



St Paul's Church of England Primary School

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7th April 2017

Dear Parents/Carers,

SPRING TERM 2017- SCHOOL PROGRESS REPORT

Following the success of the initial progress report in the autumn term it has been decided that I will continue to report to parents on the work undertaken over the term. The report is focused on informing families on the continued school improvement and the work undertaken by staff, governors and the PTFA in addition to the daily teaching and learning that happens in school.

During the first half of the autumn term it was agreed that school would be focusing on the following areas of development:

- **To continually develop teaching approaches for all children by developing the quality of teaching, learning and assessment to ensure children progress inline with or above national expectations in Writing, Mathematics and Reading.**
- **To strengthen the effectiveness of the Governing Body to support and challenge the school and fulfil its statutory duties.**
- **Reaffirm the school's vision, ensuring that the school's Christian character is distinctive and effectively contributes to the achievement and development of all pupils.**

The senior leadership team, teachers, governors and advisers have worked, and continue to work to successfully achieve the above improvement areas. These are very broad, but have been broken into more manageable targets that are coordinated by individuals and sub-committees to be achieved collectively to support positive progress.

In addition to the monitoring undertaken in the autumn term, middle leaders (subject coordinators) have carried out 'book looks', observations, questionnaires and pupil interviews to gain further understanding of *how* successful pupil achievement is, in their subject area. Monitoring and intervention has continued to happen at a senior level, this has presented itself in pupil progress meetings, data review and joint lesson observations. This information is collated and forms part of the school self-evaluation.

English and mathematics remain a whole school priority, and I am pleased to report the teaching and learning experiences that children receive have grown from strength to strength. The pace of learning has accelerated and children are being challenged to apply their knowledge to a much deeper level. This 'breadth and depth' is carefully modelled by the adults and working walls are supporting children's development within a theme, genre or calculation.

The evidence of children's progress, achievement and marking was raised as a huge positive during the recent parents' evening. The format of this terms parents' evening was very different from that previously, and I am very pleased that the calm layout in the school hall provided you with plenty of time to review your child's work. The longer appointment times of ten minutes were greatly received, especially as they were more private and within the teacher's classroom. School received over a hundred comment slips which were all a pleasure to read, however please contact me personally should you wish to discuss any aspect of the two evenings.

This term has seen three of our classes lead a whole school worship, in front of pupils, parents and family members. These have been superb and once again, the comments in our worship book 'sing' the children's praises and express how articulate our children are in reading, worshipping and praising the word of God. We have been blessed each week by Rev. Tim (Priest in Charge), who has delivered thought provoking, reflective and loving whole school worship. A huge thank you needs to be given to Rev. Tim for helping school flourish as a Church of England Primary School.

A report of this nature is put together to inform families, and the wider community, of the achievements and progress towards school improvement. It is also designed to explain some of the reasoning behind decisions that the governors and I have made over the year. As many of you are aware, via the national media, schools are going to be subject to 'real term' cuts to their school budgets over the coming years. All schools, up and down the country, will be receiving consultations from financial advisers that budgets will be cut. The concrete percentage is yet to be finalised! With this in mind, some decisions, curriculum enhancements and future plans which may have been shared previously with you have had to be suspended, postponed or cancelled in light of the new school finance formula.

This does not mean school is unable to provide the varied curriculum, visits, experiences and sporting opportunities we currently do. What it does mean is, the Governing Body is providing a more structured, planned and impact based evaluation of school spending. Some of the proposed areas of spending review are as follows:

- Bought in behaviour reward days are to be held once a term, rather than half termly.
- Subsidised residential visits will be reduced to only one-year group (Year 6).
- Swimming lessons and transportation to and from the facilities will be timetable for each year for Year 4. This will be starting from September 2017. Year 5 will continue to receive their swimming session until the end of the academic year.
- School resources will be audited to ensure a successful 3-year purchase plan is devised.
- Income generation and grant funding will be further developed to ensure consistent financial growth, which is then injected back to support children's academic, social and emotional development.

It is with great intention that families are kept well informed of all operational factors affecting school via our weekly newsletters and I have been pleased that many of you have taken the opportunity to speak with me at the front of school during drop off time to express your appreciation for phone calls, letters and newsletter updating you on matters relating to staffing changes.

Following Mrs Jose and Mrs Byrne leaving St.Paul's to take on new opportunities, we have welcomed Mrs Scholes and Miss Holt to school. Both experienced key stage two teachers, they have jumped straight into school life. The governors and I would like to thank Mrs Jose and Mrs Byrne for their service to school and welcome Mrs Scholes and Miss Holt. Following on from the departure of some school staff, the Governing Body are in the final stages of the recruitment process for a new Deputy Headteacher and a new School Business Manager.

In the autumn term parents were invited to share their vision and wishes for school in the future. A reoccurring request from many was the introduction of a before and after school provision. In the coming weeks a consultation process will be initiated and families will be contacted and asked to complete a questionnaire relating to this topic. This is not to be seen as a definitive answer as it will need an intense and rigorous discussion as an agenda item in our future governors meeting.

Once again, thank you for making me feel incredibly welcome. This is an extremely exciting time at St.Paul's and I am honored and privileged to be a part of this fantastic school, church and community.

God bless,

Chris Dugdale