

The children of Standlake will reach their potential by belonging to a supportive and inclusive community, believing in themselves, each other, our Christian values and building on their successes.



Newsletter

Friday 25th November 2016



Dear Parents,

Last week I commissioned an Ofsted inspector to carry out a 'School Review'. Given the significant changes that have taken place over the last two years I was keen to seek validation for the work that has, is and will be done to make this a great school. I believe that the school is now moving in the right direction and was keen to get a 'second opinion' from an external advisor to help identify what is going well and what still needs to be developed.

As part of the school review the reviewer did the following:

- Held meetings with myself, Mrs Conroy (as deputy headteacher), and leaders for English (Mrs Conroy), Mathematics (Mr Brown), Early Years (Mrs Willis), SENCO (myself) and three governors.
- Visited and observed all of the classes with myself and Mrs Conroy.
- Talked and read with groups of children
- Scrutinised pupils' work in English and Mathematics books across the school
- Studied many documents in the school and on the website including attainment and progress data, the school development plan and the school self-evaluation form.
- Reviewed and discussed safeguarding procedures and practices.

An extensive report has been written for the school Leadership and Management which will be reviewed by the governors, but I wanted to share some of the findings with you in this newsletter today:

EFFECTIVENESS OF LEADERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT

Strengths

- *The very dynamic and dedicated leadership of the headteacher has brought about significant improvement in the last two years ensuring that pupils' outcomes are improving. Since September 2016 the headteacher has been supported by an equally energising and hard-working deputy and together they are driving forward standards and outcomes.*
- *The Headteacher very successfully creates a culture where pupils try their best and are happy to learn. He is well supported by highly dedicated teachers and staff. All the pupils spoken to, said that they enjoyed school. Many pupils were keen to share their work and talk about what they were learning.*
- *Strong business management in the school has ensured careful financial management and seen the school move from a deficit to surplus in two years.*

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- *Some governors are new to their role but they are really committed to developing even better provision for pupils. They are clear about the strengths of the school.*
- *The school's commitment to safeguarding is evident in all aspects of school life. Pupils are confident that the staff will respond quickly and effectively to any concerns they might have. They say they feel safe in school and have very positive relationships with all staff.*

Areas for development

- *The Headteacher/SENCO to update the website SEN report to bring in line with current legislation.*
- *The new middle leaders to be fully aware of what monitoring was completed in last academic year and what its impact was.*
- *The governors to have a deep understanding how the Pupil Premium funding and sports funding are used and what their impact is.*
- *The governors to be fully involved in some aspects of the schools monitoring and reporting schedule.*

QUALITY OF TEACHING, LEARNING AND ASSESSMENT

Strengths

- *Teachers have high expectations and so pupils' progress is improving.*
- *Teaching Assistants are an integral part of the teaching and learning and used effectively to support and develop the children's progress.*
- *Class teachers astutely ask pupils to assess themselves against three learning objectives and specific assessment criteria. This means that their self-evaluation skills are developing productively.*
- *Practical activities are used thoughtfully. Pupils are able to work effectively, socialise and have fun at the same time.*

Areas for development

- *For there to be consistency of all teachers using short introductory activities effectively to assess pupils and decide which ones are ready to take the next step up the learning ladder and which ones would benefit from further reinforcement.*
- *Teachers to explain and display how pupils can work at a greater depth of skills in each lesson.*
- *Pupils to discuss and explain in detail how they are going to improve their work and reach the next stage of development.*

PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT, WELFARE AND BEHAVIOUR

Strengths

- *The school's work to promote pupils' personal development is very effective. Behaviour is good.*
- *Bullying is rare and pupils say it is effectively sorted out on the rare occasions it occurs.*
- *School rules are well known and followed thoughtfully.*
- *Attendance is above average and a few pupils who had poor levels of attendance in the past have significantly reduced their absences.*

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- The pupils develop valuable life skills and become independent because staff encourage them effectively to do things for themselves. They are well-mannered and polite to adults. They welcome visitors and are eager to talk about what they have learnt. They are confident to speak to the class and take the lead in learning because teachers strongly promote resilience and nurture inclusion.*

Areas for development

- Improve pupils' awareness of what they are proud of with regard to their work in school and in helping others less fortunate than themselves.*
- Enhance the attendance rates of some pupils so that the difference between these pupils and others is even smaller.*

OUTCOMES FOR PUPILS

Strengths

- Children in the early years make good progress in the prime areas of learning as well as reading, writing, mathematics because checks are made successfully throughout the school term and year. As a result in 2016 children's attainment was above average by the end of Reception.*
- In Year 1 progress is effective and so 90% of pupils met the phonic check in 2016 (above the national average). This is because pupils' phonics knowledge is developed systematically.*
- Pupils in Key Stage 1 make steady progress and attained (in 2016) average standards in reading, writing, mathematics and above average in science having started with typical levels of knowledge and skill.*
- In 2016 Year 6 pupils did particularly well in spelling, grammar and punctuation and 91% (above average) of all pupils and 100% of disadvantaged pupils met the standard because extra tuition was used successfully to develop these skills.*

Areas for development

- Attainment and progress by Year 6 to be higher for all pupils.*
- Improve pupils' outcomes and progress by keeping an even closer eye on pupils' progress and attainment throughout Years 3 to 6.*
- Disadvantaged pupils' achievement to be carefully supported and checked by middle leaders.*

The review concluded that the school was not yet consistently good and requires improvement. We agree with this because the reviewer was limited in the judgement she could make due to the historical 'test' data, particularly in KS2. However we were able to demonstrate that this new academic year is seeing good progress, especially in the key focus areas and that if we continue in this way we will be consistently good before too long. An EPA Task Group (made up of the Primary Education Lead, School Improvement Officer, Chair of Governors with myself and Mrs Conroy) has been set up to support and ensure that the school continues to build on this good start to the year. I hope this open and honest account of the school review is helpful. If you would like to discuss any of the points raised please book an appointment and I would be very happy to talk to you.

