

St. Augustine's Catholic Primary School

Headteacher's Report to Governors

March 2012

I've tried to give you a flavour of all the things that have been happening in school since the last Governor's meeting – I think you'll agree it's been a very full and productive time!!

School Self-Evaluation

From the attached Summary, you can see the various strengths and areas of development in our school that have contributed to the objectives set in the St. Augustine's School Improvement Plan. There is a direct correlation between the two and any measure of the school's success must be set against progress made towards these objectives. An Advisor who recently visited the school said she could clearly see the connection between what our school's analysis of results told us and improvements we were putting in place.

School Improvement, work towards achieving objectives in the School Plan

Achievement: To improve the achievement and progress of higher ability children in writing. As you will see below, much time and money has been invested in creating stimulating experiences to enhance and promote children's writing skills, through visiting authors, theatre companies and writing workshops. Developing the consistent and progressive teaching of phonics throughout the school will improve children's reading and spelling. Next: ensure theory is put into practice, especially for the more able children.

Teaching: To improve the quality of feedback to learners. A feedback policy has been developed to encapsulate staff's rationale behind providing children with the next steps for improvement. Books have been scrutinised to find out if written feedback has an impact on children's work. Next: best practice shared to ensure planning shows link between assessments and opportunities for children to respond to feedback.

Teaching: To match the learning to the development of the child. Scrutiny of Literacy planning highlighted inconsistencies in the differentiation shown on teaching plans. Next: recommendations from monitoring put in place to ensure consistent differentiation shown on planning. Planned for Terms 5 and 6, teams of teachers will be reviewing their practice (lesson studies) on a Maths theme, Ferre Laever screening to ensure differentiation and challenge in lessons and a review of intervention groups that take place throughout the school to ensure differentiation.

Community: To form strong partnerships. Governors presence and involvement within the school has a much higher profile. The children are beginning to be more involved in curriculum choices. Next: Terms 5 and 6 will see the children voicing their opinions, for example, on how they view their own safety.

Learning and Teaching

Curriculum topics are creating a real buzz about the school. When I recently took the visiting Advisor on a tour of the school, the learning in the classrooms was really vibrant, the more she saw the more she beamed, she said"You must be delighted!"

Trips, visitors and activities have really enriched all our topics throughout the school this year. EY have covered 'Celebrations', 'Winter Wonderlands', 'Buildings', 'Water' and 'Pets' and have had Nutcracker parties, Build a Bear Day, they've dressed up as their

favourite characters from books, they've helped a dad build a real wall with bricks and cement and they've done lots of cooking including making Christmas cakes for their families, next week they're visiting Blackberry Farm to see the new lambs; all these things help them to understand the world around them.

Yrs 1/2 for their topics 'Turrets and Tiaras' and 'Walk in the Woods' have visited Bodium Castle, had a Knight's visit for the day from Sir Teachalot (who let Fr Peter have a go at breaking down his castle!), had a Medieval Christmas Banquet, walked up to Barnett's Wood, visited Wilderness Wood near Uckfield and they'll finish off with a picnic. EY and KS1 went to see 'Race for Christmas' at Trinity.

Yrs 3/4 for 'Out of Africa' and 'Planet Earth' experienced drumming with an African Master drummer, a visit to Portlymph Zoo, a visit from the curator of the Tunbridge Wells Museum to show them fossils, a trip to the Natural History Museum and visitors from the BBC Weather programme and the Environmental Agency.

The topics for Yrs 5/6, 'Walk like an Egyptian' and 'Jewel of the East', were enhanced with a trip to the British Museum, a visit from Howard Carter (aka Sir Teachalot!), artistic Indian decorations in classrooms, a visit from the curator of the Museum with Egyptian artefacts and recently a trip to Brighton Pavilion. Both phases in KS2 had a very successful open afternoon for their family and friends to view their work in November and Yrs 5/6 will repeat this at the end of Term 4.

Staff are developing a very exciting programme for Terms 5 and 6 to build an Olympic legacy for the children, planning for an Opening Ceremony, many sporting events and a multi-national Sports Afternoon with a Closing Ceremony followed by a family picnic.

