



Friday 9th March 2018

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT UPDATE

Dear Parents and Carers,

Below is a summary of the work that has been taking place in school during the first half of the Spring Term to continue our focus on improvement at St Vincent's:

In addition to ongoing monitoring, we have had a Teaching and Learning Review involving myself, Mrs Long, our School Improvement Partner from the Archdiocese and a Senior Leader from another local primary school.

The review recognized a very positive change in relation to all aspects of teaching and learning seen through lesson observations, in children's books and in discussion with the children and staff. This review day celebrated and quality assured the positive impact of changes made since September.

Improvements in teaching and learning are having a positive impact on outcomes for children. Regular Pupil Progress Meetings held with all teachers show that children are making better progress, and any concerns or issues are being identified much earlier so that teaching can be adapted to support children in areas of concern. All children are making improving progress through better differentiation of learning within class and a range of targeted groups for children of all abilities.

A group of children from Years 3 and 4 have taken part in a writing project led by Liverpool Hope University which started in January and lasted for 6 weeks. It has really built children's confidence in using more complex grammar to improve the quality of their writing.

Teachers are going to continue to use similar approaches within the class to continue to support this progress made.

Electrical works are well underway and are making a huge difference. Classroom lighting in particular has really improved the working environments and the screen in the hall can now be seen by everyone! Work should be completed by the time we return from Spring Break.

Training for subject coordinators who focus on wider curriculum subjects has continued so that, whilst our core focus remains on English and Maths, we can maintain improvement in other areas of the curriculum.

A major focus for training that I have attended recently has been on securing a high quality curriculum which provides children with varied, broad, balanced learning. This will become more of a focus moving forward so that children are consistently "wowed" and challenged in all of their learning.

Reading corners are popping up in classrooms to promote a love of reading. Please take time to snuggle up and share books at home regularly with your children - it was lovely to share this with you on World Book Day!

Research shows that exposure to varied and rich language and vocabulary at an early age through talking and reading has a significant impact on all aspects of a child's development. Early vocabulary and language are a strong indicator of future success, academically, socially and economically so as part of our improvements to teaching and learning in English, a major focus is on vocabulary and language.

Warrington Teaching School Alliance has secured a significant amount of funding from the DfE to support improvement in Early Years through a focus on Communication, Literacy and Language. We are very excited to be part of this project which will bring with it a huge amount of support and training to further develop the great work which has started in our Reception Class.

Writing was specifically identified as an area to improve by Ofsted. Significant changes have been made to the way that writing is taught and we are now closely monitoring the impact of these changes.

Regular moderation internally, by external partners and in collaboration with other schools has been a major focus. This ensures that writing at St Vincent's is consistent with writing in other schools.

All action taken so far is having a positive impact on writing outcomes - children are writing more often, for a growing range of purposes and to a higher quality.

For Governors, a major focus has been on securing long-term improvement through the recruitment of a permanent Head Teacher for St Vincent's. I am delighted to have been appointed and look forward to working in partnership with staff, children, parents and the wider community to continue to work already started so that everyone at St Vincent's is fulfilling their potential.

Many thanks for your continued support,

Dominic Vernon
Head Teacher