



City Of York Council
Fishergate Primary School
Fishergate
York YO10 4AP



NEWSLETTER No.13

04 February 2010

Dear Parent/Carer,

You should have received by now a copy of the Ofsted Report following the inspection in January. I hope you have had a chance to read it. Please let me know what you think, or speak to me if you have any questions.

The report will be published on the Ofsted website on Friday for general access, and there is a link to this on our website at www.fishergateschool.com

There are many lovely positives to celebrate within the report, which acknowledges the progress Fishergate School has made over the last three years. As a staff team, we are really pleased with the outcomes; to achieve a **'Good'** in this new Framework is a **great achievement!** However, as the report says, we are not complacent and our thoughts turn immediately to the areas we need to continue to improve.

Focus on Writing

I have shared with parent/carers that writing is our main priority. Under the strong leadership of Dani Rees our Literacy subject leader, we are working hard to develop the children's skills as writers. It was good to see the Inspection recognised the progress being made, especially in raising the quality of handwriting and presentation of work. Many children have been working on this since September and there is a real buzz of excitement around school as children see the progress they have made. Focus continues on other key aspects of writing such as using correct punctuation, using a wider variety of sentences and especially sentence openers and we are currently updating our 'Must Haves' - essential writing skills the children need to have in place at each phase of school.

We really appreciate the support of parents at home with this, through homework and through other activities you can do with your children to practice skills. Every child will already have writing targets which they are working towards. Several children were asked about this by the inspectors!

Transition from EYFS to KS1

This was another area the inspection identified for further progress. We have begun to consider together how we can move forward with this. The transition issue again relates to writing and literacy skills specifically, and not to transition in general. The inspectors had many positive things to say about our Early Years, especially about the positive impact the creative and child focussed approach we have, develops children's skills and confidence. This helps in their preparation for Year 1.

Our challenge is to consider how we preserve the rich and stimulating Early Years curriculum in our EYU, whilst further developing key literacy and maths skills so the children are prepared with key skills needed for Year 1. The staff team lead by Andy Burt (EYU leader) and Sarah Dixon (KS1 leader) has already started to develop ideas and plans to address this.

These were the two main areas that will be addressed in the coming months and will form the main part of our Post Ofsted Action Plan. Indeed, we already know about them and have started! I will keep you informed of progress and do see the teachers or myself if you have any questions or ideas.



Spring Flowers

Last year, the children worked hard with Mrs Donkin to develop the garden at the front of school and also in the John Lally Garden. As spring approaches, we will begin to see the fruits of this hard work!

Please would you make sure the children do not run over the front gardens or touch the tubs in the playground as the bulbs that have been planted will be coming through soon. Thank you.

Update on Attendance

As you will see from the Ofsted Report, the Attendance was the only area graded 3 'Satisfactory' rather than 2 'Good'. This is because our absence data is broadly in line with national averages for schools, but is worse than most schools in York.

As you will know, we have been sharing this with parents and as a consequence of tighter controls on Holiday Absences, there is some evidence that our attendance is improving. Please can you do your best to support us with this? It makes such a difference when a child is in school most days and on time ready for the start of the day.

I have been closely monitoring lateness too and every few weeks I will be writing

to families who show a pattern of lateness. Please do your best to make sure the children are in school on time. We need to keep a close watch on this in order to meet our attendance target!

Spanish Club

There will be a new Spanish Club starting after half term, organised as a letting by a private company who work with many schools in York to give children opportunities to further develop language skills.

The club will start on **24th February** and run through to **31st March 2010**. Information has been given out to parents with all the details.



And finally don't forget.....'.Hats for Haiti' day on Monday 8th February! The sillier the better! Please give generously.



Andy Herbert
(Headteacher)