



City Of York Council

Fishergate Primary School
Fishergate
York Y010 4AP



NEWSLETTER No.4

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Dear Parent/Carer

This Newsletter will focus on a summary of the achievements of the school in the final assessments taken by the children in Y6 last summer. Schools' performance is judged by Ofsted according to this end of the KS2 data and the outcomes for children over the past three years. I will give you some of the headlines so you are kept informed. All schools expect variations in this data due to the fact that cohorts of children change from year to year. However, schools work hard to reduce these variations and achieve a rise in standards over time.

Thank you to those who have shared their ideas about Fishergate School's aims. Please return the response sheet which came out last week if you are able to. We really value your thoughts about what is important. A copy is still available from the Newsletter section on the school website.

When I have collated all these ideas from children, staff and parents, I will share the revised Aims with you.

School Attainment Summary

This time of year, all schools examine their performance data for the end of KS2 and look at trends over time, strengths and areas for future development. Here are the main headlines to share with parents/carers.

1. **Maths**

Attainment at L4 + (the National expectation for most children as they move on to Secondary School). **96% achieved at least L4 in 2009.**

This has risen steadily from **65% in 2006; 81% in 2007, 86% in 2008 and now 96% in 2009.** We have focussed particularly on Maths since 2006 and we are pleased with this excellent rise in standards.

Attainment at L5 (expected for children who are more able, above average) 42% in 2009. L5 has remained steady over the last 3 years - 44% in 2007, 42% in 2008 and 2009. This attainment in Maths is well above the National Average and average for the City of York. Looking at our progress data for Maths from Y2 to Y6 in 2009, our Value Added data shows Fishergate to be one of the most successful schools in the City of York, with 100% of the Y6 cohort making at least the expected 2 levels progression between end of Y2 and Y6. They all worked really hard!

2. English

Attainment at L4+ was 88% in 2009. Please remember in a cohort of 30 children, each child is work approximately 3%. L5 attainment has fluctuated a little more. 50% in 2007, 23% in 2008 and 33% in 2009. English attainment is made up of attainment in Reading and Writing which are assessed by separate tasks. In Reading our standards are very high: L4+ 91% in 2007, 93% in 2008 and 92% in 2009. Reading at L5 has risen since 2007 from 59%, 60% in 2008 and 63% in 2009. Many schools across the City saw Reading results drop in 2009 but we secured high levels of attainment through some excellent teaching and learning. Writing is our area for improvement. 66% attained L4+ this year. 94% in 2007 and 63% in 2008. L5 writing attainment has fallen to 17% in 2009 and in 2008 from 38% in 2007. Nationally in most schools, attainment in Writing is lower than Reading. However, we are working hard to improve Writing and narrow this gap. In English, 95% made the expected 2 levels progress from KS1 to KS2, well above the average for the City of York.

3. Science

Fishergate has achieved well in L4+ Science over 3 years: 93% in 2007, 93% in 2008 and 88% in 2009. L5 Science has risen dramatically from 22% in 2007, 50% in 2008 to 67% in 2009. This has also been a focus for we are pleased with this progress in L5 Science.

We are pleased with these results over all, but not complacent, realising we continue to want to see standards rise, especially in Writing.

Generally, the vast majority of the children met or exceeded their targets and they moved on to their Secondary Schools having made good progress and having reached their potential by the end of Primary School.

Over the years, Fishergate School's standards tended to fluctuate considerably year on year. In the past 3 years we are pleased to see standards rising and stabilising, taking account of differences each year in the cohorts of the children.

I hope you find this summary helpful. **Please do ask if you would like more information.** It shows clearly that Fishergate School is an improving school, judged by its end of Key Stage 2 results.

Parents/Carers Survey

I am very grateful to those who returned questionnaires in the Summer Term and took part in this biannual survey of the views of parents/carers. **This year 44% responded**, compared to our response rate of 39% for the Local Authority. We are pleased to see this very good response rate, but would encourage even more of you to take part in 2 years time! **Your views are really important to us.** I am currently looking closely at the report and its findings with staff and also with Governors later this term. I will share more detail following this analysis. We are pleased with those aspects rated highly by those parents who responded:

- **Staff treat my child fairly**
- **I feel comfortable about approaching the school with questions, problems or complaints**
- **My child likes school**
- **The school is lead and managed well**
- **There is a good range of additional activities such as after school clubs**

Parents responded less favourably on those aspects which were significantly below the LA average:

- My child is making good progress
- Staff expect my child to work hard and do his or her best
- The school helps my child understand and live a healthy life
- Staff encourage my child to become mature and independent
- The school provides enough opportunity for physical education

We are a little puzzled by some of these less favourable aspects and I will be wanting to get more information from parents in due course about these issues and how we can improve them by communicating better with parent/carers.

More information about this will follow. I hope to gather more views from parents at the parent's interviews just after half term. Until then, please do speak to me or a member of staff if you have any thoughts and ideas.

Best wishes

Andy Herbert
(Headteacher)