

School Improvement Priorities for the school year 2019-2020

Each school year, working with the leadership team and the Governing Board, we identify areas which we feel we need to work on during the academic year. Below are the areas which we will be focusing on this year; we hope that parents and carers will find this information both useful and interesting. There will of course be lots of opportunities for parents to visit school and join in with their children's learning during the coming year; working in partnership with parents is very important to us all at Aston C of E!

Reading and writing

Fluency in reading

This year we will continue to develop the children's fluency in reading so that they can read and understand text at an age appropriate level. This means lots of opportunities to read out loud so that children are fluent and expressive readers. *Parents and carers can really help* with this at home by reading regularly with their children – a little reading every day will have a huge impact over time. **Reading is the key to all learning!**

Book Talk was introduced in the last school year and will be used in each class twice a week as a means of teaching fluency and comprehension. Children will read aloud and around their group to build confidence and fluency in reading and will also discuss what they have read as a group and a class. New books have been purchased for the start of the new school year and teachers have spent time researching and reading books so that we have quality texts which will really engage the children in their reading.

Individual reading – children will continue to read aloud to staff, reading buddies [older children] and volunteers and the focus will be particularly on fluency. Whilst there is a significant focus on individual reading in FS2 and KS1, as the children move into KS2 there are not as many opportunities for the children to read to adults in school but *we do hope that parents* continue to read with their children at home.

Reading comprehension

Skills – we will continue to develop these vital skills through verbal and written comprehension lessons which will usually take place three times each week.

For the younger children F2, Y1 and early in Y2 Big Books will be used to develop these skills orally before the children begin to write their answers for themselves

Word meaning and developing vocabulary

We are working on vocabulary this year to develop the children's curiosity for words and language which will impact on both their reading and writing across all areas of the curriculum. *Parents can support this* by talking to their children – especially when they are out and about visiting different places of interest or when out shopping or even as they are walking to school!

Phonics

The teaching of phonics takes place **every day throughout** F2, Y1 and Y2 as well as phonics interventions daily for Y1 and Y2 for those children who need a little extra support. Phonics is a vital skill for children for both reading and writing. All Y1 children take a Phonics Screening Test in June of Y1 and if they do not meet the standard in Y1, then they re-sit this in June of their Y2 year.

Parents

To continue to support and work with parents in reading and writing, we will be offering the following -

- Home school reading record which the children will bring home with their reading book every day
- Reading reward scheme in all classes to reward the children for reading their reading book at home – this will often to be linked to Dojo points!
- Y3 reading workshop early in the autumn term to provide ideas for parents to keep reading with their children in KS2
- KS1 and KS2 parents to be invited to SATs meetings in October to provide information for the coming year
- A Foundation literacy workshop in October for parents as their children begin to learn to read and write in their first year in school
- Phonics workshop for Y1 parents in September to provide information of what the children will be learning in Phonics as well as information about the screening in June 2020. Parents in Y1 will also be sent a Phonics support pack in February 2020
- There will be a whole school curriculum week which will focus on reading and show parents a range of opportunities in which reading can be encouraged at home
- Parents will be invited to Better Reading training in the autumn term which will also provide parents for “training” if they wish to become a volunteer reader in school in 2019-20
- Teachers in school will welcome parents to volunteer to read with children in their classes

Maths

Fluency – this year we will continue to focus on developing the children's fluency as mathematicians and in all classes the children will count every day, in lots of different ways, using in different patterns from different starting points. Teachers will ensure that there are lots of opportunities for children to practice their number bonds and

times tables and the inverse of these. Parents can help at home with this counting, number bonds and times tables knowledge which will all help your children to be super mathematicians! Playing board games, interactive computer games, games in the outdoors are all good ideas. Teachers will also send home ideas throughout the school year – particularly to support with times tables – Rock Stars is a good program– a key skill for all children in all areas of maths. In June 2020, the Y4 children will take the first statutory National Times Table Test. Mr Haden will send information to parents during the school year.

The **Abacus** passwords will also be sent home at the beginning of the school year; there are a wealth of resources for parents and children to use on this website.

Every morning, at the very beginning of the day, all children will take part in a maths activity which focusses on their mental and oral skills and covers all four operations. This has proved to be very successful in the last two years and has a significant impact on arithmetic outcomes in tests on Y2 and Y6. This is marked with the children so that they get immediate feedback on their work.

It is important that children are able to choose and use the most efficient methods for their calculation work and this is included in their morning maths work.

