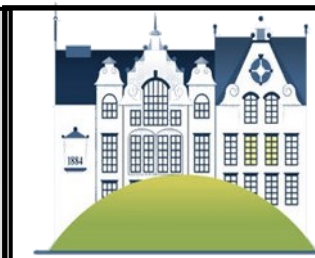


Primrose Hill Primary School School Improvement Newsletter



Spring Newsletter—What's this all about?

This is our Spring school improvement newsletter for this academic year. It will inform you of our progress towards the Whole School Priority Targets (WSPTs) set out in our 2016-17 School Improvement Plan. If you would like to see our full SIP, please look at our school website: www.primrosehill.camden.sch.uk/

Whole School Priority Targets:

Our whole school priority targets this year have been driven by: trends in our results, identification of approaches to develop resilience in learning, the expansion of our school to include 2 year olds and the need to develop a working cluster of schools in Camden to ensure consistency and share expertise.

- Raise attainment in reading, writing and mathematics

Increase overall attainment in Specific Areas of Learning (EYFS)

Increase % of children achieving age related expectations at the end of each year, in particular Y2 and Y6.

Narrow the gap between groups: disadvantaged and non – disadvantaged pupils, White British and boys.

- Focus on the development of writing across the school

- Implementation of the growth mindset approach

- Implementation of 2 year old provision

- Develop the partnership with the cluster of Camden Schools.



2 year old provision

We are finally at a point where our 2 year old provision—the tadpoles—is about to open. With building work nearing completion, we are looking forward to welcoming our youngest members of Primrose Hill in the Summer Term.

This has taken a lot of work from the 2 year old team who have been working tirelessly to ensure that : building work is completed, staff are in place , training is completed, admissions have been completed, open mornings organised and—of course—a beautiful learning environment is ready for the children to enjoy and learn in.

A big thank you to the 2 year old team—Richard, Liz, Roxan and Chin Chu who have been busy preparing for our tadpoles.

Our cluster of schools

Our collaborative work within a cluster of 4 other local Camden Schools has developed this year. It gives us a great opportunity to share good practice and resources.

Every half term we have a shared INSET training, in the most recent we shared resources and ideas through the Google Drive and a grammar training session that was led by the English leads from across the schools in conjunction with Tracy Goldblatt—the English consultant in Camden.

Leaders from across the schools including heads, assistant heads and subject leads meet regularly to plan, receive training etc. to continue to improve our school.

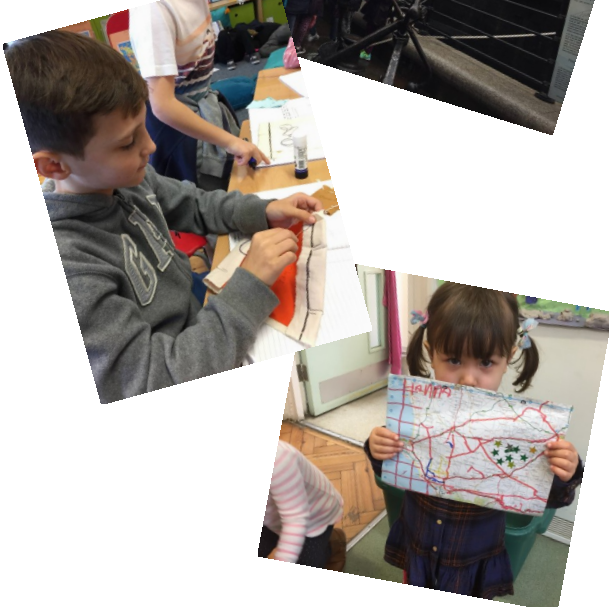
Focus on the development of writing:

The two main drivers for the School Improvement Priority on writing are now well under way: embedding grammar in writing across the curriculum and a lesson study project in each year group.

All the Year groups have embedded grammar in English and across the curriculum using a modelled writing approach. This was introduced and revisited through a series of insets which explored a range of ways for teachers to revisit grammar objectives creatively across the curriculum. This ensures a solid foundation in the building blocks of extended writing - sentences. The school's policy for child friendly grammar, known as the List of Magic, has been updated and this has been taken up by other schools in Camden. We recently had a grammar inset with our cluster of Camden Schools to focus on different elements of the grammar curriculum across KSI & KS2.

Lesson study projects have taken place in Years 5 and 3 are now underway in Year 2. These projects start with moderation of writing, and then, through identifying next steps for those children develop a series of lessons to widen the skills and approaches of the teacher; embed writing approaches; and ensure raised standards in outcomes. Year 5 and Year 4 have recently published outcomes of very high standards.

Our first Everybody Writes Day was a huge success and the next big whole school writing event is coming soon!



Growth Mindset:

Growth mindset is on it's way to becoming firmly embedded across Primrose Hill. All staff received training on what growth mindset is—**a belief that abilities can be developed through dedication and hard work**—and how we were going to introduce this ethos at Primrose Hill School. This was followed up with subsequent training sessions, including a visit from speaker Andy Vass—the session focusing on thinking to encourage a growth mindset.

Children across KSI and KS2 completed questionnaires so they could understand their own mindsets— these will be repeated at the end of the year to measure their own progress. Children were introduced to the concept through a series of whole school and phase assemblies which focused on the importance of having a growth mindset. These were then followed up in class through weekly circle time sessions designed by Mandy and Becca.

Classrooms have undergone growth mindset makeovers with displays being prominent in classrooms and 'the power of yet' being heard in the children's conversations. Growth mindset has even played centre stage in class assemblies.

Parents have also had the opportunity to learn more about growth mindset in a parent workshop led by Becca and Mandy in the Spring Term.

