



## In the West Partnership: Family Learning and Parental Engagement

**We set up an online learning blog for parents, sharing a number of learning initiatives including literacy, numeracy and health and wellbeing.**

**What was your aim?** To reach out to all parents and families regardless of work commitments or personal time constraints to show how they can support their children's learning and raise pupil attainment.

To allow parents access to high quality online resources to give them insight as to methodologies and practices used within Moorfoot Primary School classrooms.

### Method



Following low uptake in attendance at parental workshops and limited impact of such workshops, we discussed other ways of sharing learning with our stakeholders. It appeared parents were embracing and making good use of our school website. Consideration was given to "workshop videos" being a possible way to reach out to a greater number of parents.

We started initially with a "Finger Gym" video led by our nursery class and posted on our new learning blog. Feedback was positive. Our next venture was a follow up to our Primary 1 Induction Day whereby we shared early phonics and numeracy strategies. At this point our project began gaining momentum. Staff were excited to be involved and began to volunteer areas of the curriculum in which they could be filmed. We also sought feedback from our parents through our weekly newsletter return, Forms and formal/informal discussions. The project well and truly took off and we continue to update depending on demand and requests from parents, pupils and teachers.

We do not have elaborate equipment. We use personal phones and simply delete videos once they have been uploaded to avoid any GDPR issues.

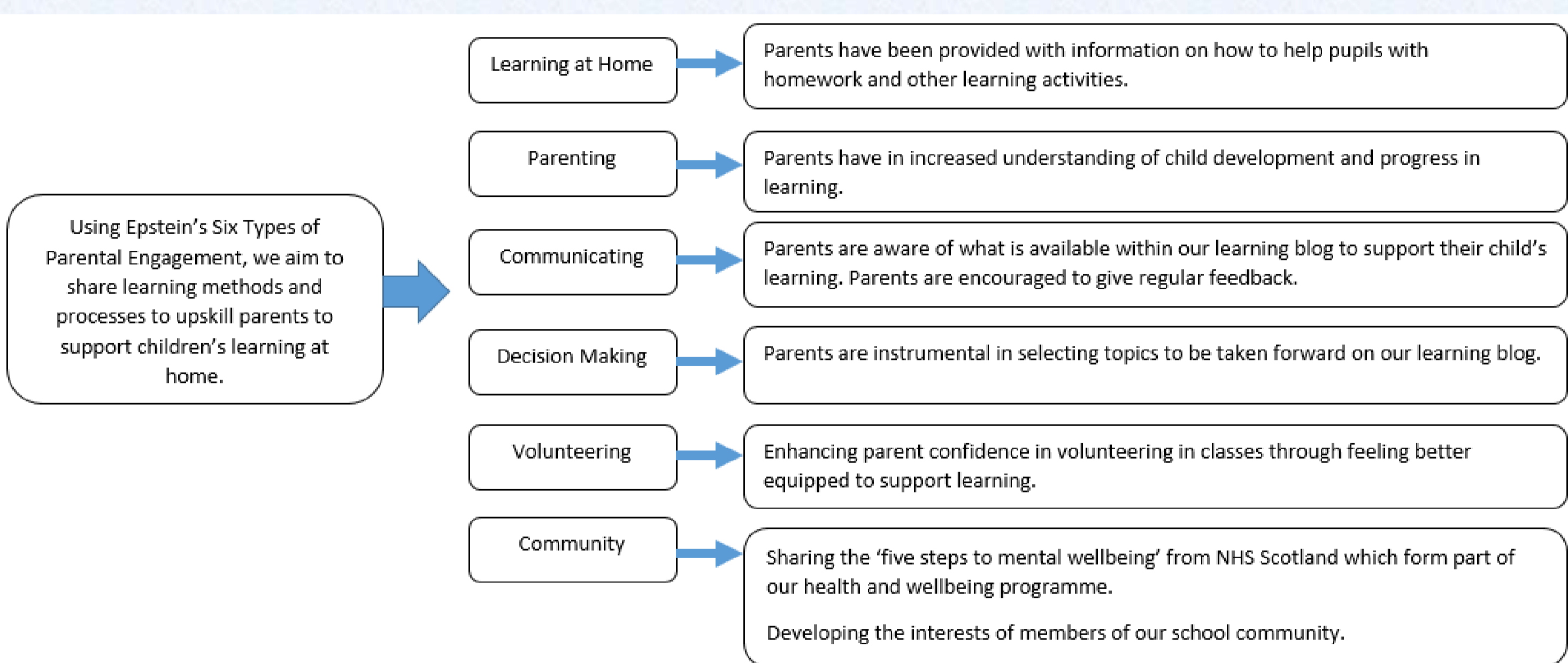
It was imperative we made the whole process as simple and as easy as possible!

