

School Improvement Review 2016-2017

Priority 3: Continue to embed the revised English curriculum and assessment procedures.

Summary

The focus of school improvement for the academic year of 2016-2017 was to support children in becoming independent and efficient editors of their writing, especially in terms of their spelling. We noticed that whilst children could often spell high frequency words within their spelling tests, they still struggled to use these accurately in their writing. This was due to a number of reasons, including apathy towards spelling as well as missed opportunities to place words into context. With the introduction of the a new Spelling Scheme into KS1, the practise of having two spelling tests has shown a marked improvement. This has allowed the children to not only learn the spelling of the word, but also to use them in context.

Within lessons, the children have been encouraged to use the required end of key stage words within all areas of their writing. They have learnt to identify these independently and have clearly begun to take ownership of their own work. The introduction of *Writing for Pleasure* has also been greatly welcomed by the children. As a school, we aim to foster fostering a love of writing rather than turning the subject into a tick-box exercise. Through *Writing for Pleasure*, the children have been able to express themselves and write about topics they have been truly passionate about. For many children, this has accelerated their learning and ignited a true love for writing.

The improvements made across the school in Writing have been truly phenomenal, as reflected in the end of key stage results. This positive trend can also be seen within the spelling results as we have now introduced an assessment at the end of each term. All children have made progress in this area.

Our school priorities this forthcoming year will focus around Reading. While our Reading results are strong, we must also reflect on the fact that not all of our children read for pleasure. We would like to foster a true love of reading throughout the whole school. The following areas will be addressed this coming academic year:

1. To allow children more time to read at leisure within school. This will be built into our Guided Reading sessions each week.
2. To ensure that the children have a range of text types give to them by the school and that they are appropriately challenged through half-termly assessments.
3. To introduce termly *Reading for Pleasure* days (alongside *Writing for Pleasure*), as well as sponsored reads.
4. To introduce monthly author study activities.

Finally I would like to thank you for your continued support at home. Creating a culture for continued learning at home makes such a difference to learning habits and progress within school.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs. Edwards

English Leader