



London Borough of Havering
Scotts Primary School
Bonington Road
Hornchurch
Essex
RM12 6TH
Telephone (01708) 457019
Head Teacher: Mrs J Taylor
Office@scotts.havering.sch.uk



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March Newsletter

Dear Parents,

As we come to the end of another successful term, I wanted to update you with the changes to our governing body and recent inspections of the school.

I am pleased to welcome Mrs Kerry Course as our new Chair of Governors. She has already carried out several duties in relation to this role and I know that she is fully committed to supporting the school in ensuring that standards remain high. Dr McLaren (parent) remains Vice Chair of Governors and the other members of the board include: Mr Stuart Pepper (parent), Mr Dan Window (parent), Mrs Jackie Boardman (Co-opted) and Miss Charlotte Chamberlin (Local authority).

There have been three inspections of the school recently:

Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural (SMSC).

The inspector visited the school over the course of a day. She spoke with groups of children, viewed behaviour of the pupils and their attitudes to learning, looked at pupil's work, interviewed staff, viewed the school's environment and web site and inspected the school's curriculum and policies and practices. It was concluded that:

The school's mission statement: 'Imagine with all your mind ... Believe with all your heart ... Achieve with all your might', are clearly identified and embedded across school life and internalised by pupils and staff alike. There is high quality SMSC provision planned and embedded across the school. Pupils are supported to develop the knowledge, skills and attributes that will equip them for life in modern Britain. Children show great respect for one another and staff, they welcome opportunities to make a positive contribution both inside and outside of school, and are clear what they have to do to achieve their personal goals and be good citizens.

Judgement of SMSC = Outstanding.

Leadership and Management.

The inspector conducted a learning walk with Senior Leaders (HT, DHT, AHT and Phase Leaders) and interviewed middle and subject leaders at the school. She inspected the school's improvement plans and self-evaluation document and looked at pupils' work across the school in all subjects. She also met with Mrs Kerry Course, Chair of Governors.

Outcomes from this inspection concluded:

Today's interviews and learning walks evidence that leaders at all levels are able to evidence the impact of their leadership in relation to the curriculum, teaching and assessment. Well-embedded and systematic professional reflection on practice, together with a peer coaching cycle result in continual improvements in teaching. The school's robust cycle of assessment and monitoring is highly effective in identifying any areas for improvement and then putting plans in place to address these.

Scrutiny of work at depth across all years evidences high quality teachers' and pupils' next steps dialogue. Pupils take great pride in the presentation of their work and the same high standards of writing are evident in all subjects. The wider curriculum is vibrant and based on first-hand learning. The core principles of pupils as teachers and mentors remains fully embedded in the life of the school.

Judgement of Leadership and Management = Outstanding.

Safeguarding

The inspector looked at a range of documentation including: policies, child-protection notes, behaviour records and the DBS register. She also inspected the school's practices including: the changes made to security, provision in staff training and how the curriculum supports pupils' safety.

It was concluded that:

The last safeguarding audit was in 2015. The school has not only maintained the effectiveness of its policies and practices but has improved these over the past two years.

Judgement of safeguarding judged to be = Effective (this is the highest grade)

I am of course pleased that these inspections support our own judgements but I am also aware that the partnership between the school and the parents is a key ingredient in the school's success and the achievement of the children, and so I would like to say thank you for your continued support.

In particular I would also like to say a big thank you to those parents who have emailed the school with messages of support recently. It is hugely appreciated by all staff.

I hope you all have a lovely Easter break and manage to make some time for relaxation with friends and family.

Yours sincerely,

Jan Taylor
Head Teacher