Andrew Denham

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Getting in the Music Groove!



Oxfordshire Music Service came in to perform to the whole school as part of our 67 Get Inspired project. Over 30 children then got a 10 minute lesson with a wide range of instruments that they had seen being used.

Remembrance Day



The staff, children and parents came together to observe a wreath laying in our Peace Garden to remember those that had died in war so that we can live in a free and democratic country today.

Spooky Canvas



Dahl class spent a day doing an Art Project with Jessie Whealy as part of our 67 Get Inspired project.

Shoe Box Human Chain



The school community came together to form a 'human chain' to pass along shoe boxes (filled with gifts for less fortunate children across the world) from the school hall to the church. We filled 87 boxes! It was a great example of our children 'clothing themselves' (Colossians 3:12) in the school values of Love and Compassion.

Anti-Bullying Week



Last week saw the school join in with the national Anti-Bullying Week. The assemblies and some class activities focused on thinking about how we can use our 'Power for Good.' We also worked on understanding the difference between someone being 'mean or unkind' and actual 'bullying' when someone does something Several Times On Purpose (STOP) with predetermined malicious intent. Neither is acceptable but there is a difference.



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We raised £151.40 from our non-school uniform day and cake sale. Thank-you so much to the parents who baked cakes for the day - they were delicious!

Pantomime



A reminder that all of the children will be going to the Pantomime next Thursday. They will need to bring a packed lunch and will be returning to school at 5.15pm

Babushka Play



Blake and Dahl Class will be performing this musical next Wednesday evening at 6pm and again on the Thursday morning at 9.15am



There will be a Christingle Celebration on Sunday 27th November at 3.30pm at St Giles Church. Everyone is welcome.

Kiwis and Nuts



Please do not send your children in with kiwi or nuts for snack or packed lunch because we have a couple of children who are severely allergic to them. Thank-you

School Photo



If you would like to order your child's photo the 'proof' needs to be returned to the office by next Friday (2nd December)

School Transport

Oxfordshire County Council has decided to end the free school bus provision for future pupils from Standlake wanting to attend Bartholomew School. According to new (and what we consider inappropriate) measures, Henry Box is the nearest school that free bus transport would be provided for. Historically Standlake has always been a feeder school to Bartholomew.

Mr Denham and some parents held a meeting on Tuesday to discuss how we might move forward. It was agreed that we would find out how much the bus route would cost to keep going and whether we could come to some financial arrangement between OCC, Bartholomew School and Standlake families who want their children to go to Bartholomew.

With only 9 (out of 90) families represented at the meeting it was hard to gauge interest to any future plans so we agreed to send out a questionnaire by the end of next month.

It might seem like a very long way off for some of you with young children at the school but please take time to engage in the communications on this matter. We want you to be able to make an informed decision about the future secondary school placement for your child. At the moment it is looking like it could cost you up to £600 a year to go to Bartholomew and this is if the bus service continues to run!

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After School Club Provision

We are still waiting to hear back from Ofsted. The application fee has been paid, paperwork submitted and it is currently under review. As soon as Vicky hears from Ofsted she will contact parents who have signed up to confirm a start date.

Supervising your children

Please make sure that you supervise your children on the playground at the beginning and end of day. You are responsible for them until 8.45am when the doors open and after 3.10pm once they have been brought out of class.

Achievement Book this Term

Week 1

Euan Kelman for showing super understanding and progress in his Maths.

Amy Hardy for always being an enthusiastic learner with great ideas!

Milo Hutchins for settling into school really well; he has made new friends and we have enjoyed getting to know him.

Brodie Hutchins and Che Orrock for having settled into our class really well; they have been really helpful around the classroom.

Eddie Archibald for a super attitude to learning all week.

Week 2

Charlie Robinson for being a 'whizz kid' during our Beebot session.

Jack Rivers for a huge improvement in his writing.

George Kempton for showing a significant improvement in the presentation of his work.

Freddie Isard for consistently trying his hardest; recently he has chosen to join in with the year 1's when they are doing writing and number work.

Edward Sutch for great effort during our Great Fire of London lesson!

Week 3

Elodie Wilkinson-Goff for singing beautifully as Mary in 'Babushka' rehearsals.

Zach Bandali for showing our school value of respecting others in the classroom this week.

Holly Mace for behaving beautifully at playtime and being a great role model.

Louie Wall for overcoming fear in his Maths assessment.

Issy Todeschini for making fantastic progress in Maths and proving that all of the hard work is paying off.

The Soame Family for showing great love, compassion and generosity by putting together 230 shoe boxes filled with gifts, for the shoe box appeal. Wow!



Dates for the diary

Term 2

Wednesday	30 th November	Blake and Dahl Class Babuscha Play 6pm
Thursday	1 st December	Blake and Dahl Class Babuscha Play 9.15am Whole school trip to Panto
Wednesday	7 th December	Murphy and Donaldson Class Nativity play 9.15am
Thursday	8 th December	Flu vaccine for Year 1-3 children Murphy and Donaldson Class Nativity play 6pm
Friday	9 th December	Year 5 swimming
Saturday	10 th December	Christmas Fayre, 2.00-4.00pm
Wednesday	14 th December	Christmas Lunch
Thursday	15 th December	Christmas Party and Games (wear a Christmas Jumper)
Friday	16 th December	Christmas Church Service at St Giles Church Last Day. Finish at 1.15pm

Term 3

Tuesday	3 rd January	Teacher Training Day
Wednesday	4 th January	Term starts

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