

Primrose Hill Primary School School Improvement Newsletter



Autumn Term Newsletter December 2018 –What's this all about?



This newsletter is to update you with progress against our School Improvement Plan. The plan is made up of five 'school improvement priorities' and form the overall School Improvement Plan for the year. If you would like to see our full SIP, please look at our school website: www.primrosehill.camden.sch.uk

Whole School Priority Targets:

1. To continue to improve teaching and learning outcomes for all children
2. To develop technical accuracy in writing and embed oracy across the curriculum
3. To widen specialist knowledge of physical development to support children's learning
4. To promote positive mental health, wellbeing and inclusivity across the school

1. To continue to improve teaching and learning outcomes for all children

The focus this term has been on the development of our new learning spaces for the children. The new Reception 'Ladybird' space has proven very successful, the children are really happy and confident and the team are absolutely brilliant. There has been heavy financial investment in canopies in the outside areas in Reception and Year 1 that have further helped to support free flow learning both inside and outside the classroom. Integrated Learning is being trialled in years 3 and 4 this year. Teachers from this phase have observed practitioners in KSI to observe integrated learning in action and are currently adapting it to suit the learner's needs in their classrooms. To maintain quality phonics outcomes, new teachers to the team have been observing experienced members of staff across the phase to ensure consistency. Across the school, the senior leadership team have conducted assessment meetings, pupil progress reviews and learning walks to ensure children are making expected, or better, progress.



2. To develop technical accuracy in writing and embed oracy across the curriculum

Training for teachers this term has focused on technical accuracy in writing. Alongside our English Lead, teachers have developed marking codes that encourage children to identify and correct errors in tense, spelling, punctuation and making sure that sentences make sense. These marking codes have proved very popular with the children and the impact on technical accuracy is being monitored throughout the year. Our oracy project is going to start in the Spring Term and this has been planned with Kate Hopewell, as a consultant on using drama to improve writing. Teachers will receive training on this on the January INSET day and will focus on children learning stories off by heart before re-telling them orally. Everybody Writes Day, this term and the arrival of a mysterious shed, was a fantastic way to get children across the school excited about writing—a huge success.



3. To widen specialist knowledge of physical development to support children's learning

During the Autumn Term, the PE team have been busy training the rest of the teachers in PE across the school. This training is on-going and will continue into the Spring Term meaning that all children will have two sessions of PE a week. We have had a renewed focus on handwriting this term. Teachers have received training from our Occupational Therapist Shaaron Powell and Robin on the development of pre-writing skills and the progression of handwriting. Robin is also leading a handwriting workshop for parents in January. Laura and Jordan are also in the process of carrying out an audit of our sports club provision to ensure there is equality for boys and girls.



4. To promote positive mental health, wellbeing and inclusivity across the school

Whole school assemblies in the Autumn Term have focused on inclusion and children have done thinking about what that means in our school; how everyone is different and this should be celebrated. The school council have been given an important job—to create a new set of Golden Rules for all of our children! They are going to be working hard on this in the Spring Term. Teachers have had lots of training this term, including a session ran by the Occupational Therapist on sensory processing and how best to support children that have these needs. The Occupational Therapist has also run a few whole class sessions in ALERT which supports children in regulating themselves. Mental Health week was a success this term, starting with an assembly for the children on raising awareness and followed by activities in class. Staff also had a breakfast altogether that week and there is a well being session planned at the end of this term. We have also widened our clubs offer this term, to make sure there is something that interests everyone, to include Chess and Latin which will also continue in the Spring Term.



5. To further involve parents and carers in school life to support their child's learning.

From September, parents and carers have been invited into class every Friday morning. This is so they can sit with their child who can share and explain their learning with them. Parents are able to drop in when they are able to. A review of the Home Learning policy has begun this term with opinions from the children, staff and families about what we want the main purpose of Home Learning to be at Primrose Hill. The outcomes of this will be shared in the Spring Term—thank you to those who attended the coffee mornings on this topic and filled in the online questionnaire. There have been several parent events this term including the successful maths stay and play event as well as writing workshops for parents of those in Reception. Our parent representatives are also up and running and help make the FOPH Christmas event a real success—thank you!



Thank you for reading! If you would like any further information on the School Improvement Plan, please come and speak to me on the gate—the next newsletter will come out at the end of the Spring Term.

Laura Beeson—Assistant Head Teacher

