



Special edition newsletter: Governing Body letter to parents and carers: How is Ellen Wilkinson Primary doing and what are our next steps? (2016)

HELLO

This special edition newsletter from the Governing Body has been put together to let you know how the school is doing (based on what you have told us and what we have found out from school visits, meetings and data results), what we've been working on and what we're going to be working on next. We also wanted to share and celebrate some of the fantastic achievements over the last year and extend our thanks to all parents, carers, staff and pupils for their commitment in achieving these. Everyone plays a key role in developing our happy community that ensures we all learn and succeed together.

Since our last annual report to you, we have had a very successful Ofsted inspection, an external review of Governance and our annual parent survey. We have summarised key themes in this newsletter and will also be available to discuss this on Thursday 17th November at 9 am.

"Since the previous inspection the particular strengths that were identified at that time have been sustained or enhanced to become highly effective features of the school's work...Staff at every level operate cohesively as a team, but they are not complacent." (Ofsted 2016)

OUTCOMES FOR PUPILS

Ofsted found that "Pupils achieve well from their own starting points. Senior leaders promote effective strategies to raise expectations in reading and mathematics. Outcomes in these subjects are now in line with and sometimes above average. However, pupils' attainment in writing is not as strong. "

"Teachers initiated 'targeted learning time'. They are released from class duties once every three weeks for short, highly focused teaching sessions for individual pupils. The impact is demonstrable."

IN 2015/16 WE WANTED TO: ENSURE WE CHALLENGED MORE ABLE PUPILS & IMPROVED THE QUALITY OF WRITING. WE ALSO WANTED TO ENSURE THE GAP CONTINUED TO CLOSE FOR VULNERABLE GROUPS.

Governing Body statement: Since the Ofsted inspection the school has made rapid progress with writing and pupil feedback. Pupils are writing longer, sustained pieces both in English and across the curriculum. Feedback to pupils is specific and allows pupils to reflect, improve and refine their learning and this can be seen by our positive results.

We are very pleased that targeted learning time has been acknowledged by Ofsted as having such a positive impact on pupils and we continue to build on this. We are currently planning a review of targeted learning time to continue this excellent practice.



IN 2016/17 WE WANT TO: CONTINUE TO IMPROVE PUPIL OUTCOMES & DEVELOP CHILDREN'S HIGHER ORDER READING SKILLS WHILST PROMOTING A LOVE OF READING.



End of Reception (%)

	Good level of Development	Lit.	Maths	UTW	Exp. Arts	PSED	Physical Dev.	Comm. & Lang.
EWPS	83	83	85	85	90	92	90	92
National	69	72	77	83	86	85	88	81

Year 1 Phonic Test (%)

	Passed
EWPS	86
National	81

*National data taken from the early statistical release from the DfE for 2016

End of KS1 (% at expected standard & % at greater depth)

	Reading		Writing		Maths		All subjects	
EWPS	83	35	78	23	83	20	75	18
National	74.0	23.6	65.5	13.3	72.6	17.8	60.3	8.9

End of KS2 (% at expected standard & % at greater depth)

	Reading		Writing		Maths		All subjects		GPS	
EWPS	60	13	73	25	70	32	55	8	77	37
National	66	19	73	14	70	17	53	5	70	17

All data is unvalidated and school results at KS2 are subject to increases of up to 6% following the release of validated data in December.

What you told us:

My child is making good progress at this school	
Strongly agree/ agree	Disagree/ strongly disagree
97%	3%



I feel the EWPS is a good school as I believe that it has helped my children to achieve their goals

This school meets my child's particular needs	
Strongly agree/ agree	Disagree/ strongly disagree
94%	6%

My child has made excellent progress this year-her confidence in reading has developed loads!

This school keeps me well informed	
Strongly agree/ agree	Disagree/ strongly disagree
96%	4%

PLEASE SEE PAGE 6 FOR THE LETTER WE RECEIVED FROM THE DFE CONGRATULATING US ON OUR KS2 RESULTS.

QUALITY OF TEACHING, LEARNING & ASSESSMENT

Ofsted found that "Teaching and learning has improved since the last inspection because leaders monitor it closely through formal observations, continual 'drop-ins' and informal visits to lessons. Teachers are proud of their work and they have established trusting relationships with pupils, who in turn reflect the same by working well with one another. Pupils feel that learning is fun and interesting because adults try hard to make this so. Pupils' books and vibrant class and corridor displays reflect a wide and stimulating range of learning experiences".

