

# Baines' Endowed C.E. Primary School



Ofsted update for  
parents.

January 2015

On December 9<sup>th</sup> we had our first monitoring visit by Ofsted. They agreed we had taken effective action to improve. Their main findings:

- We responded positively to the inspection findings and reviewed our systems
- We supported teachers through training.
- We sought opportunities to work with good and outstanding schools and worked closely with the Local Authority.

Governors continued to offer appropriate challenge & make regular visits to check progress

## What have we been doing?

- Staff training has continued, with a focus before Christmas on challenging the more able and matching work to children's needs. Since we returned in January we have focused on ongoing assessment of progress and understanding misconceptions in maths.
- Further training is booked in for next month on high quality marking and assessment.
- "Learning walks" have been happening weekly - senior leaders visiting classrooms to look at the quality of teaching, identify good practice and offer advice for improvements. We have now built in a follow up visit in the light of the monitoring visit asking us to "ensure guidance given to teachers is swiftly followed up" - this follow up visit happens within 5 working days and is unannounced so the class teacher does not know in advance to prepare specifically for it.
- Some teachers have had the opportunity to observe good or outstanding practice elsewhere and further observations have been planned.
- We have bought in even more new books, to improve the challenge in reading.
- Our first parent workshop was held - looking at how to help your child tackle maths calculations. A reading meeting is planned for early February.
- Our Better Reading Partners are now working across school, many of our younger children have older pupils as reading buddies & we have an early morning IDL programme supporting children across school.

## What is the impact - is it working?

Our assessments at the end of December showed:

- ✓ In reception current observations would predict 73% of children will end the year at expected or above.
- ✓ In Y1 over 80% of children are working at Level 1 (the required level) in English and maths.
- ✓ In year 2, 86% of children have made a sub level progress in all areas.
- ✓ In year 3 over 70% of the year group have made sub level progress in reading, writing and maths.
- ✓ Year 4 are still working really well - every single child has made a sub level progress in reading which is fantastic (making average progress this would be achieved by the end of February so 2 months early!)
- ✓ In year 5 strongest progress has been made in writing with 80% making a sub level progress already.
- ✓ In year 6 reading and maths levels are significantly better than at this point last year, if children continue to make good progress and perform as well as they are able in their SATs tests we will end the year in line with national averages.
- ✓ Our predictions for the more able at Y6 are much stronger than in previous years - we are predicting over 40% in each area as opposed to the 25-30% achieved last year, reflecting the focus on progress for the more able across school.

Our third review meeting with the standards team at the authority went well and they judged we had made good progress to date against our Ofsted targets.

## The next steps on our journey....

While progress so far has been good we still have lots of areas to work on, both to get back to good and then to stay there:

- Our bid for NLE support was approved earlier this month; this means we are partnered now with the Lostock Hall Teaching School Alliance and we have now planned the first series of visits for staff to this group of good and outstanding schools.
- A Specialist Leader of Education is working in our school later this half term - focusing on progress in English.
- We are also working with a reading specialist, James Clements and the National Maths Project.
- We will continue our learning walks, scrutiny of children's work and monitoring of teachers' planning. Many of these are now unannounced to ensure we see what is happening day to day not just what is prepared for.
- We are giving parents more information about how you can support your child's learning through the workshops.

### So what happens next?

We are not expecting another OFSTED visit, the HMI who conducted the monitoring visit in December did not feel she would need to come back this year. But review meetings with the Local Authority and Diocese continue to check on our progress - the next one is early March. I will prepare another update for parents before Easter.

**If you have any comments or questions please don't hesitate to contact us at school.**