



Friday 11th January 2019

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT UPDATE

Dear Parents and Carers,

Below is a summary of the work that has been taking place in school during the Autumn Term towards our School Improvement Priorities that were shared with you in September:

Priority 1: Writing

- Teachers are planning more regular opportunities for children to apply their skills into writing, both in English lessons but also in other areas of the curriculum
- Monitoring has identified much more regular, higher quality writing being completed across the school, and children are much more engaged and enthusiastic about writing because of the texts now being used and the creative learning experiences planned using these texts
- Marking and feedback in writing is having much more impact so that children know what to do next to improve further
- Children now have a 10 minute spelling, punctuation and grammar burst first thing every morning so that they have the opportunity to regularly practice skills
- Teachers are sharing writing across the school every half term to make sure that there is clear progress evident as children move through the school, and to make sure that writing assessments are moderated within school

Priority 2: Assessment for learning, and provision for target groups of children

- All curriculum areas are now being assessed and progress tracked using the same system and more closely linked to prior outcomes (End of Reception or Key Stage 1)
- Staff continue to analyse progress each half term so that they can use this information to plan future learning
- Parents of children with SEN or disabilities (SEND) were asked to provide feedback about provision within school – this feedback recognised the work done so far to improve provision and has been used to inform what we do next
- The Local Authority audited provision for SEND and recognised that systems are now much more robust and provision for children with SEND is more effective.
- Information available on the school website about expectations for each year group across the curriculum is now much more detailed, as is the information about SEND

Priority 3: Early Years

- Staff continue to access training and support to develop early Literacy, Language and Communication provided through Warrington Teaching School Alliance and funded by the DfE
- Talk4Writing has transformed how writing is being taught and children are being immersed in opportunities to develop their reading, writing and communication skills

Priority 4: Middle leadership

- Leadership responsibilities are being distributed much more this year, with staff taking greater responsibility for improvement in their specific subject areas as part of continued development of the wider curriculum
- Staff are accessing subject-specific networks and clusters for training and support, and are working alongside myself and Mrs Long to monitor teaching and learning

In addition to this...

- After school clubs have been significantly increased so that all children across the school have access to a wider variety of enrichment activities
- Lunchtime provision has also improved – Mr Swarbrick and the play leaders run lunchtime clubs so that there are more structured activities for the children to access
- Our playground space has been improved with the addition of playground markings to provide designated spaces for different activities at break time and lunch time
- We have secured funding to improve the allotment area on the field. The School Council have been working on some designs to develop parts of this areas once new fencing has been put in and some of the old beds have been removed
- Redecoration of the school has started, allowing us to update the main entrance area initially. We hope that the whole school will be redecorated throughout the year
- We now have classroom space designated for Computing, and a room specifically for The Arts (art, DT and music)
- A whole school programme for PSHE has been introduced which is based on mindfulness and developing children's learning behaviours
- A Section 48 inspection of RE, collective worship and the Catholic life of our school has been carried out by the Archdiocese of Liverpool and judged our school as Good in all areas

We have had a fantastic start to the new school year and have achieved so much already, building on the very successful year last year. We will continue to keep you updated about further school improvement work as the year progresses.

As always, your continued support and feedback is very much appreciated.

Many thanks,

Dominic Vernon
Head Teacher