



Head's

Update

December 2017

KEEPING YOU INFORMED FROM MRS O'CONNOR

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have had a fantastic half term and have enjoyed preparing for Christmas. As a staff, this half term we have also been working hard to raise standards in our school. In this months Head's Update, I wanted to share with you how we intend to meet the areas for development that were identified in the Ofsted Inspection in June 17, and some of the initiatives we plan to launch in order to improve the school for your child.

Ofsted said the school needs to...	Our actions ...
<p>Improve leadership and management by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – continuing to embed and develop the recent improvements to leadership to ensure that the pace of change quickens – ensuring that all subject leaders monitor their areas of responsibility to improve the quality of teaching, learning and outcomes for all pupils 	<p>Ensuring that the Deputy Head and Assistant Head have release time to lead on previous school improvement initiatives and work closely with the Headteacher on school improvement.</p> <p>Subject leaders have been given time out of class to lead on their subjects by introducing initiatives, purchasing resources, attending training and monitoring their subjects. Focus to date has included:</p> <p>Science lead— developing assessment and investigative skills</p> <p>ICT lead—developing communication strategies with parents, upgrading of system in school, auditing equipment</p> <p>Music/PSHE lead—organising community events</p> <p>Maths Lead—launching Checkins/Checkouts and Marking stations</p> <p>English lead—launching Chapters and Cold/Hot writes</p> <p>PE lead—developing young leaders, organising sporting events, improving provision at lunchtimes.</p> <p>Art lead— organising art day across the school, mapping</p>

Ofsted said the school needs to...	Our actions ...
<p>– providing all staff with effective professional development that is sharply focused on their individual needs to ensure that standards continue to rise</p> <p>Improve teaching, learning and assessment by:</p> <p>– ensuring that teachers have consistently high expectations of what all pupils could and should achieve, especially the most able</p> <p>– providing pupils with more opportunities to develop their skills in writing and mathematics through other subjects</p> <p>– making effective use of assessment information to provide work that accurately meets the needs of all groups of pupils across the curriculum.</p>	<p>progression of skills, organising a Christmas card competition.</p> <p>SEN Lead —revising the SEN register, writing and reviewing IEPs, applying for support for identified children.</p> <p>Pupil Premium lead—organising pupil premium intervention and mapping provision for pupil premium children.</p> <p>Staff have a weekly staff meeting where they receive training on the initiatives being introduced. Staff also have the opportunity to attend training courses led by external providers linked to their personal needs</p> <p>New high standards and non negotiables set. Teachers to now use KS1 assessment as their baseline and progress to be measured from KS1. Launch PAD—Prime, Advancing and Deep levels of challenge in Maths.</p> <p>Create a long term curriculum map for each year group and identify and plan opportunities to revisit topics studied in English and Maths. Use sign-posting stickers to show where English and Maths topics are being consolidated. Plan a connected curriculum with links between subjects.</p> <p>Launch Cold Writes to inform planning of English topics and inform the pitch of work for each child. Launch Checkins in inform planning of Maths topics and inform the pitch of work. Introduce a new assessment system that measures the depth of children's understanding.</p>

Your child's happiness and enjoyment in school is also paramount. We aim to achieve this by having an open door policy and through our communication with parents. We are also striving to ensure that our curriculum is exciting and engaging, and that wherever possible, links to learning are made, so that the learning is purposeful. Values will also continue to be at the heart

of what we do, and we aim to achieve a balance between retaining the traditions of a school with a rich heritage, which is at the heart of the community, whilst at the same time modernising practice so that it is in line with National Standards.

This term, we were pleased to welcome the Local Authority into the school in November for them to complete a full review of progress against the Ofsted Plan. This was a thorough process and included: visiting classes, talking with pupils, scrutinising books, and discussions with key leaders across the school. The Local Authority reported that:

"The new Head teacher has worked hard to bring about rapid change, having introduced many aspects which address the priorities identified by the Ofsted inspection in June 2017. Staff across the school appear to have embraced these changes, with many being implemented consistently across the school. If this continues and is embedded, then outcomes across the school should increase. A key aspect of this is accurate assessment so that teaching is pitched accurately and work matches the needs of all pupils." (School Improvement Manager, November 2017)

Other positive comments from the day included:

- Children were engaged in their learning and making progress over the course of the lesson.
- Throughout the visit, children were polite, keen to share their work and celebrate their work.
- There was a purposeful, positive learning environment.
- Most children across the school were able to articulate what they were learning about and how they knew if they were doing well.
- The school looks bright and inviting.
- There has clearly been a lot of development in ensuring the consistencies are in place throughout the school and in every classroom.
- The school shop in the hall is stocked with interesting things for the children to aspire to.
- There are several displays identifying children with additional roles and responsibilities around the school, giving the pupils a sense of pride and ambition.

From the day, we were also able to identify some next steps, and next term we will be focusing upon expanding our levels of challenge (PAD) to English; developing reading skills; developing further opportunities for extended writing and extending children's reasoning skills.

As we are sure you would agree, this is really pleasing and validates all the hard work that has taken place this last term.

Thank you all for your support and I wish you all a very happy Christmas and wonderful New Year!

Mrs O'Connor

(Headteacher)