



20th July 2018

Dear Parent/Carer,

We wanted to write to you all at the end of term, to thank you for your continued support throughout this year, and especially since our Ofsted Inspection in December 2017.

Since the Inspection, many things have been and continue to be, implemented in order to move our school forward. We have worked closely with Durham County Council (DCC) and the Diocese over the last two terms, and they are delighted with the work that we have done and the improvements to the school. This progress will continue in the Autumn Term. We would like to update you, with the work we have completed for our areas of improvement.

Outcomes for Pupils:

Early Years 2018:

- 83% of children achieved the Good Level of Development. National Result 2017 was 71% (2018 National Results have not yet been released).
- 20% of children achieved the Excellent Level of Development.

Y1 Phonics:

- 93% of Year 1 children achieved the Expected Standard – National Results 2018 were 81%

KS1 Results:

- 82% achieved Expected Standard for reading – National Result for 2017 was 76% (2018 National Results not yet released)
- 33% achieved Greater Depth in Reading – National Result for 2017 was 25% (2018 National Result not yet released)
- 76% achieved Expected Standard in Maths – National Result for 2017 was 75% (2018 National Result not yet released)
- 27% achieved Greater Depth for Maths – National Result for 2017 was 21% (2018 National result not yet released)

- 76% achieved Expected Standard for Writing – National Result for 2017 was 68% (2018 National Result not yet released)
- 12% achieved Greater Depth in Writing – National Result for 2017 was 16% (2018 National Result not yet released).

Greater Depth in KS1 writing, will be a focus for our work in 2018-2019.

- 85% achieved Expected Standard in Science – National Result for 2017 was 82% (2018 National Result not yet released)

KS2 Results:

- 89% achieved Expected Standard for reading – National Result for 2018 was 75%
- 47% achieved Greater Depth for reading – National Result for 2018 was 25%
- 92% achieved Expected Standard for Maths – National Result for 2018 was 76%
- 18% achieved Greater Depth for Maths – National Result for 2018 was 23%
- 89% achieved Expected Standard for Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling – National Result for 2018 was 78%
- 53% achieved Greater Depth for Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling – National Result for 2018 was 31%
- 84% achieved Expected Standard for Writing – National Result for 2018 was 78%
- 26% achieved Greater Depth for Writing – National Result for 2018 was 18%
- 92% achieved Expected Standard – National Result for 2017 was 82% (National Result for 2018 not yet released).

Greater Depth in KS2 Maths will be a focus for our work in 2018 – 2019.

Reception and Year 2 Maths, Reading and Writing was moderated by County. KS2 Writing was also moderated by County.

Teaching, Learning and Assessment:

- Staff development has been ongoing, and has come in the form of: courses and training through both DCC and the Diocese; coaching triangles; visits to other schools; observations of good practice; observations of lessons from Education Development Partners from both the County Council and the Diocese and work book scrutinies.

- Development of the Foundation Subjects (History, Science and RE), through courses and training, and staff meetings with the EDP, to implement the new revised County Guidelines for History and Geography, which focuses very much on children learning to be historians and geographers through enquiry.

Our work in RE reflects a consistent approach, whilst we await the publication of and training for, the new Durham Guidelines for RE.

A new Science lead, will begin her role in September, and training has already been identified and booked. An audit of equipment will be carried out.

From September, a new format will be implemented to assess History, Geography and Science.

Learning Behaviours:

- Through our work over the last two terms, a huge improvement has been identified, by both staff, DCC and the Diocese, with regards to low level misbehaviours, previously witnessed in a small proportion of children during their learning.
- We have worked alongside DCC and the Diocese, to ensure that the best behaviours for learning are put into practice.
- Training has been implemented, and from September our Behaviour Policy and system, will be modified to ensure that the whole school community and parents, are fully aware of the learning expectations. More information about this will be forwarded at the start of the new school year in September.

Leadership and Management:

- Training has been provided through the Diocese, for Middle Leaders, in order to further develop their role, by enabling them to share good practice and work with colleagues, to improve the quality of teaching and learning.
- The Durham SEND Advisory Team have supported school, by providing staff with training, completing an audit, which has then supported the school's Action Plan, and providing guidance to strengthen our systems of diagnosis and support and progress.
- Governors and senior leaders have received County training with regards to tracking, and checking the impact of additional funding for pupils legible for pupil premium.

Mr Mallard – Chair of Governors

Since the inspection, the Governing Body has, collectively, undergone some 125+ hours of training, either delivered in-house or by the local authority. Beyond this, it has spent a further 300+ hours engaging in school business and ensuring that your school is the best it can be. During this time, we have been involved in activities ranging from visiting classrooms, looking at books, attending meetings, accompanying the school on trips and speaking to pupils, parents and staff. As Chair of Governors, I have been involved in many post-Ofsted progress meetings, to ensure that the school leadership is addressing the issues raised and making progress towards its eventual re-designation as a 'Good' school and I am pleased with the progress made so far.

Throughout the last two terms, regular meetings and visits from Education Partners from both the County Council and the Diocese, have strengthened the progress of our school development. In October, there will be an Inspection Health Check, which will be carried out by Durham County Council and the Diocese, to ensure that the school continues to be on track, for re-inspection next year.

Thank you once again for all of your support during this year. There is still work to be done, but we couldn't have made the progress that we have, without the support of parents, staff and pupils. We hope that you have a lovely holiday and look forward to working with you again next year.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs K. Harrison-Brown (Head Teacher)
Mrs K. Roberts (Deputy Head Teacher)
Mr K. Mallard (Chair of Governors)