

Headteacher Newsletter January 2019

Happy New Year!

I am so excited to start this term with a Good Ofsted grade and many new initiatives in place to be fully embedded. The school feels in a really strong place with all the tools to support children in academic success. I am so proud of all my staff who dedicate themselves to improvement and continue to drive pupil progress daily. Saying that, we did have fun in 2018, what with Crazy Hair day, street dance-a-thon, whole school pantomime trip, monthly cake sales, performances of Mary Poppins and Hosanna Rocks, Year 5's evening of talent to name but a few.

Looking forward, this balance of hard work and enjoyment is set to continue and with a whole school attendance of over 97% we know that all children are accessing these opportunities. So thank you.

Assessment

At the end of last term we assessed all the children through testing and found that in the majority of classes and subjects we had exceeded our predictions for that term. Since then I have met with all the teachers in year groups and discussed what strategies we have or use to continue this upward trend.

We will then assess children again at the end of this term to review our practice and strategies so that at the February parents' evening we can have clear, knowledgeable conversations about your child's learning and what we are doing to support and challenge them.

Pupil leadership team

Our pupil leadership are well established and are now involved in gaining the pupil voice for leaders. This will give us vital feedback on the children's learning and understanding of topics to allow us to reflect on our delivery and resourcing.

Parent voice

Following on from our pupils' voice, we now have a parent representative from each class. We will meet once a month to discuss comments, questions and feedback from parents. The first meeting is on Tuesday 22nd January and I welcome all constructive feedback to help move the school forward.

Please note if you have something that is specific to your child, make an appointment to see me individually so that we can discuss it fully.

SATs

For our Year 6 pupils, SATs are on the horizon, therefore we have started targeting our teaching and supporting with afternoon booster groups to ensure children have every opportunity to succeed.

We will be focusing on the knowledge, skills and techniques needed to achieve whilst still keeping the learning engaging and relevant.

We will be constantly assessing and reviewing our practices based on rigorous monitoring of the teaching and learning taking place.

Car park

Thank you for bearing with us whilst we trialled a change to our car park. As you are aware, safety is a priority and ensuring that every aspect of our school has been reviewed for best practice is a constant focus.

We recognised that although the new system allowed everyone access to our office safely, the opening of the bottom gate had a knock-on effect on our crossing and the siting of that as an entrance was not always obvious – which made for some traffic issues.

I still believe there is a better system and we know that with an unlimited budget it would be easy. Unfortunately that is not the case.

Whilst we are deciding the best course of action, could I please ask that you ensure, when coming to the office that you are walking up the ramp and not through the cars in the car park. Thank you.

Thank you

Thank you to all of the PTA for your help and support. You have worked very hard to ensure children continue to have the best experiences whilst raising vital money for the school.

Thank you to all parents who have volunteered time, supported events and helped your child with their home learning. Education works best when we are all working together.

Thank you to everyone who shares our vision for the school and the expectation that all children should have opportunities to flourish.

Final thought