All staff have had extensive professional development this year. In Term 2, teachers honed their maths assessment technique by moderating maths investigation work. In Terms 3 and 4, teachers discussed new criteria for assessing writing followed by moderation of a writing task. They've had phonics training – letters and sounds delivered by EY and KS1 teachers and whole school (Teaching Assistants and Teachers) by a Literacy advisor with a view to developing a consistent and progressive delivery of phonics throughout the school.

Many activities (including the training above) organised by Mrs Spain, our new Literacy Leader, have taken place to enhance children's writing and appreciation and love of books – a published author shared his secrets for writing success and later returned to hold writing workshops, a London Theatre group performed a play to make children think about characterisation, Yrs 5/6 went to the Assembly Halls to see 'Romeo and Juliet', the children dressed up like their favourite character for World Book day, students from St. Gregory's came to school to tell the story of the Gruffalo and led workshops with the children on designing a book cover, a speaker from Great Ormond Street Hospital told the children about their connection with Peter Pan, Quantum Theatre Group's drama helped the children to think about creating the right settings for their stories. Such a lot of creative stimulation! And many new resources have also been bought to enhance the curriculum.

Two Insets, and a third in Term 6, have been devoted to planning this year – an excellent and much valued time to share stimulating ideas with the whole phase team including Teaching Assistants.

A new initiative has also been started by Mrs Taylor, our Inclusion Leader, to encourage any of our older children who have an interest in languages to join our 'Young Interpreters' scheme. They'll help to develop an interest throughout the school and also be involved with any new families that start in school with little English. This is a pilot study we are sharing with St. Gregory's.

It's been great to see so many Governors coming in to find out more about the learning in the school – visiting classes, being involved in moderation, SEN, analyses of results, science learning walks, accompanying trips and much more.

Staff

Mr Gartland will not be returning to school, an advert will be placed very shortly to fill his position from September. Mrs Barraud, who has taught French to Yrs 3/4 and Yrs 5/6 for two afternoons a week for several years, has left to devote more time to her family and her career teaching in Secondary school; an experienced teacher and mum, Mrs Oubridge, is replacing her until July, another French specialist is hoping to take over in September. Congratulations to Mrs Liddle and Mrs Raffelt who announced they will be having babies later in the summer. Mr Raffelt, who badly broke his arm a couple of weeks ago, is making a good recovery, we will be reviewing his return to work in a couple of weeks.

Staff really enjoyed meeting and sharing time with the Governors at the after-Christmas Bowling Evening – great fun!

Staff Training since Nov 1st, 2012

2 more TAs starting NVQ

5 TAs attended afternoon session for Sounds Progress (phonics)

NQT and DHT training continues

HT attended 3 day mentoring and coaching training

Bursar attended training on new salary range for support staff and on using a new 3 year budget spreadsheet

Receptionist attended SIMs course

2 Ts attended P scale levelling training

New RE Leader attended induction training

New Literacy Leader attended induction training

EY Leader attended moderation training

2 Ts attended Creative Curriculum planning day for the Olympics

2 Yr 6 Ts attended Literacy course

HT has Data Analysis training

Children and Parents

Firstly, congratulations to Edward Gill and Sarah Cameron, past pupils, who were chosen to be Head Boy and Girl at St. Gregory's last November. Well done to Laurie Denman, Dominique Foster and Toby Wilmot who were also honoured with positions in the Senior Lead Student Team. Stop Press: just announced that past pupils at The Skinner's School have been awarded top honours - Dominic Dark is Head Boy and Anthony Asindi is Senior Prefect.

Our children have been involved in many activities and events – Harvest Mass and Candlemas, Christmas plays and parties, Yr 5/6 went to a Christmas panto at St. Gregory's, family Mass at St. Augustine's Church at Christ the King, Science days at Skinners' Kent Academy, training at Skinners' Kent Academy for our school's Sports Leaders, Ash Wednesday service, a talk and workshops from a Cafod representative and

a visit from the British Legion serviceman who told them the story behind Poppy Day. They've taken part in many sporting clubs, matches, tournaments and events - girls and boys football, cross-country, netball, Judo Festival, 5/6 Athletics Festival, St. Gregory's Football tournament (winners), basketball tournament, tag rugby, Yr 3 and Yr 4 Football tournaments (winners of both), Yr 5/6 TW Football tournament.

