

Update on Progress Towards our Post OFSTED Action Plan

February 2010

Accelerating pupils progress in writing and mathematics in Years 1—4

- We have reviewed our whole school approach to target setting with each child having a personal target for reading, writing and maths, which are shared with parents and reviewed half termly.
- Monitoring activities undertaken by the Leadership Team have ensured that pitch of learning is appropriate and challenging and that activities within lessons enhance pupil learning.
- Staff training has resulted in a revised whole school approach to learning objectives. Each lesson now begins with the sharing of a learning objective in the form of a question. For example: Can you count in twos and fives? The question is revisited both during and at the end of each lesson, with the children reflecting on their progress.
- Further staff training has explored the use of success criteria within each lesson to support children's learning. The children agree which small steps or features they need to focus on in order to achieve the learning objective.
- National resources for assessing pupil progress (APP) have been implemented for Writing and are now being trailed for Reading. This builds on our successes last year with Maths.
- The 'Every Child a Writer' project is being undertaken in Years 3 and 4 which is strengthening the way we promote writing within school.
- An Advanced Skills Teacher has been working with staff within school.

Sharpen up monitoring and evaluation procedures

- A new tracking format has been introduced which highlights progress towards end of year targets for every child.
- Termly pupil progress meetings are being used to identify vulnerable learners, at risk of not making expected progress, followed through by the implementation of targeted support.
- A range of monitoring activities have taken place focusing on a range of learning and teaching processes. For example book trawls, learning walks, lesson observations and weekly planning scrutinies. Development points have been identified providing a clear implementation date for action.
- Individual children's progress towards their layered targets is being tracked currently.
- Our Literacy, Numeracy and Early Years Local Authority Consultants have worked in partnership with members of the leadership team to monitor provision and standards of children's learning.
- A Local Authority Review has taken place focusing on the effectiveness of learning and teaching
- Internal appointments have been made to further strengthen the leadership of the school. Congratulations to Miss Attwood who will lead ICT and Miss Morris who will lead English.
- Governors have participated in training focusing on their roles and responsibilities. They have also had the opportunity to visit other local successful schools to share good governance practice.

Implement a strategy for community cohesion

- A community cohesion audit has been completed and an action plan produced. We are very appreciative of all the help Andrew Williams, one of our parents has given us.
- Dates for training have been agreed for both staff and governors during the next half term.
- The establishment of a link with a Birmingham Specialist High School which will provide opportunities for our pupils to learn with pupils in Birmingham
- A number of learning opportunities to support our community cohesion strategy have taken place including:
 - ⇒ the Chinese Lion Dance to celebrate Chinese New Year for Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1
 - ⇒ An assembly to introduce the life and work of the village of Njarange, our partners in Kenya
 - ⇒ Workshops exploring healthy food for Year 5 led by Tescos
 - ⇒ A teacher from our partner high school in Great Barr leading practical workshops as part of Key Stage 1's Science event
 - ⇒ A member of the British gymnastic squad working with Year 5
 - ⇒ A Fairtrade Coffee morning in partnership with St Michael's Church to raise funds for the Fairtrade City signs

From Monday 1st March you can get in touch with the school via a new e-mail contact:
contactus@st-michaels-lichfield.staffs.sch.uk
 This will be checked each week on a Monday by a member of the admin team.

Improve communications with parents

- The School website has been updated, including the addition of the family newsletter each week.
- Updated School Prospectus is in draft
- Circulation and response analysis of a Parent Questionnaire carried out by governors. (102 parents responded—please see separate section for response actions)
- Full review of the School Behaviour and Expectations Policy including opportunities for verbal and written consultation with all stakeholders.
- Our behaviour, expectations and reward systems have been shared with learners.
- Behaviour and Expectations policy summary leaflet is being sent out to parents.
- Establishment of a working party to further explore improvements to communications with parents.
- Monthly drop in sessions, e mail address and post box set up for parents to make direct contact with Governors (see address below left)
- A Governor notice board has been created in the dining room and a new section about the Governing Body has been established on the website
- Our new car park will require the school to reconsider its safety and access arrangements. We have used this opportunity to circulate a letter to parents with response boxes, seeking views and feedback regarding a proposed way forward. We would like this style of consultation to become a feature of our working partnership with parents.

Actions taken by the school following feedback from governors regarding the parent questionnaire

The 102 parent questionnaires returned have been analysed by the parent governors. Thank-you for your honesty and for taking the time and trouble to convey both your compliments and your concerns. The analysis has highlighted a number of aspects of school life for which caused you concern last November when the survey was completed. As a result a number of steps have been taken to address your concerns:

- 1. Rewards and Reprimand Schemes / School Behaviour and Anti-Bullying Policies**
 - A full consultation about the refreshed Behaviour and Expectations Policy has taken place and parents were invited to participate
 - A summary document has been produced and is being circulated
- 2. The school website**
 - This is in the process of being updated. Current key school documents and weekly newsletters are accessible. Year groups are currently identifying further items for inclusion both on the website and the learning platform
- 3. Knowing the school governors and being able to approach them**
 - A governor board in the dining room and website page identifies who the governors are
 - Monthly drop in sessions provide parents with opportunities to meet with governors
- 4. Understanding learning milestones and the next steps for my child**
 - Layered targets have been shared with parents and are currently being reviewed with new targets set
 - Your child's current level of attainment and end of year target will be shared with you at parents evening
- 5. Being involved in decisions about whole school issues**
 - Parents have been invited to share their views with regard to the Behaviour and Expectations Policy through questionnaires and a parent meeting.
 - Parents are currently being consulted around changes in access arrangements

Next steps:

1. Further developing the way we mark children's learning so that they are consistently clear about the next steps they need to take in their learning.
1. Providing parents with sharper information about your child's current level of attainment and what you can do at home to help.
3. A Gifted and Talented Learner project through the Learning Platform providing opportunities for pupils to network with learners in other Staffordshire Primary Schools.
4. A Compliments and Complaints Policy Summary Leaflet to be circulated to parents after half term to ensure parents understand the procedures within school for communicating feelings and views with the school
5. Thanks to the support of Sue Kershaw, one of our parents, we have a fantastic range of photographs to include on our website and learning platform. These are currently being checked against parental permission slips and will be on the sites as soon as possible
5. Upon receipt of the Local Authority Monitoring Report any issues for action will be addressed.
6. Our Anti-Bullying Policy will be reviewed.

We would welcome your feedback. Please complete and return the attached slip giving us your views.

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We would appreciate your feedback and opinion around the progress we have made since our inspection. Please outline where you feel we have made progress and also any concerns you currently have. Please return to the school office by 26th February.

Accelerating pupils progress in writing and mathematics in Years 1—4

Sharpen up monitoring and evaluation procedures

Implement a strategy for community cohesion

Improve communications with parents

Optional: Year groups of child / children: _____

Name and contact telephone number if you would like a member of the Leadership Team to contact you:

Please remember that the Leadership Team are always available to meet or you can attend one of the monthly Governor Drop-In sessions or arrange to speak to a Governor for an informal chat via the main school office at any time.