Parents can help by making sure that their children arrive in good time for the start of the school day and are ready for this first maths session of the day!

Reasoning – problem solving

Children are encouraged to explain and solve problems using the appropriate language which will be modelled by the class teacher in daily maths lessons. This area is developed across the school year at an age appropriate level with all children.

The parents of the children in the Foundation Two Class will be invited to a maths workshop early in the spring term so that they can see how these skills are developed from the beginning with their children and of course how parents can help their child at home too.

There will also be opportunities for parents to join in with maths sessions in school. Maths homework will be sent home regularly and parents can help by ensuring that their child completes their homework and returns this to school on time. If your child struggles with any aspect of their homework, please talk to the class teacher about this.

Personal and social skills

We work with and nurture all our children every day but there are some key areas which we will be focusing on this year.

Our new vision statement is –

Together we create a school family for every child of God. Cherishing each individual, celebrating uniqueness whilst nurturing and inspiring all as they continue to learn on life's journey.

Mark 9.23

"Everything is possible for the person who has faith"

The behaviour policy will be supported consistently by all staff in school, our aim is for **all children** show respect for all members of the school community, including themselves. Parents will be informed if their child does not comply with our policy and we ask parents to support us with the high expectations we have of all our children. All children have the right to come to school, to be happy, confident and able to learn and achieve to the best of their ability.

We talk to the children about our Behaviour Policy and also have a child friendly version of this and the Anti Bullying Policy which is planned and reviewed by the School Council every year. This means that the children are involved and have a voice in school. All classes to have their own class rules to support the school behaviour policy which are displayed in classrooms. The School Council will be reviewing the School rules in the autumn term.

School uniform – at the end of the summer term, we wrote to all parents about supporting school by making sure that their child comes to school in school uniform and ready for the school day. Parents can help by making sure that the school uniform policy is followed all the time. Staff will also be talking to the children about this. We want the children to be proud to belong to Aston C of E and wearing the school uniform is a very important part of this.

Supporting the needs of all our children

Children in need of extra nurture will be identified and supported either in school or through our links with other agencies eg The Early Help Team. Parents can work with us and if they feel that their child is in need of extra emotional support, they can talk to staff in school: we can work together and with outside agencies to ensure that their child is supported emotionally so that they are happy and confident in school and at home.

Sex and Relationship Education

Parents will be aware that these changes are to be implemented nationally from September 2020 with the aim that all children in schools are provided with age appropriate education in this very important aspect of their education. We will be working with our Trust – The Diocese of Sheffield Academies Trust – and our Governing Board on this and will keep parents informed as we move through the school year.

RE and Worship

Children have RE lessons every week and teachers will usually use the Understanding Christianity Materials to plan and deliver RE lessons. The children will also learn about other faiths as part of our RE curriculum. All children will have regular opportunities to read and listen to the Bible using age appropriate texts. Children will meet some Bible stories more than once in their school life to enable them to study them in greater depth. This year there will be a focus on teachers assessing attainment for all children at the end of each piece of completed RE work.

RE and worship environment in classes and around school –

All classes have areas for reflection which provide quiet spaces for children to pray or have spiritual thinking time. These will have Bibles, prayer books and Christian crosses and artefacts. The children are often involved in the planning of these and the school Worship Committee also review these at different points in the school year as we want to make sure that these areas in all classes reflect the Christian nature of the school.

Daily acts of Worship

As the Church in Aston is currently in a period of interregnum which means we do not have a resident priest, a plan for support from other clergy has been organised so that we have support with acts of worship and our family and Eucharist services whilst also maintaining our strong links with Aston All Saints Church. We are very grateful to Vicky Camber, Priest at Todwick Church, Gary Schofield, Priest at Wales Church, Reverend Huw Thomas, Diocesan Director of Education, and Jim Nuttall and Beth Henshaw from All Saints Church for supporting us through the coming year. Parents will of course be invited to class assemblies, special assemblies and Family and Eucharist services during the school year – you will be made very welcome!

Christian Values

Last year we worked with the children, staff and governors to agree our own set of Christian values which are

Hope, Friendship, Forgiveness, Thankfulness

These will be reflected in our daily worship and in the life of our school. There will be lots of opportunities for the children to lead and plan worship and the Worship Committee will plan worship using these values as their theme.

Thank you all our parents for their support and we look forward to working with all our families throughout the coming school year.

Mrs Mellor

Head Teacher

