



Awesome St Ambrose

Newsletter 10, Spring 2018

Reading coffee morning

A huge thank you to the 80+ family members who supported our reading coffee morning as well as donating cakes! It was great to have so many adults involved and keen to see their children learning.

Leavers

Further to the staffing changes we told you about last term, some of our long serving staff are leaving us on 31 January, either retiring or moving on the pastures new. We would like to thank Mrs Harrison (Senior cleaner), Mrs M Cameron (cleaner) for their long service to our school and community and we wish them all well in the future. From 1 February, many of our support staff move into new roles, following a staff restructure that was finalized last term. This will mean some changes that we will all have to get used to so please bear with us as these changes bed in.

Local Authority Review

The review took place at the end of November and we have now received the final report. Below is a summary of the report for you:

'An enormous amount of work was completed during the summer term and the new leaders seized the opportunity for a 'fresh start' from September 2018. The Executive HT and the Acting DHT have done particularly well in bringing about so much positive change in just two part-terms so far. There are many signs of impact from the actions undertaken by these senior leaders and by other leaders who have now taken on new roles. Most members of the staff team have rallied courageously, determined to better meet the needs of their pupils. SIL reviewers noted that most colleagues actually seemed to be enjoying the school's new ways.

Key stakeholders can now see that St Ambrose will have been transformed and stabilised, with sustainable in-house capacity in place, before the current leadership agreement expires. The EHT and ADHT are, clearly, not contenting themselves with bringing the school out of Special Measures; they are aiming for Good at the earliest possible opportunity.

Key signs of progress are:

- Improvements in the overall quality of teaching, learning & assessment
- Significantly improved phonics provision
- A fit-for-purpose staffing structure, with clear roles and responsibilities
- A significantly de-cluttered and better organised environment for learning
- Significantly improved leadership systems in place for monitoring, evaluation and CPD

Key Dates

Week beginning 11 February-
Creativity week

24 January-

Y2 Beatles trip

30 January-

Y3 Ladywell Shrine (Preston) trip

7 February-

Y2 Norton Priory trip

Y4 Liverpool Museum trip

15 February-

School closes for half term at
normal time

25 February-

School re-opens for Spring term
2

6 March-

Parent's Evening

25 March

School closed for staff training

5 April

School closes for Easter- 2pm

- Rapidly improving attendance and attendance management
- Improvements in curriculum organisation and coverage
- Staff morale has remained high in the face of multiple changes
- A re-constituted governing body, bringing many skills and good potential
- Robust and transparent reviews of key areas, leading to well-formulated improvement planning
- Improved systems for administrative and office functions.

Recommendations:

- Continue to ensure that all stakeholders focus on the school's primary need, which is to accelerate pupil progress by all possible means.
- Fully review the current approach to the teaching of reading skills and make any changes required to ensure that the school's approach is rigorous and comprehensive.
(We have already begun this process throughout the school)
- As already planned, implement recommendations arising from other external reviews
(Recommendations from reviews are already taking place in key areas that Ofsted identified)
- As requested by pupils, begin phased re-introduction of their roles of responsibility within the school community
(We have introduced Head/ deputy Boy and girl posts, Prefects, School Council and are hoping to have Young Leaders trained again soon)
- Support adults and children to develop sufficient stamina to uphold a full and pacy programme of teaching and learning from the beginning of the school day to the end.'
- *(Children and adults are getting used to the demands placed on them throughout the day)*

This is just a summary of what is a 30 page document. As you can see though, progress has so far been rapid and we are very pleased with where we are now, however we won't be satisfied until we are providing the best education we possibly can for our children.

Our next review should take place at the end of the Spring term which will see further progress against these points.

How you can help us to help your child...



- ✚ Be school ready each day; help them pack their bag the night before school, ensure they have plenty of sleep and eat breakfast.
- ✚ Teach them to be on time, have a clock in the house, and teach them to tell the time and to plan ahead for getting to school on time.
- ✚ Read each day, either individually or together. Talk about what children are reading and be interested in their stories.
- ✚ Expect them to look after their belongings. Help them by labelling clothes and other items so that they can find them.
- ✚ Expect them to have the correct equipment ready for each school day, including PE kit. All of the above help teach your child to be resilient, enabling them to be independent and solve problems for themselves. This will help them greatly in school but most importantly, in being prepared for life beyond school.
- ✚ If you wish to volunteer in school, maybe helping in class or helping with a club, please speak with Mrs Moorcroft.