

Directors' Note for Portfolio Groups

Portfolio title: Brayford/Umberleigh LGB

Date of meeting: 14th November 2019, Brayford Academy

Attended by: Penny Wignall, Corrine Smith, Rhian Nicholas, Helen Carn, Charlotte Janisch, Lucy House, Rachael Weeks, Sue Davies, Sally Lawson (note taker in clerk's absence)



Brief overview of discussion

Procedural items

Welcome & Apologies

Apologies received from Caroline El-Marazki. PW welcomed all to meeting and introduced Rachael Weeks as a potential new governor.

Sign off previous minutes

SD noted that the curriculum piece for the newsletter is very good and addresses parents' concerns. HC commented that this helped makes sense of what the children are doing in class.

Matters arising

None.

Correspondence

None.

Monitoring and Accountability

Curriculum update

CS said that 'Digging into the past' was a fantastic topic and that the children were very engaged with it. Cheddar Gorge was visited on Thursday 7th November for Brayford and Friday 8th November for Umberleigh. The trip excited the children even more about the topic. Topic has improved vocabulary e.g infants knowing what words such as 'ancestors' meant. The timing of the trip was good as the children had knowledge of the topic before they went. CS also said that the children now were making links between other non-topic related things, for example – a book they were reading called 'Dark Summer' features something about caves, the children were able to link this to the topic trip i.e the caves at Cheddar Gorge. SD had asked the children what they thought about the trip – the feedback was good and they were impressed.

SIP Updates

Umberleigh and Brayford were working together to raise maths attainment, modelling how to work through reasoning, focusing on all learners but at their own level.

The rectangle approach to writing has been adopted. CS showed the 'Rectangle thingy' which helps children to understand why and who they are writing to/for, building from the middle of the rectangle. SD likened it to the 'Gingerbread Man' approach in drama. CS noted the rectangle approach also makes planning a lot easier. CS said it gave children more time to write and think about what they are writing. Read, Write Inc is still being used and is working well. CS said that each school now had subject leaders in each subject. SD asked if this includes literacy, which was confirmed by RN. *Clerk to e-mail out School Improvement Plan to local governors.*

KS1/KS2 predictions

CS said these predictions were cautious but realistic.

3 Y6 at UMB – one predicted to achieve expected standard in reading, one in maths.

9 Y6 at BF – good progress made, with 5 predicted to achieve expected standard or greater depth in reading, 4 expected standard or greater depth in writing and 4 expected standard or greater depth in reading. One child struggled to complete the tests in the time allowed, so their result would not be a true reflection of their abilities. CS stated that this was the case even if given additional time to sit the case.

Timing of preparation discussed, and the monitoring of summer born children and the support put in place as they move through the school. Reasons for summer born children not achieving so highly discussed.

YR 2 – UMB 50% to achieve expected standard (4 children with SEND), BF all three children to achieve expected standard or greater depth.

Phonics – UMB (seven children), five expected to pass, the remaining two were received focussed teaching. BF (six children), five expected to pass. CS explained the visual learning adaptations being made to support the remaining child.

EYFS – UMB (five children), four at a good level of development, one very young in the year with some language and fine motor skills issues. BF (one child) expected to make good level of development, focussing on speech and physical development.

Governor Visits

So far no Governor visits had taken place this term, PW suggested it would be good swap schools for visits, i.e. parent governors from Umberleigh visit Brayford and vice versa. SD said it is important to talk to the children on visits, PW reminded that governors are not there to judge but to talk and ask questions. RW volunteered to visit to Umberleigh, CJ to Brayford – to liaise with CS to arrange the visit before the end of term.

Safeguarding

SD – No report for this meeting. Dates had been set for data collection visits – first week in December. SD to meet with Briony Parsons to do a safeguarding overview. Safeguarding audit booked for Monday, 18th November.

SD reported on the digital champions meeting – 2 children from BF, 2 from UMB – all contributed effectively and responded back. Next one will focus on social media.

Ongoing safeguarding issue at BF being dealt with correctly and robustly.

Health and Safety

To add to next meeting's agenda

Homework Policy

CS said this would need tweaking to fully reflect homework set. In years 3,4,5 & 6 homework relates to literacy and maths weekly, spellings, reading etc. Possibly have optional homework projects but homework must not be a chore. CS to make changes to the policy where needed and email out to LGB. Was there homework set in KS1? CS stated there was no formal homework for KS1 at this stage.

Strategic

Umberleigh Park & Play

There was an Umberleigh Park and Play meeting on Wednesday 13th November. PW said the project was now waiting for the DfE to agree to Umberleigh Academy buying the land but the general election has now stopped progress on that. Idea of selling the land without the corner.

Quotes for the work were very high, possible idea of getting individual quotes on each area of work, Wendy Short was taking charge of this and was arranging for quotes. PW had put in an application for a grant and is in the process of applying for another, other funding options looked at, e.g if FOIA became a charity they would be able to help, CJ will action this with the help of Wendy Short.

Marketing

PW feels the bad parking is having a detrimental effect on new pupils joining the school. Open days arranged at Umberleigh on Tuesday 19th November and at Brayford on Thursday 21st November. Most effective way for marketing considered to be parents spreading the word and Facebook sharing. SD said publicity of things the schools have done is needed. PW suggested putting pictures etc in the Chittlehampton & Umberleigh Chronicle as used to be done. HC asked about up to date banners, CS said pictures had been taken at both schools to update prospectuses and banners. Upcoming events where promotion would be possible discussed. Children at Brayford doing a sponsored rowathon for Children in Need – Michelle Sampson organising including a piece in the Journal.

Pupil Numbers

BF – 9 Y6 leaving in July, 4 reception expected to start, giving 27 in total expected in September.

UMB – 3 Y6 leaving in July, 9 receptions expected plus possible 2 more – 42 in total expected in September.

BF now has 9 Brumble Bees.

Staffing

Mr King leaving after Christmas – both UMB and BF have skilled PE leads so will be no gaps in the curriculum. It was felt that parents would need to be made aware that PE would continue to be taught by qualified, skilled/specialist staff members.

Attendance

BF – 96.4% overall, pupil premium average 90% (one 100%, one 95% and one 76%).

UMB – 97.2% overall, pupil premium average 95.3% (6 children).

Update on Trust

RN reported SIAMS inspection at Pilton was very rigorous and thorough, speaking to children and looking at books. Have not had report back yet. Next expected SIAMS is at High Bickington.

Ugandan visitors expected at end of November – two children to visit all five schools.

Date of next meeting: 5th March 2020, 1pm, Umberleigh Primary Academy