Staff at school are offering a range of clubs for the children to attend, from Lego club to knitting, chess to choir. Yr 5 have had their taster day at St. Gregory's and the school's Head, Mr Adamson, returned to St. Augustine's with them for assembly to retell their experiences and to meet their parents. The children took part in the Fairtrade exhibition in the town, decorating their footprints to 'put themselves in their shoes'.

Parentmail is now being used to deliver the newsletter and messages to parents; most parents have signed up and it's been very well received. A Parent mail account has also been set up for Governors.

The PTA have been very busy since November with child, adult and family events – film nights, children's disco, Christmas Fayre, calendar publication, Quiz night, a highly enjoyable Burns Night raising about £5,000 in total and having a great time. Some of the money has been spent on donations to classes to spend on luxury specialised items, refurbishment of the PTA shed, contributions to trips, installation of a sound system for the hall, in total about £6,500. We're very grateful to the PTA, they work very hard for the school.

Parents and staff have very generously contributed with well over £1,000 to various charities this year – Poppy Day, produce for Harvest Mass, Children in Need, winter woollies for the Soup Bowl, CLIC Sarjent (cancer support for families), Cambodia and Philippine's disaster funds, Christmas chocolate raffle and our present project, Splash, providing fresh water for Africa.

Since 1st Nov, 2 children have left (Yr 2 child, MI, left to join sibling in local school, Yr 4 child, IB, left for private school), 1 child has joined (Yr 4, RK, from a local school)

EY 45, Yr 1 45, Yr 2 43, Yr 3 45, Yr 4 44, Yr 5 46, Yr 6 44 (Total 310/315, Mar 2012))

Attendance - target 4.5%, actual 3.8% up to end of Term 3, attendance now closely monitored with office and EWO.

Dates

Friday, 23rd March

PTA Easter Egg Bingo

Friday, 30th March

Year 3/4 Easter Celebration

Monday, 2nd April to Friday, 13th April Holiday

Tuesday, 17th April

PTA meeting

Thursday, 19th April

Olympics Opening Ceremony, 9.15pm

Tuesday, 24th April

Yrs 3/4 to St. Gregory's Peace Olympics

Wed, 25th April

Swimming Gala, Yrs 5/6

Wed, 2nd May

EY Welcome Evening for new parents

Wed, 9th May

St. Gregory's Football Cup, Yrs 3/4

Friday, 11th May

TW Tag Rugby Tournament, Yrs 4/5/6

PTA Film Night, tbc

Tuesday, 15 th May	Community Committee Meeting
Wed, 16 th May	EY Numeracy Workshop for new parents
Monday, 21 st May	History man visits Yrs 3/4
Wed, 23 rd May	Freddie Fit, exercise man visits KS1 and 2
Thursday, 24th May	Images Exhibition at St. Augustine's
Friday, 25 th May	Fun and games afternoon to celebrate St. Augustine's Feast
Tuesday, 29th May	FGB
Wed, 30 th May	Premier Sports deliver an athletics day for whole school

Monday, 4th June to Friday, 8th June Holiday

Thursday, 13 th June	EY Literacy Workshop for new parents
Friday, 22 nd June	Children's Disco
Monday, 25 th June	Yrs 3/4 Pentathlon at St. Gregory's
Wed, 27 th June	Yrs 5/6 Pentathlon
Friday, 29th June	Mass for St Peter and Paul, tbc
Monday, 2 nd July	Inset – planning day for Terms 1 and 2
Wed, 4 th July	Skipping for Schools, Yrs 2-6
Thursday, 5th July	Open Evening and Transition - parents meet new teachers
Saturday, 7th July	Summer Fete
Tues 10th, Wed 11th July	Yr 6 Play
Friday, 13 th July	Sports afternoon, closing ceremony and family picnic
Monday, 16 th July	Alternative Sports afternoon
Tuesday, 17th July	FGB, Torch through TW
Thursday, 19th July	Yr 6 Leavers' Service
Friday, 20th July	9.30am Mass, tbc. End of term

Thank you so much for your contribution to the life of our school.

Mrs Mann