### Results



- Large number of Parent Forum accessing the learning blog.
- Evidence suggests the learning blog is being accessed by pupils, parents and staff out with the Moorfoot community.
- We have an increased number of followers on Twitter which may be linked to our learning blog.
- Feedback ranged from good to very good and the use of language such as "interesting", "useful", "enjoyed children explaining how they learn" relayed a positive message.
- We found parents were particularly inclined to watch if their children were taking part.
- Parental feedback showed Moorfoot staff sharing the learning was more appropriate than watching staff from another school or authority.
- Increased confidence of parents resulted in growing number of volunteers to support learning in classrooms.
- Feedback from pupils indicated they were more keen to listen to bedtime stories if it was members of their "own" staff who read the stories.
- It has become apparent a number of other schools are taking forward this initiative.

### Process Change



### Conclusion



We believe our learning blog has had a positive impact on learning and teaching across our school community and beyond. This also correlates with our overall attainment figures.

Parents have been upskilled in supporting their children with homework and school projects/activities. We have reached a greater number of the parent body through presenting these workshops/learning guides on a digital platform.

The learning blog has been instrumental integral in taking forward a number of school improvement plan priorities.

### Achievements



- ❑ We created our school learning blog in April 2018.
- ❑ At the current time we have over 30 videos available.
- ❑ We had over 300 views on our Numeracy support videos, which included multiplication and division.
- ❑ Our Literacy support videos reached over 1000 views.
- ❑ Our seven "Bedtime Stories", read by a range of staff, promoted reading for pleasure and reading together and secured over 1500 views.
- ❑ In promoting BSL in the blog there have been 300 views.
- ❑ Feedback from those who took part in the survey indicated 83% had seen the learning blog and had given positive feedback.

### Key Learning Points



#### LEADERSHIP

- ❑ Principal Teacher given opportunity to lead initiative.
- ❑ Staff given leadership roles to show expertise in curriculum areas and share with a wider audience.
- ❑ Pupils took part in the creation, filming and presenting of learning videos.
- ❑ Pupils given ownership of a number of learning videos.

#### PARTNERSHIP WORKING

- ❑ Parents took active role in the decision making process regarding topics covered in our learning blog.
- ❑ Parents supported staff in the filming of learning videos.
- ❑ A number of community groups and individuals were involved in our learning blogs.

#### LIMITATIONS

- ❑ We are addressing limitations such as ensuring the whole school community is engaging with our learning blog and further developing partnership working.

### Scale / Spread



- To ensure that an increasing number of parents know about and are accessing the learning blog.
- To ensure parents are made aware of new additions to our learning blog.
- To continue to involve pupils in the decision making process to ascertain where they feel learning videos would be most beneficial.
- To produce an increased number of 'pupil friendly' videos to be accessed by pupils.
- To more fully involve pupils in the creation of videos for our learning blog.
- To develop work with partner agencies to support the creation of ASN learning videos to develop wider understanding of dyslexia, autism, etc.
- To continually seek feedback from parents, pupils and staff regarding the content of the learning blog.

Moorfoot Primary School is situated in the Trumpethill area serving upper Gourock, Inverclyde. Our Nursery Class delivers early learning and childcare for 60 children. Garvel Deaf Centre is also accommodated within the school providing support in mainstream classes and within the specialist base for deaf and hearing impaired pupils. We also offer outreach support. Our current roll is 265 with a SIMD just over 7% and FME of 14%.