



ST LUKE'S CE FIRST SCHOOL
Plymouth Road, Southcrest,
Redditch, Worcestershire B97 4NU

Telephone: 01527 541219
Fax: 01527 543857

Email: admin@stlukesfirst.worcs.sch.uk

Website: www.stlukesfirst.worcs.sch.uk

Wednesday 11th January 2023

Teaching & Learning Update

Dear Parents/Carers,

It has now been a year since our Ofsted inspection and a term since I took up the post of Headteacher at St Luke's and so I would like to update parents/carers on our progress to date in addressing the areas of improvement from the Ofsted report and the next steps we are taking in our school development plan:

Improve progress and outcomes for SEN pupils

Mrs Coleman, our SENCO, has attended a wealth of training courses for SEN since September and is now in the process of delivering follow on training to staff on the most significant elements of this. In the autumn term, we focused on developing listening skills in all classes and speech and language provision across the school. We are seeing good progress with speech and language targets and monitoring of lessons evidences that listening and attention skills are improving. Several visitors I have shown around the school have commented on how calm it is everywhere and how focussed the children have been on their learning. Later in the Spring term we will have a full SEN review completed by our School Improvement Advisor, which will evaluate the impact of the work that has been done to improve SEN provision over the past year. The outcomes of which will be shared with you as soon as possible.

Improve outcomes in reading/phonics

Ofsted identified that, for a minority of SEND pupils, not enough was being done to help them catch up in phonics and reading. Ofsted also identified that a small number of SEND pupils did not have a reading book which matched their phonics stage.

Since September, 2022 we have continued the school's approach to streaming for phonics across the school. This system is now very well embedded and the progress of all children learning the phonics code is tracked carefully each half term by class teachers, Mrs Broughton our English Lead and Mrs Coleman our SENCO. Mrs Broughton led significant staff training last term in order to ensure all teaching staff are secure in the delivery and expectations of the Read Write Inc phonics programme. Children who are identified through our ongoing monitoring and assessment as not making sufficient progress receive extra catch up intervention support. We are pleased to report that we currently have very few children not making the expected progress, and our monitoring evidences that 40% of the children still learning the phonics code made accelerated progress in the autumn term. Matched reading books are also monitored frequently and our checks to ensure that each child is reading the correct level of text matched to their phonics ability evidences that this is consistently accurate.

In the Autumn term we also focused on developing our reading provision for pupils who have mastered the phonics code. We have selected quality texts to be used in reading sessions from Year 2 onwards and have focused on planning strong sequences of learning which cover all reading objectives.

Next week we have got an external review of our phonics and reading provision, so I will share the outcomes of this with you as soon as possible.

Improve outcomes in maths through deepening the learning of higher attaining pupils

Ofsted identified that in maths lessons, some pupils were not being moved on quickly enough in their learning and that assessment for learning was not always effective.

In the Autumn term, we have received further guidance from an external National Leader of Education as well as whole staff training on the 'Concrete, Pictorial, Abstract' approach from a lead maths provider. As a staff team, we have continued to focus on ensuring appropriate challenge is planned for in maths lessons in order that children deepen their understanding and are moved on quickly. Through our monitoring and assessment, we are delighted that these actions are having a positive impact and our maths outcomes for Key Stage 1 at the end of July 2022 were in line with national outcomes which was very pleasing. We are continuing to ensure that maths is a high priority and ensuring our higher attaining pupils are challenged.

As we move through the year we will continue to focus on developing assessment for learning in all lessons to ensure strong progress and outcomes for children.

Improve whole school attendance and reduce the number of persistent absentees

I am aware that at the end of the Summer term, Mrs Pemberton wrote to parents about attendance and the impact low attendance has had for the school. In the autumn term, we have put a lot of work into improving school attendance. Registers have been checked on a regular basis and contact made with families as soon as a child's attendance has dropped below 90%. Mrs Coleman, our attendance lead, has held support meetings with parents and we are fully committed to working with all our families to ensure attendance is a high priority for everyone. However, despite this our overall attendance continues to be at around 92%, which is below the government expectation (of at least 95%) and indeed the typical attendance for St Luke's before the Covid19 pandemic – which was in line with the government expectation of 95%. Pre-Covid19, St Luke's typically had approximately 12% of pupils who had attendance of less than 90%. We currently have 22% of children falling into this category which is significantly higher and something that we are continuing to address by working with our Educational Welfare Officer and working together with our families.

Please remember that we cannot educate the children if they are not in school and, for many children, low attendance will *significantly* affect their outcomes and progress.

Foundation Subjects

Following the January 2022 inspection, the school re-visited some of our Foundation subjects to understand how we can develop them further to deepen pupils' knowledge. Curriculum

plans were also reviewed and the subject specific vocabulary was streamlined. We are now embarking on a programme of support for our subject leaders alongside Worcestershire local authority advisors to ensure our foundation and core subject provision and leadership is strong. All teachers have attended staff training on the role of the subject leader and 2 of our staff are embarking on a programme of support which they will then disseminate to the rest of the team. All subject leaders will be working closely with one of the Worcestershire advisors this term to ensure our curriculum provision is robust and is planned and delivered in a way which enables children to retain key information.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our parents and carers for their ongoing support for the school. I will continue to update you on the progress the school is making in these areas across the year.

Yours faithfully

S. Baker

Mrs Baker

Headteacher

