

## Reporting a Governor visit to Kea School

<b>Name:</b> Clara White	<b>Date:</b> 16 <sup>th</sup> June 2021
<b>Purpose of visit:</b> Discussion with Mrs. Olive regarding Literacy.	
<b>Links with the School Improvement Plan / 20 Questions</b>	
<b>School Improvement Plan – Raising Standards throughout the school: Literacy</b>	
<b>Governor Observations and Comments</b>	
<b>Key points discussed:</b>	
1. <u>Intervention</u>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• All classes continue to have Catch Up Trackers (RO has copies to monitor). Practising daily. Some children coming off them already, including some returning to their pre-lockdown levels of working at GD.</li><li>• Will be a long process, in particular in relation to writing.</li><li>• Will continue the Catch Up Tracking approach and interventions next year.</li><li>• Y4 data lower from the start – partly reflecting where the pupils were prior to the first lockdown. Transition to Y2 to Y3 is a big step and this Y4 didn't get the full year's grounding for KS2 with Mrs. Green in Y3 due to the first lockdown. Teacher confidence with the assessment process, based on inexperience with that age group, also may be a factor with the Y4 data. Haven't had whole-staff moderation this year due to Covid restrictions. Y4 writing books show progress (not reflected in the data for the reasons above).</li><li>• Have chosen to use the optional SATs (Y2 and Y6) and will do the phonics screening. Y2 – going through books to identify the required evidence as very time-consuming; next year will take a different approach so recording evidence can be ongoing rather than retrospective. teacher trawling to find evidence required (time consuming).</li></ul>	
2. <u>Promoting Reading for Pleasure</u>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Teachers' book recommendations continue.</li><li>• RO has reminded everyone to have a class novel.</li><li>• World Book Day – children enjoyed it (Y1 children still talking about it). Work to follow up so it supported learning and progress.</li><li>• This week have participated in the Pop-Up Festival – online. Each class has chosen two authors from the literature festival to attend the zoom workshop, for example: Julia Donaldson &amp; Axel Scheffler; Smiriti Halls - Y1 writing their own poems based on this.</li><li>• Literacy section of the website – had generic recommended reads. Each teacher is now producing Kea lists – books everyone in their class shouldn't miss (some will be read at school, others to recommend at home; will add to the library over time).</li><li>• Discussion of the skill of reading aloud – less likely to do this at home as they become more fluent. Had a push on reading aloud at school (e.g. Y4 – echo reading). Y5 and Y6 teachers keen to get on board with that too.</li><li>• Pupil Conferencing – Y5 and Y6: less evidence of them reading to an adult at home. Important to comprehension and expression. Some teachers reluctant to offer the reward system as perception children wouldn't be interested/motivated. Scope to consider changing what the reward is (perhaps an opportunity for pupil voice regarding what that reward might be). Communication with parents regarding the value of continuing to listen to children read aloud in Y5 and Y6 was discussed, with a view to introducing this (perhaps via a Teams workshop) early in the next academic year.</li></ul>	
3. <u>Writing</u>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• RO has conducted a book scrutiny, leading to three main areas of focus for next year:</li></ul>	

- Giving pupils a purpose/real context for their writing to enhance the outcome.
- Marking – making sure marking will clearly have an impact on pupils’ progress.
- Extending peer/self-assessment: Y5/6 - lots of peer and pupil assessment; not as evident in lower KS2; need to start it in Y2.
- Presentation has improved.

**Behaviour**

Mrs. Olive noted that work in books as well as atmosphere in classrooms demonstrates higher levels of engagement now pupils are all back in school compared to lockdown.

**Safeguarding**

The meeting was conducted securely via Teams.

Notably *Rain Before Rainbows* by Smiriti Halls (and the corresponding Zoom workshop and subsequent work produced) had a focus on emotional wellbeing and relationships.

Staff are aware of making accessible selections when compiling reading lists; gradually adding these texts to the school library will further support equality of access.

**Any issues for the governing body**

Mrs. Olive would welcome governors reviewing the data at the end of term, particularly regarding Catch Up pupils, to recognise progress made and to see the gap between reading and writing closing too.

Mrs. Olive’s ongoing strategic leadership of literacy across the school is very evident. She has already put foundations in place for areas of focus for next year, so ongoing intervention and other areas for development can begin swiftly in September. She shows proactive and creative leadership.

Although Mrs. Olive has not requested it, it may be pertinent for governors to consider whether additional funding for the purchase of library books may be a possibility.