Governing Body statement: We are consistently impressed during our school visits at the quality of teaching and learning and are thrilled that the Ofsted inspection has also recognised this. The school has done exceptionally well to create and deliver such a broad and engaging curriculum whilst maintaining a sharp focus on reading, writing and maths. This year the Governing Body has been particularly impressed at the learning during cultural days and the school values that shine through in everything they do.

IN 2016/17 WE WANT TO: CONTINUE TO IMPROVE PUPIL OUTCOMES & DEVELOP CHILDREN'S HIGHER ORDER READING SKILLS WHILST PROMOTING A LOVE OF READING.

What you told us:

My child is taught well at this school	
Strongly agree/ agree	Disagree/ strongly disagree
98%	2%



Teaching - excellent.



This school helps my child to develop skills in communication, reading, writing and mathematics

Strongly agree/ agree	Disagree/ strongly disagree
98%	2%



Ofsted found that "Safeguarding has the highest priority in school. Pupils, staff, parents and governors are all committed to ensuring that children are as safe as they can be."

"Since the last inspection you have improved attendance from average to well above average."

"My observations of playtime showed this to be exceptionally positive. Pupils told me about how staff visited other schools to bring back new ideas and improve their playground experience. This has clearly been achieved. Pupils have access to far more equipment, games and exciting activities. They are offered dance, table tennis, hoops and climbing activities. No pupil is left out. Pupils told me that fighting and bullying are now very rare because they were no longer bored."

Governing Body statement: We have been blown away at the improvements in playtimes and lunchtimes. Children have access to an enormous range of resources and activities that engages every child very effectively. We believe that children have a responsibility to each other and value opportunities for them to work and learn together. This is why we have designed play and lunchtimes for all children to be together. We ensure that Reception children are supported to make a safe transition to the playground. At lunchtime the dining room now has the addition of table cloths, plates, vases with flowers and a birthday table! This was in response to pupil requests and it really makes their experience of lunchtime a social and enjoyable one. Our chef is now working with pupils to get their opinions on food and flavours. It has been lovely to see parents enjoying "tasters" at parents' evenings too!

IN 2016/17 WE WANT TO: INTRODUCE AND EMBED OUR NEW SCHOOL VALUES. WE ALSO WANT TO EMPOWER PUPIL VOICE ACROSS THE SCHOOL THROUGH OUR CLASS AND SCHOOL COUNCILS.

What you told us

My child feels safe at this school	
Strongly agree/ agree	Disagree/ strongly disagree
98%	2%



Too much spicy food at school



I can only thank all the staff for their support

This school ensures my child is well looked after	
Strongly agree/ agree	Disagree/ strongly disagree
96%	4%



This school deals with any cases of bullying effectively	
Strongly agree/ agree	Disagree/ strongly disagree
96%	4%

Behaviour in the school is good which ensures a happy and safe learning environment	
Strongly agree/ agree	Disagree/ strongly disagree
99%	1%

Older children should play separately to younger children.

Ofsted found that: "The impact of your commitment to develop staff confidence as leaders is significant."

"The new chair and vice chair of governors have shown strong leadership to radically overhaul how they function as a governing body. They have higher expectations of you and your than previously, holding you to account strongly for school improvement. Leaders respond to this expectation, thereby promoting a challenging partnership with governors which has pupils' well-being and achievement at its core. Governance is highly effective and challenges leaders appropriately."

"There is a clear aspiration that the school should be moving towards more outstanding practice. A one-year strategic plan, as it is currently, does not consider how to plot improvements in the long term."

Governing Body statement: It has been a very busy year, with an Ofsted inspection, external review, embedding the new curriculum and assessment across the school. Since the inspection we have seen significant improvements in the quality of writing, opportunities for writing across the curriculum, improving feedback and marking and embedding consistently good practice across the all areas. We have developed a three-year plan to clearly outline our journey to becoming Outstanding and have made rapid progress towards this.

IN 2016/17 WE WANT TO: ADOPT AGROWTH MIND SET APPROACH TO LEARNING AT EWPS. THIS IS TO EQUIP US ALL WITH THE SKILLS TO BECOME MORE SUCCESSFUL LEARNERS. THIS WIL BE UNDERPINNED BY OUR SCHOOL VALUES AND DEVELOPING OPPORTUNITIES FOR INCREASED ASPIRATION.

What you told us

The leadership team are approachable	
Strongly agree/ agree	Disagree/ strongly disagree
98%	2%



I am very happy with the school-the staff are very approachable and always deal with issues/ learning

The Governing Body are effective	
Strongly agree/ agree	Strongly agree/ agree
98%	98%

I would recommend this school to another parent	
Strongly agree/ agree	Disagree/ strongly disagree
98%	2%



I am blown away by Ellen Wilkinson!

