



Friday 26<sup>th</sup> April 2019

## SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT UPDATE

Dear Parents and Carers,

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

### *Priority 1: Writing*

- Teachers continue to share 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
- All teachers have also had training which focused on how to challenge more able writers so that all children are making as much progress as possible. They have also had the opportunity to moderate our writing with that of children from other schools.
- All monitoring of writing, internal and external, is now clearly showing consistent progress and sustained improvement in quality of writing across the school.
- Our focus has now shifted towards ensuring that writing in other areas of the curriculum is of consistent quality to that in English books.

### *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 subject leaders are adapting the system to the requirements of specific subjects.
- Staff continue to analyse progress each half term so that they can use this information to plan future learning.
- Mrs Long has taken over the role of SENDCO (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Coordinator).
- Further consultation has taken place with parents of children with SEN or disabilities (SEND) and a new policy and parent leaflet has now been published. All documentation on the website relating to SEND has now been updated.
- Now that systems and policies are updated, our focus is on making sure that provision for children with SEND is of high quality and having an impact on progress.

### *Priority 3: Early Years*

- Staff have continued to access training and support to develop early Literacy, Language and Communication provided through Warrington Teaching School Alliance and funded by the DfE.
- This has had a very positive impact on teaching and learning in Early Years, and this improvement in provision is now being transferred to maximizing learning outdoors as well as indoors.

### *Priority 4: Middle leadership*

- Staff continue to access subject-specific networks and clusters for training and support.
- Teachers are now observing each other so that good practice can be shared.
- All teachers have monitored children's books / evidence in their subject and analysed end of term data to ensure high quality teaching and learning across all areas of the curriculum.

*In addition to this...*

- After school clubs continue to be very popular now that a wider variety of clubs are on offer.
- The allotment area on the field has been redesigned to incorporate an outdoor learning space and an outdoor prayer area in addition to allotment spaces for children to grow produce. The School Council is now able to finalise designs for the prayer space.
- Redecoration of the school has continued and a space is now ready to be transformed into a sensory area to support children with sensory needs.
- New approaches to teaching and learning in History and Geography have been trialed during the Spring Term to inform a full review of the curriculum. During the Summer Term we will be redesigning our whole school curriculum so that it continues to meet the requirements of the National Curriculum but is designed and written for the children of St Vincent's. The first draft of our curriculum intent is already available on our school website and this new curriculum will be launched in September.
- Parents, staff and governors were led by a member of the Archdiocesan Christian Education Team on the INSET day before Easter to review our Mission Statement, aims and objectives. Thank you to everyone for your input either on the day, or through your responses to the questions sent home. Following a very productive day, a small working group now have the task of drawing everything together into a final set of aims and objectives.

Since Christmas, we have had a number of visits to monitor school improvement, and all have provided continued assurance that sustained improvement is evident:

- Local Authority Assistant Head of Service for Achievement and Inclusive Education – review of school improvement with myself and our Chair of Governors
- Local Authority Senior Advisor – review of teaching and learning and attendance at Governor committee meetings for Standards
- School Improvement Partner – whole school learning walk and review of provision in Early Years
- Early Years SLE – review of progress and impact in Early Years since starting on the early Literacy, Language and Communication Project, and moderation of teacher assessments

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

Many thanks,

*Dominic Vernon*

Head Teacher