



Sandy Lane
A world of opportunity

Friday, July 06, 2018

Dear Parents,

School Improvements Updates

We have had a very successful year in school, continuing our school improvement journey and would like to share with parents and their families some of our milestones and achievements since our last full Ofsted inspection in May 2016.

In May 2017 we had our monitoring inspection visit from Ofsted, which was designed to find out if school leaders and governors are taking effective action to tackle the areas requiring improvement, identified in the May 2016 section 5 Ofsted inspection visit.

We were able to report to parents that Her Majesty's Inspector found that through 'quick and accurate analysis of schools strengths and weaknesses', senior leaders and governors have been able to take effective and appropriate action against all of school improvement targets set out above.

Moving forward to 3rd May 2018 school has recently had "Mocksted" from an external consultant who was, up until January 2017, one of Her Majesty's Inspectors of schools. She was accompanied by our local authority School Improvement Advisor.

Their current findings can be summarised below:

*'Leaders have developed teaching at an increasing pace because of the development and tightening of systems and procedures to improve teaching All leaders have a full and accurate view of where the school is at and what is needed to continue its improvement journey. There is strong evidence to show the school is **at least good** and, in some respects, **better than good.**' 3rd May 2018*

The report went on to say:

'The leadership of the school is much stronger and effective and has led to significant improvements in teaching since the last inspection. The executive headteacher harnessed potential amongst existing staff to lead and, where there were gaps in leadership, he has drawn upon staff from Steeton, the partner school, and through appointments. These leaders are now permanent members of staff. They have developed quickly into an effective and cohesive team of leaders who have the ambition, skills and knowledge to improve all aspects of the school's work and to sustain and build on these improvements. They lead by example and provide excellent role models for new and less experienced staff. This means the impact of their work is clear to see in the improvements in the curriculum, teaching, learning and assessment and the care and safety of pupils. This, in turn, had led to much improved outcomes for pupils. Older pupils speak clearly about improvements in their school.' 3rd May 2018



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Clearly school leaders and governors were delighted with the report and have been waiting for our full Section 5 Ofsted revisit to have this external judgement verified. As we are still waiting for our Ofsted visit, we felt that parents and their families would like an update on how the school is currently performing and how we have achieved our improvements and success to date.

Below you will find a list of many of the systems that have been changed in order for school to move forward to hopefully being rated by Ofsted a 'good' school in the near future.

- **New approaches** to learning have been introduced across school since January 2017: Read2Write for children's Reading and Writing skills, Inspire Maths & Prove It! exercises have improved Maths across school. A new Creative /Science Curriculum was launched in September 2017- you may remember the Haworth steam railway launch! We have been using an new approach to phonics and spellings across school. all of these new systems are consistently monitored through our Monitoring and Evaluation Plan and feeds back into future development planning.
- **Sandy Lane Primary School** uses rigorous learning walks*, which have set high expectations informing next steps for CPD. This has resulted in a consistency of learning approach across school, which is promoting good progress over time. School has seen a clear impact of its Monitoring Review Improve cycle with CPD timetabled into staff meetings. This also applies for Learning Support Assistants who also have their own CPD staff meeting on a weekly basis.
**a learning walk is a form of leadership observation that takes into account the whole learning environment not just individual classrooms.*
- **Learning walks** form part of a culture of approachable leadership, which strives to improve and support. Work scrutiny* forms part of Leaderships Cycle of Monitor review & Improve- Work books are scrutinised at Phase and school level on at least a half termly basis. As a result, work and presentation standards across school continue to improve.
** Checking of children's work in books.*
- **Learning walks** at different points in the day have been set up to 'notice' a range of issues from safeguarding to work ethos across different phases, then to share and spread good practice.
- **Target setting** followed up with rigorous half-termly pupil progress meeting creates a culture of high expectations for both staff and pupils.



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- **Half termly tracking** of all pupils provides leaders with regular opportunities to track pupil progress- report to the governing body and alter provision accordingly. Half termly tracking of disadvantaged pupils- to review intervention provision
- **Presentation expectations and policies** have enabled staff to focus on work presentation and have seen an improvement in this area across school.
- **Pupils with SEND** are issued with a Pupil Passport, negotiated with Class teacher, SENCO and Parents reviewed with parents three times a year. As a result of half termly Pupil Progress Meetings and quality interventions pupils including those with SEND needs are individually catered for.
- **Weekly SLT meetings** – effectively minuted form a key part of our cycle of Monitoring - Review -Improve. Phase leader monitoring linked into this cycle and phase & staff meetings are used to cascade next steps for teachers and pupils.
- **Schools behaviour policy** is attached to CPOMS* system which allows senior leaders to discuss the types of behaviours that are recurring across school and address these in whole school assemblies.**Online behaviour monitoring.*
- **Safeguarding is robust** across school with effective action taken where needed to ensure all pupils are safe.
- **School leaders are positive** with teaching and support staff- an ethos of supportive ‘can do’ pervades the school. This is then transmitted to all pupils.
- **All Staff are safeguarding trained**, including FGM, & Prevent. Training is recorded on school’s single central record.
- **Governors review their work plan on a yearly basis** which is carried out through a series of termly or half termly meetings of the full board, Safeguarding Committee, Curriculum & Standards Committee or the Resources Committee. Full professional minutes are kept and work passes through efficiently at a brisk pace.
- **Governors attend regular training** relevant to their committee responsibility areas and feed back to the relevant committee. New developments across school are fed into governing body meetings, by school leaders, teachers and pupils.



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- **Governors attend a selection of pupil progress meetings** and feedback findings to the full board. Subject leaders meet with governors as part of a Leadership learning walk through school on a termly basis. All meetings are logged in the governor-monitoring file.

I know that we all share the same unrelenting ambition to regain our status as a 'Good' school when we are re-inspected later this year. However, we already know that there are many daily examples of superb learning, unstinting care and guidance along with exciting curriculum opportunities and visits for children throughout school.

I would like to thank all our parents here at Sandy Lane Primary School for their continued support for all that we do here at school. I would also like to thank all our pupils for their amazingly hard work throughout this year and for being a pleasure to work with.

Finally I would like to say a huge thank you to all the staff here at school, who have worked so tirelessly over this last year to improve the outcomes for all our children.

Yours sincerely,

Mr. J. Cooper
Executive Headteacher