Spring Newsletter—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
5. To further involve parents and carers in school life to support their child’s learning.

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

The learning space in the Ladybirds classroom continues to be a success with systems completely embedded. Our Camden Professional Partner feedback this term included, “The learning environment has been meticulously planned with specific areas for learning demarcated to ensure focus and concentration. Provision is excellent with resources well maintained, readily available and labelled in order that children can work independently. Children were focused, purposeful and independent, many working at above expectations because provision gave them the opportunity to further explore and challenge themselves.”

Outside space in Y1

The children in Y1 wrote Robin some persuasive letters asking him for some money to buy some new outside resources. They did a good job, as lots of new resources turned up and the children were involved in setting things up and making their outside environment even more purposeful and fun.

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

The Spring Term started off with whole staff training on oracy and how this supports children’s writing. From these sessions, teachers learnt the impact of children knowing stories and re—telling them off by heart and how this supports their ability to write the story with confidence. School displays in the corridors have been showcasing the children’s published work as did Writing Workshops this term—where parents were invited in to share their children’s writing. Recent feedback from our school review through Challenge Partners noted the high level of both the teachers’ and pupils’ subject knowledge of the technical aspect of writing—including using and explaining grammar terms—and the impact this had on their writing. Children are becoming more familiar with marking codes used to develop technical accuracy and are becoming more independent in finding their own mistakes and correcting them.
3. To widen specialist knowledge of physical development to support children’s learning

The PE team have been continuing to train teachers in PE throughout the Spring Term; teachers have been observing and teaching alongside the PE team across a series of sessions to build their knowledge in this area. Jordan is running a Physical Development session for all support staff on our INSET day after the Easter break.

We began the term with whole staff training on handwriting and physical development with input from our Occupational Therapist. Robin lead a very successful and well attended handwriting workshop for parents and carers this term which focused on the progression of the handwriting policy we follow within school. The Summer Term will begin with new presentation guidelines for children and staff.

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

The School Council have been busy the last few weeks gathering opinion from the children about our Golden Rules and whether we need a new set at Primrose Hill to represent what we believe in. This work is going to continue into the Summer Term. Staff have been having regular training sessions on different learning difficulties and how best to support children in class. They have also have specific sessions areas such as dyslexia and attachment. We are also really lucky to have a new team of therapists working across the school on a weekly basis—this has started this term. Preparations are on-going for our Autistic Resourced Provision.

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

Parents and carers are still invited into class every Friday morning during soft start so their child can share their learning with them—this is a lovely opportunity to have regular conversations with your child about what they are learning. Following on from feedback from parents and carers, each year group are going to be sending out a new half termly newsletter which details what the children are going to be covering in class that half term. The Home Learning policy has been amended following on from feedback from parents, carers, staff and children. Changes have focused on making sure that the progression of Home Learning is clear and there is consistency between year groups and classes. Parents and carers feedback was that it is useful to have further support with mathematical methods. We are busy creating a library of short mathematical videos to explain these that children and parents and carers can watch together. This will be shared at the start of the Summer Term. Attendance at recent coffee mornings and workshops have been well attended. We also have our new screen by the gates—make sure you check it out for information about the coming weeks. It includes our Frequently Asked Questions for parents and carers which will also be going out in hard copies in the Summer Term. Laura will be gathering opinion about the type of communication that parents and carers find most useful to make sure we reach you in the best way for 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.  

Laura Beeson—Assistant Head Teacher