

**Home Farm Primary School
Governor Visit Report**

Name:	Stephen Lefley Lisa Humphreys
Date of Visit:	Thursday 19 th March 2015
Focus of Visit (linked to SDP):	English at Home Farm linked mainly with SDP 1. To embed effective high quality cross curricular writing. <i>(Learners are to apply their skills in English consistently across all subjects)</i> Progress made from last Ofsted 'next steps' too.
Classes / staff visited:	Zoe Wentworth (English Coordinator) Richard Potter
<p>Summary of activities e.g. observing classes, talking to staff and pupils, looking at resources, had lunch, etc.:</p> <p>Discussion with the above named staff, referring to evidence of the English Coordinator's work folder and samples of children's marked work, which had been moderated.</p>	
<p>What I have learned as result of my visit e.g new understanding, evidence of reports to committee, observing material needs of school.</p> <p>Spelling was identified as an area to develop in Home Farm, one of the reasons being due to the curriculum change from September and the expectations of each year therefore more challenging. This has been a focus this year and has been tackled across the school by.... ... teachers completed a questionnaire revealing inconsistencies in teaching, which has been addressed. ... introducing a new spelling scheme (SWST) linked to the new curriculum. Each child in KS 2 took an online test with Mrs Wentworth which was then submitted. Class 5 came out at below National average and Class 3 came out as being good readers but NOT good spellers. We were shown the results which looked at children individually and noted on class provision maps if specific needs are to be met. Patterns could be seen from the results as to which spelling combinations children needed more input with. The scheme encourages any gaps to be filled and encourages a more secure learning in Year 2 from the routine of <i>learning a spelling pattern, actively practising the spelling pattern, dictation.</i> ...TAs have had phonics training. ...new phonics books for KS 1 – Letters and Sounds, expectations of which are shared with parents bringing a mixed response from them so far. ...monitoring half termly.</p> <p>The purchase of Reading Eggs/Eggspress for the whole school has had an exciting influence on reading. The on line scheme helps with reading, comprehension and spelling at all levels/stages to support all children individually, including children in vulnerable groups and higher achievers. This is being monitored by Mrs Wentworth half termly. Children have access to this at lunch times if they are unable get on line at home. Certificates for participation will be presented for taking part.</p>	

Mr Potter is also leading a reading comprehension group with Year 6 children supporting with Level 6 work in reading supporting higher ability children. Children's Reading Records are also monitored by Mr Potter to encourage more reading to adults at home. On the whole more children are reading with/to an adult at home, which is having a positive effect on confidence in reading and reading skills.

Life without levels....

Book monitoring has taken place in school and with other schools too. All schools seem to be doing their own thing, which make it hard to compare but moderation between schools shows that our children are on track and that next step progress is being made and sustained. We were able to look through samples of work that had been marked by teachers then monitored by SLT and cross referenced to show that standards of marking are high, consistent across the class and school and benefit the children.

Mrs Wentworth explained about the developments in the school library which are having positive effects on children's reading...

...it has been re-organised.

...books have been re-levelled.

...children are able to borrow books, the launch of this scheme was on World Book Day.

Each child was asked to bring in a second hand but good conditioned book that can be borrowed when dressing up for World Book Day, creating a free and useful resource.

... the space is used at lunch times as well as class times.

Reading has also been promoted in a Progression Assembly and trips for each class to the local library.

Conclusions to be considered at committee re SDP:

Monitor spelling progress and information in future meetings as this has been an area of focus in school.

May be interesting to see the children's views about the new resources, such as Reading Eggs and the new organisation in the library (pupil perception??)

Evidence from the visit demonstrates that the school is successfully working towards the SDP targets in English.

A very hard working team- thank you for your time.

Signed ...Lisa Humphreys..... (Governor)

Signed (Headteacher / Subject Leader)