



Head's

Update

January 2024

KEEPING YOU INFORMED FROM MRS O'CONNOR

Alfred Lord Tennyson School Improvement Update

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have had a fantastic first term as a new primary school and our children have settled really well. As a team, we have been working hard on developing consistency where possible, for the children across the sites and have continued to work hard to raise standards across the primary provision. I am delighted to inform you that these improvements have been recognised by the Local Authority in their recent Teaching and Learning Review that took place last term. During the review, we had three external School Improvement Partners visit all of the classes, speak to the leadership team, children and staff, and look at the quality of the work being produced by the children. The team were very impressed by the progress that has been made, especially in such a short space of time. They were also reassured that we are continuing to make the right improvements in order to secure good outcomes for all of our children. Below are some of the positive comments that were included in their report:

- * The Headteacher has set out a clear vision and expectations for 'one school';
 - * Pupil numbers have increased in most year groups;
 - * Children's work is displayed and valued in the Art gallery;
 - * Values and expectations are clearly set out in the environment e.g. hall displays and Diwali display;
 - * The newly laid out reading and intervention areas at the Infant Site give space and are appealing to children, we saw them being used often and effectively;
 - * Adults in Early Years are showing increasing confidence and quality in their interactions with children to develop learning;
 - * There are ongoing improvements to the Early Years environment;
 - * There are consistent expectations for presentation of work;
 - * The implementation of the new curriculum is set out as expected;
 - * There is evidence that teachers are using the adapted tasks to support the needs of the full range of learners;
 - * Calm, but busy classrooms with high levels of focus from pupils, including those with SEND;
 - * Good use of adults to support regulation and learning;
 - * Consistent classroom expectations;
 - * Evidence of British Values and celebration of children's community involvement in the displays (e.g. Remembrance display in hall);
 - * Children were keen to share their learning with visitors, most were clear about what they were learning and how it linked to prior learning.
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- * Staff feel supported by leaders, they are beginning to feel like 'one school' and they are starting to appreciate the opportunities for development afforded by the expansion of phases;
- * They are clear what the expectations are;
- * Leaders have a clear vision for the curriculum which has been shared effectively with staff;
- * Senior Leaders have an accurate view of the strengths and areas for development and there are plans in place to ensure improvement at pace.

We hope that as parents you are also seeing the continued progress we are making.

Staffing Update

At the end of the Autumn Term, we sadly said goodbye to Mrs Potts our School Business Manager and to Mrs Watkins who has been a Teaching Assistant on the Alfred Street site for many years, both of whom have made the decision to retire and enjoy spending time with their grandchildren. We also said goodbye to Mrs Maple, our Year 5 Teaching Assistant who moved on to pastures new.

We are currently in the process of recruiting teaching assistants and we are pleased to inform you that Mrs Weir will be taking on the role of Acting School Office Manager and Bursar. She will be supported in the office by Miss Paradise and Ms Wilmott. All of our office staff will be working across sites.

Mrs Hall our Learning Mentor and Mrs Bunker our Family Support worker, will also be working more widely across the two sites this term alongside myself and Senior Leaders. This approach enables us to improve consistency and enable our families to get to know key staff.

Governors

We are delighted to inform you that we have successfully appointed two new parent governors to join our existing governing body. We welcome Mrs Love whom has a child in KS1, and Mrs Dagwell, whom has a child in KS2. If you have any views that you would like to be brought to the governing body, you are welcome to raise them with them.

Love Food

From January 2024, Love Food are now the sole provider of our meal provision at Alfred Lord Tennyson. They have been the provider at Alfred Street for several years and we have always been pleased with the quality and the choice of food on offer. We are hoping that by moving to one provider, it will make it easier for parents/carers to place orders. The feedback that we have received so far from staff at the Infant site and the children, has all been positive regarding the change. If you would like to order dinners and are unsure how, please speak to the school office.

Building Works at Alfred Street

Phase 1 of our roofing project is now complete and the Year 5, library and office section of the school has now been upgraded. In January, the scaffolding and works will focus upon the middle section of school and so the Year 6 exit to the playground will be out of use whilst this is being undertaken. We are hoping that all roofing work will be complete by the end of the Spring term.