellbeing so that we get it right for every child. A real high point in our school year was the very successful interdisciplinary whole school project “Our Fragile Earth” where we were one of two schools selected by the Cultural Co-ordinator team in South Lanarkshire to work with Paul Gorman from Hidden Giants .This project involved our children as leaders in their own learning and promoted creativity throughout our entire school community. This project culminated in a Showcase attended by over 100 parents and as many visitors from other schools and provided concrete evidence of the impact on our pupils. They shared their learning with a panel of “experts” and also with the assessors during our Scottish Teacher of the year assessment visit we aim to build on the success of this project and further develop creativity, innovation and ensure that our Improvement Plan continues to make definite improvements to learning. We will continue to develop the Catholic ethos of our school, working in partnership with Fr Ivan and Saint Vincent’s parish and the many other agencies and organisations in our local community and beyond.

**Learning in Saint Vincent’s**

Last year I reported on the exciting developments in Numeracy and in Science arising from the first year of the school’s involvement in the Rolls Royce Science prize as our pupils was led by Miss Timmons and her team to reach for the stars! I am delighted to say that this great work continued throughout the past year and extended to all classes with very exciting learning experiences and so many families enjoying the opportunity for stargazing and all the enriched learning opportunities that being the only UK finalists in this prestigious Science prize has afforded to our school.

In Saint Vincent’s primary pupils in all classes are encouraged to learn in a variety of ways; learning independently, in pairs and in groups. Pupils are encouraged to be actively involved in their learning and to act on feedback from their teachers and peers to make improvements in their learning. Many classes have engaged with outside agencies and made focused visits to a variety of different events and locations to animate and support learning.We are committed to continuous improvement. The development of our assessment proceduresis a particular priority for this school year**.** As you may know the Scottish Government will be publishing attainment data on every school during the coming year. Currently teachers across the learning community are working together to agree standards and as a staff this is a priority for us this session.

**Partnership Working**

We continue to develop close partnerships with parents, parish, and local schools within our Learning Community and also with local non-denominational schools, representatives from other churches and faiths, as well as foster business, sporting and other links with the wider community to enhance learning. We are grateful to the many volunteers who help support learning and teaching in our school e.g. Scotland Reads ,Granbuddies , Young Engineers ,Chess ,Hymn Singing , Credit Union, SyQuest and also to outside agencies who provide sporting opportunities for our children . Our children have taken part successfully in a number of competitions including Athletics and Football and I am very grateful to all who provide extra -curricular clubs in our school. Achievement has continued to be recognised and celebrated within classrooms, at weekly assemblies and we plan to extend this to monthly celebrations of wider achievement. We want to encourage a “can do” attitude and we continually focus on all our school values and in particular the value of resilience, teaching children to bounce back. We welcomed some very inspirational speakers to assemblies who epitomised this value in their lives having overcome huge challenges. Through Enterprise Education all classes take part in activities to develop skills for life, work and are given many opportunities for learning in real life contexts. Every class plan and present at least one charity/enterprise event of their choice with a particular focus on the Christmas Fare. Next week 12 of our Primary 7 pupils who have applied for the position of Enterprise Leaders accompanied by Mrs Farrell will attend a business lunch in Saint Andrew’s and Saint Bride’s.

Master classes on Friday afternoons are now well established and have proved to be a very successful initiative in motivating and incentivising our pupils to give of their best. They provide the chance to try new interests as well as reward good behaviour. Skills for learning, life and work are developed while working with pupils across the stages. .The school continues to show its responsibility towards others in its charity work which has a particular focus during Lent and our continued support of the children we have sponsored through our school charity Mothers’ care India.

**Sharing the learning**

Pupils have enjoyed sharing their learning with parents and the wider community. This year we had an Open afternoon at the beginning of term as well as a very successful consultative meeting to share our plans with our parent body .The school website has regular updates on what is happening in classes and throughout the school and I welcome the recent launch of the Parent Council face book page. Updates on the Rolls Royce project were also provided through “Twitter” Special events such as Nativity, Parents’ Evenings and presentations at Coffee Mornings, our very successful Choral concert at Christmas, other choral performances including the Lanarkshire Orchestral evening and the celebration of success evening at summer,P1 Mother’s Day Assembly, Sacramental celebrations were especially memorable occasions. As in previous years our Young Engineers showcased their learning at a Scotland wide event in Glasgow in June.

A highlight of the school year was our great delight when our very own Miss Timmons won Scottish Teacher of the year 2016. Danielle was first to acknowledge the support of staff, pupils and the entire community of Saint Vincent’s. The assessor visits allowed us to showcase the work of our school at its very best. On behalf of all of us we wish Danielle every success when she represents Scotland at the UK teacher of the year in October.

**Thanks**

I want to conclude by acknowledging the hard work and commitment of a very dedicated and hardworking staff who work tirelessly to ensure the pupils receive a high quality education in a Catholic school where Christ is at the centre of all we do. I also want to thank the many parents, and members of our wider community who support us .Very sincere thanks to all the pupils, staff parents /carers and all the members of Saint Vincent’s parish and the wider community for their efforts in making the past year another very productive and happy year in Saint Vincent’s Primary .