Raising attainment across the curriculum:

Maths

Laura and Sophie have been part of a maths mastery project—which looks at how we can implement elements of maths teaching from Shanghai and Singapore into our teaching and learning here. We were able to send seven of our teachers to see Mastery teaching in action at Netley Primary School, where visiting teachers from Shanghai were placed. This was an excellent opportunity for staff to see the impact of the approach in action and the impact has already been seen in learning across the school.

We are about to have our second 'stay & play' session with parents across KS1 & 2—these have been well attended and parents and children enjoyed playing maths games together that support fluency. Laura also ran calculation workshops for KS1 and KS2 parents during this term. The turnout to both of these sessions was fantastic and was a great forum for parents to discuss their thoughts and opinions on the written methods we use, and for Laura to explain the rationale behind them. Both reception classes have had 2 'Primrose Maths' sessions to support teaching and learning of early maths with parents through fun and interactive activities.

The Spring slam is KS2 has successfully raised the profile of times tables and rapid progress was measured across the Spring Term—we will repeat this again next year. Looking ahead, Laura has booked a maths activity day for the start of Summer term that will focus on problem solving and teamwork. This will involve the whole school and focus on the challenge and fun of Maths.



Computing

As a school, we are continuing to transition to Google and has so far been a huge success, with all teachers onboard; most of the school's network has been transferred to Google. An INSET will be delivered to the whole staff during the April INSET which will cover ways in which Google Classroom can be used for blended learning and flipped classrooms.

Paul has continued to build links with Purple Mash and these have proved successful. Nigel Canin has worked with Year 6, Year 3 and Year 4 to assist with teaching the coding side of the curriculum. Noticeboards are being used to share work created on Purple Mash, and Paul will use the April INSET to cement this as a way of sharing digital outcomes across the KS1 and KS2.

The CLC continue to support with units from the *Switched On Computing Scheme* in Year 3 and Year 4; for example, Year 3 have become 'Vloggers' at the CLC in the second half of the Spring term and

Google visited us this term to demonstrate virtual reality to the children across KS1 and KS2—a fun session for them all!

Online safety remains a big focus and activities took place in February to coincide with 'Safer Internet Day'. *Cyber Adventure* workshops took place in all KS1 classes ran by the theatre group: Konflux. Paul, assisted by the CLC's Mary Rebello, also led a parent information session on the importance of online safety—this was well attended by parents from across different year groups.

Paul is excited to restart Code Club after the half term break and will be on the lookout for Code Club volunteers to support with the running of this.

Science and STEM

Niamh has been successful obtaining funding from the British Science Association to cover the cost for Science workshops aboard the Floating Classroom for Dragonflies, Butterflies and Rainbow classes—which they thoroughly enjoyed this term.

Science week is on the horizon at the start of the Summer Term—with many different activities planned—this involves visits to the Crick Institute at King's Cross for year 5, a visit to the science laboratory at UCS primary school in Hampstead, as well as workshops happening across the school.

Niamh and Jemma have introduced a new initiative across KS1 and KS2 in Science and Humanities and the children are now using class floor books as opposed to individual exercise books in these sessions. This is to support a more practical and creative approach to learning experiences and providing a greater opportunity to showcase the scientific and humanities inquiry skills used by the children.

Following a training course on Science Assessment and meetings with colleagues through the Camden Science leaders meeting, Niamh has devised a new assessment format for Science across the school. It is hoped that this format will underpin clear and consistent assessment of children's Science attainment. The format will be trialled and evaluated using teacher feedback.



Creative Arts

Two new clubs have started up since September this year in addition to the long standing KS2 art club. All club vacancies are full and they are being well attended.

Art Ambassadors have been interviewed and selected from KS2 and are meeting on the first Thursday of every half term, with additional sessions for pairs of children to help Alice with the maintenance of the art room and stock. Alice has so far worked with year 1 and 5 and is currently working with year 2 on specialist projects sitting outside of their class topics.

Humanities

Jemma met with local leaders from a number of faiths to plan Primrose Hill's Religion Week which happened in March and explored the theme of storytelling across different religions.

Jemma has also worked alongside Niamh to implement the new floor books across KS1 and KS2.

Children across the school have continued to enjoy a number of educational visits, including trips to the British Library, the Golden Hinde and the RAF museum. These trips are essential for bringing topics to life through hands-on, practical experiences.

Music

Choirs have increased in popularity and the Key Stage 2 choir recently performed on March 13th at the Camden Choir Festival—an amazing event! Music Tech club has also been very popular—this club meets every Thursday and works on music production utilising the Ipads and the music studio. There are now two 'Crescendo Clubs'; one for Year 1, and one for Year 2. Finally, the Camden Music Club is fully booked with children receiving 1 to 1 music lessons. In total there are now over 100 children receiving extra-curricular music.

This year Primrose Hill School has worked closely with the Royal Academy of Music (Year 4), Camden CLC (Year 5) and the Vonnegut Collective (Year 3). Each workshop has been very inspiring.

The new sound system has been an amazing way to celebrate the children's music. Every week students host 'Primrose Hill FM' and broadcast the children's work.

Physical Education

The new PE team is proving to be a great success! The children are excited to take part in PE lessons and are really enjoying the activities.

We continue to take part in regular tournaments (football, basketball, athletics, tag rugby and cross country) and have achieved well in these. We also reached the Netball finals at Crystal Palace in March.

After school sports clubs are going particularly well. Football club places, as always, are in high demand and we are trying to allocate places fairly, on a rotation system as there were more than 45 applicants for each football club (they have a maximum of 20 places each). We have added an additional club this term, Dodge ball, which is also oversubscribed and has high attendance; this has proved to be a very popular club and children are really enjoying it.

Nursery now have PE each week. The children work on fun activities that help develop their gross motor skills while giving them an enormous amount of enjoyment.